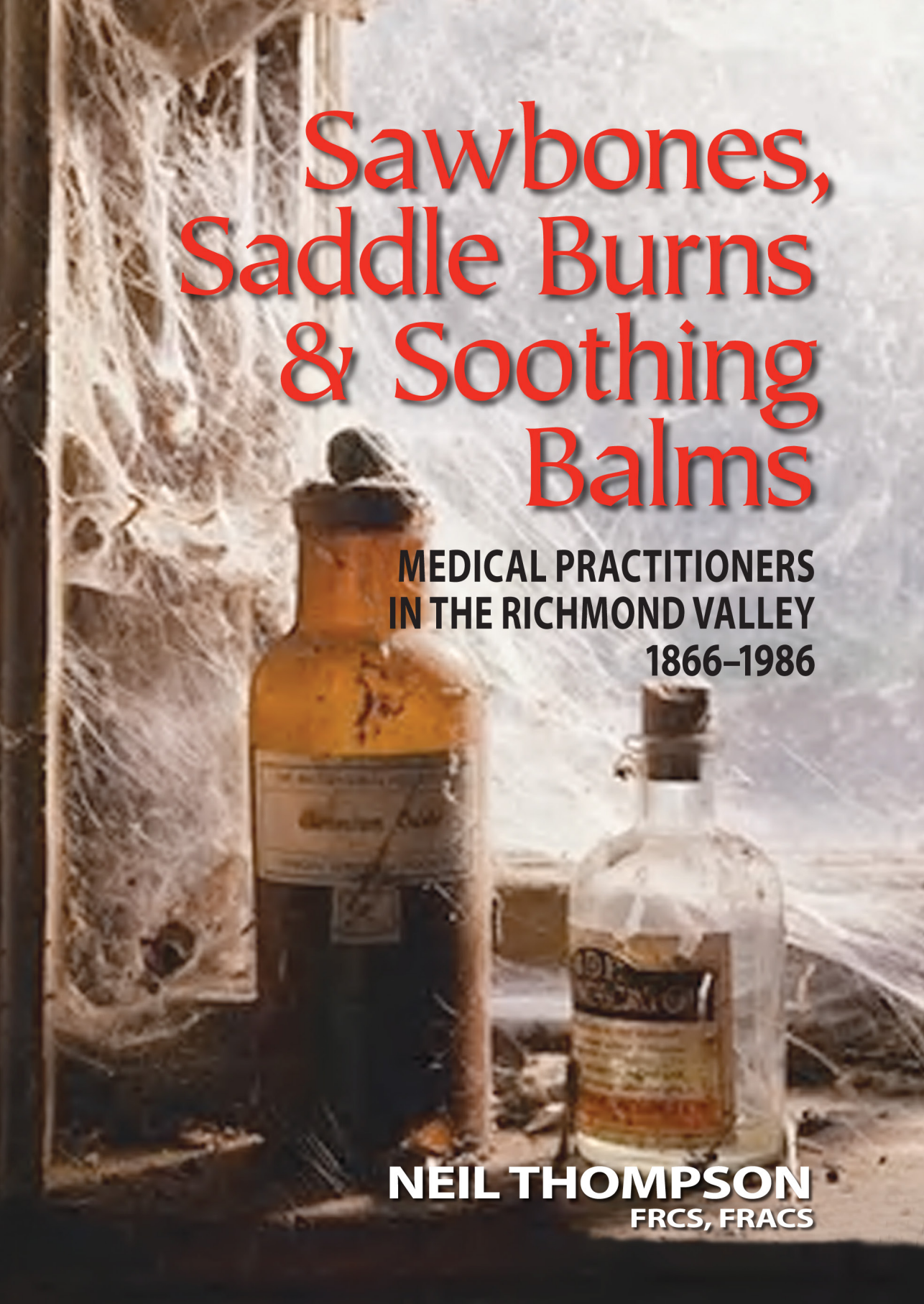




Sawbones, Saddle Burns & Soothing Balms

**MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
IN THE RICHMOND VALLEY
1866-1986**

NEIL THOMPSON
FRCS, FRACS

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Opposite Page:
'Hippocrates Examining a Child',
a painting by Robert Thom, 1950s
(US Library of Medicine)

Page xi Photographs:
Ballina Cottage Hospital, c.1900
Campbell Hospital, Coraki, c.1910
Lismore Hospital, c.1909
St Vincent's Hospital, Lismore, c.1938

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*Healing is a matter of time,
but it is sometimes a matter of opportunity*

Hippocrates of Cos, physician (460–371 BC)

Among the conclusions, upon reading this book,
would be that it is a rewarding revelation of the extraordinary
capabilities, self-belief and energy of the doctors—
in those days under conditions of great adversity
and loneliness in a wild land,
leading to laudable clinical outcomes for their patients—
that a lot of kind people are willing to help research the past
and that there are many untold stories of great interest
still 'out there' waiting to be exhumed



About the Author

Neil Thompson was born and bred in Bondi, son of a schoolteacher and a WWII Bombardier who served in New Guinea. He graduated from Sydney University Medical School in 1965, having had many long vacation jobs—ranging from loading goods trains at Central Rail Station, to working as a groundsman at Sydney University Oval and painting the fence and toilets. His main recreations were club cricket with Waverley and Sydney Uni for many years, and tennis.

After hospital resident years, he went to England for four and a half years' training in surgery, and settled into orthopaedics after working in six large hospitals and being influenced by some very fine surgeons and teachers. He completed his training in Sydney, then worked in the outer western suburbs before formally responding to the need for a resident orthopaedic surgeon in Lismore in 1976, and settling there with his English Suffolk-born wife and three young children. From the outset, he found great scope for his particular interests of trauma injuries and children's conditions.

He managed to negotiate the medical mill before spending twenty-five years in solo consultant practice in the Richmond Valley, thus meeting many doctors in the area and thereby being able to observe medical proceedings from the inside.

Foreword



I am honoured to have been asked to provide comment on this important historical record of the doctors who have served the Richmond Valley communities.

Dr Neil Thompson has produced, by single-minded determination and incredible persistence, an encyclopaedic record of the service of every medico who has practised privately in the Richmond Valley from European settlement to 1986. The reader will be astonished by the depth of research undertaken to produce this history.

While some entries are quite skeletal there are enough details to give us a flavour of the times when the doctors practised. There is a clear progression of service delivery that allowed the development of the Richmond Valley. Not just the support so necessary to encourage people to come and settle, there is a clear thread of leadership in educational, cultural, sporting, religious and political initiatives that gave encouragement for community cohesion and empowerment—and added lustre to the lives of the people in the Valley.

He provides a glimpse of their contributions in military service in war and in peace, and records their service in the good times and in the times of community peril caused by disease epidemics, floods and other disasters. The tradition of being involved in the community was established early on by the first practitioners and has continued with the contribution of some being quite extraordinary. This is echoed recently in the national medical journal, which is a traditional recruiter of doctors to areas where they are needed.

The talents and skills the medicos brought to the Richmond, began so long ago, continues to the present time, ensuring through the decades the people of the Valley were afforded access to a growing sophistication of health services unmatched in rural NSW. Each generation has stood on the shoulder of their predecessors for the betterment, not just clinically, but for the community as a whole. Most importantly he has added 'flesh to the bones' by including a little bit of drama and heroic exploits and emphasising

the professional passions and non-professional pursuits of these early doctors (and the odd 'quack') along the way.

The painstaking research of this historian is to be admired all the more because it was undertaken pretty much on his own, by a doctor who soon found himself drawn to the long and tortuous task.

This authoritative tome will be a reference point for others and a foundation for future historians to follow the pathway of the doctors from 1986 onwards.

This is a 'must have' for all those with an interest in health care development in the Northern Rivers.

I commend Dr Thompson not only for this history but for also being a trailblazer himself, as the first Specialist Orthopaedic Surgeon in the Valley.

Brigadier the Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti CSC RFD



Preface



The aim of this project was to have a record of registered medical practitioners who have had their own place of private practice and residence in the geographical area known as the Richmond River Valley. In mid-2011, it was noted that one common record did exist—Dr RE Longworth and Dr TG Hewitt's worthy history undertaken on behalf of the North Eastern Medical Association. It did not cover beyond 1920 and appeared incomplete by modern standards.

Other records covered distinct areas, such as Mrs Neeta McKinnon's booklet centred on Mullumbimby, Mrs Helen Flower's record on the health services of Kyogle, the remarkable records of Mr Bill Bartier on the Coraki area, Casino and Bonalbo and the personal archives of the late Sister Ann Thompson, for many years Nurse Supervisor of the operating rooms at St Vincent's Hospital.

Also the regular historical columns of Margaret Henderson in *The Northern Star* newspaper started to fill the void in the history of medical practice in this region. It was felt a record written by doctors with the experience of practising in the region would help to give a scientific and empathic insight to the history.

Any research into the medical past was very difficult because of official removal from each hospital of the annual report listing the current Visiting Medical Officers, with their qualifications, and newly appointed and retiring doctors.

The *modus operandi* which had to be adopted was to get names of doctors in an area by direct contact with living people with very good memories, follow up descendants of old doctors and patients, read the records of reports and advertisements in the old newspapers and work carefully through the *Medical Directories of Australia* (which were published intermittently and not annually), held in the State Libraries of NSW and Queensland. One possible flaw in this method was entries in medical directories were completed by the doctor concerned. Another problem was that the old newspaper articles ceased to be recorded after 1955, so finding

still living people with great accurate memories was the key to help the cause.

Naturally, the method was open to misconceptions, mistakes and errors of omission, so this study is presented in the spirit of someone having to start at square one to record the history of medical forbears and contemporaries, then accept the hopefully constructive criticism or additional valid information coming from readers, which could be incorporated in any future editions. So it may be very much a work still in progress.

The instigator of the project was Dr Austin Curtin, Associate Professor of Surgery of Sydney University, currently Senior Surgeon (also previous SRMO) in Lismore who enlisted the help of Dr Robert Smith and the late esteemed Maurice Ryan of the Southern Cross University, both being prolific historians of the region. They encouraged the project as a need to fill a void in our area's history, provided their advice on how to go about the research and were generous in allowing relevant material from their books to be included in this study.

Apology is made for any feeling that material has been used from other authors but the researcher has consciously tried to avoid this and in fact has unearthed a number of previously unrecognised doctors, who deserve their place and add to the attempt at 'completeness' of the records.

No complete profile of any doctor has been attempted, so the length of a particular entry bears no relation to the social and professional importance of that doctor, being merely a reflection of the material available in each case and the relative interest therein. It is obvious that some outstanding practitioners do not have much written about them but this is a reflection of their nature, usually of their conservatism and innate success as quiet and private achievers.

Strict guidelines were used to restrict the end of this volume to biographical entries ceasing at the end of 1986, this covering 120 years of medical activities. Accordingly, anything relating to a doctor after that time does not qualify for this report. It should be noted that some unregistered people are mentioned to correct previous beliefs that they were doctors or if they were persons of particular interest.

Hopefully, someone else will take up the challenge to report the subsequent medical history of the region.

Neil GH Thompson, FRCS, FRACS



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Settlements in the Richmond River District, 1890

Base area map reproduced from *Men and a River*, Louise T Daley, RRHS, 2011

Introduction



The doctors of the Richmond Valley region were for the first forty years almost exclusively immigrants, who had no experience of the extremes of climate and the primitive conditions of the bushland and the lack of lighting, sanitation and restrictions on travel. A lot of them came from privileged families—who paid highly for their school, medical and postgraduate education—to land, literally and socially, on the other side of the world.

Medical Education and Training

In the early days apprenticeship was common in the UK, but was phased out as qualifications from a university teaching hospital or a college were required by registration laws. In general, UK College diplomas cost less to obtain.

Up to 1884, the course for ‘the triple’ at Edinburgh and Glasgow Royal Colleges took three years. In London, the MRCS, LRCP course took four years up to 1908, and most US colleges took three years for the MD.

Melbourne University Medical School began lectures in 1863, Sydney started in 1883, Adelaide in 1885, Queensland in 1936, Western Australia in 1956 and the University of NSW in 1961.

In the 1890s the new Medical Bill required registering doctors to have a diploma from a recognised institution, a licentiate or membership of a Royal College or a university graduate medical degree. Naturally, many strange overseas qualifications appeared in Australia and unsuccessful registrants went overseas for a short time to return with a ‘postgraduate’ award from some obscure source.

In 1899 NSW was referred to as ‘that paradise of medical quacks, with still no Medical Act’.

Place of Practice

For many decades the surgery was usually in the doctor’s home, which needed to be large enough for the family quarters plus waiting room, consulting room and, usually, a treatment room. It was common practice for new solo doctors to consult in the local hotel to see if there were enough

patients to justify the outlay required to start a new practice. Some took the offer of the local pharmacist to rent rooms in his building. As time went on, younger doctors took over the practice of a colleague who wanted to leave or retire. The system was that the intending successor would do a period as locum tenens or assistant, before both doctors (and patients) were happy with the final arrangements. This system led to uninvited new doctors ('squatters') being rare and unpopular with the local medical fraternity.

Transport

Initially by horseback, sulky, trap or occasionally a light dray. Some doctors had fine horses and carts, which they enthusiastically entered in the shows. Structured roads were few and mainly rough and boggy earth tracks requiring an eternity to travel anywhere out of town. Creeks and smaller rivers were traversed by rowing boat and larger ones had ferries or goods barges to get across.

Motorised buggies, carriages, cars and, even the odd motorcycle, began appearing after 1905 in the centres, but many doctors persevered with horse travel. A few used both, sometimes at the same time, which was not all that difficult with the initially severe 'speed' restrictions imposed by the local Inspector of Nuisances. Doctors' cars tended to be large because they doubled as ambulances. It also seems that the travelling Studebaker and Buick salesmen were pretty sharp talkers.

Ailments Treated

On the lighter side, arriving doctors had to contend mainly with patients who just felt 'crook' or 'wonky', terms the doctor would have never encountered in their homeland.



Mullumbimby's Dr Kesteven in his horse and buggy (*right*) and light pony and trap in the background, c.1905

Respiratory infections were common, especially as there was a lot of smoking and drinking in the community. Measles and smallpox (varicella) occurred in epidemics and the government tried to keep up with smallpox vaccination, issuing lymph to selected doctors, but these were mainly in the river towns.

Whooping cough and diphtheria were rife and took up a lot of medical and nursing time—if the child survived. Bubonic plague was common in the ports, especially Ballina in 1900. The astute local GP did a great job to help control the plague thereafter.

In 1919 the whole area was caught up with the Spanish influenza outbreak, which had a high death rate in pockets and lasted for about a year, placing great physical and mental strain on the few doctors and particularly nursing staff, who bore the brunt of the management of this disease.

Snakebite was common and the only available treatment was local incision (presumably with Dad also ‘sucking’ out the venom) and giving strychnine for cases with convulsions.

Immersion and drowning were common, particularly because of the high number of non-swimmers in the community, constant heavy seas and frequent shipwrecks.

Infections were a problem for many years, both superficial and deep, complicating wounds and fractures. Appendicitis and peritonitis were routine and frequently resulted in death of people from all levels of the economic scale.

Perinatal complications had a high incidence in both mother and baby, often with poor outcome in the remote areas. Even later in life the children fared badly, national figures stating that in 1900–1910 one in ten children died before five years of age, particularly from enteritis. Fortunately, these figures fell markedly when general sanitation, healthy water supply and general living conditions improved.

Poisonings were widespread, not always self-administered. Domestic and social violence injuries were also encountered regularly with soft tissue and bony injury, gunshot and knife wounds.

Trauma was frequent with horse accidents and tree-felling misadventures resulting in fractured limbs and skull with brain and spinal injuries. Severe burns due to open fires were very difficult to manage, particularly in the pre-intravenous fluid and antibiotic times before the 1930–40s.

Analgesia and Anaesthesia

In general terms, pain reduction was provided in early times by freely-available rum and whisky. Mesmerism (hypnosis) was the only available

reasonable adjunct. Gas anaesthetic was probably not available in the area until chloroform (with a dubious reputation) and ether, which was explosive, were tried well after the 1850s. As a result, it seems that the early surgeons had to rely on stoic patients, spirit analgesics, morphine and cocaine to do their operations. Early photos of other operating theatres do show numerous people holding the patient down on the table.

North Eastern Medical Association

As the numbers of doctors wanting to practise in the area increased, possible sources of unrest appeared because of proximity of neighbouring doctors, and those in one town finding the need to increase patient numbers by visiting other areas in which there was already a residing doctor. Patients, lodges and insurance companies were starting to make complaints about specific doctors.

In an attempt to have unity of the profession and a means of mediation with third parties, a meeting of the 'medical profession practising on the Clarence, Richmond and Tweed Rivers' was held on 18 April 1912 in Casino. Dr AF Parker from Lismore was elected president of the NEMA, covering the three areas and affiliated with the NSW Branch of the British Medical Association. The NEMA had functions including making and handling complaints against member doctors and having the power to admonish or expel the member concerned. The committee had control over dealing with lodges (which employed a doctor with its members' fees).

The committee also was required to set a scale of recommended fees and travelling expenses. The NEMA had regular meetings of a social interactive nature, with a scientific session led by visiting expert guest speakers. This system seemed to promote harmony among the members and to function well as an intermediary in the inevitable disputes arising in the increasing medical population.

Day to Day Medical Practice

Patients were seen at their home, the scene of an accident, at the doctor's home or rooms, at the private hospital and later on in the public hospital.

In the 1860s, iodine was in use and carbolic sprays later on, but antiseptics was a bit haphazard in the early days. Doctors' rooms were inspected for cleanliness regularly by the local government-employed Inspector of Nuisances, who also doubled as the town traffic cop. In time, the doctors with busier practices employed nurses who reduced the clinical load on the doctor's wife.

Doctors had a bag containing examination equipment, medications,

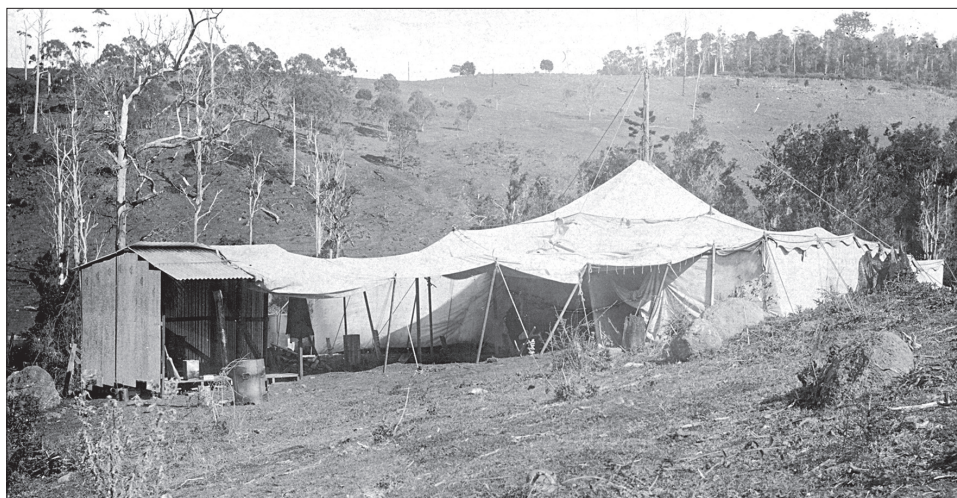
surgical instruments and even lollies to soothe pacify young patients. In the early days, the instruments could be heard jangling in the saddle bags, particularly when the more capable riders jumped fences rather than using the gate.

The Richmond Valley doctors practised for sixty years without the aid of X-ray machines, which seems to put diagnosis and treatment of chest conditions and fractures of limbs, skull and spine, let alone operative retrieval of bullets from the brain and chest, beyond modern belief. The first X-ray machine in Lismore was 1925 and it was in a private hospital. The next one was in 1928 at Lismore Hospital and Kyogle in 1932.

There were no ambulance services for a long time, presumably requiring the doctor to go to the patient, resulting in sometimes prolonged absence of the doctor from his home town.

When public hospitals started, the facilities and instruments were pretty basic, nursing staff were few—although dedicated and very well trained—and antipathy towards the doctors from some members of the hospital committee (board), who were local well-meaning professionals in the town with no medical knowledge, but with considerable administrative power entrusted in them, led from time to time to disharmony in the hospitals. On occasions, the doctor(s) involved in this unpleasant situation had no alternative to reluctant resignation, which excluded their own patients from their favourite doctor's care.

In 1929, the Richmond area was involved, as the rest of Australia, in the Great Depression, which affected the livelihood of everyone—with



The temporary isolation ward at Lismore Hospital,
used during the typhoid epidemic in 1892

gross unemployment at all levels, so that by 1932 a third of the population were unable to find work. Slow recovery started then but there was a great retardation of progress in development of medical resources in rural areas such as the Richmond Valley.

The only other negatives were professional isolation, both medically and socially, and difficulty in having a holiday because of lack of locums. Some of those in the bigger centres seemed to have good contacts with recent graduates from the city who, even in those days, jumped at the chance to spend a couple of weeks in warmer climes with a paid for trip on a steamer, particularly if it was the rather luxurious SS *Tomki*, which was a regular visitor to the Richmond River ports.

The good side was the availability of many clubs, societies and other gatherings for both the doctors and their wives to engage in, as well as church and charity activities, which probably helped to gain the high level of respect they had in the community.

Sawbones, Saddle Burns & Soothing Balms

The explanation of the title of the book is that '*Sawbones*' is a mid-19th century word used to refer in either derogatory or respectful terms to a doctor with both medical and surgical abilities. '*Saddle Burns*' refers to the effects of long hours spent by the pioneer doctors in reaching their patients on horseback and use of '*Soothing Balms*' was the only appropriate relief of physical discomfort and fatigue, resulting from their missions, to leave the doctors with a clear head when inevitably called out again.



'The Doctor', Sir Samuel Luke Fildes, 1891 (Tate Britain, UK)



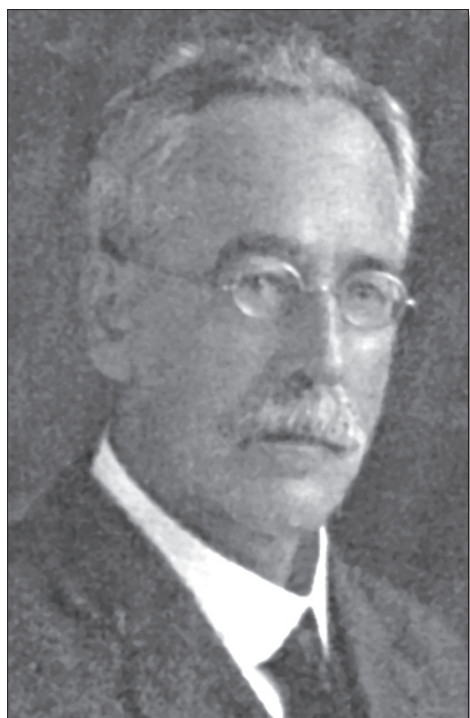
On the plateau, thirteen kilometres inland from the coast at Ballina and nineteen kilometres from Lismore, Alstonville was settled from 1865 as a village called Duck Creek Mountain—a mixture of thick red mud and thick scrub.

William H Tomlins

In 1904, William Henry Tomlins, MRCS, LRCP (Eng. 1884) was in Alstonville. He was born in London in 1858 and trained at University College Hospital, London. He came to Australia in 1885 and did locums in Sydney, Wallsend and Kempsey, NSW, before taking over the practice of Dr Violette in Wardell. He moved on to Ballina and then, probably wanting to reduce his heavy workload because of incipient indifferent health, went to Duck Creek Mountain and became a very active member of the community. He was never a robust man but he worked hard, not only in his medical practice, but he was a member of the lodge, lay preacher in the Anglican Church, in the Alstonville Agricultural Society, lecturer in first aid courses and active member of the Alstonville Progress Association.

Dr Tomlins was a serious gardener and botanist, honoured by having one of his favourite plants officially named after him—*Eugenia tomlinsii*. He was chairman of the committee to set up a School of Arts in the town and he was so dogged in pursuit of this project that, despite illness in the first half of 1909, requiring operative care in Lismore and then Sydney Hospital, he made it back as president for the opening of the newly-constructed building in May. His place was taken early in 1909 by **Edmund Rupert Roseby**, MB (Sydney 1900), MS (1902).

Dr Tomlins then continued on in Alstonville until 1917, when he went to Croydon Park in Sydney, finally spending his last years in Scotland, the climate of which was not kind to him and died in Glasgow in 1922. Dr Tomlins was remembered as a man of great integrity and generosity towards his poorer patients, working in wearing and sometimes dangerous conditions, all the while retaining his endearing personality.



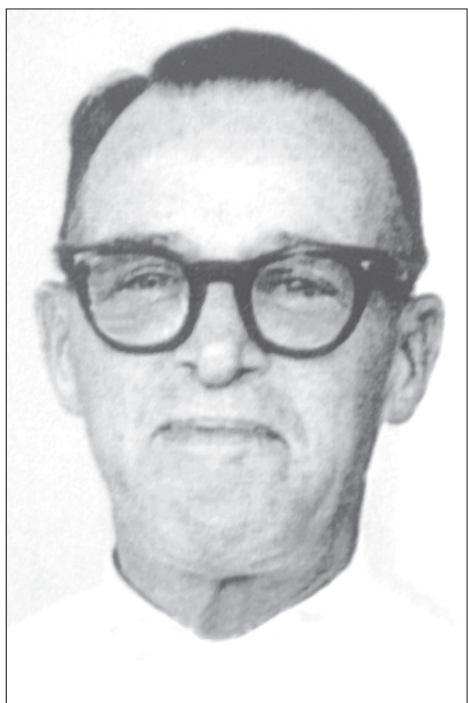
WILLIAM H TOMLINS



CECIL BLUETT



ALAN F SMITH



KENNETH G LAWRENCE

Clifford Gearin

For more than two years there was no doctor resident in the village so medical attention was provided by doctors from Ballina, Lismore or Bangalow. Alstonville got through the pneumonic flu period without a resident local doctor and with few significant cases. However, a very popular man, Clifford Gearin, MB, ChM (Sydney 1915), had a practice in and was the Government Medical Officer in Ballina. He realised that Alstonville was under threat from the deadly epidemic and made visits to Alstonville to hold vaccination clinics and also arranged for 'Sydney' to allow him to isolate the village, at the shire border, from Lismore which was officially declared an 'infected area'.

Cecil Bluett

In November 1919, Dr Tomlins' practice was started up again by Cecil Bluett, LMSSA (Eng. 1914), LRCP, MRCS (Eng. 1919). He was born in Tamworth, NSW, in 1889, and got a Diploma of Chemistry from Sydney University but he did his medical education and residency at St Thomas' and The London Hospitals. He had served in WWI as Medical Officer Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps and was a member of the group called the Old Contemptibles, being awarded the Mons Star.

Dr Bluett celebrated his first anniversary in Alstonville in November 1920 with a miraculous escape from an accident in which his car, travelling at the breathtaking speed of twelve–fifteen miles per hour, suffered steering failure and crashed from a bridge, just near the butter factory, landing twenty feet below upside down on top of him and his child, pinning them in eighteen inches of water, with the doctor unconscious and in a 'precarious' condition with his injuries, the child suffering shock. They were rescued by passing motorists and the local constable, from the spot known later as 'Bluetts Leap'.

From the outset, Dr Bluett began a long-term fight for the cause of returned service members, becoming president and then patron of the local and later the Lismore branches. He acted widely in support of many charities—Red Cross, Caledonian Society, lodge, and sporting associations, including bowls and rugby league.

He continued the presence of the local doctor on the committee of the School of Arts and agricultural society. He had no local hospital but from 1920 was Government Medical Officer for the area and a Visiting Medical Officer at Ballina Hospital, where he was a colleague of Dr WFS Yeates. He was also appointed Inspector of Cattle Slaughtering and Diseased Cattle and Meat.

At the beginning of 1928, Dr Bluett took six months off and, after being presented with a tobacco pouch, went to England and America, presumably to stimulate his interest in surgery. He left **Dr Edwards** as his locum, but on return moved on to Lismore with its hospital facilities and medical fraternity.

Alan F Smith

Following Dr Bluett in 1928 was Alan Frederick Smith, MB (Sydney 1926), who then started his professional life in the village. He lived in Alstonville but was appointed to Lismore District Hospital as a Visiting Physician, so he had access to good hospital facilities.

He was very involved in charitable, social and sporting activities, carrying on the tradition of the Alstonville doctor being a leading figure in the School of Arts, despite it being taken over by the RSL Club in 1933. Dr Smith was acknowledged as being a real gentleman, very kind to the needy people and the diggers and very proficient in cricket, tennis and bowls. He was farewelled in 1936 by a gathering of 300 people to whom he introduced his successor and then left to do postgraduate studies in England.

John L Dearberg

From mid-June 1929 to the end of January 1930, John Louis Dearberg, LRCP&S (Edin.) filled in for Dr Smith. He deserves mention because after only seven months in the village, he was held in such high esteem that he was given a public farewell and presented with a wallet of notes. He had enjoyed being in the community and playing golf before he left to work in Maitland and Moree, then eventually to Sydney where he died in 1944. He had served in the AIF in WWI.

Kenneth G Lawrance

Kenneth George Lawrance, MB (Sydney 1929), took over from Dr Smith in July 1936, having met him while doing a locum in Lismore for the previous twelve months. Dr Lawrance was very busy in Alstonville with his practice and was involved in local charities and organisations as well as joining the Visiting Medical Officer list at Lismore Base Hospital in 1938, which allowed him to deliver babies and operate on his Alstonville patients in that facility.

He was involved with the local volunteer defence group, both as a first aid tutor and drill instructor. He served in WWII as captain in the AIF from January 1943 until March 1946. Dr Lawrance provided Dr JM Skype from Lismore with locum work in Alstonville from 1943 until 1946. Towards the end of that year, Dr Lawrance started practising full-time in Lismore.

Joseph M Skype

Joseph Michael Skype, MB, BS (Sydney 1935) was born in Lismore and after being a Resident Medical Officer at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney in 1935–36 and at Newcastle Hospital in 1937, he did locum work in Goulburn, Ballina and Alstonville. He applied to the Lismore Base Hospital in 1941, being told there was no vacancy. He helped Dr Lawrance frequently in his practice while living in his home in Lismore, and also practising there until 1947 when he moved to do surgery in Sydney, dying at the age of fifty-four when a successful Macquarie Street specialist. He had served in WWII as medical officer in the AIF in New Guinea, suffering bouts of poor health thereafter.

Gordon S Calnan

In 1947, Gordon Sylvester Calnan, MB (Hons) (Sydney 1946), BS (Sydney 1948), Resident Medical Officer at Mater Hospital, Newcastle, took on the role of the village medico. He had worked in insurance after school, but decided to become a medical student. After a year in Junee, NSW, he started his long career in the Richmond Valley as a GP, with expertise in GP surgery and obstetrics, for which he did have access to Lismore Base Hospital. In the absence of a pharmacy in Alstonville, he ran a dispensary from his rooms. He also visited Ballina Hospital and decided to move there in 1951. Dr Calnan was Honorary Medical Officer to the agricultural society, an esteemed post in which he continued for some years after he left the village.

John C McGill

In 1952, John Charles McGill, MB, BS (Sydney 1951), FRACGP, DObst RCOG (1979) was the village doctor, having arranged to stay for twelve months. He was born in Maitland, NSW, in 1920, started as a schoolteacher and served in the 2nd AIF in WWII, before entry into medical school in 1944. He was appointed Visiting Medical Officer at Ballina Hospital and



St Leonard's
Maternity Hospital
in The Avenue,
Alstonville, managed
by Dr Bluett's former
midwifery nurse,
Ethel Thomas

Lismore Base Hospital and carried out a full range of rural GP services for thirty-six years. As well as being the long-term patron of the agricultural society and a lot of other organisations, Dr McGill was a distinguished Rotarian. He was a perennial honoured guest and opener of a vast number of functions.

Affectionately known as 'Mac' or 'Jake', he practised on his own for over twenty years and eventually founded in the mid-1970s the 'Alstonville Clinic', which soon expanded from two doctors to keep pace with the great increase in the local population, due perhaps at least in part to the very good medical services in the area of the village. When looking for a new recruit to the practice, Dr McGill showed a flair for creative writing when describing the attributes of the position advertised, and not one new doctor was unhappy after being appointed. He was a regular attendee and wise head at Lismore Base Hospital Medical Board meetings.

Doreen Keillar

Doreen Keillar (later Bacon), MB, ChB (Aberdeen Uni 1969), started work as assistant GP in Dr McGill's practice on Australia Day 1972. Born in Dundee, Scotland, she did her residency in 1969–70 at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, and typified many of the doctors migrating to Australia. With a view to living in a much more hospitable climate in a less-populated country,



JOHN C MCGILL



PAUL S EARNER

Dr Keillar took a job as Senior Resident Medical Officer in Maryborough Hospital (Queensland) in 1971.

Then she answered an advertisement in the *Medical Journal of Australia* and arrived in Alstonville as its first lady doctor, working full-time for two years before starting her family, then part-time. She continued her lifelong horse-riding recreation as well as being a Brownie leader, playing tennis, serving on parent committees and gardening.

Later in 1974 she decided to work in Lismore, working initially as Registrar in the Psychiatric Department for the course of this record, but continuing to reside in and be involved in life in the village.

Paul S Earner

In 1974, Paul Sinclair Earner, MB, BS (QLD 1969), DObst RCOG, FRACGP, a Brisbane boy, joined in with Dr McGill after completing his residency, including obstetrics, at Royal Brisbane Hospital from 1969–73. He became a Visiting Medical Officer at Lismore Base Hospital and practised a broad range of rural medicine. Dr Earner was a very active member of committees of the local GPs and Lismore Base Hospital Medical Staff Council, his regular re-election to its leadership reflecting his calm and logical approach much appreciated by his colleagues, who were becoming quite numerous and vocal.

He was also an active member of the Alstonville community, a strong supporter of the Alstonville Anglican Church and a vigorous worker on Parents and Citizens Associations. He held popular community information sessions on general medical topics and children's conditions.

Dr Earner sought respite from his busy practice life on his farm, which had a good view over the creek in which Dr Bluett spent a short time pinned under his car in 1920. Dr Earner was another very perceptive recruiter of staff for the Alstonville Clinic.

Hugh AD McCullagh

In December 1976, Hugh Andrew Douglas McCullagh, MB, BAO (Queen's College, Belfast 1973), DObst RCOG (Eng. 1975), then Resident Medical Officer at Royal Victoria and Belfast City Hospitals in 1974–1975, joined the Alstonville Clinic. He arrived in Australia in 1975 and was introduced to Australian medicine at Bundaberg Hospital, Queensland, where he was the Registrar in Obstetrics and soon became Hospital Superintendent.

Dr McCullagh was a GP with special interest in obstetrics. He lived on his active farm and enjoyed regular rounds of golf.

Stephen J & Nicola M Foster

At the beginning of 1977, the husband and wife team who married as students, Stephen John Foster, MB, BS (Eng. 1973) from St Mary's Medical School and whose father was a doctor, and Nicola Mary Foster, MB, BS (Eng. 1973) from Charing Cross Hospital, where she did an intern year, joined the Alstonville Clinic.

Born in England, both were keen scuba divers, who were attracted in 1974 to Rockhampton General Hospital in North Queensland for two years as Resident Medical Officers, then returning to England for a year to get some experience in obstetrics.

After a year in Perth at Princess Alexandra Children's Hospital, they drove their Kombi overland, with one and a half children, to Alstonville. Dr Stephen was a full-time GP, and Dr Nicola was a busy part-time family practitioner and mother, with special interest in family planning. Both worked hard on their farm, which was almost self-sufficient, and retained their liking for camping and the beach. In 1981, they started up on their own as the 'Alstonville Medical Centre' and thus the village had two general practices for the first time.

John R Lemon

John Robert Lemon, MB, BS (QLD 1975) joined the Alstonville Clinic in 1981 as a GP, having done a GP trainee course with them but, after a couple of years, he moved to Sydney.

Nigel D Chamberlain

In 1984, Nigel David Chamberlain, MB, BS (NSW 1979), DCH (Otago, NZ, 1983), DObst RCOG (1985), who did his residency at Royal Canberra Hospital in 1979 and then worked in hospitals in Auckland, NZ for two years, joined the Drs Foster at the Alstonville Medical Centre.

Jimmy CM Chiu

Jimmy Chi Ming Chiu, BSc (Med.), MB, BS (QLD 1977), Dip RACOG, FACRRM, started as a GP at the Alstonville Clinic in mid-1985. Born in Hong Kong, he arrived in Australia in 1967. He was a Resident Medical Officer at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane in 1978–79, was in general practice in Hong Kong in 1980–82, Resident Medical Officer at Lismore Base Hospital in 1983 and then at Gosford District Hospital in 1983–85. His recreations were soccer, gymnastics and playing a hot guitar.



Ballina was settled in 1842. The first public hospital, Ballina Cottage Hospital, was established in February 1895. Oddly, enough money was not available to install the first bathtub until 1900—suggesting it was a short-stay hospital. The new Ballina District Hospital was built in 1938.

W Walsh

When Dr W Walsh arrived in Ballina is not known, however, his name and signature were recorded on a medical certificate for a patient in 1867, and a year later he was reported treating a snake-bite patient. He left the area in about 1871 when it seems he went to the Hunter area.

Henry M Croft

At the same time, Henry Marshall Croft, MRCS (UK), was practising as a physician and surgeon in the 'Richmond River area' living in Ballina. He had been previously in Sydney and appears to have stayed a relatively short time, causing some bitterness and being accused of not being happy with a large and lucrative practice, in which he claimed to have an unusually large experience in dental surgery.

Dr Croft was renowned for being away from Ballina for two to three days at a time, treating emergency patients in smaller places like Lismore and Gundurimba, so it is unlikely that the accusations of his financial state were true. He went to Grafton in 1867, opening a chemist shop, which sold human and veterinary products, as well as running his medical practice, and went to Tenterfield in March 1869.

James Markey

In February 1866, a young Irish doctor, James Markey, LRCS (Edin. 1864), LRCP (Edin. 1865), came from Maitland on the steamer, *SS Ballina*, at the invitation of some locals to Ballina because of his good reputation, but when he arrived he was advised that the area had already in the meantime attracted a good doctor, Dr Croft, so Dr Markey went upriver to Casino.

Daniel G Rowlands

Daniel George Rowlands, MRCS (Eng.), LMSA, born in Camarthen, South Wales, turned up in Ballina in 1876, aged about twenty-nine. He had landed in Brisbane as a ship's surgeon and was reported to have made his way to Tweed Heads by 1872, on foot along the headlands, stopping on the way to treat sick people. Apart from showing great physical endurance, he proved to be an astute doctor because, in August 1886, the local paper reported a lady, who had been warned by Dr Rowlands about ten years before that she would not survive another large baby, had a desperate Caesarean section for a huge baby, performed by Dr RN Gaggin, from Lismore, with a careful anaesthetic given by the town pharmacist, but sadly, with the predicted result.

He was regarded as a clever surgeon, travelling on the rough tracks in his light dray, which revealed his impecunious state. His stay in Ballina itself was probably short but he was said to have been 'all over the rivers'. Sadly, in 1879, Dr Rowlands died in Lismore at the age of thirty-four, from the effects of alcohol, having practised as a surgeon in Casino and Lismore.

Joseph Foreman

In October 1876, Joseph Foreman, MRCS (Eng. 1873), LRCP (Edin. 1874), LSA (Eng.), came by sea to Ballina. He was an esteemed doctor who was a medical referee for the AMP Society in Sydney and his job had brought him regularly to visit the area on previous occasions. He passed through Ballina on his way to set up practice in Lismore in 1876 and became the Government Medical Officer for the region. His duties required visits to Ballina for a couple of years to carry out vaccinations and inquests, but he was not a resident doctor in the town.

He did start growing tobacco on a cane farm in Woodburn, but lived in Casino. He returned to Sydney in December 1878 and later practised in gynaecology at RPAH, Camperdown, surviving until the age of ninety-seven.

Thomas H Tennant

Thomas Hately Tennant, L&L.Mid FPS (Glasgow 1877), was in Ballina in October 1883, practising from rooms in the new Masonic Hall building, underneath the council chambers in River Street. Previously, he was on the directory list as 'roving in NSW'. He was the Government Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator, 'with pure varicella lymph always at hand' in his rooms where he could be consulted daily. He was a member of the Sugar Growers' Association and, in February 1887, he sold up his urban and rural holdings and appears to have gone to Tenterfield.

Carrington B Street

In 1884, 'Dr' Carrington Baker Street, a documented unregistered medical practitioner at the time, was attending patients in Ballina in Norton Street. He had started in Woodburn in 1881. The local news in 1884 reported him attending a snakebite victim (who died) because Dr Tennant was out of town. Apparently, this man's father was a doctor in the UK and Mr Street and a member of the Hospital Committee used to visit the hospital and offer treatment to the patients. If problems arose they got in contact by a cable with a doctor to come from Lismore. Mr Street was involved in civic affairs once he stopped dabbling in medicine and remained in the area.

Herbert W Swayne

Herbert Wigan Swayne, MRCS (Eng. 1840), LSA (Eng. 1841) called into Lismore on a ship in June 1884, but continued south to Sydney where he practised in Penrith. In December 1886, he returned and advertised his intention to practise his profession in Ballina, visiting 'the river townships' weekly. He was listed as an unregistered doctor. His commencement of practice was publicised and he was still in Ballina in 1887, but it appears that soon after he went to Tenterfield.

Eustace HL Pratt

In 1888, Eustace Henry Lever Pratt, MRCS (Eng.), former surgeon to the army, based in Lismore since 1887, advertised his availability for consultation in Ballina on a fortnightly basis. There is no later evidence that this visiting arrangement was of benefit to Ballina or long-lasting.

Phillip E Corlis

Phillip Edwy Corlis, MD (Uni. Wooster, USA 1892), was in Ballina in February 1896, practising from his house in 73 Crane Street. One of his earliest duties was carrying out an inquest on the only wardsman at the hospital. Dr Corlis was born in Ontario, Canada in 1869 and over the years, practised in Maclean, Ballina, Bangalow, Casino and Grafton. The history of his family is recorded in the Bangalow section. He was accredited with being the first doctor to put up a brass plate in Ballina and 'christened' the hospital operating theatre in May 1896, by assisting the eminent Dr AJ Macqueen, who had been called from Lismore, in treating a lower limb fracture of Mr Charlie Smith of Broadwater. Dr Corlis was responsible for diagnosing bubonic plague, which started to appear due to Ballina being a seaport. He was prominent in civic affairs and a very keen representative bowler. He was

given a farewell from the hospital in 1899, but was still involved in patient care in the town from time to time, e.g. in 1903.

He went to practise in Casino from 1907–14 and from 1914–1916 was back in Ballina, serving a spell on the shire council. After that, he covered for his brother, Charles, in the Bangalow practice until his return from his heroic service in France in WWII. Then Dr Phillip went progressively south to Maclean and Grafton. He retired to Queensland and died in Sandgate, Brisbane in 1949.

Charles C Corlis

In 1899, Charles Christopher Corlis, MD (Ohio Wesleyan University 1898), took over the practice of his brother, Phillip, who returned to do locums for Charles from time to time later on. In 1904, Dr Charles carried out an innovative operation, with Dr JM Sanderson's help, to remove a bullet in a patient's back with X-ray control.

He was still Government Medical Officer in Ballina in 1906. He recognised the problem with bubonic plague, which continued to occur in the seaport town. He was an exceptionally good bowler, true to the family tradition, an accomplished tennis player and member of the gun club. He went to practise in Bangalow in July 1907, served in France in WWI with the RAAMC and came back as a lieutenant-colonel with the Military Cross.

William H Tomlins

In June 1899, William Henry Tomlins, MRCS (Eng.), LRCP (Eng. 1884), set up his rooms in Ballina in June 1899, reportedly by popular demand, after practising from 1886 in Wardell, where he had gone from Wallsend, NSW. He was reported to have a sickly disposition, although being a devoted, very hard-working and well-loved doctor in the Richmond River area.

He had gone home to England for a couple of years and worked there, but he returned to the area. He was in the lodge, an Anglican lay preacher and lecturer in first aid to the townspeople. In July 1903 a 'conversazione' was arranged to farewell him and present him with a bag of sovereigns. He went to Kempsey, but about one year later started up in Duck Creek Mountain (later to become Alstonville).

John T Rennie

John Taylor Rennie, MD (Michigan College of Medicine, Detroit 1884), came in about 1890 from working in Petersham, Sydney, but did not stay long in the area.

John M Sanderson

In 1903, John Murray Sanderson, BA (Cambridge 1892), LSA (Eng. 1898), Resident Medical Officer in Cambridge and London Hospitals and London Temperance Hospital, then Clinical Assistant at Evelina Hospital for Children, started his practice in Ballina. He was the son of an English clergyman and had practised in Broadwater after arriving as a steamer passenger in 1890. (His practice in Broadwater was taken over by Dr Silvio Monti in 1903.) The new doctor in town was welcomed by the Officer of Public Nuisances, who fined him for driving his car around a corner of the road at faster than walking speed, when the doctor was on an emergency call. He helped Dr Charles Corlis at the operation to remove a bullet from a patient in 1904.

In his role of Government Medical Officer in September 1907, he supervised the care of the injured in the wreck of SS *Tomki* on the Ballina Bar. In 1908, he suffered the indignity of being brought by the local police to court on the charge of being on licensed premises after hours, but the charge was thrown out as he had been called to treat a sick barmaid at the hotel. He dealt with a lot of infantile paralysis cases in about 1910, but reported in 1916 a great reduction in the disease over six years.

Dr Sanderson was an active member of the golf club and was well known for his sociability and wicked sense of humour, which he seemed to have retained, in spite of further official action about his driving speed around 'Sandy City'. He left Ballina in 1916, reportedly finding it hard to settle down in one place thereafter, despite trying working in northern Queensland, Western Australia and as a ship's surgeon to Far East ports.

Dr Leary

In 1904, the local paper reported that Dr Leary, late of the Bellinger, had decided to practise in Ballina. The same paper reported soon after that Dr Leary had returned from the Richmond River and resumed his practice in Fernmount, after finding that the Richmond 'was more plentifully supplied with medicos than patients'.

Harrie CE Donovan

Harrie Carisfort (also known as Harvie Cresford) Edmond Donovan, MB (Sydney 1906), set up rooms in Ballina in July 1907 and was appointed to the hospital when Dr C Corlis resigned. He was newly wed at St Mary's Cathedral after he did his residency at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst in 1906-7.

Dr Donovan had a busy practice, was on the town council, played



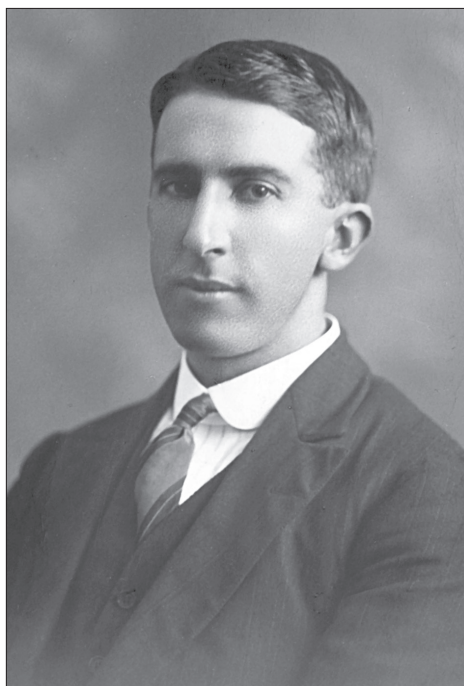
PHILLIP E CORLIS
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



HARRIE CE DONOVAN
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



CLIFFORD GEARIN
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



WALTER FS YEATES
(Photo: NSW State Archives)

competition tennis (with and against Drs Sanderson and Corlis), played and was on the golf and tennis club committees, and was president of the Australian Defence League. Apparently no respecter of his seniors, he beat Dr Corlis in singles golf when Bangalow played against Ballina. He probably yielded to pressure from his very prominent Sydney family in 1912, when he went to Waverley, Sydney to practise. He died in 1938.

Harry J Waddell

In 1912, Harry (Harrie) James Waddell, MB, BS (Sydney 1911) took over from Dr Donovan. He was a very appropriate successor to Dr Donovan, arriving in town and being prominent in all the area tennis tournaments and joining in the bowls. In 1914, he sold his practice to Dr T Butler and moved on to Casino, where he stayed for many years.

Thomas Butler

Thomas Butler, MB (Sydney 1914), was reported to have succeeded Dr Waddell in Ballina at the end of 1914. He had also looked at the South Coast, and is unlikely to have stayed very long, because he went to England and trained in ophthalmology before practising in Sydney where died at the age of fifty-two in 1934.

Clifford Gearin

Following an unusual introduction in the press as ‘from a good Catholic family’, Clifford Gearin, MB, ChM (Sydney 1915) started to practise in Ballina at the beginning of 1917. He had trained as a Resident Medical Officer at Warwick General Hospital (Queensland) and then Brisbane General Hospital. Reports indicate that he was very competent medically and surgically, while not afraid to call on his senior colleagues, e.g. Dr Franceschi from Lismore, to help him in his more difficult cases as Hospital Medical Officer to Ballina Hospital.

He was very hard-working and complained formally to the council about the state of a busy road, on which he was bogged three times one night on the way to a serious incident, and he claimed that two lives were lost as a result of the admittedly terrible state of the road. He was a very popular man and keen bowler and was respected and consulted by the church hierarchy.

Dr Gearin fought very hard for good operating conditions and instruments in the operating theatre at Ballina Hospital. He was joined by his medical school yearmate, Dr Yeates, in 1918 and as Government Medical Officer for the region was responsible for combating the pneumonic flu in

the area in 1919. In particular being responsible for physical isolation of nearby Alstonville, with no resident doctor from the officially 'infected area', Lismore, thereby minimising its exposure to the deadly disease.

Soon after he had difficulties with the matron of Ballina Hospital and had no support from the board, so he resigned from the hospital and had to rely on use of a local private hospital for his patients for the next three years. Then he suffered the sudden loss of his wife, leaving him with a three-day-old baby and, after a very valiant attempt to carry on for a year, had to go back to Sydney in March 1922, having personally arranged his successor in Ballina. He became a Macquarie Street specialist, working at St Vincent's Hospital and continued to be a very popular and well-respected citizen.

Walter FS Yeates

In 1918, Walter Francis Stewart Yeates, MB (Sydney 1915) started to practise in the town. He had served as Medical Officer abroad in the British Army in WWI before transferring to the Australian forces. He worked from a beautiful big house at the river end of Cherry Street. Dr Yeates was a big man who carried out a full range of general practice skills.

He was a very good golfer for many years before playing bowls to a high standard. He was a bachelor and over the years he was an active member of the lodge, Richmond River Sailing Club (of which he was Commodore) and a member and judge of the Ballina Jockey Club. His devoted service to the town came to a sad end when he collapsed and died in the operating theatre at Ballina Hospital in 1957, at the age of sixty-three.

Thomas JB Connelly

Thomas John Bede Connelly, MB, ChM (Sydney 1920), Resident Medical Officer at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney took over from Dr Gearin in March 1922. He was a keen bowler in his spare time. He was in Ballina until August 1925, leaving for Brisbane but later returned to Sydney.

Frederick N Lynch

In January 1924, Frederick Ninian Lynch, BA (Sydney 1915), MB, ChM (Sydney 1921), was in practice from a house in Tamar Street. He had done his residency at Lidcombe State Hospital in 1921 and Lewisham Hospital in 1922–23.

In his time in Ballina he was a member of the lodge and very involved in the community, in particular being on the Ballina Municipal Council for two terms and being a founding member and the official judge of the greyhound racing club. Dr Lynch was also prominent in the running in

Ballina of the first aerial derby in a country town, in 1929 and subsequent years and pushed hard for improvement of the increasingly popular aerodrome, including the erection of a hangar. He was given an official farewell by the council in December 1936, when he left to go to Waverley in Sydney prior to enlisting in WWII and becoming a lieutenant-colonel.

Henry V Gillies

Henry Vicars Gillies, MB (Sydney 1916) was in Ballina in 1926–27. He was a member of an unusual group of intellectuals calling themselves ‘The Bird Club’ and he played in the local golf competitions.

Francis T Grainger

In 1935, Francis Transvaal Grainger, MB, ChM (Sydney 1925) was the third doctor living in Ballina. His practice was in River Street. After practising in Ballina, he was in Melbourne by 1940, then he went back to Sydney and in 1948, when living in Bondi, met the unusual fate of being run over and killed by a Coogee tram outside the Randwick Racecourse.

Francis MG Punch

Francis Michael Greenway Punch, MB, ChB (Sydney 1926), born in Paddington, Sydney, Resident Medical Officer at Marrickville Hospital in 1927–28 and 1930–33, was practising in Ballina in 1936, having been previously in Ashfield, Sydney. He was in the news in 1936 for his return to treating patients soon after being thrown from his car in a collision with another vehicle. From Ballina he went to Annandale, Sydney.

Ronald AA Macqueen

In 1939, Ronald Alan Archibald Macqueen, MB, (Sydney 1911), was in practice in Ballina after having previously been in Tasmania (1915), Rockhampton (1935) and Condobolin (NSW). He was the son of Dr Archibald Macqueen, of Lismore in the 1880s. He had the credit of delivering the first baby in the new Ballina District Hospital when it opened in 1939.

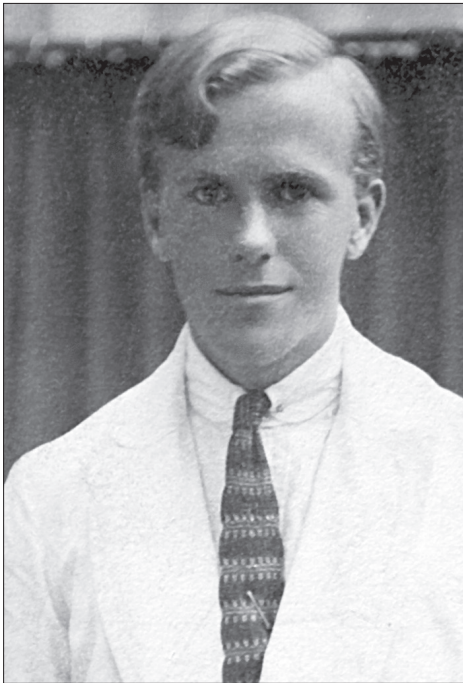
Dr Macqueen was a solo GP and had wide sporting interests, including involvement with the Ballina Jockey Club and bowling club. He developed an interest in skin diseases and this progressed to his leaving Ballina to specialise in dermatology in Lismore in 1963 for ten years and to Sydney in 1973. He died in Sydney the following year, aged eighty-four.



FREDERICK N LYNCH
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



FRANCIS T GRAINGER
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



RONALD AA MACQUEEN
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



GORDON S CALNAN

Gordon S Calnan

Gordon Sylvester Calnan, MB (Hons, Sydney 1946), BS (Sydney 1948), Resident Medical Officer at the Newcastle Mater Hospital, started his practice in Crane Street in 1950. He had been a short time in Junee before starting in the Richmond River region in Alstonville in 1947. In 1951, Dr Yeates, Dr Macqueen and Dr Calnan were the three doctors in Ballina. Dr Calnan was a late starter in medicine after working in insurance for eight years, but still was to achieve the extraordinary feat of practising in Ballina for fifty years—with a grand total of thirty years as Government Medical Officer.

He was a Visiting Medical Officer at the Ballina Hospital, Honorary Medical Officer for the Ballina Jockey Club and Ballina Boxing Club, a member of Rotary and the area aviation doctor. He carried out the delivery of more than 2500 babies. Dr Calnan was highly respected in the community and among his colleagues, those younger ones whom he took into his practice regarding it as a great privilege and experience to have him as a mentor. He was joined by Dr PM Yantsch in 1977 and Dr NL Nicholl in 1978. He was the worthy recipient of the OAM in 1985 for his long and devoted service.

Owen H Green

In 1953, Owen Howard Green, MB, BS (Hons Queensland 1950), Resident Medical Officer at Brisbane General Hospital in 1951, started to practise in Cherry Street. He was a GP in Ballina for about three years and continued his career in Stanthorpe (Queensland).

Lucius Allen

Lucius Allen, MB BS (Queensland 1949), Resident Medical Officer at Bundaberg General Hospital in 1949 and at Toowoomba General Hospital (1951), was practising in Tamar Street in 1957. He had come from Pittsworth, Queensland and ran his general practice for about five years before moving to suburban Ascot in Brisbane in 1962.

Michael G Smith

In 1961, Michael Glynne Smith, MB, BS (Eng. 1953), DObst RCOG (1954), set up in solo general practice in Fox Street, later in Wigmore Arcade in River Street. He was born in Bangkok (Thailand) and lived in England for many years. He had been in Mt Gambier (SA) previously.

He worked in his rooms and at Ballina District Hospital, being a hard worker for good relations between the doctors and Ballina Hospital, serving on the Medical Staff Council until early 1987, when he disposed of his practice to **Paul Kerkenezov**, MB, BS (Queensland 1971), a second-

generation Far North Coast doctor, previously a GP in Yamba who developed an interest in emergency medicine and trauma. Dr Smith was a great supporter of the charity Anglicare and retired to Newrybar.

Roy M McLeod

Roy Maxwell McLeod, MB, BS (Queensland 1952), MRACGP, was in Moon Street in 1960, then later in Tamar Street, Ballina, having come from Maryborough (Queensland). He was in solo general practice for nineteen years before retiring in 1978 and continued to enjoy living in the local community which openly acknowledged his excellent service. His quiet, efficient manner and devotion to his practice play a large part in the restricted information about his public life.

Roderick T Muirhead

In 1974, Roderick Thomas Muirhead, MB, BS (Otago, NZ 1955), was in practice in Ballina and a Visiting Medical Officer at the hospital for a couple of years and later was in Bowral, NSW.

Ferdinandus J Delooze & Maureen M McKeirnan

The husband and wife team of Ferdinandus Johan (Fred) Delooze, MB, BS (Queensland 1971) and Maureen Mary McKeirnan, MB, BS (Queensland 1968), Resident Medical Officer at Repatriation General Hospital, Brisbane 1969–70, set up a private family practice in Ballina in December 1974. Previously, Dr McKeirnan had worked in psychiatry in Brisbane, with a short time in Kent, England. Apart from becoming very popular doctors, they became part of the Ballina community, Dr Fred keeping wicket in the area grade cricket competition well into super-veteran stage, and Dr Maureen founding a very stylish ladies' footwear shop. By the time they went to look after the armed forces in Saudi Arabia at the end of 1984, the practice had taken in Dr M Gillies.

Philip M Yantsch

In 1977, Philip Mervyn Yantsch, MB, BS (Queensland 1968), FRACGP, FACRM (Sydney), Resident Medical Officer at Royal Brisbane Hospital (1968), joined in the practice of Dr G Calnan. Previously, he had been a GP in Tenterfield, NSW, after serving in Vietnam. He found his amiable experienced colleague a great patient manager and a keen mentor in general practice, surgery and obstetrics. Dr Yantsch develop a keen interest in cattle breeding, flying and the associated aviation medicine and a fancy for 1932 Fords. Later he moved to Inverell, across the ranges, where the farms and cattle were larger.

Neil L Nicholl

Neil Livingstone Nicholl, MB, BS (Sydney 1958), son of the late Dr 'Snow' Nicholl of Lismore, arrived in Ballina in 1978 to join Dr Calnan in Crane Street. He had been in Casino from 1961. Sadly, Dr Neil Nicholl died in 1981.

Francis GE Hughes

In 1978, Francis Gerald Eamon Hughes, MB, ChB (NU Ire 1947), BAO (NU Ire 1947), set up the first resident practice in the nearby village of Lennox Head. He had worked in England as Medical Officer at Nottingham General Hospital (1947–49), a GP in Ollerton (1949–68), in administration at Nyah West County Hospital (1968–72) and Medical Officer to the St John Ambulance for eighteen years, before joining the Rawle practice in Lismore in 1972. Dr Hughes was persuaded by the locals to go to Lennox Head and repaid them with twenty-one years of friendly, devoted service. He was a Visiting Medical Officer at Ballina District Hospital, before retiring to Murwillumbah, a little further north.

Hugh O Beeston

Hugh Olvey Beeston, MB, BS (Queensland 1957), DObst RCOG (Eng. 1977), had started in Ballina by 1979. After graduation, he had been a Resident Medical Officer at Mackay Base Hospital in 1958, Rockhampton in 1958 and Townsville in 1959. He had been previously in general practice in Castlemaine, Victoria. His rooms were in Moon Street, Ballina and he was also a Visiting Medical Officer at the hospital. Later on, he went to East Brisbane.

Matea W Gillies

Also by 1979, Matea William Gillies, MB, ChB (Otago, NZ 1974), DObst RACOG, joined Drs Delooze and McKeirnan in their family practice which he continued when they went overseas.

Nicholas Kerkenezov

Nicholas Kerkenezov, MB, BS (Sydney 1943), DOMS (Dublin and Eng. 1951), left his Lismore practice to set up in his rooms in Ballina in 1980 as Resident Ophthalmologist. He continued his love for orchids, blackfishing and civic duties as a shire councillor, carrying on the good work of Dr FN Lynch in the 1920s to get a modern regional aerodrome in Ballina.

Dennis A Evans

In 1981, Dennis Allan Evans, MB, ChB (Birmingham 1976), was practising in River Street, after having started in Lennox Head. A Brisbane boy, he

went to England to study medicine and, on returning to Australia, enjoyed life in rural general practice, in his spare time taking the opportunity to challenge the big waves on his surf ski and play golf.

Rex L Abraham

Rex Leslie Abraham, MB, BS (Queensland 1977) was working as a GP in Ballina in 1982. He had been previously in Western Australia.

Gerald L Douglas

In 1982, Gerald Leslie Douglas, MB, BS (Sydney 1956), MRACGP (1969), FRACGP (1974), was in medical practice in Ballina. He had been previously a GP and in public health positions in Sydney from 1958–68. In 1986, he started practising from nearby Fernleigh.

Christopher J McKenzie

Christopher John McKenzie, MB, BS (NSW 1978) was in Ballina by 1983, joining Dr Evans and later Dr Gillies. Born in Hillston, NSW, he was a Resident Medical Officer and Registrar at Sydney Hospital from 1978–81 and had training in paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology and anaesthetics before choosing to practise on the North Coast, near his parents. It was the start of a long association with Ballina.

Christopher Greenway

In 1983, Christopher Greenway, MB, ChB (Birmingham 1976), DObst RCOG (Eng. 1978), D.A (Eng. 1980), LMCC (Canada 1982) and MRCGP (Eng. 1983), started practising in Grant Street. He had extensive general, obstetric and anaesthetic experience in hospitals in Birmingham, London and Auckland before coming to Australia and working as Registrar in Windsor Hospital and as a GP in Gloucester before deciding Ballina was a good place to settle.

Joseph J Young

Joseph John Young, MB, BS (Bombay 1969), was in 1984 in a general practice in Tamar Street and Visiting Medical Officer at the hospital.

Shaun Stevens

In 1984, Shaun Stevens, BA, MB, BS (NSW 1979), a former Resident Medical Officer at Royal North Shore Hospital and Lismore Base Hospital, started in general practice in Ballina and was a Visiting Medical Officer at the hospital. He was a well-known graphic artist, who exhibited widely. After a few years, he became one of the first Career Medical Officers at Lismore Base Hospital.

In 1985–86, Ballina had an influx of six new general practitioners, reflecting the burgeoning population of the area and also the increased requirements of the people for medical supervision.

Alice H Caseleyr

Alice Heather Caseleyr, MB, BS (NSW 1979), joined Dr Calnan's group, taking over from Dr Yantsch. She had been a Resident Medical Officer at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, before two years GP in Lane Cove, Sydney and Savage River, Tasmania.

David L Havill

David Lyle Havill, MB, BS (NSW 1980), joined Dr Chris McKenzie in the clinic in Martin Street and became a Visiting Medical Officer at the hospital. He had been Resident Medical Officer at Canberra-Woden Valley Hospital in 1981–82 and trained for the DObst RACOG there in 1983, before doing rural locums in NSW and being overseas for a year. Dr Havill was in general practice with interest in obstetrics, outside interests including golf, camping and hiking.

Paul B Hosie

Paul Bernard Hosie, MB, BS (Sydney 1981), Lismore born, started with Dr C Greenway in Moon Street.

Colin J Macdonald

Colin John Macdonald, MB, BS (NSW 1977), Resident Medical Officer at Wollongong Hospital, NSW in 1977–78, began in the general practice in River Street in February 1986, taking over the practice of Dr G Douglas. He had been a Medical Officer in the RAN for over six years, with particular involvement in submarine and underwater medicine. He became involved in the medical supervision of the Ballina Rugby League Club.

Bruce E King

Bruce Elvery King, MB, BS (Queensland 1981), began in Ballina with Dr McDonald as a GP in River Street. Previously he had been a Resident Medical Officer at Royal Brisbane Hospital (1981–83) and Medical Administrator at Babinda Hospital, Queensland (1984–85).

Desmond P Williamson

Desmond Paul Williamson, MB, BS (NSW 1978), joined the family medical centre in Moon Street.



Bangalow

Bangalow was called Byron Creek until 1907. The railway went through to Murwillumbah in 1894. The first settler was Thomas Robinson in 1881, and his wife Charlotte acted, through necessity, as local midwife and general medical adviser until a registered doctor arrived. She died in 1907, sadly after an operation.

Arthur W Power

Tom Robinson was said to have done some scrub felling for Dr Power. 'Dr' Arthur Worsley Power, 'LFPS (Glasgow 1880)', had arrived in Woodburn in March 1885 and set up a practice there. His qualifications were not bona fide, but he claimed to have been to the Royal College of Liege in Belgium, an engineering pupil in Sussex and an assistant in colon surgery, before coming to Australia and taking the post of Senior Resident Dispenser at Royal Melbourne Hospital for three years, Medical Officer in the South Pacific and in HM Gaol in Port Macquarie. It seems he saw patients on visits to Bangalow and then moved to Casino at the end of 1886.

Gerald S Samuelson

In 1905, the man recognised as the first doctor, both qualified and resident, arrived—Gerald Septimus Samuelson, MB, Ch M (Edin. 1888), MD (Edin. 1893). Born in London, he worked at St George's Hospital in London and at Wiltshire County Asylum. He came as a steamer passenger to Australia in 1889 and practised in many parts of NSW, including Bourke, Gundagai, Kangaroo Valley and Moss Vale, and as a surgeon at Armidale, before settling in Bangalow and working from Mia Mia Private Hospital.

He served as a Medical Officer Lieutenant in the NSW AAMC in the Boer War in 1899–1903, was regarded as a good and successful doctor and was an early owner of a motor car in the town, thereby being able to transport sick and injured patients to his surgery and hospital. He certainly was a caring and thoughtful doctor, at one stage extolling in the *British Medical Journal* the benefit of carefully administered narcotic analgesia in labour and was considered a specialist in female complaints. He also fought

strongly along with a group of eminent Australian doctors for reduction in exposure to excessive alcohol intake in military serving-age males.

He went to Casino in 1912, exchanging practices with Dr James Hornidge Chauncy. Then he served in the Great War, attaining the rank of major in charge of a hospital ship—the yacht of the King of Belgium.

Dr Samuelson was a very inventive man, concocted a poison for control of the rabbit population and also designed a patented litter (stretcher) with handles adapted to allow carriage by hand, transfer to another bed, an operating table or a ship's deck with only one changeover for the patient. He went to Tasmania and later acted as ship's surgeon for some years—even surviving the sinking of his ship, *Tahiti*—eventually succumbing to injuries sustained in a fall into a ship's anchor hold in Darling Harbour in 1933.

The Corlis Family

Josiah Corlis, MD, MS (McGill Uni, Canada 1869), started in 1907 to practise medicine in Bangalow in Granuaille Road. The Corlis family had a profound effect on the medical development of the Richmond River region, but are difficult to follow accurately because there were two generations in active practice in the region for many years. Josiah (b.1841) was a Baptist minister in Canada, married to Margaret (b.1840), a schoolteacher. Josiah decided on a change of calling to study medicine at McGill University in Ontario as a mature student.

Then **Margaret Amelia Corlis**, very short in stature, with three dependent sons and a busy doctor husband whom she had put through university, decided to become a doctor, graduating MD (Queen's University, Ontario 1885) at the age of forty-six with MD, then MS (Canadian College of Physicians). After a welcome and well-deserved sea holiday including visiting Australia, they decided to move to a more friendly climate and arrived with two of their three sons in Australia in 1891. Thereafter, Margaret became one of the earliest female doctors on the NSW and Australian Medical Registers.

In 1892, Margaret opened a practice in the centre of Sydney, then went to Bellingen where she met the infamous imposter masquerading as a doctor, Robert Royston-Russell, who tried to defraud her of her Fernmount practice, but was recognised and denounced by Dr JA Langdon from the Coraki region.

In 1894, Josiah answered a desperate call to the goldfields at Coolgardie to fight the typhoid outbreak. Margaret followed in 1895—most likely to



TOP:
MARGARET A CORLIS,
in her surgery at Bangalow

RIGHT:
Her husband,
JOSIAH CORLIS,
on the verandah of
their Bangalow home in
Granuaille Road,
was involved in community
affairs and responsible
for setting up the private
hospital in Bangalow.
In 1952 it was renamed
the Bangalow District War
Memorial Hospital.



help treat her husband infected with typhoid. Josiah ran the hospital and became the mayor of Menzies in the goldfields in their stay of about eight years.

Husband and wife returned to the Richmond River region in 1904 to rejoin the two sons in Australia—**Phillip Edwy Corlis**, born in 1869 in Ontario, Canada, MD (Wooster University, Cleveland, USA 1892), and **Charles Christopher Corlis**, born in 1877 in Ontario, MD (Ohio Wesleyan Uni. 1898), were now practising registered doctors.

Some reports tell that from about 1905, Margaret practised in Maclean, Ballina, Byron Bay and Bangalow, but accurate logistic difficulties present with the parents now well into their sixties, the two sons being in very active practices and their Mum and Dad ever-ready to do locums for them to give them a break, as well as each doctor being referred to publicly simply as 'Dr Corlis'. Drs Josiah and Margaret also appeared to care for their own patients while doing locum duties for other doctors in the area to allow them to have time away. Certainly, all the Corlis family members were prepared to travel to answer the call to help patients over a fairly large area of the North Coast.

From 1907, Dr Josiah, who initially lived and practised in a house in Granuaille Road, was also heavily involved in community affairs and was responsible for setting up the Byron Private Hospital (in Bangalow) in 1908, which also took in public patients from Bangalow and the surrounding district. He also founded the bowling club and was club champion. Over the years the private hospital was extended with finances from the community and the RSL and renamed the Bangalow District War Memorial Hospital in 1952. It was eventually taken over by the Health Department and closed soon after to inpatients in 1984.

It appears that Josiah and Margaret continued to practise in Bangalow, also consulting in Byron Bay from a house in Shirley Street from 1908 for quite some years, but in a reduced capacity when son Charles, affectionately known to his patients as 'Doctor Charlie', moved up from Ballina. Charles served as Medical Officer in the Army in France in World War I and was decorated with the Military Cross as well as being Mentioned in Despatches twice.

Dr Phillip, who had gone from Ballina to Casino, helped run the Bangalow practice while Dr Charles was at the war, and in 1917 was president of the bowling club. He was reported going to Queensland to look after his rural interests there soon after, but he returned to the North Coast, mainly around the Clarence region, dying in Sandgate, Queensland in 1949.

It is likely that Josiah and Margaret stopped active practice when

Charles returned from the war. Josiah was recorded as filling in for doctors in Brisbane while they went to the war. He died in 1922 in Maclean, aged eighty-two and Margaret, who had suffered progressive blindness for quite some years, died in 1925 in Grafton, aged eighty-five. Charles continued to practise in Bangalow for many years, a very successful doctor and interstate bowler. He was still there in 1925 when Margaret died, but moved to Lismore in 1928, disposing of his practice to Dr J Broughton.

James H Chauncy

In July 1912, James Hornidge Chauncy, LRCP (Eng.), MRCS (Eng. 1856), having trained at St Thomas' Hospital, London, took over from Dr Samuelson in Bangalow, after exchanging his Casino practice with him. He was recognised as a very genial and straightforward doctor, but he had moved from Casino to be nearer the sea, in the hope that it would improve the far from satisfactory state of health of his wife and children.

He went to seaside Byron Bay to see patients on occasions and then tried living there but his hopes apparently were not realised, and he left in about the middle of 1914. He may have gone direct to serve with the British forces in Malta, in 1920 starting practice in Brisbane.

Andrew J Bracken

Andrew John Bracken, LRCP and MRCS (Ireland), was in Bangalow in general practice in 1912. He had come to Australia in about 1907, having been born in Northern Ireland in 1882. He came from Sydney to Bangalow and was mentioned in the press when taken to court by the local Ford motor dealer for non-payment for a car, but he got a favourable verdict requiring him to pay two pounds. It seems that Dr Bracken started practice from 'The Rivers' house.

He sold to Dr Stewart in July 1912 and started practising in Waverley, Sydney, where he had the misfortune to father stillborn twins and lose his wife. He died at the age of fifty, having been in poor health for some time.

John MY Stewart

In July 1912, John Mitchell Young Stewart, MB, MS (Glasgow), succeeded Dr Bracken. Born in Glasgow, he had been in the Boer War as surgeon-major and then practised in Guildford (WA) before starting in Bangalow, which seemed to be a safe haven for a while before he was exposed in the Perth press in relation to his divorce. Dr Stewart had a motor bike for a time and visited Byron Bay twice a week. 'The Rivers' was also called 'Dr Stewart's Hospital in Bangalow'. Although the press referred to him as a

‘frail sawbones’, he left in about September 1914 after volunteering in WWI as a major in the Australian General Hospital and, despite being wounded in Gallipoli, he defied his alleged frailty by practising in Melbourne for many years after the war.

John GF Lentaigne

John Gerald Francis Lentaigne, MB, ChM (Sydney 1912), arrived in 1914. Born in 1886, son of a doctor in Hunters Hill, Sydney, he took over from Dr Stewart in 1914 to start practise from ‘The Rivers’, by the creek at the eastern end of Byron Street. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at St Vincent’s Hospital in 1912 and then did obstetric and paediatric training at Crown Street and RAHC. From 1915 he served in the Commonwealth Reserve Forces. ‘The Rivers’ was extended over the years and became his rooms and a private hospital charging in the early days two–three guineas per week.

He delivered many of the residents of Bangalow and Byron districts and he also gave anaesthetics, in addition to his full repertoire of GP skills. There was a severe epidemic of pneumonic flu in Bangalow in 1919 and he and the local nurses were very busy managing this in the hospital, and a large overflow of over one hundred patients under canvas cover at the showground. He also advised the town of Byron Bay, which had no doctor at the time, about planning for and managing the epidemic and liaised with the town’s nurses who had direct care of the patients.

He endeared himself even more to the people of the area by marrying a ‘local girl’, daughter of the town hotel owner and they had five daughters. Dr Lentaigne worked in very well with the next permanent doctor, Dr John Broughton, who did procedures in ‘The Rivers’. From 1936, Dr Lentaigne and Dr William Grey combined to give a very efficient and complete medical service to the area.

He was a great family man and very keen gardener and arborist. He was a keen lawn bowler, being president and club champion, and was an avid follower of surf carnivals, so it would be safe to say he had some sort of honorary medical association with the surf clubs. He also loved literature and history, and had a particular delight in growing dahlias. Dr Lentaigne held popular first aid classes regularly in Byron Bay and continued to practise in Bangalow until his death there in late 1952 at the age of sixty-six.



GERALD S SAMUELSON

(Photo: NSW State Archives)



JOHN G LENTAIGNE

(Photo: NSW State Archives)



JOHN W BROUGHTON

(Photo: NSW State Archives)



WILLIAM S GREY

Milford G Wilson

In March 1928, Milford Graham Wilson, MB, ChM (Sydney 1926), started as a GP in Byron Street, Bangalow. In his time in Bangalow, he played serious golf and tennis but left for Sydney in May 1929, leaving for sale his seven-bedroom house in Byron Street.

John W Broughton

In 1928, John Walter Broughton, MB, ChM (Sydney 1923), took over Dr Charles Corlis's practice in Bangalow from Byron Street and, after his marriage the following year, moved into the big house in Byron Street next to the funeral parlour. He was born in West Wyalong and went to Lismore High School where he passed the Leaving Certificate at the age of fifteen. His reward was to have to repeat final year at school because Sydney University would not let him start medicine at the age of fifteen years.

After doing his residency at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1923–24, he went to Tuncurry, NSW before going back to the Far North Coast. He made a great impact on the townsfolk, especially the relatives of the young local boy, who had a remarkable recovery after operative treatment from the young doctor, for a severe open fracture of the skull after a horse accident.

In Bangalow, Dr Broughton was in the lodge and enjoyed tennis and golf, but was known to be very dedicated to his patients. He was very vocal in his criticism of unregistered doctors and developed an interest in urology, which took him to the United States, but he opted for rural medical life in Murwillumbah in 1936 and later in the Newcastle area.

William S Grey

William Scoboria Grey, MB, ChM (Sydney 1929), having worked in his father's practice in Strathfield and then a couple of years in general practice in Auchenflower, Brisbane, started practising in Bangalow in 1936, in virtually all areas of medicine and surgery. For some years he was also the town dentist. He had a very busy practice and attracted a large number of patients from Byron Bay to his home surgery in Byron Street and at Byron Private Hospital (later Bangalow DWM Hospital). His surgical life was aided by anaesthetics given by Dr Lentaigne and after him by others, including Drs JG Opie and RW Gordon from Lismore and Dr LW Alderman from Mullumbimby.

Dr Grey was not a keen motorcar driver, preferring to cycle around the hilly town. He was a teetotaler, lay preacher and Sunday School superintendent in the Presbyterian Church. A good singer, he was otherwise

a very quiet man, an overt pacifist, but very keen on sports such as tennis, table tennis, golf, bowls, archery and clay pigeon shooting. He was a great believer in coaching manuals, which explained his opponents' admiration of his stylish techniques. The town ambulance driver called for him regularly to take him away from sporting events to an accident or the hospital.

Dr Grey was a follower of natural things such as controlled breathing in childbirth and hypnotism as therapeutic aids. He and Dr Lentaigne worked together very well and after Dr Lentaigne's death in 1952, Dr Grey missed him his professional co-operation, becoming the only resident doctor in town for almost the next twenty years. Unfortunately, Dr Grey suffered a chronic debilitating medical condition in his later years and had to endure severe reduction in his clinical activities. He had to retire in 1971 and he died in 1975, aged seventy.

From 1952, when Dr Grey was on his own in the town, some medical attention for the residents was given by doctors based in Byron Bay, among them were Dr Alan James Stitz, MB, BS (Sydney 1952), in the early 1950s, and Dr Alan Bradshaw, MB, BS (QLD 1951), in the later 1950s.

When Dr Grey retired in 1971, Dr George Denholm, MB, ChB (St Andrew's Uni. 1955), and his practice partner in Byron Bay, Dr Guy Ethell, MB, BS (QLD 1952), saw patients in sessional rooms in Byron Street two days a week and visited Bangalow Hospital to care for the townspeople. They were joined from 1973 by their colleague, Dr Peter Roger, MB, BS (Sydney 1970), DRCOG, and later by Dr David Reid, MB, BS (NSW 1974), DA, DRCOG. This service stopped in about 1976.

Ian C Elder

In 1974, Ian Carnegie Elder, MB, BS (Sydney 1968), DRCOG 1979, who was Resident Medical Officer at Grafton and Lismore Base Hospitals in 1968, set up across the road from Dr Grey's old practice, later moving to George Street. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at St Margaret's Hospital, Darlinghurst, before he became a Medical Officer in the RAAMC in 1969–1973. He was very attentive to Dr Grey when he was quite debilitated and Dr Elder became a Visiting Medical Officer to Bangalow and Byron Bay Hospitals, having a branch practice in Byron Bay in the mid-seventies.

Dr Elder was a keen supporter of returned servicemen and was patron of Bangalow Soccer Club. In 1982, he left to practise in Gulargambone, NSW.

Carol A Brown

Carol Ann Brown, MB BS (UNSW 1979), took over Dr Elder's practice, now in Granuaille Road, in 1982. This was later to become the Bangalow Medical Centre. She was very popular in both medical and community spheres, having a particular interest in the workings of Bangalow Hospital. Dr Brown expanded the medical practice over the next six years but she was fatally injured in a tragic car accident just outside the town in August 1988, a cause of much grief in the town.

David Smith

In 1984, David Smith, MB, BS (UNSW 1982), Dip Ven (Monash 1986), a Resident at the Lismore Base Hospital in 1983–84, joined Dr Brown in her practice. In typical Bangalow-doctor style, he was involved in the community, including being president of the very active Bangalow Bridge Club. His place in the group was taken over by **Hilton Koppe**, MB, BS (NSW 1982), Resident Medical Officer at Hornsby District Hospital in 1982–83, before being a happy graduate of the GP Training Program and later **Jane Barker**, MB, ChB (Cardiff, Wales 1973), MRCP Paed (Eng. 1976), joined the group, after practising for some years in Papua New Guinea. Her interesting introduction to Bangalow was when her vehicle broke down while touring the east coast and the instant attraction to the area led her to stay.

Judy Komaromi

In 1985, Judy Komaromi, MB, BS (UNSW 1982), started in Bangalow after doing a residency at Lismore Base Hospital. She worked with Dr Brown for a short time, then set up her own practice in Lismore Road for about three years, returning to Sydney and later on going to England.





TOP: CHARLES C CORLIS, brother of Dr Phillip and son of Drs Josiah and Margaret Corlis, was in medical practice in the Richmond River district for over fifty years.

BOTTOM: His son, WILSON L CORLIS, practised in Lismore from 1936 to 1946



CHARLES ST L WILLIS



TREVOR J TIERNEY

(Photo: Byron News)



Bonalbo is situated seventy kilometres from Casino. In 1915, the original hospital building was described as a two-roomed weatherboard house in Sandilands Street. In 1926, a four-roomed cottage in Cope Street was used as the hospital until the new hospital was opened in September 1940.

Charles St L Willis

The first recorded resident doctor practising in Bonalbo was there in 1921—Charles St Leger Willis, MB (Sydney 1906), from a Sydney medical family. He was remembered by a long-time local as a friendly and efficient good man who was expert in handling maternity cases, childhood epidemics and the accidents involving farmers and timber men.

In August 1925, Dr Willis was reported in the national press when he was killed after being thrown from his horse well off the track, on his way home from a house call to a farmer living a couple of miles away. He was believed to have borrowed the horse for his return home and the reluctant animal did not want to leave his own home. Dr Willis was reported to be middle-aged and left a widow and five children, as well as a town with no doctor within forty-two miles. He had been a prominent cricketer in his day.

John W Ralston

John Windeyer Ralston, MB, ChM (Sydney 1924), was practising in the town in 1926. He was involved with the agricultural society and probably saw patients on occasions in Urbenville. By March 1929, he was in Kedron, Brisbane.

Frederick W Buddee Snr

In April 1927, Frederick William Buddee, MB, ChM (Sydney 1925) was in Bonalbo. He was president of the tennis club for three years, vice-president of the A&I Society and prominent in the P&C Association. He enjoyed playing golf and bridge. He was the town doctor when the CWA Hospital was opened in September 1930, but left the town in December, to be succeeded by Dr Gaffney. He was going to Toowoomba and for further experience to

London in 1932, where he worked at Queen Charlotte's Women's Hospital, getting experience in obstetrics and gynaecology before he went to start practising in Glen Innes in NSW. (His son, **Dr FW Buddee**, was later to specialise in general surgery in Lismore from 1973).

Thomas J Gaffney

Thomas Joseph Gaffney, MB (Sydney 1930), took over from Dr FW Buddee in December 1930. Born in Brisbane, he went to Sydney University, then gravitated north again. He soon involved himself in his spare time in the A&I Society Committee and the dramatic society as secretary and talented performer. Dr Gaffney also grew prize-winning roses before he went to be a GP in Brisbane in February 1933.

Roy Perkins

In 1933, Roy Perkins, MB, ChM (Sydney 1926), replaced Dr Gaffney in Bonalbo. He had been a Resident at Auburn District Hospital in 1926 and had then been a GP in Quandialla in NSW. He left in 1935 to start practising in Brisbane.

Henry C Bonney

Henry Claude Bonney, MB, ChB (Aberdeen 1925), was practising in Sandilands Street in 1935 for a very short time before he went out west in country NSW.

Herbert LA Shorter

In 1935, Herbert Leopold Ashton Shorter, MB (Sydney 1899), ChM (Sydney 1906), took over from Dr Bonney. He had been working in Dayboro in Queensland. He practised there for eighteen months and when he left in August 1936, the town was initially, at least, visited every Wednesday by Drs Jabour, Waddell and Standish from Casino.

Arthur E Malaher

Arthur Ernest Malaher, LMSSA (Eng. 1901), FRIPH, established a practice in Bonalbo in March 1939. Born in 1873 in Shetnil, England, he worked in Queensland in 1904 and then in Nambour and Dayboro before going to Nimbin. He was keen on tennis, involved in the P&C and gave lectures in first aid. In March 1941, he went to North Queensland.

Charles C Corlis

In 1942, Charles Christopher Corlis, MD (Ohio Wesleyan Uni. 1898), was working in Bonalbo. He was born in Ontario, Canada into the remarkable Corlis medical family and had started practice in Ballina in 1899. He was decorated with the Military Cross in France in WWI when away from his Bangalow practice. He had come from Lismore at the end of a long and distinguished career in the Richmond Valley area. Although he was seventy-one and needed to slow down, he served the area for over seven years and was recorded as seeing a patient in Bonalbo one month before he died in October 1949, in Lismore.

Wolf Deligdisz

Wolf Deligdisz, MD (Vienna 1920), MD (Lvov 1922), started practice in Bonalbo in August 1950, having been registered in NSW the year before and in Australia for over three years. The townspeople were desperate for a resident doctor after Dr Corlis and advertised in the *Sydney Herald*. The local timber mill owner built a new nine-room house for the doctor, and the local garage man jumped a long waiting list for a new Holden car for the Polish Dr Deligdisz, who came with his wife and was a great acquisition, e.g. in the year 1952–1953 he performed twelve major operations in Bonalbo, only referring on very specialised cases or those requiring X-ray control. On one occasion he had a vacation and his sister-in-law, Dr Manhein, was his locum.

He was in general practice there for over four years and in December 1954, he left to practise in Blakehurst, Sydney.

Edward G Dash

In 1957, Edward Geoffrey Dash, MB, BS (Sydney 1951), was in Bonalbo, having come from a short time in practice in Casino, where he had been a Resident Medical Officer at the hospital in 1952. He decided to return to Casino in 1960.



Official medical directories have no records of doctors in practice from 1960 until 1964.

William G Meehan

William Gerard Meehan, MB, BS (QLD 1956), was in practice in Johnston Street in 1964. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Bundaberg Hospital (1956–1957), with the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Cloncurry (1957–1959), AMS Goondiwindi Hospital (1960), followed by two years at Wilcannia in NSW, and a year at RGH Greenslopes, Brisbane. He went to Bonalbo from Deloraine in Tasmania.

Although hampered by the loss of one leg, Dr Meehan was a great attender of educational meetings remote from Bonalbo but well within the range of his V12 Jaguar. He encouraged regular visits by Dr JG Opie, Consultant Physician from Lismore, for specialist care for the townspeople. Dr Meehan left to go to the Northern Territory in 1981. (He was honoured with the AM in 1988, for services to medicine and the community.)

Philip W Prescott

In 1979, Philip Walker Prescott, MB, BS (QLD, 1975), started in Bonalbo in Woodenbong Road while Dr Meehan was still in town. He was a Resident Medical Officer at Royal Brisbane Hospital (1975–1976) and Resident Medical Officer at Gladstone Hospital (1976–77) before his arrival in Bonalbo.

Trevor J Tierney

Trevor James Tierney, MB, BS (Sydney 1970), took over Dr Meehan's practice in 1981, working from Sandilands Street. He was a Resident Medical Officer at Royal Newcastle Hospital, NSW (1970–1972), went to Antarctica with the ANARE in Davis (1973), Enderby Land (1974–75) and Macquarie Island (1977–78), worked in Melbourne (1978), in Toowoomba Hospital (1979) and Darwin Hospital (1980). Dr Tierney had a solo general practice in the town.

His recreations included his farm, serious photography and his membership of the Royal Geographic Society. He developed special interest in emergency medicine and surgical trauma, being one of the early diplomates and then a supervisor of the training programs. He was also a regular traveller to association and educational meetings in the Richmond Valley region. He held Sunday morning surgeries for the local people, typifying his dedication to the community, which did not go unnoticed by the government authorities.



On both a geographical and economical basis, Broadwater would seem to be a strange place for a doctor to launch a new practice but history indicates that medical attention from a registered medical practitioner was available from around 1890 in Broadwater.

John M Sanderson

John Murray Sanderson, BA (Cambridge 1892), LS (Eng. 1898), had been a Resident Medical Officer at Cambridge and London Hospitals, then at London Temperance Hospital and Clinical Assistant at the Evelina Hospital for Children. He was the son of an English clergyman and came by steamer in 1900, and soon after arrival started to practise his profession in Broadwater.

Reports indicate that he was a very capable all-round GP and extremely personable character. He served as president of the Broadwater Jockey Club. He related well to his local colleagues and visited adjoining areas when requested. At one stage, he handled with very good outcome a serious outbreak of cholera. Not surprisingly, he was available for consultations



The village of Broadwater, c.1866

in Woodburn and Coraki (Dr McDonogh was resident GP in Coraki). In February 1903, Dr Sanderson made it known that he was leaving to start anew in Ballina at an early date, consulting at Webster's Hotel.

Silvio Monti

The Broadwater practice was taken over by Silvio Monti, MD, ChD (Modena Uni.), in 1902. He was born in Turino in Italy in 1863, a fourth-generation doctor. After starting his career in old Italy, *il dottore* also covered nearby South Woodburn and New Italy, so the usual migration culture shock would not have occurred. He did not smoke or drink and was very religious.

He read widely, loved music and stayed fit with his skills in gymnastics and fencing. In April 1903, he was fortunate to be alive after his horse threw him when he was on the way home on the Swan Bay–New Italy road, causing him to strike his head and become entangled in the roadside barbed-wire fence late in the afternoon. Two young men drove past and did not stop, thinking he was mad or drunk, but when they stopped to eat in Woodburn, told a local who recognised the description of the man as probably Dr Monti and called the resourceful town constable, Scroope. He took off on his horse and rode ten miles and at 10 pm, with help, located the unconscious doctor and got a vehicle to drive him home, where Dr McDonogh from Coraki attended him until he became conscious some hours later.

Two months later Dr Monti was appointed Medical Officer to the Broadwater mill. He continued to treat patients from Broadwater, South Woodburn and Wardell. He became vice-president of the Broadwater Regatta Club and also the Broadwater Sports Club, also acting as patron of the Diggers' Club.

In 1913, he was seriously ill with pneumonia but recovered. From then on he seemed to be below par and started to use locum cover for breaks from his practice, and in September 1918 he attended a presentation and farewell. However, he continued to see patients in Broadwater, even one month before his death there in November 1937, at the age of seventy-five, having lived in the area for more than forty years.

Samuel J Alexander

At the beginning of 1926, Samuel James Alexander, LMSSA (Eng. 1925), was sent by the lodges to Broadwater, presumably to keep up the medical service there when Dr Monti was ailing. After about eighteen months, he left for Parramatta and advertised that he had sold his practice in July 1927 to Dr Thomas Acton, who soon moved to Woodburn, thus leaving Dr Monti as the last recorded resident doctor in Broadwater.

Brunswick Heads



On the Pacific coast, Brunswick Heads in its early days was virtually the entry port for people to move on to nearby, inland Mullumbimby. In the 1950s and 1960s, **Dr LW Alderman** had a branch practice there attended by him or an associate.

Duncan D Gibson

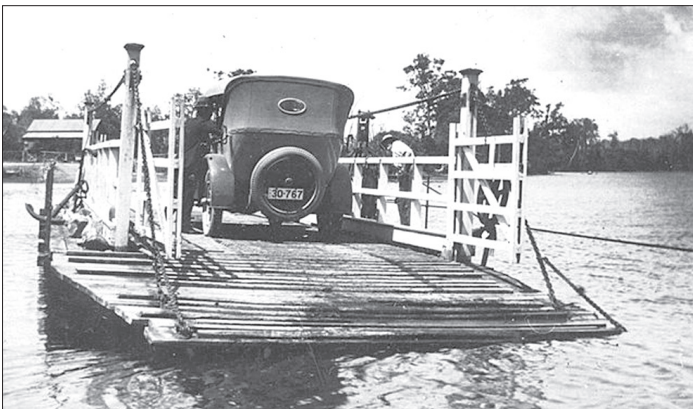
Duncan David Gibson, MB, ChM (Sydney 1906), having practised in Mullumbimby from 1909 till 1957, retired to Brunswick Heads in 1957 but he continued to 'see a few patients' there until 1962, when he became quite ill. He died in Mullumbimby Hospital in 1965, aged eighty-five.

Lawrence W Alderman

In 1972, Lawrence William (Bill) Alderman, MB, BS (QLD 1944), FRACGP, reduced his clinical load in Mullumbimby and spent more time in Brunswick Heads, in his rooms next to the hotel in Mullumbimbi Street. He sold the practice in 1980 to Dr R Dubow.

David J Stephen

David Johnston Stephen, MB, BS (NZ 1950), DPH, opened a branch of his Mullumbimby practice in the same building in Mullumbimbi Street in the early 1970s.



The old Farrugia's car ferry, which operated across the river at Brunswick Heads, prior to the construction of the bridge in 1934

Brian G Wall

In 1975, Brian George Wall, MB, ChB (St Andrew's Uni, Scotland 1964), FRACGP 1975, FP Cert, Cert. Civil Aviation, started practice in Brunswick Heads, in Mullumbimbi Street.

After residencies at Bridge of Earn Hospital and Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, he had been Medical Officer in the State of Sabah, 1965–1968, Registrar at Clatterbridge Hospital, Cheshire 1968–1970 and St James' Hospital, Leeds in 1970–1972, before working in general practice in Tasmania, 1973–1975. Dr Wall continued as a GP and also did confinements at Mullumbimby Hospital until 1980.

He enjoyed working in the area with the two distinctly different conservative and alternative lifestyles and had a total change of pace in 1981, when he went to Saudi Arabia.

Jacob A Poutsma

Jacob Albertus Poutsma ('Jaap'), MB, BS (Melbourne 1952), BSc (maj. Psychology, Melbourne 1969), took over the practice of Dr Stephen in 1979. He was born in Indonesia and after his first year of engineering at university, was in the Dutch Fleet Air Arm from 1942–1946, being a POW at Macassar for nearly four years.



LAWRENCE W ALDERMAN



JACOB A POUTSMA

He came to Australia and did medicine, followed by his residency at Prince Henry's Hospital, Melbourne in 1952–1953. He worked in the Victorian Department of Mental Hygiene, then the post of Surgical Assistant at Footscray Hospital, after which he practised as a GP in Footscray. Dr Poutsma also practised in obstetrics, hypnotherapy, counselling and acupuncture.

He lived on his farm and had many interests including aviation medicine, fixed wing flying and gliding, piano playing and extensive reading.

Robin J Dubow

In 1980, Robin Jonathan (Bob) Dubow, MB, BS (Sydney 1975), took over the rooms of Dr Alderman, near the hotel. He had served in the RAN previously.

He worked as a solo family doctor with obstetrics and anaesthetics at Mullumbimby Hospital. In 1984, he went to Christmas Island and then the Northern Territory. His practice was taken over by Dr J Holmes.

Stephen J Rabone

Stephen John Rabone, MB, BS (Sydney 1975), practised from 1982 with Dr Poutsma for three years, doing family medicine. He moved to South Australia.

John G Holmes

In 1984, John Gerard Holmes, MB, BS (NSW 1981), took over Dr Dubow's practice. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Lismore Base Hospital and then started in general practice in Brunswick Heads.

Michelle C Coker

Dr Holmes was joined by Michelle Caroline Coker, MB, BS (NSW 1981), DObst RACOG and they moved later to establish the first general practice in the fast-growing Ocean Shores township, across the river.

John F Gall

In 1984, John Francis Gall, MB, BS (Sydney 1952), set up a solo practice in rooms on the highway. He was a third-generation medico and after his residency at Kurri Kurri Hospital in 1952–1953, practised in Moree until 1984.

Then he decided on a literal sea change and less hectic clinical schedule, thus allowing himself for the first time in many years to engage in golf, bowls, bodysurfing and bridge.



Byron Bay

The first block of land was sold by the Crown in Byron Bay in 1881, so the population then grew in earnest.

Augustus W McDonogh

The first doctor's name recorded in Byron Bay was that of Augustus William McDonogh, LSA (Eng. 1875). His CV reported that he had formerly been Medical Officer at Clapham General Hospital in London.

He was practising in Byron Bay in 1892 and still there in 1896, the length of his stay being uncertain but he was elsewhere in NSW in 1900.

Charles W Pardey

In December 1899, the Geelong-born Charles William Pardey, MB (Melbourne 1883), BS (Melbourne 1884), then senior Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1885–86, was practising in Byron Bay from a house on the corner of Shirley and Butler Streets. He had come from Sunny Corner in NSW and Toowoomba in Queensland and was associated with the lodges. He was also a member of the Mechanics' Institute.

Even in those days, medical life could be hectic, the local paper reporting Dr Pardey attending three accident cases in the one week. Dr Pardey had brought his wife and family to the Bay and moved into a more suitable house for them on the corner of Shirley and Fletcher Street, with an expressed intention to settle for some time, if not permanently. In 1900 he was appointed Medical Health Officer of the region, but in December 1900 he left abruptly and returned to Sydney. The unfortunate doctor had contracted tuberculosis years before and died there in December 1902 at the age of forty-five, after a lengthy period of failing health. It was a sad case of what might have been for a potential long-term highly esteemed doctor in Byron Bay.

Roderick A McLeod

Roderick Alexander McLeod, MB, ChM (Glasgow 1887), Resident Medical Officer in Invercargill Hospital, NZ, was reported in the local press in 1903 to be practising from his home. He stayed for one year in Byron Bay.

By the early 1900s, all neighbouring towns had a reasonable hospital, but Byron Bay had only one or two cottage, or 'lying in' hospitals, so the combination of small population and unsatisfactory surgical facilities made permanent medical practice unattractive and nonviable. The town leaders were well aware of this and were exploring every avenue to get a hospital for many years, including having gala 'hospital' balls, but had no government support until much later after two world wars.

William Buchanan

Other doctors' names are mentioned over the next few years, one of these being in 1904, William Buchanan, MB, BS (Edin. 1896), previously in Walgett, NSW. He was available for consultations in Byron Bay, with visits weekly to Mullumbimby, before going to Narromine, NSW.

Frederick G Dalton

There were not many longer terms of residence until 1907, when Frederick George Dalton, M&L Mid RCS (Eng. 1856), LSA (Eng. 1860), Resident Medical Officer at St Thomas' Hospital, London, came from practising in Gunning, Merriwa and Picton. He advertised the start of practice from his home in Shirley Street, in 1910 moving to a house in Middleton Street. He was very involved in the community, in particular being an active member of the citizens' association and the lodge until he returned in 1911 to his previous home in Picton.

Josiah & Margaret Corlis

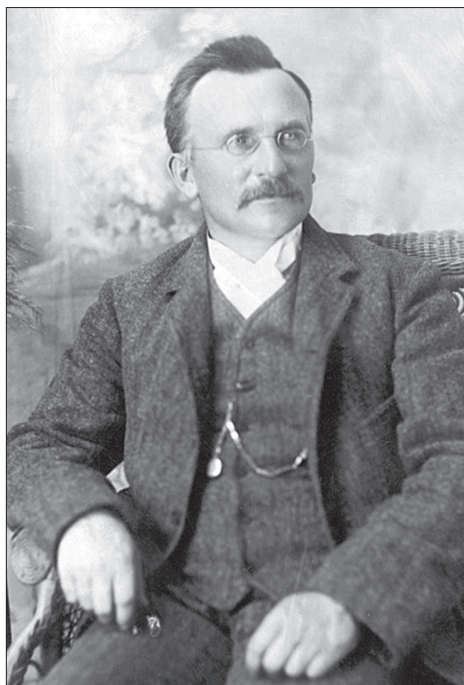
Canadian-born Josiah Corlis, MD, MS (McGill Uni. 1869), the GP in Bangalow, had opened rooms also in Shirley Street at the beginning of 1908 and continued to consult in Byron Bay for some years. His amazing wife, Margaret Amelia Corlis, MD (Queen's Uni. Ontario), 1885, MD (Can Coll Physicians), helped run the satellite practice. The Doctors Corlis were often consulted about public health matters in Byron Bay, their previous experience in the Coolgardie goldfield closed community proving invaluable.

Charles A Crothers

From 1911, there was no resident doctor but it appears that Charles Alexander Crothers, MB, BS (Sydney 1909), stayed a matter of months from March 1913 before going to Dee Why, Sydney.



JAMES H CHAUNCY
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



ANDREW S CASSIDY



JACK BARNES
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



MURIEL A BARNES
(Photo: NSW State Archives)

James H Chauncy

James Hornidge Chauncy, LRCP, LM (Eng. 1856), a graduate of St Thomas' Hospital, and formerly of Casino, worked from Bangalow in 1912, tending to patients in Byron Bay.

He was described as very genial and straight-forward, but he had been concerned about the unsatisfactory health of his wife and children for some time and had hoped that living near the sea would be of benefit. However, he left for the medically safer area of Brisbane.

David Kerr

In the second half of 1913, Dr David Kerr started to practise in Byron Bay for about a year. He was reported to have been born in Nantwich, England in 1876 and had been House Surgeon at Newcastle Hospital, before coming to Australia and practising in various rural areas. He went from Forbes in NSW and lived initially in a large house in Bangalow. Dr Kerr advertised as the resident doctor in the Bay and offered vaccination with lymph.

He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and involved in meetings regarding the future hospital. His practice was taken over by Dr Ashley and Dr Kerr went to Young in NSW. He died after only twenty years in his adopted country.

Thomas E Ashley

Thomas Ewart Ashley, LRCP (Eng. 1911), MRCS (Eng. 1911), House Surgeon at Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading, left Brisbane in May 1914 and ran the practice in Byron Bay from his house named 'Thalassa' (Greek word for sea), in 'Johnston' Street, opposite the Great Northern Hotel. This venture appears to have lasted less than one year.

Edward J Savage

In September 1914, Edward Joseph Savage, MB (Sydney 1900), ChM (Sydney 1901), had left Mareeba in Queensland after thirteen years, to go south, 'for the good of his family'. He practised in Byron Bay, but left in February 1916 to go to Laidley in Queensland, causing the local paper to complain that Byron Bay was again in the unenviable position of being without a resident medico.

He did actually serve in WWI before going to Queensland. (Perhaps as an indication of his hard work over the years, Dr Savage died at forty-nine.)

When nearby areas were affected by pneumonic flu in 1919, Byron Bay was without a resident doctor. The outbreak in the town, which in July required treatment of twenty patients in a temporary hospital, was managed by local nurses and visiting doctors from Bangalow, Dr CC Corlis and also Dr JG Lentaigne (who conducted first aid classes in Byron Bay).

JM Ryan

In April, 1920, Dr JM Ryan advertised commencement of practice from his rooms in the Pier Hotel, but it seems that he was not in the Bay for a year.

Andrew S Cassidy

Andrew Sarsfield Cassidy, BA, MD (Oregon 1893), started medical practice at the age of fifty-six towards the end of 1922, initially from the Pier Hotel, then in Shirley Street. He had been a doctor in Adaminaby and then in Sydney, where the previous year he had been widely reported in the press for a serious court charge of which he was acquitted, so he was probably looking for some respite and was certainly very welcome in Byron Bay. He was favourably mentioned in the news in 1923 for trying to revive a toddler sadly drowned in a Belongil drain, and in 1924 attending an injured sailor washed ashore on Tallows Beach from a wrecked yacht. Dr Cassidy was involved in the local fight against Bunchy Top banana disease.

He practised in Byron Bay for about five years before he left in August 1927 to go on an overseas trip. His place was taken by **Henry George Douglas Cookson**, MB (Sydney 1920), MS (1924), from Balmain in Sydney, but the replacement himself was in Inverell by eight months later.

Thomas G Hewitt

From September 1925, Lismore-born Thomas George Hewitt, MB, ChM (Sydney 1924), Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital, The Coast Hospital at Little Bay and Crown Street Women's Hospital in 1924–25, worked in Byron Bay in Marvell Street. He also covered for Dr CC Corlis in Bangalow for some months.

Dr Hewitt was Honorary Medical Officer to the surf club, vice-president of the cricket and football clubs, but the idyll stopped at the end of March 1927, when he went to Cairns for about eighteen years before setting up in his home town in August 1944.

James V Garner

James Verner Garner, MB (Sydney 1926), formerly of Glebe in Sydney, succeeded Dr Hewitt in April 1927 and lived in 'Whare' in Marvell Street.

Dr Garner had been a first-grade and interstate cricketer and keen tennis player and golfer. He played all of these sports in Byron Bay, but left for places unknown after less than a year, leaving his patients in the care of the admirable Dr J and Mrs Dr Barnes in January 1928.

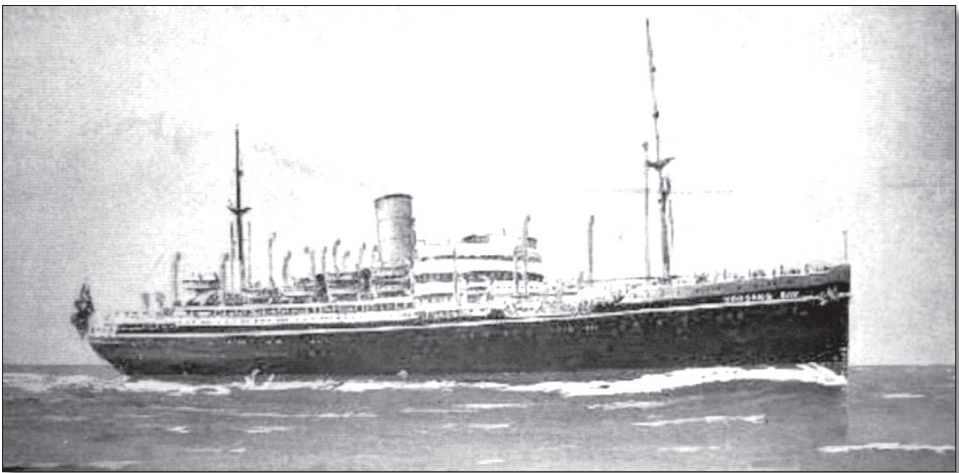
John Maddox

On 17 July 1927, Dr John Maddox deservedly made the national press for performing an urgent operation for appendicitis on a very ill male passenger on board a liner off Cape Byron—with the ship's nurse assisting him and the chief purser giving the anaesthetic. The ship's name was, appropriately, *Hobson's Bay*.

Jack & Muriel A Barnes

Jack Barnes, MB (Sydney 1924), MS (Sydney 1926), and his Surrey (UK) born wife, Muriel Agnes Barnes, MB, MS (Sydney 1926), took over from Dr Garner in January 1928 and started to practise in Byron Bay in Marvell Street, later in Kingsley Street. At that time, records tell the town population was 1700 and the district 3000. They were married in December 1927 and left for a motoring honeymoon on the North Coast, so they must have dropped in, liked the place and decided that the future lay there (a common thread with doctors settling on the Richmond). His first reported public duty was the tricky one being judge of the town baby show soon after he arrived.

Dr Jack Barnes was very involved in the community, including being president of the Boy Scouts Movement from 1936–1940. Then he went to North Sydney and his wife followed soon after. No resident doctors were recorded from 1940–1945.



SS Hobson's Bay—Dr Maddox's 'operating theatre'

Leslie CG Colville

In 1948, Leslie Charles George Colville, MB, BS (Melbourne 1941), was in practice. He was a Medical Officer in the RAAF Reserve in WWII, but he went to Annerley, Brisbane.

Rudolph DG Vann

Rudolph Douglas Grahame Vann, MRCS (Eng. 1940), LRCP (Eng. 1940), took over from Dr Colville in 1948. He had served as a lieutenant in the South Staffordshire Regiment from 1932 to 1940, and was lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1940 to 1948, before coming to Australia. He had trained at Northampton General Hospital in 1940 and 1946. In the Bay he worked from a house in Jonson Street, opposite what was to become Woolworths. He preferred to be known as 'Mister' Vann and he did some surgery, but had to use Ballina Hospital operating theatre.

He dashed busily about town in his bright red MG sports car and stayed for four years, leaving not long after marrying an Australian RN who helped in his practice. Records show that he became a squadron leader in the RAAF in the Korean War from 1951 to 1953 and embarked on a new career as a psychiatrist in Victoria and Canberra. After he left Byron Bay, it seems that he retained a beach house with the stylish name of 'Adoremus'.

James AS Brown

In the middle of 1951, James Alexander Spence Brown took over the Jonson Street practice from Dr Vann to become the town doctor. Dr Brown was born and trained in England, MRCS (Eng. 1925), LRCP (Eng. 1925), BCh (Cambridge 1926) before he decided to emigrate, facing the choice of going to Canada or Australia. He was at preliminary meetings for the building of the hospital and was one of the first honorary Medical Officers and the Medical Superintendent when the Byron District Hospital opened to patients in 1952.

Dr Brown was the first local doctor to live in a house beside the ocean. He was renowned for his kindly expertise and devotion to his patients who still recall urgent night calls from the tall, slim doctor in his gown and slippers.

His heavy workload seems to have left him little time for other pursuits, although he was a keen attender of the local balls. Dr Brown was prominent in assisting Dr Stitz at the tragic motor car accident at the lighthouse in 1952. He had little warning of his fatal illness in 1956, but Dr Archelaus James ('Father') Opie helped keep the practice going for about a year, before Dr Alan Bradshaw took over.

Alan J Stitz

Alan James Stitz, MB, BS (Sydney 1952, set up his practice in 1952 in a house on the corner of Carlyle and Jonson Street after residency at Hawkesbury District Hospital. He was an original Honorary Medical Officer at Byron District Hospital, and was very popular as a twenty-five year old about town.

Soon after he arrived he and Dr Brown were called to a horrific accident in which a car plunged down the lighthouse cliff in appalling weather, killing six and seriously injuring three children. Dr Stitz clambered down and up the cliff many times on ropes with the aid of hardy local fishermen to treat the injured and retrieve bodies from the bottom of the cliff. Dr Brown and his secretary treated the survivors at the top until well after dark.

Dr Stitz showed a flair for surgery during his four years in Byron Bay and was reluctantly given a farewell in mid-1956 before he went to Sydney.

Alan R Bradshaw

In 1957, Alan Robert Bradshaw, MB, BS (QLD 1951), who trained in Brisbane and then had worked in Babinda (Queensland), set up in Byron Bay in Jonson Street in Dr Brown's old practice. Dr Bradshaw served in WWII from 1939 to 1946 in New Guinea and New Britain with the AAMC and was mentioned in despatches. He had a general practice with obstetrics for about two years and died suddenly in 1959.

John MJ Lynch

John Michael Joseph Lynch, MB, BS (Sydney 1957), who had trained at St Vincent's Hospital and was very proficient in anaesthetics, answered a call in 1957 from an influential local and 'squatted' in practice for some months before Dr Bradshaw died. Dr Lynch then took over from Dr Bradshaw in 1959 and worked as a family doctor as well as giving anaesthetics at Byron District Hospital and around the area. As he was on his own for about a year, he called his friend Dr Bernard Carew from Sydney to help in the Bay from 1961 and they formed the first partnership there although working from different surgeries.

He was especially prominent darting around town in his bright blue Triumph TR3 sports car which fitted his large frame like a glove. Dr Lynch served on the shire council. He was remembered by his colleagues as having the most up to date medical knowledge and equipment even in his Byron Bay days. At the beginning of 1963 he went back to Sydney to specialise in clinical pathology, starting a busy practice on the Manly peninsula. His practice was taken over by Dr Peter Ryan.

Bernard J Carew

In 1961, Bernard John ('Bernie') Carew, MB, BS (Sydney 1956), FRCS (Edin. 1959), started in Byron Bay. After residency at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney and surgical training in Scotland at Dunfermline and West Fife Hospitals he set up practice in a house in Jonson Street.

In 1962 he had a dreadful car accident when his Citroën crashed through the railing of the wooden bridge in the dark and ended upside down with only the wheels above the waters of the Belongil Creek. He and his wife managed to extricate themselves from the car and then pulled their two and a half-year-old daughter out from the rear seat through the window.

Dr Carew worked with Dr Lynch until 1963 and was respected as a skilled obstetrician and general surgeon. They were popular figures on the golf course and also enjoyed body surfing at The Pass. Dr George Denholm took over his practice in 1965 when he decided to further his career in obstetrics in Sydney.

Peter J Ryan

On his birthday in February 1963, Peter James Ryan, MB, BS (Sydney 1958), replaced Dr Lynch in his practice and at the hospital. He was a Lismore boy and trained in Brisbane and Ipswich Hospitals before entering general practice in Gatton (Queensland) in 1961–62.

In the Bay he became very busy in general practice and giving anaesthetics, thus having little time for his favourite recreations of boating, offshore fishing and golf. Dr Ryan was the son of Dr James Redmond Ryan of Lismore (1927) and thus became a second generation Richmond Valley doctor. He practised in Byron Bay until mid-1966 when he went to Brisbane to specialise in radiology and then settled on the Gold Coast.

George CA Denholm

In December 1965, a Scot, George Cooper Anderson Denholm, MB, BCh (St Andrew's 1955), came from Cessnock, where he practised after emigrating from the UK. He started on his own in Dr Carew's previous practice in Jonson Street before joining Dr G Ethell in 1969. He was a GP who gave anaesthetics and a Visiting Medical Officer at Byron Bay Hospital.

Dr Denholm was a very keen and proficient golfer and also enjoyed overseas travel. He left in 1977 for a complete change to run his own restaurant in Ballina for three to four years before resuming in medicine to practise in Coolah, NSW.

Giuseppe Pasquarelli

Giuseppe Pasquarelli, MB, BS (Melbourne 1935), Registrar at Brisbane Mater Hospital in 1937, later Medical Superintendent at the Mater in 1941, served in WWII as Medical Officer in the RAAMC from 1942–46 and then practised in Melbourne in the Commonwealth Health Department. He took over in 1966 in Jonson Street from Dr Ryan but did not stay long in Byron Bay, returning to Melbourne.

Guy S Ethell

Guy Seccombe Ethell, MB, BS (QLD 1952) replaced Dr Pasquarelli in 1967. He was Resident Medical Officer at Gympie Hospital (1952–1953) and Medical Superintendent at rural Mundubbera (Queensland) in 1954–67. He went into rooms in the lower end of Jonson Street and was a Visiting Medical Officer at Byron Bay Hospital. In 1969 Dr Denholm joined Dr Ethell in those rooms. Thus started a very busy and successful practice which offered expert care in virtually all fields of medicine and surgery. Dr Ethell was also a qualified optical refractionist able to prescribe spectacles. He was to be in the practice until 1986.

Dr Ethell was inexhaustible and over the years crammed into his daily schedule his medical duties, deep sea boating and fixed and rotary-winged flying. He attended the local Anglican church and the lodge.

He went one stage further than the early doctors, who drove patients about, by flying them on occasions to city medical appointments. The hospital became a two-way radio base controlling his movements, even on one occasion resulting in him landing his plane on the main road outside the hospital in response to an emergency call.

Dr Ethell made the hospital a centre of mammary augmentation surgery, leading to a senior health official publicly nicknaming the town ‘Titty City’. From 1971 to 1976, Drs Denholm and Ethell also had consulting rooms in nearby Bangalow twice a week to help with the care of the locals.

Peter J Roger

They were joined in 1973 by Peter John Roger, MB, BS (Sydney 1971), who trained at Royal Brisbane Hospital (1971–72). After six months, he worked in anaesthetics at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane (1973) and Redcliffe Hospital, where he got the DRCOG in 1974. He returned to be a partner in the practice in 1975 as a GP with additional expertise in obstetrics and anaesthetics, so he was also a Visiting Medical Officer at Byron Bay and neighbouring hospitals. The practice moved to a newly-built centre in Lawson Street.

His activities included tennis, surfing and cycling, and he developed a particular interest in sports medicine. He gave anaesthetics also in Ballina, Bangalow and Mullumbimby. Soon after Dr Roger became the senior member, the practice became involved in the Family Medicine Training Program. Like all full-time members of the group, he was a Visiting Medical Officer at the Byron District Hospital, but he often visited other nearby hospitals. He was still in the practice in 1987.

Ian Elder

Dr Ian Elder, MB, BS (Sydney 1967), a GP based in Bangalow, opened a solo branch surgery in Shirley Street in the mid-1970s opposite the hospital and consulted there for a couple of years.

Douglas WF Mouncey

In January 1977, Douglas William Francis Mouncey, MB, BS (NSW 1975), who trained at the St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney in 1975–76, was attracted by both the surf and work prospects to the Bay. He succeeded Dr Denholm, becoming an assistant in the practice and Dr Ethell taught him to perform appropriate GP surgery and anaesthetics. In 1980 Dr Mouncey trained at Westmead Hospital to get the DipObst RACOG, adding obstetrics to his skills. He returned in July 1980 and his outside activities included being a founding member of the Malibu Club and a pioneer of windsurfing. He remained in the group and at Byron Bay Hospital until he took the post of Medical Officer at the Richmond Psychiatric Clinic in Lismore in 1983.

Dorothy Champion

Dorothy Champion, MB, BS (Melbourne 1937), arrived from Canberra in the late 1970s to work as assistant GP in the Lawson Street practice for about ten years, while living in the nearby developing town of Ocean Shores.

Alastair W Swanton

In 1976, Alastair William ('Bill') Swanton, MB, BS (Sydney 1956), FRCS (Edin. 1961), FRCS (Eng. 1962), FRACS (1965), was appointed Consultant in General Surgery to the Byron District and Mullumbimby District Hospitals. He consulted in Jonson Street in the Bay.

Leonard S Youngs

Texas-born Dr Leonard Spencer Youngs brought his Australian wife home in July 1978 and set up rooms on his own on the corner of Marvell and Fletcher Street. He had been a chiropractor in California and became registered as a GP, retaining his special interest in spinal conditions.

At his house by the beach he erected a very high radio mast for his hobby of long-range overseas broadcasting to keep in touch with America. Dr Youngs was a staunch supporter of Mullumbimby Seventh Day Adventist Church. He stayed for about ten years and returned to Sacramento, California.

Ian R Curley

In 1978, Ian Ralph Curley, MB, BS (Sydney 1966), FRCS (Eng. 1973), FRACS (1975) joined Dr Ethell's group. He did his residency at Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney (1967–1969), assisted Dr Alderman in his general practice in Mullumbimby in 1969 before working as Registrar in Surgery in Birmingham (UK) in 1970–73, vascular surgery in Royal Perth Hospital in 1974–75 and colo-rectal surgery at RGH Concord in 1975–77. In 1978 he joined Dr Ethell and his group in Lawson Street to provide an even wider range of surgical expertise.

Dr Curley was very popular in Byron Bay, both for his friendly personality and excellent surgical ability. He moved on in 1983 to work in Cardiff (Wales) before starting up in specialist surgical practice in Gympie (Queensland).

James F Hounslow

James Francis Hounslow, MB, BS (QLD 1967), DObst RCOG and RACOG came to Byron Bay in 1980. He had worked as a Medical Officer in the Department of the Army (1972–74), including service in Vietnam and then was in general practice in Condobolin (NSW), where he had developed an interest in thoroughbred horses, before joining the Lawson Street practice. His other recreations included tennis, golf and careful riding of a high-powered red motorcycle to get around town.

Peter G Scott

In 1980, Peter Gordon Scott, MB, BS (NSW) 1977, Resident Medical Officer at Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney (1977–78) and a Senior Resident Medical Officer at Lismore Base Hospital (1979–80) joined Dr Youngs in general practice, thus setting up a second group practice in town. He was a GP and did anaesthetics at Byron Bay and Mullumbimby Hospitals. He also developed an interest in accident and emergency work in his duties at the hospital. Dr Scott enjoyed surfing and sailing in his spare time.

Albert Salmona

Albert Salmona, MB, BS (Sydney 1975), became Byron Bay's first Egypt-born doctor in 1981. He had trained at Sydney Hospital in 1975 and Ryde Hospital in 1977, before doing locum GP work and then settling into solo general practice in Fletcher Street. He was a Visiting Medical Officer at Byron Bay Hospital and had a particular interest in traditional and integrated medicine, obtaining a Graduate Diploma in Acupuncture (Brisbane 1984). His recreations were surfing, swimming and horse riding.

David DR Reid

In May 1982, David Douglas Ross Reid, MB, BS (Hons, UNSW 1974), DRCOG (1979), DA (Eng. 1981), joined the Lawson Street practice of Dr Ethell. He had done his residency at Hornsby Hospital (1974–75), worked in general practice in North Sydney (1977–78), as Senior Resident Medical Officer in obstetrics at Newcastle Western Suburbs Hospital (1979) and as Rural Training Registrar at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital (1979–80). Dr Reid had done a six-month locum with the group in 1980 before working as Anaesthetic Senior House Officer at Odstock Hospital, Salisbury, England in 1981 and became very busy as a GP and doing anaesthetics and obstetrics.

In October 1984, he left the practice and went to the Marvell Street group, linking up with Dr Youngs, Dr Scott and then Dr Flambas. His recreations included fitness walking and going on skiing trips.

Philip P Flambas

Philip Photios Flambas, MB, BS (NSW 1978), arrived in 1983 from practising in Kingsford, Sydney to join Drs Youngs and Scott as a general practitioner.

Annette C Pantle

In October 1984, Annette Cleo Pantle, MB BS (Sydney 1981), (DRCOG 1985), who did her residency at Royal Newcastle Hospital (1981–82), with terms in paediatrics and obstetrics and gynaecology there in 1983, joined the Lawson Street Medical Centre, doing family medicine and obstetrics. She played netball and softball, and later started the Byron Bay Softball Club.

Alan O Basson

Alan Owen Basson, MB, BS (Pretoria 1961), FRCS (Edin. 1968), answered the call in 1986 when Dr Ethell retired from the practice he founded. Dr Basson was born in South Africa and had practised in Melbourne before taking on the role of general surgeon for the practice.



Casino was settled in 1840 and was proclaimed a township in 1885. It was an important road link between Grafton and Brisbane. In 1880, the population was recorded at 2150, four years later at 3500.

William T Barker

In 1857, William Thomson Barker, MRCS, from Dumfries, Scotland was the first reported doctor in Casino. He was a graduate of Edinburgh University Medical School and a LRCS (Edin.). He had been in practice in Ipswich, Queensland from mid-1855. His starting date was uncertain but he was reported attending a confinement in 1857. His income had been guaranteed by the squatters of the area and he took an interest in civic affairs, being at a public meeting in November 1860. He was highly respected by the community as a medical man.

His death is recorded in Gundurimba in March 1863, as caused by the effects of 'that cordial that destroys both soul and body of men.'

WN Richards

The vacancy was filled by the government in July 1863 by the appointment of Dr WN Richards, BA (Oxford), MRCS (Eng.), as 'Medical Officer to the Aborigines' in Casino district, who had moved from his practice in Grafton. He was the sole doctor in Casino until he went to Newcastle, where he was recorded in 1866.

James Markey

The next recorded doctor was James Markey, in 1866. He was born in Ireland and graduated LRCS (Edin. 1864), LRCP (Edin. 1865). He had been encouraged by Ballina locals to come from Maitland and arrived in Ballina in February 1866, intending to practise on the Northern Rivers, only to find that Dr HM Croft had just preceded him. Undaunted, Dr Markey moved upriver and settled in Casino. However, his position of Government Medical Officer required a lot of travelling (by horse) to official duties in Grafton and Armidale as well as his clinical duties in Casino. He managed

to attend civic meetings as well, including one to support the building of a bridge at Casino.

The problems faced by country doctors in those times are exemplified by the article in the regional newspaper in April 1869, noting that Dr Markey seemed utterly disgusted at the apathy of numbers of residents who seemed to imagine that he should have a horse and boat to go up and down the river from house to house, and beg the favour of being permitted to vaccinate their children when and where it may suit them. The writer noted that it must have been disheartening for the doctor, who seldom seemed to have an hour to spare out of the saddle, to find his efforts so little appreciated. It was hoped that they would not feel astonished should he cease to visit them altogether. Dr Markey left one year later and worked as Resident Surgeon at Sydney Infirmary, from which he was farewelled with a gold watch after three years' service.

Dr Maclean

In December 1873, Dr Maclean was reported in the press when he had a fall from his bolting horse and sustained an open fracture of his left arm and two ribs on his way to Lismore. It was recorded that he had won golden opinions from all classes of the community since his arrival in the district and his injuries were progressing favourably. Unfortunately, the only further information on Dr Maclean is that he left at the end of February 1874 and went to Grafton, where he performed with the local opera society.

Stanislaus Maguire

Stanislaus Maguire, LRCS (Ireland 1876), LKQCPI, arrived in Casino in October 1877, sailing from 'the metropolis' to practise in Barker Street. He was reported as recently arrived in the colony from Rio de Janeiro, where he had worked at St Mary's Hospital. He had been working in the Maitland and Manning River districts, and because of his high regard there was induced by Casino residents to move to their area. Dr Maguire sailed out again in July 1879 and a year later was reported in Cudal, NSW. His personality led to his fitting eventually into a society practice in Lewisham, Sydney.

Joseph Foreman

In June 1878, Joseph Foreman, MRCS, LRCP, LSA (Eng.), started full-time practice in Casino, at Britton's Hotel. The details obtained about him make a very good illustration of the multiple factors affecting the professional and domestic life of a doctor in those times in that undeveloped area. While a struggling medical student at Guy's Hospital in London, he met his future

first wife, who was described as older than him, very wealthy and a very generous lady. She financed his medical education, married him and, after he practised in England for about two years, followed him after he arrived in Sydney alone as a ship's surgeon in August 1876.

He had been the AMP Society Medical Referee visiting the North Coast from Sydney, and after an unsuccessful attempt to get an appointment as Medical Officer to the Newcastle Coal Mines, he decided to start to practise in Lismore in May 1877, visiting Casino once a week. He was the Government Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator and Coroner for the area and became an esteemed member of the Lismore Mutual Improvement Society and Debating Class. He was very industrious and well respected by the folk of the area, but after one year, he moved to Casino, explaining that he and his wife could not find suitable accommodation in Lismore (reasonably explained by living in a house in Colemans Point).

He practised full-time in Casino and consulted once a week in Lismore. He was involved in the Casino Turf Club and developed a farm at Woodburn, on which he started growing sugar cane and the 'soothing weed' tobacco. While he was in Casino, there were also Dr Daniel George Rowlands, a young surgeon, who consulted in Lismore as well, and an Irishman, a well-liked 'pseudo doctor'. Dr Foreman was regarded as a 'smart, intelligent young man, always ready and willing for duty', but said that he had to leave for 'health reasons to a cooler climate', sailed for Sydney in December 1878.

He certainly supported his stated reason for taking his wife away from the Richmond Valley, when he died at the age of ninety-seven, after a long and distinguished career in the specialty of women's diseases at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. He practised in Macquarie Street and lived in Potts Point, then The Astor, next to his rooms—stark contrast with Richmond Valley.

Daniel G Rowlands

Daniel George Rowlands, MRCS, born in South Wales, was seeing patients in Casino in July 1878. He had walked along the coast from his ship in Brisbane in 1873 and started working as a registered doctor in Ballina before going to Casino, then to Lismore. He was based 'on the Richmond', apparently mostly in Lismore and seemed to have a lonely life, with little income and driving around the dreadful roads in a light dray. He had no apparent base, just doing calls.

He was said to be a clever surgeon and showed good clinical knowledge in some difficult cases. His circumstances led to a sad death at thirty-four

on the other side of the world from his family in Lismore in 1879, the cause officially recorded as from the effects of alcohol.

James R Crawford

The newspapers reported that in November 1879 there was a new arrival in Casino named Dr James Robert Crawford. He advertised as a physician, surgeon and accoucheur, with great experience both in the army and civil practice. Indications are that after about three months he was in Sydney.

Charles E Crommelin

In 1880, Dr Charles Ebdon Crommelin, born in London, was in practice at a house on the corner of Barker and Dairy Streets. He had previously been in Ulladulla, NSW. He was on a committee in 1884 to start a public hospital, which was opened in 1886. Dr Crommelin was appointed the first Medical Officer in Charge, salaried and with right of private practice.

He had started off as a schoolmaster and was then an unqualified chemist. The early directories show he was not registered, but by 1891 he had gained a MD from Cincinnati (Ohio) College of Medicine and Surgery after a year's leave overseas, while his practice was covered by **Dr PJ Kelly**. He had been appraised by a very experienced and respected neighbouring doctor, Dr FG Connor, who said he was 'sound in dispensing, very poor in materia medica, not at all a surgeon, but he took infinite care and pains and succeeded where many a better qualified man failed'. He was referred to in the area paper in 1883 as attending a patient with his 'usual promptitude'.

He was in town for twenty years, a JP, serving as the district Government Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator, Coroner, member of the Hospital Committee and Licensing Board, judge at the turf club, lodge member and on the committee of the agricultural society. He was appointed Medical Officer to the Aborigines of the region. Dr Crommelin was given a public farewell in January 1900 after twenty years in town and presented with a purse of sovereigns from the community and the same from the lodge. He went to Campbelltown for a short time before going in 1901 to Tenterfield where he died aged fifty-six.

Arthur W Power

'Dr' Arthur Worsley Power, 'LFPS (Glasgow 1880)', with claimed experience as an assistant in colon surgery, and working in Australia as Resident Medical Officer at Mt Gambier Hospital (SA) was in Hare Street at the end of 1886, close to the show pavilion. The records state that he did not have a

medical qualification, but his CV showed he had been to the Royal College in Liege, Belgium and an engineering pupil in Sussex, England. After coming to Australia, he worked as Senior Resident Dispenser at Royal Melbourne Hospital for three years, then as a Medical Officer in the South Pacific and at HM Gaol, Port Macquarie.

He started off in Woodburn in March 1885 and is recorded as having some land cleared in Byron Creek (Bangalow) just before setting up in Casino. He was interested in civic affairs and was an advocate of improvement to roads in Bangalow. He practised for five years in Casino, offering a complete dispensary and extraction of teeth, before sailing out for Sydney in December 1891.

Michael L Butler

In August 1887, Michael Lyons Butler, LRCP (Edin. 1886), was reported to be practising in Casino. Apparently he did not stay long and he went to Sydney, where he was sentenced in 1900 to five years' penal servitude for performing an illegal operation.

Eustace HL Pratt

Eustace Henry Lever Pratt, LSA (Eng. 1862), MRCS (Eng. 1882), MD (St Andrews Uni. 1865), formerly surgeon to the Royal Navy, tried visiting Casino in 1888 to consult on alternate Thursdays, presumably because he felt unwelcomed by the doctors in Lismore, where he was based since 1887. This visiting arrangement does not seem to have lasted very long.

John NE MacLennan

In 1889, John Norman Emslie MacLennan, MB, MCh (Uni. Aberdeen 1883), was in the town. He had arrived in Sydney at the end of 1888 and after a residency at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, he was probably looking around the Far North Coast, possibly at the suggestion of Dr Foreman, whom he met at RPAH. Dr MacLennan was back in Sydney at the end of 1889 and went to The Coast Hospital as Deputy Superintendent. Thereafter he went to Young, NSW after a farewell party attended by Dr Foreman and Dr WJ (from Lismore).

John A Langdon

John Arthur Langdon, LRCP (Edin.), LFPS (Glasgow 1874), surgeon in the Turkish Army (1877–78) and Royal Navy (1878–83), then with P&O service and in the Kimberley Goldfields, was practising in the Casino area in 1889. He moved to Coraki full-time at the beginning of 1890.

He was very experienced in gunshot injuries and smallpox, so he was suited to the job of Public Vaccinator. He was bold enough to expose publicly at his own expense an infamous unqualified man posing as a medical practitioner in the area.

Alexander H Rutherford

In 1901, there were two doctors in Casino. The first was Australian-born Alexander Hamilton Rutherford, MB, BS (Edin. 1898), who took over the practice of Dr Crommelin. He was involved in civic matters and served as alderman on the council, took an active part in the lawn tennis club and was a good singer.

Dr Rutherford worked in Casino for over ten years and took the remarkable step of going to England during WWI to train at the renowned Moorefields Eye Hospital, before returning to specialist ophthalmology practice in Sydney. His general practice was bought in 1910 by Dr JH Chauncy.

Percy B Stewart

The other was Percy Bloomfield Stewart, MB (Melbourne 1897), ChB (Melbourne 1898), Resident Medical Officer at Royal Melbourne Hospital. He was a short time in Coraki before starting in Barker Street, Casino. He was appointed Medical Officer at the hospital in 1902. He developed a reputation as a particularly skilled surgeon and in one of his first operations in Casino he carried out removal of a tumour from a patient's face and then performed an extraordinary skin graft from the opposite thigh with complete success. Dr Stewart was trying to have a break in Brisbane when he died from pneumonia in 1904 at the age of thirty-two. The operating theatre was named after him because of his special interest in the running of the hospital.

Henry Z Stephens

In 1904, Henry Zouch Stephens, born in Hobart in 1875, but a medical graduate of St Thomas' Hospital, LRCP, MRCS (Eng.), came to help his ailing brother-in-law, Dr Stewart, after working for a year as a ship's surgeon. With the early loss of his brother-in-law, Dr Stephens continued running the busy practice, also being a regular member of the lodge. He left Casino in 1907 and practised for twenty years in Burnie, Tasmania—with a break to serve in WWI in Egypt and France.

Phillip E Corlis

Phillip Edwy Corlis, MD (Wooster Uni., Cleveland USA 1892), started practising in Casino in 1907. He was born in Canada into the Corlis family of doctors who emigrated to Australia. He moved over from his practice in Ballina and soon suffered a critical case of pneumonia, but recovered.

He was probably a good friend of Dr Stephens, as Dr Corlis had a daughter born in Casino in 1905. He was a very keen bowler and was lucky to have his father, Dr Josiah and his mother, Dr Margaret, as a locum when he had a break from practice. He served Casino until he resigned as Medical Officer in August 1911, when he was reported as going to take charge of his mill and properties in Queensland, but not long after that he was back, based in the Richmond-Clarence area.

Ernest L Newman

Ernest Ludlow Newman, MB (Sydney 1903), Resident Medical Officer at Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney when it opened in 1903, arrived by boat in 1907 to start in Casino and at the hospital. He was Government Medical Officer for the area and in 1912 was in the national press with a report about potential army cadets, aged fourteen to eighteen years and their smoking habits, leading to his permanent rejection of five and temporary rejection of four in the area as unfit, owing to lack of physical development as a result of excessive cigarette smoking.

Dr Newman was an accomplished billiards player, who served on the Chamber of Commerce, School of Arts Committee and was in the lawn tennis club. He carried out widespread smallpox vaccinations when the North Coast was under threat in 1913, but because of disputes with the Hospital Committee left and in 1914 he was back in Sydney.

James H Chauncy

In 1910, James Hornidge Chauncy, LRCP (Eng.), MRCS (Eng. 1856), a St Thomas' Hospital graduate, started practice in Barker Street, taking over from Dr AH Rutherford. He worked at Horton Infirmary, Banbury, before arriving in Australia as a ship's surgeon and becoming registered in 1905. He stayed in Casino for two years, but after building up a fine practice, the 'far from satisfactory' health of his wife and children required him to try to live nearer to the sea to improve this.

He made lots of friends in Casino because of his straightforward manner and genial nature. He exchanged practices with Dr Gerald S Samuelson of Bangalow for a short time before heading to the bright lights of Brisbane.



CHARLES E CROMMELIN
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



ERNEST L NEWMAN
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



RANIERI BELLI



HARRY J WADDELL
(Photo: NSW State Archives)

Sydney N Rorke

Sydney Norman Rorke, MB (Sydney 1909), took over in August 1911 from Dr PE Corlis in Barker Street. He was born in 1884 in St Leonards, Sydney where his Irish emigrant father was a very successful surgeon. His brother, Frederick was two years younger, also a doctor, tending to lead to confusion about the junior Drs Rorke. Sydney was a Resident Medical Officer at RPAH, Camperdown in 1909–10.

In Casino he was president of the rifle club. He wanted to be an Honorary Medical Officer at the hospital, but dispute between him and the Hospital Committee (Board) in October 1912 led to his temporary suspension from admitting new patients to the hospital and the committee appointing immediately another doctor from Tamworth. Things did not appear to cool off sufficiently to stop him departing in 1914 to far away Palmerston, New Zealand.

Gerald S Samuelson

In August 1912, Gerald Septimus Samuelson, MB, ChM (Edin. 1888), MD (Edin. 1893), came after seven years in Bangalow, where he had been regarded as a kind and very competent doctor with a lot of rural medical experience. In 1913, he and Dr De Luca carried out voluntary vaccinations in Casino. Having been a lieutenant in the Boer War, Dr Samuelson responded to the call again in 1914 to serve in WWI as a major on a hospital ship borrowed from the King of Belgium.

Sadly for Casino, he did not return to the town, opting for the life of a ship's doctor. He was a very innovative doctor who patented a stretcher for wartime and civilian use, devised a chemical plan for the control of rabbits, stood up for the careful use of narcotic analgesia in labour and joined a group of distinguished doctors who were concerned about the heavy use of alcohol by young males of military service age and lobbied the government.

Philipe De Luca

Philipe De Luca, MD, ChD (Naples 1895), MD (Paris 1903), MD, Ch M (Constantinople 1908), started in Casino in November 1912. He had been a Medical Officer in the Royal Italian Army, a Clinical Assistant in Genoa Surgical Clinic and had published widely. Dr De Luca worked in the Hastings RDH in Port Macquarie and while there tried to become one of the pioneer flying doctors by engaging for several months in building a monoplane which he 'essayed to fly'. After taking to the air in graceful fashion, at about twenty feet it suddenly turned turtle, fell and was completely wrecked. Dr De Luca then went, presumably by road, to Tamworth.

He was invited to Casino and paid by the Friendly Societies' Association because of their dispute with the three doctors in town and set up on his own, with the FSA threatening to get an assistant for him, as he soon built up a big practice. One of the results of the dispute was that the FSA organised their own private hospital.

Dr De Luca had a great interest in tuberculosis and had a desire to build a sanatorium. He left Casino in April 1914, to return to Italy for four years before going to various parts of North Queensland.

Ranieri Belli

In 1914, Ranieri Belli, MD, ChD (Florence 1885), House Surgeon at St Maria Nuova Hospital, Italy (1885–1890), came to the town. He had worked in Australia previously in 1899 in Paddington, Sydney and as Medical Officer at Kiama, Walgett and Coonamble Hospitals. He worked from his home in Barker Street and had a reputation as a fine surgeon. A staunch BMA member, he weathered two episodes of medico-political turmoil to maintain his rational attitude to his patients, some of whom lived in very remote areas.

He also undertook lectures to the nursing staff and trainees, was a keen member of the turf club and liked rifle shooting. Dr Belli was in the town for thirteen years and then went back to Italy for a while before setting up practice in Tuncurry, NSW.

Alva Benjamin

Alva Benjamin, MB, ChM (Sydney 1913), Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital, followed by a year as Medical Officer at Grafton District Hospital, came to Casino in 1914 but did not stay long, apparently leaving to join the British Army for WWI.

Harry J Waddell

In November 1914, Harry (Henry) James Waddell, MB (Sydney 1911), moved from his Ballina practice and took over from Dr De Luca in Hickey Street. He was a Friendly Society doctor and endured several episodes of medico-political unrest in the town, but seemed to maintain satisfactory social contact with the other doctors in town and on the golf course.

From his Sydney University days he had been an outstanding tennis player and on occasions represented the area at Country Week in Sydney. He was undaunted in trying to treat even the most severe type of head injury in a patient in 1916. Political motives kept him from getting a fair go at the Casino Hospital, but after his sterling efforts (with Dr Belli) in 1919

during the severe influenza epidemic in the town, Dr Waddell was officially appointed to the hospital.

He served time as an alderman on the council, was a great social mixer and a very popular man, who was recognised as working too hard during the war years. In 1951, because of his poor health, he sold his practice, but continued to help out around the area. In 1957 he was in Albion, Queensland but died the next year.

Frederick H Wallace

Frederick Hilton Wallace, MB, ChM (Sydney 1917), started in Casino in 1919. Working in Grenfell in NSW previously, he went as a captain in the AAMC to Egypt and Palestine in 1918–19. He soon became president of the Casino RSL, but left after about two years and went to Victoria.

Dudley S Small

In 1919, Dudley Stewart Small, MB (Sydney 1917), ChM (Sydney 1944), Resident Medical Officer and also Pathologist at Sydney Hospital in 1917, started practice in Casino from his home in Centre Street. He served as Medical Superintendent of Casino District Hospital and also began the Richmond Private Hospital during his twenty-seven years in the town. He died, still working, in Casino in 1946, aged fifty-nine.

Theodore W Van Epen

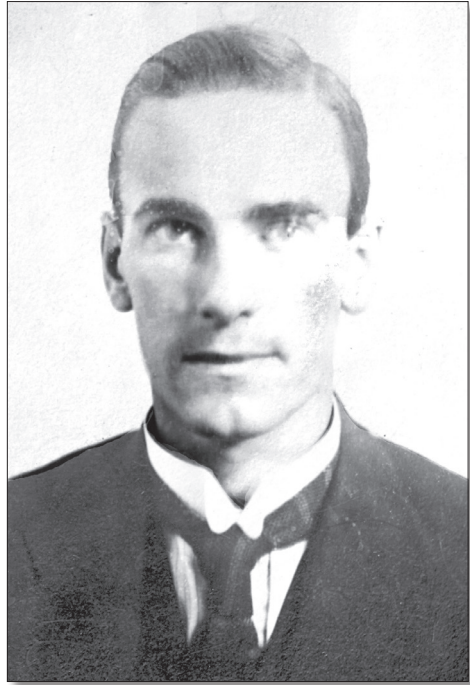
Theodore William Van Epen, MB (Sydney 1913), ChM (Sydney 1914), Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1914, started practice in Walker Street, Casino in January 1920. Born in Copmanhurst in 1880, he had been brought up on the North Coast and was taught at Woodburn school by his father, who later became a faith healer in Lismore.

Theodore started off in the Education Department at Lower Boorie school, resigned and went to Sydney University to do medicine. He was a Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1913–14 and then arrived on the North Coast on the SS *Wollongbar*, working in Lismore from August 1914, then serving at the front as a captain in the AAMC from 1916 to July 1918, when he resumed in Lismore before going to Casino.

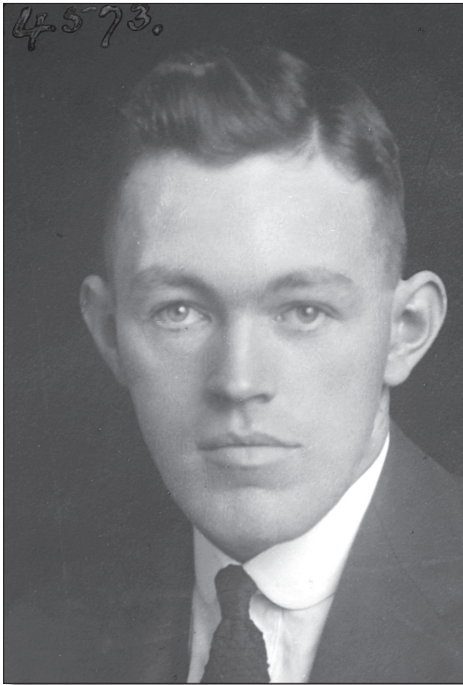
He was very active in first aid classes, especially for schoolteachers, and ran courses on home nursing. He was a regular golfer and bowler, also an accomplished pianist and singer. He left Casino in 1926, handing over to Dr CV Roper and went to Sydney. He became a surgeon at St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn and Canterbury Hospital, Bankstown, with rooms also in Macquarie Street. He died in 1940.



DUDLEY S SMALL
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



CECIL V ROPER
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



WILLIAM A STANDISH
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



LOUIS E JABOUR
(Photo: NSW State Archives)

In 1921, there were five doctors in Casino: Belli, Waddell, Small, Van Epen and Wallace, all visiting Casino District Hospital.

Cecil V Roper

In May 1926, Cecil Valentine Roper, MB (Sydney 1922), ChM (Sydney 1922), took over the practice of Dr Van Epen after doing his residency at Sydney Hospital in 1922–23. His wedding in April in Sydney led to a motoring honeymoon including a stay at Jenolan Caves en route to his future home in Casino. He was a very keen player and president of Casino Tennis Club and a good golfer. After about twelve years in Casino, Dr Roper went to Corrimal, Dubbo and Lane Cove in Sydney, where he died in 1945.

William A Standish

William Alexander Standish, MB, ChM (Sydney 1924), Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1924, was in Casino in 1927, having taken over from Dr Belli in Barker Street. He remained in general practice for about thirty years, taking Dr Burfitt in with him in 1946. He was involved in the NEMA—president twice—and belonged to the golf club. Dr Standish left in 1957 for Mosman, Sydney.

Louis E Jabour

In 1928, Louis Elias Jabour, MB, ChM (Sydney 1926), born in South Grafton, took over the practice of Dr Roper. He was soon involved deeply in civic and medical affairs, being appointed to the hospital board and elected to the Casino Municipal Council, on which he served as mayor for seven years. (For a time Dr Jabour of Casino and Dr Kellas of Lismore were mayors of neighbouring councils.) He acted as the Commonwealth Medical Officer, was foundation president of Rotary, patron of the tennis club and hockey association and was associated with the jockey club and greyhound club. Dr Jabour served as captain in the AIF in WWII and was Medical Officer at RGH Concord for a couple of years. He had a real try at politics in 1949, when as the candidate of the Socialist Party, he campaigned so well his nervous opponents tried to belittle him with the nickname of ‘Dr Jabber Jabber’. He died in Casino in 1970.

In 1945 the same four doctors had worked in Casino for seventeen years, allowing for Dr Jabour’s service away with the AIF: Small, Standish, Waddell and Jabour.

Donald S Atkins

Donald Stewart Atkins, MB BS (Sydney 1938), took over the practice of the late Dr Small at the start of 1946. He was Resident Medical Officer at Balmain Hospital in 1938 and South Sydney Hospital in 1939, then worked in 1940 in Camooweal, Queensland, before serving as captain in the AAMC in WWII.

Over more than thirty-five years Dr Atkins worked as Commonwealth Medical Officer, in his general practice and at the hospital. He was active in his support of the Arts Council, School of Arts and the Choral Society and liked to spend time in his home workshop. He was very unwell for some years before he died in the town in 1983.

James M McDonald

In February 1946, James Main McDonald, MB BS (Sydney 1937), Resident Medical Officer at RPAH, Camperdown in 1938, Resident Medical Officer at Toowoomba General Hospital in 1939, set up his rooms in Centre Street. He had been a captain in the AIF in WWII in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo. He was a GP and Honorary Medical Officer at Casino DMH, in practice with Dr Waddell until 1951. He joined Dr Dash in Barker Street and worked in the town until going to Sydney in 1961.

Thomas Burfitt

Thomas Burfitt, MB BS (Sydney 1938), FRACGP (1968), the son of a doctor and a yearmate of Dr McDonald, joined Dr Standish later in 1946. He had been Resident Medical Officer in 1937–38 and Medical Superintendent in 1939 at Lewisham Hospital, Sydney, then served overseas in the UK, Dutch New Guinea, NEL, Borneo and the Philippines as a squadron-leader in the RAAF from 1939–45. He became a staunch member of the RSL Association. Dr Burfitt joined Dr Dash and Dr Pollard in 1974.

He retired in June 1983 and was elected the first Emeritus Consultant Medical Officer of Casino Hospital. He died later in the town he had served so well.

Alastair KM Stewart

In 1952, Alastair Keith McKellar Stewart, MB BS (Adelaide 1951), Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1951, set up general practice in Gilbey Street. He worked in Casino until 1958, and in 1960 he was in Peakhurst, Sydney.

Edward G Dash

Edward Geoffrey (Geoff) Dash, MB BS (Sydney 1952), started as a GP in Casino in January 1953. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Casino Memorial Hospital in 1952 and went into practice with Drs Jabour and McDonald, but went later to practise on his own in Bonalbo. He was back in Casino in 1960, working with Dr McDonald in Barker Street. Dr Dash continued in general practice, setting up the Casino Medical Centre in Canterbury Street with Dr Nicholl in 1961.

Dr Dash was involved in the regional medical association, Casino Rotary Club, the Willunga Committee and a keen supporter of local junior rugby league. He teamed up with Dr R Pollard and then Dr Burfitt until leaving in 1981, to work in Sydney with the Commonwealth Health Department.

Neil L Nicholl

In 1961, Neil Livingstone Nicholl, MB BS (QLD 1958), Resident Medical Officer started in Casino with Dr Dash in Canterbury Street. His father was Dr 'Snow' Nicholl, of Lismore. Dr Neil Nicholl was in Casino until 1978, when he went to join Dr Gordon Calnan in his practice in Ballina.

Robert H Pollard

Robert Henry Pollard, MB BS (Sydney 1966), Resident Medical Officer at Lismore Base Hospital in 1966–67, went to work with Dr Dash and Dr Nicholl in Canterbury Street in 1967. He had started in a military career at Duntroon Military College, but changed to medicine. Dr Pollard was a GP in the town for ten years, with a particular interest in arboriculture and he went to long-term GP practice in Armidale (NSW).

George A Rail

In 1968, George Arthur Rail, MB ChB (Capetown 1939), MRCP (Edin. 1948), arrived in Casino. His CV shows in WWII, he was a captain in the SRMC in East Africa in 1940–1943, major in the RAMC in India and Ceylon in 1943–46, Consultant Physician to the RAF in Rhodesia in 1951–54, then with the Ghana and Sabah governments in 1955–1968. He set up in rooms in Walker and Canterbury Streets as the inaugural Clinical Consultant in the town—a specialist physician, and was appointed Visiting Medical Officer to Casino Hospital. Dr Rail remained in his position for about six years.

Robert K Spence

Robert Kinross Spence, MB BS (Sydney 1947), FRCS (Edin. 1954), FRACS (1962) began as Specialist General Surgeon in Casino in 1972. He had been a Junior Resident Medical Officer at Balmain Hospital in 1947–48, Senior Resident Medical Officer at RGH, Concord in 1948–51, Resident Surgical Officer at Warneford General Hospital, UK in 1953–54, before appointment as Honorary Surgeon at Manly Hospital, Sydney in 1955–70. He was a flying surgeon in Queensland in 1970–1971, before his appointment at Casino MDH and as Consultant at Lismore Hospital.

Dr Spence had a broad field of surgical expertise and enjoyed living and working on his farm nearby, as well as retaining his fondness for the beach.

Terence J Frost

In 1974, Terence John Frost, MB BS (QLD 1967), was in practice in Centre Street. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, in 1968, Rockhampton General in 1969 and Medical Superintendent at Mt Morgan and Atherton Hospitals in 1969–1970. He was a captain in the CMF and after two years as a GP, went to Brisbane to start in clinical pathology.

John M Carson

John Meyrick Carson, MB ChB (Witwatersrand, South Africa 1969), started to practise in Casino in Barker Street in 1972. He had previously been an intern and Medical Officer in South Africa in 1969–1971. He became associated in practice with Dr Alan King. Dr Carson left in 1976 to work in Transkei before further training in medicine in London and Sydney and then practising in Melbourne.

Alan R King

In 1976, Alan Robert King, MB BS (QLD 1965), was in Casino, working with Dr Carson. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1966, Medical Registrar at Ipswich General Hospital and Superintendent of Gympie Hospital. After about two years, he moved on to Toowoomba.

Adrian JS Boyd

Adrian John Spencer Boyd, MB BS (Sydney 1972), after resident training in Sydney, started as a GP on his own in 1975 in Dr Frost's old practice in Centre Street. He had been Pathology Registrar at Royal Brisbane Hospital.

He was a very dedicated representative for the Staff Medical Board at the hospital. Dr Boyd became active in civic affairs and was a council alderman and deputy mayor. He was a keen pilot and supporter of aviation medicine. He was a very sociable doctor and kindly tolerant of colleagues' ribbing about his motorcycling activities.

Thomas A Kearney

In 1976, Thomas Anthony Kearney, MB BS (Sydney 1973), was in general practice for two years before going to Western Australia.

Aldo C Castagna

In 1976, Aldo Caesar Castagna, MB BS (Sydney 1972), Dip RACOG (1978), began his general practice in Centre Street. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Wollongong Hospital (1972–73), Senior Resident Medical Officer and Registrar at Prince of Wales Hospital (1973–76), then Registrar at Wollongong Hospital in 1976.

His arrival brought the first doctor of Italian descent since 1927. Like Dr Belli, Dr Castagna developed a keen interest in racehorses while working very hard to care for his many patients in all facets of rural medicine.

Frederick W Banks

Frederick William Banks, MB ChB (Otago, NZ, 1964) came to the town to take over Dr King's practice in 1977. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Invercargill Hospital (1975–1976) and then worked as solo GP in Lockhart and in Bega, NSW, for ten years before he set up in solo practice in Barker Street in the building with a long medical history since Dr Belli in 1914. Dr Banks carried out a full range of rural doctor services, with anaesthetics, surgical procedures and obstetrics with the cooperation of his fellow GPs.

He was able to continue his long-time recreation of ocean swimming by weekend visits to the coast.

Selvadurai Senthilvasan/Vasan

In 1977, Selvadurai Senthilvasan, took over Dr Carson's practice in Barker Street. He had graduated MB BS (Gauhati, India 1965) and trained at the General Hospital, Ipoh and in Kuala Lumpur in 1966–69, before coming to Australia and working at the Repatriation GH, Heidelberg (Vict). He practised under the name of Senthil Vasan and was a staunch advocate for rural doctors, both in his area and in general.

He soon developed an interest in civic affairs, his calm manner and

quiet leadership qualities resulting later in his election to the office of mayor of Casino. He was a very keen pilot and member of the aero club.

Hugh P Dearnley

Hugh Philip Dearnley, MB BS (Sydney 1974), came in 1978 to practise with Dr Dash for three years. He was a GP and was an exceptional long-distance runner, noted for successes in the arduous annual Chincogan Charge in Mullumbimby. He moved on to Broken Hill.

Juriaan JH Beek

In late 1980, Juriaan Jan Hein Beek, BSc, MSc (NSW), MB BS (NSW 1977), DRCOG, Cert. of Family Planning, started in the Casino Medical Centre. Born in Holland, he arrived in Australia in 1950 and started his professional life as a graduate industrial chemist and researcher, then became a mature age medical student. Having been a Resident at Prince of Wales, Hornsby and Newcastle Western Suburbs Hospitals, he worked in the Scone area. In Casino, he engaged in all rural GP disciplines, with a lot of obstetrics and was a keen advocate and participator in rural medical training, education and practice.

Ross I White

Ross Ian White, BSc Med (Hons Sydney 1974), MB BS (Sydney 1977), DRACOG (1981), joined the Casino Medical Centre in 1981. He had been Resident Medical Officer at Hornsby and District Hospital (1977–79) on the recently instituted Family Medicine Training Program, and at St Margaret's Hospital, Sydney (1980–1981).

George C Simpson

In 1983, George Cummings Simpson, MB BS (Sydney 1978), FRACGP, started in the Casino Medical Centre with Drs Beek and White. He was a graduate of the FMP, including a residency at Lismore Base Hospital, then spent time in the UK at hospitals in Kent and Sussex, getting his DRCOG and Diploma of Family Planning and experience in anaesthetics to equip himself well for rural practice.

James N Barson

James Neil Barson, MB BS (Melbourne 1975), FFARACS, DRCOG, arrived in 1985 as Casino's first resident specialist in anaesthetics and intensive care. He had extensive training in Melbourne before becoming a great medical asset in town.



Coraki township, situated on the Richmond River, was settled in 1849, having been part of the land where clearing of the heavy scrub started. It was a busy river port and ship-building centre, as well serving as a gateway to the northern and inland areas.

The circumstances in the area at the time were described as the population being sparse and widely separated, in the main impecunious, so the doctor's routine involved a lot of time spent travelling in between calls and with little, or no, financial reward. In the early days some in the communities, particularly the farmers and millers, guaranteed a minimum stipend to try and attract a doctor, who usually was just starting in the profession and even in a new country, and properly described as 'skint'. Because there were no public hospitals in the pioneering days, the doctor had to provide his own instruments, so starting up in medical life in a rural town would have been pretty daunting, as many well-meaning young lonely aspiring medicos found, before they had no alternative to 'moving on' to a more promising place, which usually meant a town already with another doctor to provide company.

Arthur F Parker

In 1878, Arthur Frederick Parker, LSA (Eng. 1876), MRCS (Eng. 1876), with a MD (Brussels 1885), was the first recorded doctor living and practising in Coraki. He was born in England in 1851 and worked as Resident Surgical Officer in Bristol General Hospital before sailing to Australia soon after. He practised as a physician and surgeon but as Coraki did not have any reasonable hospital at the time, he left for Lismore where he was established in 1880.

Matthew Knox

In the early 1880s, the name of Dr Matthew Knox was mentioned in the Coraki-Woodburn area but apart from his having been an American with a MD, the only other information on him is that he was sixty-eight when he died in Coraki in 1885 from 'heart disease'.



FRANCIS G CONNOR
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



ARTHUR J CAHILL



ARCHELAUS J OPIE



WILLIAM C SMITH
(Photo: NSW State Archives)

In 1886 the town population of Coraki was recorded as 520 and the district as 5220.

Francis G Connor

Francis Gillies Connor, MB, ChM (Edin. 1883), advertised commencement of practice in Coraki in June 1886. (Dr William Bradbury Violette, a Glasgow graduate, was in nearby Wardell.) Born in 1861 at Swan Creek, on the Clarence, he and his brother were taken by their mother to Edinburgh for their university education. Dr Connor had a look at the Richmond area in 1886 and the columnist for the local paper advised him to try the Tweed River. Fortunately for the area, the unkind advice was ignored and Dr Connor advertised that he could be consulted daily at Mobbs' Hotel in Coraki and once a week in both South Woodburn and Casino at the local hotel.

He proved to be very popular because of his genial manner and the uniform attention given to his patients. He was Medical Officer for the Oddfellows' Lodge, active in the Coraki Debating Society, on the committee of the School of Arts and the Progress Association, president of the Coraki Cricket Club and played in the town tennis team. However, his busy duties in his extensive solo practice over a large area, and the time spent travelling by horse in rough country in the wet climate over four years, had a prejudicial effect on his health and Dr Connor decided a change was absolutely necessary.

He had suffered the death of his seven-week-old son the year before. A banquet held in his honour was even spoilt by the rain making the local roads impassable. His leaving was predicted to be a source of universal regret and described as a calamity. Dr Connor sold his practice to Dr JA Langdon, who had been in Casino, and in 1890 he moved to Lismore, where there were better medical facilities and other doctors. He took over from Dr AF Parker (formerly of Coraki), who went to further his studies in the UK and Europe.

John A Langdon

In January 1890, John Arthur Langdon, LRCP (Edin.), LFPS (Glasgow 1874), took over the practice of Dr Connor in Coraki. He had been a surgeon in the British and Turkish Armies, surgeon in the Western and Brazil Telegraph Company, and Naval Medical Officer, which he claimed gave him great experience in dealing with gunshot wounds and smallpox, so that he was able to get paid work as a Public Vaccinator. Dr Langdon worked from Western Australia to Cairns and was an open critic of the administrators, at

one stage being arrested for slander of a prominent citizen. He left Casino for Coraki and soon engaged in exposing publicly in Coraki, at his own legal cost, 'Doctor' R Royston-Russell. The document associated with this exposure revealed that Dr Langdon had a most wonderful command of the English language with emphasis on vitriol and descriptive terms.

He did not endear himself to local society by saying that the community of Coraki was mainly composed of illiterate Irish and that, judiciously handled, more gullible people did not exist. Dr Langdon himself left after about a year of full-time practise in Coraki and headed for Sydney and continued his travelling doctor life, leaving the town without a doctor.

R Royston-Russell

The infamous unregistered R Royston-Russell, was in Coraki in 1890. He had many aliases and bogus qualifications. Helping in the prison dispensary in the tough Berrima Gaol, where he had been an inmate was the closest contact Russell had had with anything medical. He was described as an accomplished swindler with bandit proclivities. To show what a small world it was, he duped the worldly-wise Dr Bernstein, who invited him to give a second opinion on a very ill patient in Lismore. Worse still, later he had tried to defraud the revered Drs Josiah and Margaret Corlis of their practice in Bellingen. Russell left in a hurry and started all over again in Western Australia.

Bernard McDonogh

In 1892, Bernard McDonogh, LRCP, LRCS (Edin. 1886), LFPS (Glasgow 1886), was in Coraki (population 550), following Dr Langdon. He was a Scot with a great interest in horses and an accomplished horseman. He was very busy around the area and reports show that he operated on patients with Dr William B Walton in Coraki Hospital. His neighbouring colleague from Woodburn, Dr Silvio Monti, was cared for by Dr McDonogh in 1903 after being found unconscious by the roadside ten miles from town after his sulky overturned on the way back from an urgent call, so indications are that the doctors lived in a state of friendly harmony. He was very interested in agriculture and sponsored a prize at the local show.

Dr McDonogh was in town until 1911 and went to Melbourne, dying in 1913 in Toorak from the effects of prussic acid. During his time in Coraki, Dr Augustus William McDonogh was in the Byron Bay area, but any direct relationship is not known.

Percy B Stewart

Percy B Stewart, MB, BS (Melbourne 1900), practised in Coraki in 1901. He moved on to Casino after about a year, becoming a very popular figure in that town.

William B Walton

In April 1903, William Bain Walton, MB, ChM (Sydney 1898), previously Resident Medical Officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the Children's Hospital in Camperdown, arrived in Coraki by steamer. He had worked as Locum Government Medical Officer in Darwin, Queensland and then Burruga (in Central Western NSW). He set up in Minto Street and during his time in the town, he literally co-operated with Dr McDonogh. He also showed interest in the Central Richmond Agricultural Society and sponsored prizes. Both doctors were appointed in 1904 as Medical Officers at the inaugural meeting of the Coraki Hospital Committee. He was recorded doing calls to Swan Bay and even Byron Bay.

In August 1905, Dr Walton had to resign from the hospital and his position of Medical Officer to the Oddfellows' Lodge at Coraki on account of ill-health and passed on his practice to Dr F Wendler. Dr Walton planned to go south and in 1907 was in Uralla.

Friedrich Wendler

Friedrich Wendler, MD (Griefswald Uni., Germany 1904), State Exam Cert. (Griefswald 1904), continued Dr Walton's practice in Coraki in August 1905. He arrived in Australia by ship from Europe in February 1905, but stayed about a year and by 1907 was in Mundawaddera, NSW.



Campbell Hospital, c.1910

Arthur J Cahill

In March 1908, Arthur James Cahill, MB (Melbourne 1903), ChB (1904), was practising in Coraki in Minto Street, having been offered a position by the lodges and the hospital. Born in Bendigo in 1881, he came from working in Kyneton, Victoria and soon settled into Coraki life as a doctor with surgical skills. When he started in the town, he worked well with Dr McDonogh at Campbell Hospital.

He was an accomplished baritone and choral and musical conductor who established a choral society and philharmonic society in Coraki and Lismore. He had the Cahill Gold Medal struck for the champion lady soloist at the Lismore Music Festival, which he founded with the help of Dr Humphery. He even conducted the top-class Woodburn Choir which was in great demand throughout the region and started the Coraki Philharmonic Ball. In 1909, Dr AJ Opie, three years behind Dr Cahill at medical school, arrived by train and Cobb & Co coach to do a locum for him, and was instantly popular with the townspeople, so he was the logical choice to take over the practice when Dr Cahill decided to leave in March 1911 to pursue other interests in the United Kingdom, including seeing the Coronation.

He went to Lismore on his return one year later after studying surgery of the eye, ear, nose and throat, to start a practice in that specialty. He retained his very close friendship with Dr Opie, who had similar musical and vocal interests. Eventually, he went to Canberra, which had become a significant growing administrative and cultural centre and had no eye, ear, nose and throat specialist.

Archelaus J Opie

Archelaus James Opie, MB, ChM (Melbourne 1906), Resident Medical Officer at The Melbourne Hospital until 1909, took over Dr Cahill's practice in March 1911, when the population of Coraki was the same as Lismore and slightly less than Casino. He was born in Bendigo in 1883 and had played Australian Rules for Carlton. The other doctors in the area were much older and fixed in their ways. He had practised for a time in Kapunda in South Australia and Devonport in Tasmania and was a very accomplished musician and singer, thus following the pattern Dr Cahill had set. Dr Opie was a keen swimmer, loved the beach, bowls, golf and tennis, for which he went to Sydney for the annual Country Week Tournament.

He was a Visiting Medical Officer and Superintendent at the hospital, with a leaning towards surgery and obstetrics. He ministered during the pneumonic flu epidemic in 1919, no loss of life being recorded in the area.

His other commitments were the Music Festival Society, lodge, Rotary and the local medical association. In 1923, he returned to Melbourne for postgraduate study for a year and then he moved on to Lismore at the end of the year after a large farewell gathering attended by the mayor, one Mr Lou Benaud (a schoolteacher who taught his own son to play cricket very well).

John W Tarleton

Early in 1918, John Willington Tarleton, MB (Sydney 1902), advertised his presence in Coraki. He was a doctor who practised in all states of Australia except WA, and also Hong Kong and Shanghai. Dr Opie was in Coraki and it is unlikely that there was much work for another doctor in town. After a short time, he was off to the southern states, finding his way to Swansea, Tasmania.

Stuart Fraser

Stuart Fraser, MB, BS (Melbourne 1922) actually started to practise in Coraki in 1923 and was appointed Honorary Medical Officer to the hospital. He made a generous donation to the hospital for surgical instruments, but did not stay for very long to make use of them. He began in July and left in November to start a very distinguished career as an eye specialist in Melbourne—not bad in those days for a boy born in Clunes.

John R Allison

In 1924, John Robson Allison, MB (Sydney 1921), was in Coraki before Dr Opie went off to Melbourne. He was born in Drake in 1897 and had relatives in Coraki. He became the Government Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent of the hospital. Dr Allison was involved in the School of Arts, in the tennis club and, as a keen golfer, was on the committee for the formation of the local golf club. He was responsible for the introduction of the X-ray plant into Coraki, thus making a great contribution to patient care in the area. Dengue fever was rife in 1926, and he and his wife were fortunate survivors of an attack.

Dr Allison was a generous donor to the hospital and was given a well-attended farewell in 1927, after which he headed for Campsie in Sydney, having arranged for a replacement, Dr WC Smith.

Hugh AC Wall

Also in 1924, Hugh Alton Chandos Wall, MB (Sydney 1915), born in Sydney 1893, was in rooms in Martin Street in Coraki, which then had two doctors again for about eleven years. He had been a school doctor with the Education

Department in Nimbin from 1921. He arrived in time to get dengue fever, too, but recovered. In WWI, he was lieutenant in the RAMC and also the RAN. On the honorary staff at the hospital, he became the Government Medical Officer after Dr Allison. He was a keen golfer, member of the bowling club and had an intensive involvement in civic affairs, being on the Coraki Municipal Council for five years. He married a Coraki girl and worked in the area for twenty-six years as well as having to endure the war years and the Depression. Dr Wall died while still practising in Coraki in 1950.

William C Smith

William Cletus Smith, MB, ChM (Sydney 1925), Resident Medical Officer at RPAH, Camperdown in 1925–26 and The Coast Hospital, Little Bay in 1926–27, started to practise in the middle of 1927 in Minto Street, in place of Dr Allison. He served in the Great War before doing medicine. He became Medical Superintendent of the Campbell Hospital and was active in local activities, including terms as president of the RSL Association, was a keen proficient member of the golf club and foundation member of the bowling club. Dr Smith left in late November, 1935 to go to do further surgical training in Scunthorpe, England for two years before setting up practice in Murwillumbah, NSW.

Bruce C Terrey

In 1936, Bruce Corbett Terrey, MB, BS (Sydney 1933), Resident Medical Officer at Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney was in Coraki. He was a keen golfer and cricketer, but also enjoyed bridge and playing the piano. He was a prominent member of the local branch of the British Medical Association, which was reborn as the North Eastern Medical Association, of which he became president. Dr Terrey was in Coraki until early 1948 when he returned to Sydney to practise in Beecroft.

Peter W Leslie

Peter William Leslie, MB, BS (Adelaide 1943), started in practice in Coraki in February 1948 but from 1950 he was alone in Coraki. By 1954, he was in Toowoomba, Queensland.

John R Roper

In October 1954, John Ramsay Roper, MB, BS (Sydney 1950), then Resident Medical Officer at St George Hospital, Sydney in 1950, started his practice in Coraki and was appointed Honorary Medical Officer to the hospital. He had previously been working as a GP in Woollahra in Sydney. By 1960, Dr Roper was in Ipswich, Queensland.

Ronald V Pratt

Ronald Victor Pratt, MB, BS (Melbourne 1941), MFARACS (1952), Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in 1941–42, was listed as practising in Coraki in August 1957. He had been in the AAMC in WWII, honorary anaesthetist at Royal Perth Hospital in 1947–52 and in 1954 was in Madang, New Guinea. He stayed for just over two years and in 1960 was in Chatswood, Sydney.

David Carden

David Carden, MB, BS (Adelaide 1953), was in practice in Coraki in October 1959. He had served in WWII in the RAAF, 1943–46, and was previously a GP in Goroke, Victoria. He was Honorary Medical Officer at the Campbell Hospital and was the only doctor in the town for many years, although Dr D Ryan was in Evans Head. Dr Carden was a very hard-working GP, adept in all facets of rural practice and, although he had short breaks with the help of locum doctors happy to have a change in the country, he started to suffer indifferent health and in 1984 retired to Brunswick Heads after a rousing send-off by locals.

Peter J Ulrick

In 1984, Peter James Ulrick, MB, BS (NSW 1978), took over from Dr Carden in Coraki in the general practice, wanting to work on the North Coast where his wife came from. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney in 1978–79, Registrar at Royal Hobart Hospital in 1980, at Prince of Wales–Prince Henry group and St George Hospital in 1981, before doing locum work in the UK, probably where he developed a lasting interest in old houses and antiques.





Evans Head

This was the lowest area in the Richmond Valley region and was on the coast and river, access from inland being very arduous, so the new settlers used mainly water transport after they started arriving in the 1840s.

Anthony I Graham

The first recorded doctor seeing patients in Evans Head was Anthony Ismay Graham, MB, BS (Eng. 1954), a resident in medicine, surgery and obstetrics in English hospitals before he came to Australia. He seemed to be based in Woodburn, but consulted also in Coraki and Evans Head from early 1957 until February 1964.

Douglas Ryan

In February 1959, Douglas Ryan, LRCP (Eng.), MRCS (Eng. 1944) became the first doctor resident and practising in Evans Head, from his surgery in Woodburn Street. After his resident years, he was in the RAF from 1947–50, followed by the position of Orthopaedic Registrar at Derby Infirmary in 1950.

Dr Ryan was a bachelor, dedicated to his patients and a staunch follower of his Catholic faith. He was renowned for his Irish brogue, entertaining company and love of a social gathering, following which he was always back in Evans Head on Sunday morning. He was a keen duck hunter and fisherman.

He was such a highly-regarded family doctor that the community was devastated by his death in a car accident while on a visit to Sydney in 1979. His civic esteem was expressed by the construction of the Douglas Ryan Lookout over the Pacific Ocean on the cliff at Evans Head.

Paul T Carne

Paul Thomas Carne, MB, BS (Queensland 1976), restarted Dr Ryan's general practice in mid-1979, in Woodburn Street and served as a Visiting Medical Officer at the Campbell Hospital at Coraki.

Joseph R Leer

In 1980, Joseph Ralph Leer, BSc, MB, BS (Queensland 1973), joined Dr Carne's practice. Before medical school, he had been a scientist in the laboratory at Cape Kennedy, Florida and after graduating in medicine he was Resident Medical Officer at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane.

Dr Leer had recreational interests of gardening, music, reading and general fitness. They moved on in the latter half of 1983, Dr Carne opting for practice in even more remote rural areas and Dr Leer for general practice on the Gold Coast, with an academic attachment to Bond University Medical School.

Ernest G Finberg

Ernest Graham Finberg, a South African graduate MB, ChB (Witwatersrand Uni 1961), took over the general practice of Drs Leer and Carne in 1983. After his residency years Dr Finberg had been in general practice in 1963–77, at Stratford Hospital in 1977–79 and a GP at seaside Bondi in 1979–82. He was joined later by Dr P Walsh, but left in 1984 to work in Gove, NT and Vanuatu.

Paul R Walsh

In 1983, Paul Robin Walsh, MB, BS (NSW 1981), joined Dr Finberg in his practice in School Lane to start off a long time in general practice in the town. He had been Resident Medical Officer at Wollongong Hospital in 1981, Resident Medical Officer and Registrar at RNSH, Sydney in 1982–83 and then senior Resident Medical Officer at Lismore Base Hospital. He was a Visiting Medical Officer at Coraki Hospital for a time despite the distance for emergency.

Known affectionately as 'Walshie', he enjoyed the seaside location with spare time interests of scuba diving, surfing and underwater photography.

Gregory B Spark

Gregory Ben Spark, MB, BS (Sydney 1980), had joined Dr Walsh in Evans Head by 1984, having been a Resident at RGHC, Concord 1980–81 and Senior Resident Medical Officer at Lismore Base Hospital in 1982.

After a year in England in general and hospital practice, Dr Spark linked with his former co-resident and they ran a very popular general practice. He was a regular serious squash player in his spare time.



Kyogle

New settlement of the northern inland area of Kyogle began in 1840 with a few farms, and in 1901 the population was recorded as fifty-one.

Edmund B Loughnan

The first recorded doctor resident in Kyogle was Edmund Brennan Loughnan, LMRCs (Ireland), LKQCP (Ireland), who arrived at the beginning of 1905. He was born in 1841 and educated in Ireland, arriving in Australia in 1879 and then working in Coolah, Coonabarabran and Collarenebri areas in NSW for twenty-five years.

He was involved in the local school board, the jockey club, his local church council and the lodge. His stay in Kyogle was about two years, but he was sixty-two when he arrived and by the end of 1907 he had retired to South Woodburn, and perished soon after being in Coraki Hospital with an 'internal ailment'.

Before and after Dr Loughnan, records indicate that medical attention for residents of Kyogle was provided in Casino with the occasional visit from a doctor from Casino, particularly Dr AH Rutherford, who continued to visit Kyogle after there was a resident doctor, often to assist with operations.

William W Greer

In September 1906, William Wells Greer, MB, BCh (Edin. 1904), was in Kyogle, being extremely well qualified. He was born in Chester, England, in 1876, came to Queensland as a boy and was educated in Townsville (initially by his father) and Brisbane. He went over to Edinburgh University to study medicine, was Resident Physician at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1905 and then got his MD (Edin.) in 1906. His family home was in Southport and he arranged to set up a general practice in Kyogle, initially in the old house of Edmund Loughnan.

This well-organised young doctor went back to Scotland in July 1907, married a lady from Glasgow and returned to Kyogle, where over the next two years, he built a new, finely-furnished house, joined the

Progress Association as secretary, became president of the tennis club, attended boxing association events, joined the Caledonian Society and the agricultural society, attended lodge, handled a severe outbreak of diphtheria as the only doctor in the area and established and held, with ‘much éclat’, a public opening of Dr Greer’s Private Hospital.

From 1908, he was keen to have another doctor in town and he started to show ponies in the local shows. In February 1909, he survived the capsizing of his sulky—an occupational hazard of the times—putting his wife in hospital for a while. In February 1913, he was given a valedictory dinner in Kyogle and in his farewell speech referred to some of the difficulties with practice in ‘this country’ with the people being different from the more servile people ‘at home’, even wanting to know all about their child’s illness and whether it was dangerous. He expressed real difficulty with the matter of charging for his services.

At the age of thirty-seven, he took his wife back ‘home’ for a tour of Scotland and England, picked up the FRCS (Edin.) in 1914, then joined the (British) Lowland Field Ambulance as Medical Officer and went to Egypt, Gallipoli, Sinai, Palestine and France. He was Mentioned in Despatches three times and awarded the Military Cross in the Battle for Gaza. He was gassed badly in the trenches, then he returned to Australia and started to practise in Southport, making his final trip ‘back home’ in 1924 and working in Bedfont, Middlesex, where he died in 1933.

His obituary in the *British Medical Journal* recognised him as having a great intellect combined with rare imagination and practical attitude to life—instead of continuing his bright academic career, following ‘his destiny to the highways and byways of a country in which distances were great and where many bricks had to be made of straw’.

Harold S Thomas

Harold Skarratt Thomas, MRCS, LRCP (Eng. 1908), was established in Kyogle in 1910. He was involved in many community activities, being secretary of the rifle club, member of the agricultural society, on the School of Arts Committee and vice-president of the rugby union club. In March 1913, one month after Dr Greer left, he disposed of his practice to Dr WB Clipsham. He went to practise in Granville in western Sydney.

Thomas CC Evans

In November 1912, Thomas Charles Cann Evans, MB, ChB (Eng.), was practising in Kyogle. He had graduated from St Mary's Hospital, then trained as Medical Officer at Fulham Infirmary and as Assistant in Anaesthetics, Casualty and Ophthalmology at St Mary's. Dr Greer left early in 1913 and Dr Evans was joined from England by his father in the middle of that year.

He practised initially from his house in Geneva Street and soon became the Government Medical Officer for Kyogle, joined the Anglican Parish Council, showed ponies and was involved in horse racing. He was very busy with the great demand for vaccinations for smallpox. In 1915 he volunteered as Medical Officer for the AAMC in Brisbane but within days he was on the ship overseas.

He resumed in Kyogle and in 1919 he married an English lady well worthy of mention, as she had graduated from art school in London and Exeter, then chose to become a VAD (volunteer nurse) during WWI. On arrival at Kyogle, she did not follow the accepted role of rural doctor's wife and, under the name of Joyce Dennys, embarked on a very successful career as a painter and illustrator, initially with the *Bulletin* and *Home* magazines, then internationally, with her many works exhibited widely. Her stay in Kyogle had no adverse effect on her constitution as she lived for ninety-eight years.

The Kyogle area fared badly in the pneumonic flu epidemic in 1919, and at one stage Dr Evans had 123 cases in Stony Gully. In November 1913, he received national acclaim because of his dogged efforts to get the council to adopt basic covering measures with all tanks, drains and loose water in the area to eradicate mosquitos from Kyogle, which was considered one of the worst sufferers from the pests of all towns in NSW. In October 1924, Dr Evans sold his practice to Dr JT Jones, who had been in Kyogle for some time, and went back to England.

Thomas GC Evans

Thomas George Cann Evans, MRCS (Eng. 1881), LRCP (Edin. 1882), LMRCP (Edin. 1882), late Medical Officer at Budleigh Salterton Hospital, Devonshire and Exeter Hospital joined his son in Kyogle in 1913 and within four months had to have his appendix removed, being close to sixty years old. He was on the Kyogle Jockey Club Committee and presumably carried on the practice in Kyogle on his own while his son was away at the war.

William B Clipsham

In March 1913, Sydney-born William Brookes Clipsham, MB (Sydney 1910), ChM (Sydney 1926), was in practice in Kyogle. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at RPAH, Sydney 1911 and spent one year in Many Peaks, Queensland, before taking over from Dr Thomas. His son was born in Kyogle Private Hospital in July 1914 and records show that in 1919 he sold the practice to Dr Jones and went to Grafton. He did postgraduate courses, including the DOMS (Ophthalmology) in London and in 1928 was in Dubbo.

John T Jones

John Thomas Jones, MB (Sydney 1915), was in Kyogle in 1919, succeeding Dr Clipsham. He settled into the town and went to Country Week Bowls with the town team. In October 1924 he took over the Evans practice and also the fight to get an X-ray machine for the hospital against great central official resistance. The first patient was admitted to the new Kyogle Memorial Hospital in May 1925 and Dr Jones and Dr Little were appointed Medical Officers.

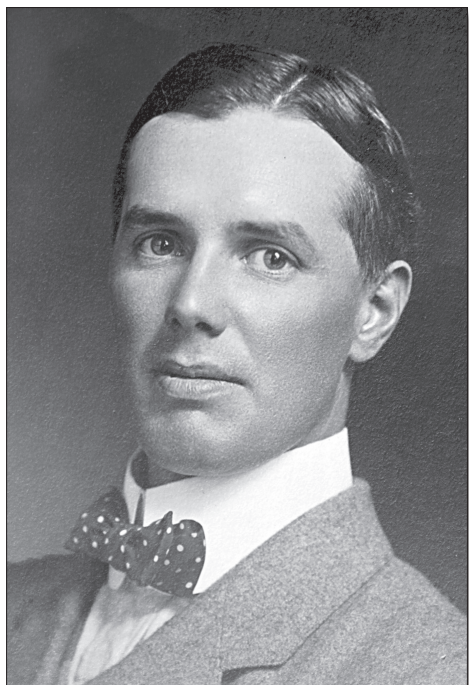
Dr Jones became Hospital Superintendent and was still in Kyogle in November 1932 when the X-ray machine came into use. Unfortunately, his wife died and soon after, in November 1933, he left the area and in 1940 was in Bundanoon, NSW.

Dudley W Little

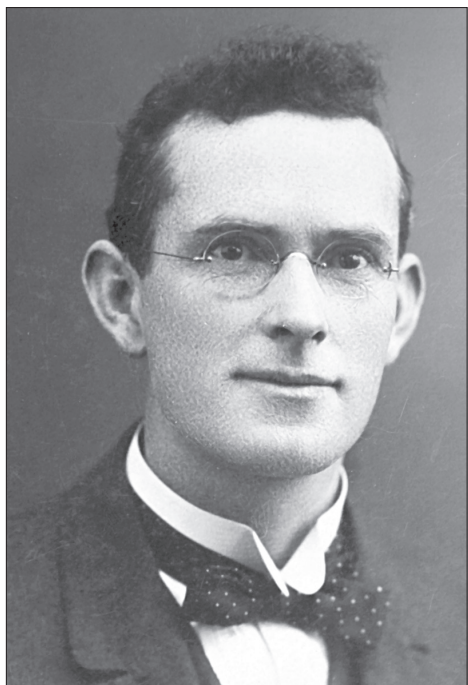
In 1925, Dudley William Little, MB, ChM (Sydney 1921), was practising in Kyogle. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1921–22, Resident Medical Officer at RAHC, Camperdown in 1922–23 and Resident Medical Officer at St Margaret's Hospital for Women, Darlinghurst in 1923. Dr Little and Dr Jones were appointed as Medical Officers to the newly-opened Kyogle Memorial Hospital. He returned in 1926 to Sydney to study for the Diploma of Public Health and became an Honorary Surgeon at St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn, Sydney. He was replaced by Dr Lewis.

Arthur R Lewis

Arthur Raymond Lewis, MB, ChM (Sydney 1924), came to Kyogle in 1926 after doing his residency at RPAH, Camperdown in 1924–25. His wedding announcement in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1926 reported that his honeymoon was to be spent touring the Northern Rivers and seems to explain how he came to be in Kyogle, which was down to one doctor. He succeeded Dr Little and he also took over the 'Evans' house. He became



THOMAS CC EVANS
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



JOHN T JONES
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



ARTHUR R LEWIS
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



BRIAN K PERRY

the area Government Medical Officer and started a thirty-five-year term as Superintendent of the hospital, an honorary position requiring a lot of time in addition to his own practice which itself involved frequent use of his renowned surgical prowess.

Dr Lewis put a lot of effort into the difficult task of running a blood bank. He had to use his own anaesthetic machine and diathermy in his early days in Kyogle. In 1938 he was reported as making an official complaint to the health department about a faulty drug supplied to his hospital causing significant reactions. He and Matron McKid worked in great co-operation for many years for the benefit of Kyogle Memorial Hospital, constantly putting pressure on the centrally run and funded Health Department to provide even basic improvements.

Dr Lewis was a respected member of the Methodist Church in the town. He died in Kyogle in 1962, just after the theatre complex was officially named after him.

James Aiken

In May 1932, James Aiken, LRCP, LRCS (Edin.), LFPS (Glasgow 1909) was in Kyogle, practising in Geneva Street and a Honorary Medical Officer at the hospital. He had been working in the Tweed area. Dr Aiken proved to be a man of high principles in October 1934 when, after a young girl patient of his complained to him about indecent behaviour towards her by her father, Dr Aiken took his stick and the law into his own hands and beat the guilty father about the head, so that the man had to have his scalp wounds sewn up by another doctor in town, Dr Doyle. The magistrate fined him only 10 shillings because the father had deserved it. Dr Aiken left at the end of 1935.

Percy H Doyle

Percy Hugh Doyle, MB (Sydney 1928), Resident Medical Officer and Registrar at Sydney Hospital in 1928–30, opened his practice in Kyogle Road in 1933. A Brewarrina boy, he had started GP work in Sydney in 1932. He succeeded Dr Jones and the year after he arrived, he was in the unusual situation of treating the man who had been battered about the head by his co-practitioner in town. Dr Doyle and Dr Lewis found provision of medical services very difficult during WWII with only two doctors in the town for five years and also a lack of nursing staff.

He remained for a long time, leaving Kyogle at the end of 1954 and going to Hornsby in Sydney to practise in obstetrics.

Arthur E Blythman

In late 1934, Arthur Ellis Blythman, LSA (Eng. 1907), took over Dr Aiken's practice in Geneva Street. He was born in Yorkshire and was educated at Winchester College and Oxford, before graduating and holding surgical appointments at Charing Cross Hospital, London and working on the Orient liners. He went from Rockhampton to WWI, then to Narrandera, Sydney and Kyogle.

He was a prominent lodge member and was appointed to the honorary staff at Kyogle Hospital at which he was regarded as a skilful surgeon. Unfortunately, his chronic indifferent health resulted in his death in Kyogle in June 1936, at the age of fifty-four.

David R Reid

David Robertson Reid, MB, BS (Sydney 1935), Resident Medical Officer at RPAH, Camperdown in 1935–36, Senior Resident Medical Officer at Eastern Suburbs Hospital, Sydney in 1937, arrived in Kyogle in 1938 as one of the locums for Dr Lewis, when he went on a twelve-month trip to Europe. He stayed on with Dr Lewis for a while, then served in WWII from 1940–46 as major in the AAMC, being Mentioned in Despatches. On return to Kyogle, he set up his practice in Main Street. In 1961, Dr Reid became Honorary Hospital Medical Superintendent, a post he held until he left Kyogle in 1978 after forty-one years' distinguished service to the area, which was recognised by his award of the MBE.

He had been very actively involved in the running of the hospital and education of the nurses, as well as spending a lot of time in the introduction of a satisfactory and specialist supervised radiological service. He retired to Grafton. Dr Reid started an era in Kyogle where two to three independent GPs practised in the town in a great spirit of co-operation, leading to expertise being shared in a very friendly professional environment, with the added benefit of their patients being able to get good treatment in their local hospital.

John E Binnie

At the end of 1954, John Everard Binnie, MB, BS (Queensland 1951), Resident Medical Officer at Brisbane General Hospital in 1952 and Nambour General Hospital in 1953, then Anaesthetic Registrar at BGH in 1954, took over the practice of Dr Doyle. Dr Binnie had served in the RAAF as a bomber pilot in WWII from 1941–45, being a POW and awarded the DFC, before starting medicine.

He wanted to opt out of the urban system and have a better life with his family, so he also spent time on his farm at Eden Creek. He was a welcome addition to the Honorary Medical Officer staff because of his particular interest and expertise in anaesthetics and also obstetrics. He took great interest in nurse education and was in practice in Kyogle until near the end of 1979, when he continued to live in the town, with an interest in orchid growing added to his long-time involvement with classical music and Latin.

Bagenal C Harvey

Bagenal Crosbie Harvey, MB, BS (Queensland 1942), Resident Medical Officer at Ipswich General Hospital in 1942–43, Medical Superintendent at St George District Hospital, Queensland, in 1943–45, Honorary Clinical Assistant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Mater Hospital, Brisbane 1947–61, took over the practice of his ailing father-in-law, Dr Lewis, at the beginning of 1962 and was appointed Honorary Medical Officer to the Kyogle Memorial Hospital. He was a captain in the RAAMC Reserves.

Dr Harvey was in practice for fourteen years and moved to Sydney. Known universally as ‘Bags’, he was very popular with his own patients and colleagues throughout the Richmond Valley region.

Brian K Perry

In January 1976, Brian Kinross Perry, MB, BS (Sydney 1962), FRACGP, took over the house and practice of Dr Harvey in Geneva Street. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Parramatta District Hospital in 1962–63, Senior Resident Medical Officer at RGH, Concord and RAHC, Camperdown in 1964, worked as a suburban GP in Cronulla in 1965, then in general practice in Hillston in NSW. In 1974, after six months in psychiatry, he did more time in suburban Sydney practice. This led him to decide to return to country general practice with the wide medical spectrum available to rural doctors with appropriate training and dedication, and he became a Honorary Medical Officer at Kyogle Memorial Hospital.

In 1982 he continued tertiary education and became a student of philosophy, pure mathematics, ancient Greek and other languages, and was a keen attender of the symphony concerts. Dr Perry started up a farm on which he bred Percheron horses, which kept all members of the family busy and provided a great attraction for the locals. He was destined to become a long-term stayer in Kyogle.

Clive NJ Martin

Clive Norman Joseph Martin, MB, BS (Bombay 1958), MS (Bombay 1965), FRCS (Eng. 1969), started practising in Kyogle in 1978. He had trained in India and the UK and been a surgeon at Bombay Hospital from 1970–76 and then at Port Moresby General Hospital in Papua New Guinea in 1976–78 before he was attracted by an advertisement in the *Australian Medical Journal* about Kyogle. He did GP duties and continued his specialist surgery for at least ten years until financial restrictions on hospitals such as Kyogle led to progressive strangling of surgical services at the local hospital. Dr Martin was a keen family man, very interested in music and enjoyed club golf.

Vivekananda P Das

Also in 1978, Vivekananda Purushothama Das, known locally as ‘Peter’ Das, MB, BS (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1965), MRCP (Glasgow 1975), started to practise in Kyogle. He had been an intern at Colombo General Hospital in 1965–66, Visiting Medical Officer at the District Hospital in Sri Lanka in 1966–67, Visiting Medical Officer at the District Hospital in Malaysia in 1967–71 and Resident Medical Officer at Lady Templer Hospital, Kuala Lumpur in 1972–77. He was a GP with special interest in obstetrics.

Charles A Wood

Charles Alexander Wood, MB, BS (Sydney 1964), Resident Medical Officer at Wagga Base Hospital in 1964–65, Resident Medical Officer at Prince Henry Hospital, Sydney in 1965, then Honorary Medical Officer in Jerilderie, NSW in 1966–71 and Visiting Medical Officer at Young District Hospital until 1979, took over Dr Binnie’s practice in Main Street in late 1979. He was a GP with special experience in obstetrics and anaesthetics.



Lismore started off as a small river village in between the larger centres of Ballina and Casino. Although it was a very winding seventy-kilometre upriver trip from Ballina, passenger steamers sailed to Lismore where new settlement started about 1843.

Josiah W Walker

In 1867, Josiah Wesley Walker arrived in Lismore. He was born in Lincoln, England in 1810, son of a minister, and in 1825 was apprenticed to Dr John Denton in Leicester for five years, following which he attended The Middlesex Hospital and became a LMSSA (Eng., 1832). After that, he worked at Guy's and London Hospitals to be awarded MRCS (Eng.). He was associated with an eminent obstetrician in London, but decided to become Medical Superintendent of Bedlam (Mental) Hospital in London for some years, during which he encountered his own psychological problems.

Apparently, one of his professors helped him get a passage as a sailing ship's surgeon-chaplain to start a new life in Australia, arriving in 1848 at the age of thirty-eight, with a wife and seven children. After Captain John MacArthur invited him to set up practice in Camden, Dr Walker spent 'many' years there, before practising in Burwood, Wollombi, Nundle and Milton.

When he went to Lismore in December 1867, at the age of fifty-seven, his son had a pharmacy in Woodlark Street. Dr Walker lived in Colemans Point, which did have some houses large enough for the Walker entourage,

Research Notes

(1) Dr WT Barker is sometimes mentioned as being the first recorded doctor in Lismore, but the conclusion of this study is that he actually practised in Casino from 1857, was a visitor to the Gundurimba area on the outskirts of Lismore, died there in 1863 and was buried in the local cemetery.

(2) George William Locke 'MB, MRCS', sometimes mentioned as being a doctor in Lismore and Gundurimba in 1873, was not registered in NSW until 1879, long after he left Lismore. His advertised colourful CV in the Sydney press in 1868 supports his non-inclusion in this study.

and practised from above the pharmacy, in which he trained a local man as an apothecary. He was appointed Government Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator as well as acting for an insurance company. Dr Rowlands was in Lismore at the same time for a few years and, later on, Dr Bernstein and Dr Parker.

He was reported in 1878 to have been called to treat the Wyrallah publican with lockjaw, and after treatment and staying with the patient all night, achieved a successful outcome—an unusual result for the times. One thing standing out from reports of his time in practice was the frequency with which he had to resort to court help for payment of accounts for treatment and travelling expenses. Having to relinquish his government positions in November 1879, Dr Walker died at home the following month after ‘ailing for some little time’.

Daniel G Rowlands

Daniel George Rowlands, MRCS (Eng.), LMSA, born in Camarthen, South Wales in 1845, started practice in Lismore at the end of 1876 (the year that the place previously known as ‘Sleepy Hollow’ became the village of Lismore), having been about six months in Casino. His earlier story is told in the Ballina section. He was said to practise ‘all over the rivers’ and was a great traveller to see patients, using a horse or a dray, which probably revealed his poor financial state. Dr Rowlands was listed in the local paper directory and in court as being a surgeon resident in Lismore, where he seemed to be for about three years.

He was a respected, clever young surgeon but he died in Lismore in February 1879 at the age of thirty-four, sadly on the other side of the world to his homeland. His death was officially attributed to the effects of alcohol. He had gathered enough friends for them to take up a collection for a wooden monument on his grave.

Joseph Foreman

In June 1877, Joseph Foreman, MRCS and LSA (Eng. 1873), LRCP (Edin. 1874), followed by two years working in the home counties, started practice in Lismore in Colemans Point. He had been visiting Ballina and Lismore previously as Medical Referee of the AMP Society. He stayed one year in Lismore and moved to Casino (*full entry in that section*).

Ludwik Bernstein

The history of Lismore, medically and socially, changed greatly when Ludwik Bernstein, MD (Heidelberg 1864) arrived 14 December 1878. Born in 1838 in Warsaw, Poland with Russian and Polish parents, he went to Heidelberg to study medicine and proceeded to further study in Edinburgh and Paris. He also used the qualifications FRS.E and FCS (Fellow of the Chemical Society), then MD (Brussels, 1885).

His early start to a life of political activism made him leave his homeland and he turned to Australia, arriving in 1866 in Brisbane after a 100-day voyage as ship's surgeon and delivering six babies on board. Dr Bernstein went to North Queensland and practised in Rockhampton, then moved down to Stanthorpe in 1873 before going to Sydney, where according to his advertisements he worked as surgeon at Prince Alfred Memorial Hospital.

He spent 1877 in Tenterfield where it was considered a great loss when he moved on to Lismore. Dr Bernstein started off in two rented rooms in Molesworth Street, then he bought the whole house, leading to an extraordinary devotion to medical and civic matters for the next twenty-nine years.

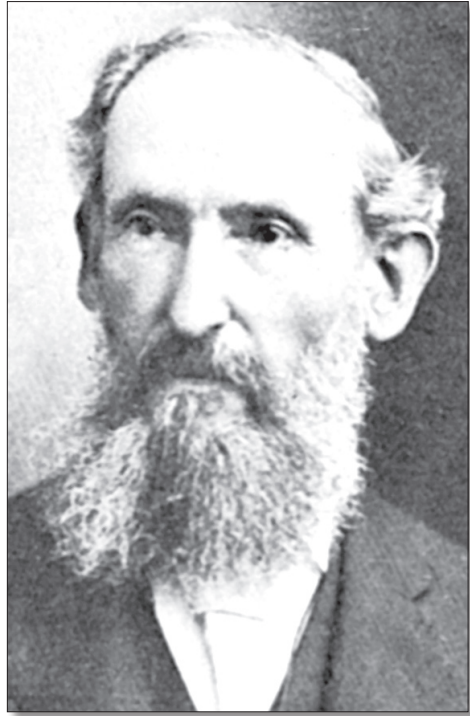
When he started in the town, there was no public hospital and poor town utilities generally. Within one year he had been active in the Lismore Jockey Club, elected alderman on the then Lismore Municipal Council and made Medical Officer for the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society. Thereafter, he progressed to be committeeman and judge for the jockey club (raising eyebrows by calling dead-heats for first in three consecutive races), Government Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the region, Justice of the Peace (which involved magistrate court duties) and Coroner, as well as being on the Visiting Medical Staff and Committee (Management Board)



Lismore Hospital in the early days



JOSIAH W WALKER



LUDWIK BERNSTEIN



ARTHUR F PARKER



OSCAR RP MULLER

of the Lismore Cottage Hospital, for which he and Dr AF Parker fought so hard, resulting in two small wards opening in 1883.

Naturally, all this led to many accusations of conflict of interest, but Dr Bernstein was always prepared to be in the thick of the action, and certainly did not hold back with his opinion or accept willingly any opposing view. There were some prickly members of the Hospital Committee and, later on, criticism of exclusion from the hospital by non-elected doctors in the town but Dr Bernstein remained unmoved and was usually vindicated in his judgment.

He kept on increasing his civic services with presidency of the football club and also the Public Schools' Association, officiating as judge in fine arts at shows and acting as official meteorologist for the area for more than twenty years—all this while being alderman and several times mayor on the council for almost twenty-five years and also carrying on his medical practice.

He played a very significant role in the introduction of water, sewerage and gas systems in Lismore, as well as being in the group of original telephone subscribers. In his 'spare time' he was a prize-winning artist. In 1904 Dr Bernstein must have been feeling the effects of his hectic life as he told friends that he planned to leave and spend his last few years in his homeland, but he called that off. He died in August 1907 and his funeral was attended by a large number of mourners who saw a huge cavalcade of eighty motor buggies and the revered doctor's coffin borne by the current mayor and five past mayors. He left behind his colleague of many years, Dr Parker, with whom he had always been on very good terms socially and professionally.

Arthur F Parker

Arthur Frederick Parker, LSA, MRCS (Eng. 1876), was born in Clifton, Bristol, England, in 1851 and graduated from University College Hospital, London. He arrived in Australia in September 1878 as a saloon passenger. He was the son of a doctor and stayed with his brother in Coraki, where he advertised his presence in November 1878, being available for consultation there until he started practice shortly as a physician and surgeon in Lismore. Dr Parker had worked as Resident Surgeon at Bristol General Hospital, England.

He started in Lismore in 1879, stressing his registered status, initially in rented rooms and then at Colemans Point. He became Coroner and Government Medical Officer for the Richmond region and Public Vaccinator (taking over from Dr Walker) and had a nurse to assist in his rooms. He and Dr Bernstein were great activists for the building of Lismore Hospital and

after it was opened in 1883, when the population of the town was reported as 473, he was responsible for formulating the code of rules of the hospital.

The hospital building was of timber, on a 3-acre site at Postmans Ridge, had 8–10 beds in male and female blocks and cost 380 pounds, collected from police fines and public subscriptions. The *Hospital Centenary Report* states that it was the only charitable institution of the kind in the Richmond River region (i.e. all others were privately run and attracted bed and medical fees). Almost as soon as it was built, there was agitation for a ‘new’ hospital, which was planned from 1900 and occupied in July 1904.

In August 1884, Dr Parker had a farewell from his friends, including Dr Bernstein, and went to England. He sold his practice to Dr RN Gaggin in March 1885 but returned to Australia in November with the degree of MD (Brussels), practising in Woollahra and then Inverell. He was back in Lismore by May 1886, working from Zadoc Street. He had already become known as a fine, skilled and considerate doctor who would travel many miles away from Lismore on horseback to treat a sick patient. Dr FG Connor (from Coraki) joined him in his practice in May 1890 and in July Dr Parker resigned from the hospital with Dr Connor replacing him. Dr Parker went to Sydney, then to Berlin to study tuberculosis with Professor Koch and also other diseases of the chest and heart.

After practising in Sydney for four years, he returned to Lismore in 1895 and he and Dr Bernstein were the only two nominations for Visiting Medical Officer at Lismore Hospital again. Dr Parker had married a much younger ‘local girl’ and as a very keen tennis player, he became one of the founding members of Lismore Tennis Club, also a very keen gardener, supporter of the School of Arts, judge in fine arts in local shows, generous supporter of the Anglican Church and founding president of the local branch of the British Medical Association—the NEMA, in 1912.

He and Dr Connor seemed to have introduced a more moderate medical climate in the town and the doctors co-operated literally to share patient care and help each other. Dr Connor had had to retire from Lismore at the end of 1902 and Dr Bernstein died in August 1907, but Dr Parker continued on with the new doctors in town. In 1910, Dr Parker was reported to have ‘gone in for a motorised buggy’ and sold his pony and harness. That same year, he was appointed Medical Officer to the Railways and drove his vehicle on a return trip to Sydney.

In 1921 a notable event for the Parker family was the lady of the house being made a Justice of the Peace. Due to failing health, Dr Parker had given up active practice some years before he died on 22 May 1927, aged seventy-

six. The local newspaper noted that when he started in Lismore in 1879 there were four to five doctors between Woodburn and Tweed Heads and 'now there are forty-one'. His practice was taken over by Dr JS Milne.

John G Smith

A notable doctor associated with Lismore was John Govett Smith, MRCS (Eng. 1854). He was born in Devon, the son of a doctor and served in the Royal Navy in the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny, being awarded the Silver War Medal with two clasps. In 1862 he arrived in Melbourne and gradually worked his way north in various government medical posts until he was Government Medical Officer in Grafton on and off from 1864, with occasional trips overseas.

His Government Medical Officer position from 1878 led to regular visits to Lismore as a very strong supporter of the movement to build Lismore Hospital. His obvious enterprise led to his starting a little bit of 'moonlighting' in June 1884 from his advertised rooms, 'Rous Villa', at Postmans Hill, across the road from the newly-opened hospital. He tried consulting combined with a mail order medicinal scheme for about two years before he went back to the islands of the Clarence, where he died in 1891 at the age of sixty-three.

Richard N Gaggin

Richard Nason Gaggin, LRCP & LRCS (Edin. 1884), L Mid (Edin. 1884), started to practise in Lismore in March 1885 from a temporary residence in a hotel, but then moved into Dr Parker's rooms, 'Riverview', in Molesworth Street. He was born in Ireland in 1831, went into farming and saw the writing on the wall for farmers. Dr Gaggin graduated from Edinburgh University, in modern terms as a mature-aged student aged fifty-four, and then worked as the Medical Superintendent of the Newcastle on Tyne Hospital in England and Medical Officer to the Firth Bridge Construction Service.

He advertised that he was late of West Kensington (London), Edinburgh and Cork and when he arrived in Lismore he was promptly labelled an unregistered medical practitioner, but he was unchallenged in court on 11 December 1886, when he deposed that he was 'a duly qualified doctor'. He was openly critical of the Visiting Medical Officer arrangement at the public hospital, but as he became very busy and proved to be a very good surgeon and popular doctor, he was added to the visiting staff officially as a Visiting Anaesthetist, becoming the first in that field. He and Dr Parker covered each other's patients when one was on leave.

In May 1886 Dr Gaggin was reported to have ridden on a call from Lismore to Coraki in less than one and a half hours. In 1886 he did an historic Caesarean section when called to Ballina. During all his time in Lismore his wife was a confirmed invalid, who actually survived him by only nine months. He changed his residence after a few years to Zadoc Street, opposite the Anglican church of which he was a great supporter. He was a very charitable man, highly esteemed throughout the district because of his great intellectual capabilities and lofty principles.

In 1901 he became Government Medical Officer (District Health Officer), but in 1902 was unfazed by a fine of forty shillings and costs for keeping unclean premises—a charge brought by the local Inspector of Nuisances (Health Inspector). Dr Gaggin died in Lismore at eighty-five on 20 February 1916, having been father of nine children and a highly-respected doctor residing in Lismore for thirty years, despite his late start.

Eustace HL Pratt

In November 1887, Eustace Henry Lever Pratt, LSA (Eng. 1862), MRCS (Eng. 1862), MD (St Andrew's 1865), JP, started practice in Lismore. Son of an English surgeon, he was born in London in 1842, was a House Surgeon at Guy's Hospital in London and Surgeon to the Army (where he spent time in India and probably became fluent in Mandarin Chinese), before coming to Australia.

He got close to being a true 'Aussie' by marrying in Gundagai in 1870 while working there, then practising in Forbes and Tamworth as a surgeon for over ten years. He had become a great opponent of the use of chloroform as an anaesthetic agent and also 'quackery'. He proved to be a great media user, by placing announcements of his impending benefit on the Lismore medical scene by his operational skill, well before he actually arrived. Dr Pratt may have been a very good doctor, but he obviously misjudged the innate conservative nature of country folk, despite their respect for educated professional people.

He was a constant advertiser of his presence in his Keen Street practice and was also a persistent open critic of the public hospital system in operation at the time, e.g. his public statements that he was far more senior and experienced than the two doctors who had been through the mill to get the hospital going and flourishing and who refrained from any form of public retaliation. The end result was Dr Pratt's medical practice, despite all his hard work in the town and offering his services at the public hospital free and regular consulting days in Ballina and Casino, followed

the prediction of the local newspaper on his arrival—‘we hope he will find Lismore a pleasant place, if not profitable’. Later doctors would confirm that frequent sitting on the court bench as a JP in judgment of the local populace and regular absences looking for work in other towns does not result in a good and happy medical practice.

His having to bring regular court claims for non-payment for his skilful services probably indicated his reason for leaving in July 1892, and passing his practice on to Dr Macqueen, without any stated idea about his own medical future. Dr Pratt wrote several medical tomes and later practised in Tamworth and finally in Sydney, where he had followed his interest in diseases of the skin, before dying in October 1899. His obituary did not make any mention of Lismore.

He was responsible for the introduction of **Dr Frank Calder**, MB (Eng.), FRCS (Eng.), LRCP (Eng.), whose imminent arrival in Australia as partner to Dr Pratt was advertised for four weeks, with the offer to consult with both doctors and be charged for only one, only for Dr Calder to arrive and presumably, concluding that his future in that practice was not promising, depart nine days later, thereby spending the shortest time in medical practice in Lismore’s history, before going to Bundaberg and then Forbes.

Francis G Connor

Francis Gillies Connor, MB, ChB (Edin. 1883), moved from Coraki to Lismore in January 1890. He was born at Swan Creek, on the Clarence in 1861. His mother took him and his brother to Scotland for their education and he graduated from Edinburgh University, returning in due course to his homeland. He started in Coraki in 1886 but he ‘was worn out’ working alone by 1890, so he left Coraki and soon moved in with Dr Parker in Zadoc Street in May 1890, buying the practice that July. He also took over Dr Parker’s position at the hospital.

He gave lectures in first aid in Lismore, was active in the A&I Society, was on the board of Lismore Public School and president of the newly-formed Far North Coast Cricket Association (in 1894). In December 1892, Dr Connor had advertised his partnership with Dr Archibald John Macqueen with the first telephone link between practices. This enabled him to have one year respite in 1895 and he went for a trip to the UK and returned with his MD (Edin. 1895).

In 1897 he did the first recorded craniotomy (open brain operation) in the area, on an unconscious patient who had sustained a depressed fracture

of the skull with brain laceration and recovered fully. Dr Connor continued as a very popular doctor, renowned for his genial manners, great surgical skill and uniform attention to his patients, and in October 1902 he entered into partnership with Dr William James Tilley. Unfortunately, Dr Connor's general health was not satisfactory and after a very emotional farewell and the gratitude of the MUIOOF Lodge and other patients he had served for twelve years, he left in January 1903, disposing of the practice to Dr Tilley.

He was said to be one of the best-known figures about Lismore in his time during which, before the days of the motor car and good roads, he travelled long hours with many consecutive nights' loss of sleep, often during the frequent floods. At his farewell, Dr Connor regretted that his busy medical life and poor hearing stopped him taking much part in public affairs. He went to Sydney but, in his typical fashion, returned to the great delight of his old friends and patients in the area, to set up practice in Mullumbimby in 1906. He died in Sydney at the age of sixty.

Roderick MacDonald

In 1891, Roderick MacDonald, MB, ChM (Glasgow 1884), was in Lismore. He worked in Glasgow hospitals until he arrived in Australia in 1887 and practised in Maclean. From 1891 to 1894, he was Medical Officer to the Railways, caring on site for the workers constructing the Lismore to Tweed rail line. Dr MacDonald was often in Lismore on official railway duties, mostly in court on matters relating to the workers. He moved north progressively with completion of the segments of the line.

John T Dale

John Thomas Dale, LRCP, LRCS (Edin. 1873), sailed into Lismore in June 1892. He is mentioned frequently in stories of the town at the time, although his stay in the area was probably only about six months. He was a sad case, being a self-treated alcoholic man reputedly from the upper echelons of English society and relied on the lodges in various parts of NSW to survive as a doctor. He was actually appointed as a Honorary Medical Officer at Lismore Hospital but was said to follow the rail workers around. In November 1892 he was trying to sue for wrongful dismissal from his position as Medical Officer to the Protestant Alliance Society Lodge, but the court heard that his alcohol problem made him unfit to attend patients and, despite unexpected support from Dr Bernstein, he lost the case.

After he had been physically incapable of attending a small child suffocating on a gooseberry husk, he appears to have taken off for the west

of the state. Dr Dale's life was cut short at the end of 1897 when he ingested prussic acid in his little flat in Macquarie Street, Sydney.

Archibald J Macqueen

In July 1892, Archibald John Macqueen, LRCP, MRCS (Edin.), LFP&S (Glasgow), FRCS (Edin.), MD (Brussels), took over the practice of Dr Pratt in Keen Street, after arriving one month previously to start and then 'altering' his mind, leaving to practise in Goulburn, then deciding against that and returning to Lismore. He had previously been a House Surgeon at Glasgow Royal Infirmary and Lying-in Hospital before starting in Australia at Forbes and Narrabri for eight years, then going on a long tour of Great Britain, America, Belgium and France, devoting a lot of time to study all the recent discoveries in medical science.

At one stage, Drs Parker, Bernstein and Macqueen were cynically dubbed the 'cartel' at the Lismore Hospital, but they were very busy and popular doctors and the Hospital Committee had no complaint with them. Dr Macqueen soon became elected vice-president of a new group—the Literary and Debating Society, Dr Connor being the 'Premier'. He was also appointed Medical Officer to the Pride of Lismore Lodge, was Honorary Doctor to the Ladies' Benevolent Society and was made a JP, which required him to sit on the local bench.

In May 1896, Dr Macqueen did the first operation, with Dr PE Corlis, in the new Ballina District Hospital, on the fractured leg of a man named Smith! He practised in close association with Dr Connor and gave lectures to the St John Ambulance Society. Dr Macqueen left Lismore abruptly at the end of February 1897 to practise in Grenfell but in that September resumed in Lismore in new premises, explaining that he had tried working in several drought-affected areas, but he resumed normal practice in Lismore, even picking up another insurance company on his books. He also took a place on the Lismore Choral Society Committee.

In July 1898, the previous medical harmony appears to have ended when his application for Medical Officer at the hospital was denied on the casting vote of the chairman, and within a week he arranged to leave Lismore and even Australia, although this was soon modified to practising on the opposite side of the country in Laverton, WA. Dr Macqueen died in Derby in 1906 at church. He left behind his son who was to return to practise in his father's old stamping grounds years later.

In 1897, the population of the town was reportedly 3500, with the district said to be 20,000.

Oscar RP Muller

Oscar Rudolph Percy Muller, MB, ChB (Melbourne 1894), Resident Medical Officer at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney in 1895–97 and then Honorary Medical Officer at Hill End Hospital in NSW, took over the practice of Dr Macqueen in July 1898 and, interestingly, was made a Honorary Medical Officer with Dr Parker. He settled in easily and started lecturing to the 'probationer' nurses, and became patron of the redoubtable Half Holiday Cricket Club. Dr Muller probably did not have any difficulty spending the twenty-five pounds 'gratuity' from the hospital in 1899. He lost his wife in 1901 and really threw himself into many activities—flower growing and showing, exhibiting horses and their attachments, playing and being on the executive of the tennis and golf clubs and becoming patron of the rowing club, which in those days was a very active group.

Having reputedly become the proud owner of one of Lismore's first horseless carriages—a dark-red Russell—in 1908, he was then charged with driving at the breakneck speed of more than six mph and fined ten shillings and costs, presumably in the absence of any Samaritan agreement. The same handsome vehicle caused more chagrin when it broke an axle on the Casino road and Dr Muller and his passengers had to enlist the services of a passing bullock team, which pulled them unceremoniously to Lismore.

He was obviously a very slick surgeon, in April 1904 removing a bullet from a child's brain with good outcome. Another notable occasion was in December 1908 when Dr Muller did a rare and difficult operation to remove a tumour from the leg of Dr Tomlins of Alstonville, with the assistance of Dr Coen and Dr Humphery in Lismore, providing an unusual situation in those days of four very competent doctors in theatre at the same time.

In May 1914, he went into partnership with Dr Inglis Robertson in the beautiful building in Molesworth Street, which later became the home of the Lismore Medical Clinic. He served as a Medical Officer in WWI and in March 1915, he was given a farewell by St Andrew's Church, of which he was a very staunch and generous benefactor, but declined a formal farewell from the town. After a trip to Europe, he settled in Sydney but kept returning to Lismore for occasions, such as the show, and even did a locum for Dr KG Lawrance in 1941, eight years before he died.

Charles H Smith Hozier

On 3 January 1900, Charles Henry Smith Hozier, LRCS (Ireland 1871), L&L Mid. KQCPS (Ireland 1871), FRCS (Ireland 1883), arrived in Lismore on the *Tomki*. He started to practise from rooms in Molesworth Street and his home in Keen Street. Born in 1851, he studied in Dublin, then took hospital positions at Coombe Hospital and Mercer's Hospital in Dublin, then in Inverness, Chester, Southport and Dingwall in the UK before practising in Australia from 1884 in Gundagai, Windsor, Sydney, then in Brisbane, where he advertised his previous experience in clinics in London, Paris and Vienna.

Dr Smith Hozier was a life member of St John Ambulance Association and readily accepted the appointment as instructor and examiner to the local branch, and he was in the foundation shoot of the Lismore Gun Club in 1900. Unfortunately, there was no Medical Officer vacancy at the Lismore Hospital and he had to practise from the private hospitals. He was an open critic of the hospital appointments and, after a very public offer of his services on a voluntary basis was declined, he left Lismore at the end of 1903, heading for Tasmania. He served as Medical Officer on a troop ship in WWI and reached the age of eighty-five.

Leighton Kesteven

Leighton Kesteven, MRCS (Eng.), JP, arrived from Sydney to work as locum for Dr Connor on 24 September 1902. English-born, he had been a student at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London and worked as Medical Officer at several asylums in England before taking the post of Chief Medical Officer of Fiji, Medical Superintendent of Brisbane General Hospital for ten years and Medical Officer at Bourke in NSW. He produced several useful medical publications in England and Australia. After one month Dr Kesteven changed his address to that of Dr Bernstein, and probably ran that practice for two years.

Dr Kesteven was used by the courts as magistrate and was involved in the newly-formed and exotically named Richmond River Poultry, Pigeon, Canary and Dog Society and also the photographic club. He made it known that he would consult in Alstonville but the viability of that plan is uncertain. Dr Kesteven left Lismore in September 1904 and settled in Mullumbimby as its first resident doctor.



WILLIAM J TILLEY
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



GEORGE A INNES MACKAY
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



CARLO FRANCESCHI & FAMILY
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



ESCA M HUMPHERY
(Photo: NSW State Archives)

William J Tilley

In October 1902, English-born William James Tilley, MRCS (Eng. 1882), LRCP (Eng. 1884), started working with the ailing Dr Connor. He was a student at Guy's Hospital, London, then was House Surgeon at York Road Hospital in London and at Buxton Rheumatic Hospital, Derbyshire. In 1887 he was in Warwick, Queensland, and then worked in North Sydney before sailing in style on the SS *Tomki* to Lismore. The practice was described at that time as one of the largest country practices in the state (an obvious tribute to Dr Connor's energy and expertise). He showed his mettle as a fine surgeon soon after arrival, and in January 1903 he was on his own in the practice in Zadoc Street, as his new partner could not continue. Dr Tilley was then appointed to Lismore Hospital with Dr Parker, but he and Dr Muller did a lot of operating at Dongrayald Private Hospital on the river bank. He was also appointed Medical Officer to MUIOOF Lodge.

Dr Tilley was widely read and accomplished in many branches of science and art, with serious interest in horticulture, as well as liking photography, fishing, surfing and tennis. In August 1904, he went to Sydney, leaving Dr JS Milne as his locum but in November he disposed of his practice to Dr Milne with the aim of having a break overseas. However, by January 1906, Dr Tilley was back consulting in Keen Street. In March he covered Dr Milne's patients, then in June the 'partnership' was dissolved and Dr Tilley took over all the patients.

At the end of November 1907, he announced that he was ill and went to the Blue Mountains to recover. Then, because of his ill health, in March 1908 his practice was taken over by Dr J Coen, who had been his locum for four months. He tried the cooler climate of Cowra next, but his poor health continued until he died in Warwick, Queensland in 1919—described as not relying on a magnetic personality to succeed in his profession, but as a most lovable man with a suave manner, genial disposition and kindness of heart.

George A Innes Mackay

George Archibald Innes Mackay, MRCP & LRCS (Edin. 1892), LFPS (Glasgow 1895), started consulting in his residence in Keen Street in February 1903. He felt at home in Maclean, the little Scottish town on the Clarence, where he practised from May 1896 for seven years until he moved to Lismore 'to enter larger fields'. Initially, he advertised a weekly consultation at the Great Northern Hotel in Byron Bay, with visits to Bangalow and Mullumbimby, if required. He had been involved in founding a local militia group—The Scottish Rifles. Dr Innes Mackay seemed to be quite involved

in Lismore, particularly in the A&I Society, the rifle club, the poultry club and as captain of the Lismore Mounted Rifle Squadron. He even had a new residence built in Zadoc Street but, suddenly, at the beginning of 1909 he sold his practice to Dr Henderson and went to Cessnock in NSW and then Western Australia as Government Medical Officer of the Shark Bay region where he died unexpectedly in that post in 1924, aged forty-seven.

Albert T Duka

In May 1903, Albert Theophilus Duka, DSO, BA (Cambridge 1888) and MA (Cambridge 1892), LSA (Eng. 1891), MRCS & LRCP (Eng. 1892), started in Dr Smith Hozier's practice, after a transaction described later in a court settlement as unethical behaviour by Dr Smith Hozier. Born in 1866 of Hungarian heritage, he practised in Kensington in London, before going to Mackay in North Queensland in 1897 for two years and then enlisting as Medical Officer in the Queensland Mounted Cavalry in the Boer War—in which he was awarded the DSO, two Mentions in Despatches and the Queen's Medal with two clasps for extraordinary valour and devotion to duty.

Just as he started in Lismore he learned that he had inherited a very large amount of money but he was a dedicated doctor, Classics scholar and lodge member who, with his friendly co-operative colleague, Dr Franceschi, staffed Lismore Hospital for eighteen months, working on 'a pittance' while turning out record levels of clinical load when the hospital was in dire straits, resulting in his reputation as having a philanthropic nature. Dr Duka found time to go into cattle breeding and exhibiting pony harness.

He was involved in formulating a public health plan against the rising problem of plague in the town. He left Lismore in October 1905 with the conviction that he should be present at his parents' Golden Wedding in England. He did not return to Australia and disposed of his practice to Dr Humphery. He enlisted in WWI, fought at Mons in France and worked in a military hospital in England, thereafter taking a government position until he died in 1923 at the age of fifty-seven.

Carlo Franceschi

Carlo Franceschi, MD (Florence 1888) was born in Florence in 1865 and arrived in Lismore in 1903. He was Resident Surgeon at the General Hospital in Florence, Clinical Assistant in Gynaecology and Midwifery at the University Hospital and Chief Surgeon to Outpatients at Santa Maria Nova Hospital in Sofia in Italy. He attained the rank of major in the Army

before arriving in Australia aged thirty and practising in Walgett and Wee Waa in NSW. In Walgett a fire destroyed all his books and most of his instruments and drugs in 1903 and he left that area. In November he 'intimated' in the local Lismore paper that he had commenced practise of his profession in Molesworth Street.

He became the Medical Officer of the Rous MUIOOF Lodge and was soon a Visiting Medical Officer at the Lismore Hospital. He lectured and examined in the first aid courses and was always a staunch supporter of the Catholic Church, the bishop being one of his greatest fans, also later being a strong supporter of St Vincent's Hospital. Dr Franceschi had a great love for the arts and encouraged his two talented daughters in serious singing and musical pursuits. He was a proud exhibitor of horses, keen player and office bearer at the bowling club since its foundation, committee member of the coursing club, as well as having a very active part in the philharmonic society.

In 1908 Dr Franceschi protested at the actions of the Hospital Board inviting an 'outside' doctor to use the hospital facilities and resigned with all the accredited hospital doctors, weathering a particularly offensive reaction from the board before a speedy resolution from them to revert to the original rules by which the hospital operated.

He served terms as Medical Superintendent and Government Medical Officer, the latter during the pneumonic flu epidemic of 1919, which placed a very heavy administrative and clinical burden on him and led to his giving up the Government Medical Officer post soon after. At the end of August 1920, Dr Franceschi was accorded a public farewell, with extraordinary generosity shown by the townspeople in a farewell gift. He left a huge practice in town and all parts of the surrounding district. **John Stuart MacFarlane**, MB (Sydney 1908), Resident Medical Officer at RPAH (1908), had come from Wellington in NSW to run the practice in August 1920, but despite his popularity in the Caledonian Club, he left in November 1921 and went to Cessnock in NSW.

Dr Franceschi, after fifteen months in Macquarie Street in Sydney, was back in Lismore in the Conway Street home and practice, reportedly 'yielding to the solicitations of his friends and patients to come back and look after them'. He had time to operate on the bishop and play bowls before his reported recovery from ill health stalled and he died at his home in March 1922. He had only been back to his homeland once since he had been in Australia—to try to help his daughter to a singing career in 1913. His house and practice were taken over by Dr J Leslie Roberts.

James S Milne

In August 1904, James Shaw Milne, MB, ChM (Aberdeen 1885), started work in Lismore, initially as a locum, then associate of Dr Tilley. He was a Scot, claiming descendancy from Robert Burns and had practised in North Sydney for many years. Dr Milne had interests in showing pony harness and in re-forestation on a farm at Koonorigan, but his association with Dr Tilley ceased and he left Lismore in the middle of 1906. After that he was at Dulwich Hill, North Sydney and Coolangatta before returning to Scotland in 1940.

Esca M Humphery

Esca Morris Humphery, MB, ChM (Sydney 1902), bought Dr Duka's practice in March 1906, having previously been in Maclean in 1903 and Bellingen in 1903–5. He was a very stylish and artistic man who soon joined the Anglican Parish Council, the Temperance Lodge, the Visiting Medical Staff at Lismore Hospital and the judges in arts and crafts at the local A&I Shows. A very accomplished flute-player, Dr Humphery was a force behind the group, including Dr Cahill, to establish a Lismore Musical Festival Society. He was a keen shower of buggy horses but in 1909, he moved easily with the times and bought a fine motor buggy which was often used to convey visiting dignitaries around the district.

He had a well-run practice with a nurse and dispenser in his surgery. Soon after he joined the hospital visiting staff, the Hospital Committee demanded his resignation when he protested about the hospital encouraging visits from a non-appointed doctor—a move quickly regretted by the committee when the whole medical staff left with him, only to return soon after when the positions at the hospital were blacklisted by the BMA, to which Dr Humphery devoted much of his time in Lismore, and nobody applied for the unwisely advertised 'vacancies'.

Dr Humphery was regarded as doing a great deal as a townsman, for example, campaigning for road signs at danger spots, and for smallpox vaccination to avoid the terrible disfigurement of the victims. In May 1914, he started to sell his collection of fine paintings and this set off a round of farewells ending with a civic gathering at the council chambers in June 1914. A new phase started for him around Hornsby with a long-lasting surgical appointment to Royal North Shore Hospital.

Augusto Braccer

In January 1907, Augusto Braccer, MD (Parma 1900), arrived in town, initially as a locum to cover for Dr Franceschi, but later working with him in the practice. He was born in Italy in 1870 and had come from Walgett,

causing the people of that town to comment that Lismore had stolen yet another of their medical men. He was appointed to Lismore Hospital in his own right and survived the 'outside doctor' controversy but he resigned from the hospital in March 1908, resulting in an 'outsider' being appointed to the hospital. Dr Braccer bought a house block in Lismore at the end of 1908, but by the end of the next year he was in Bourke and finally in Surat in North Queensland for many years.

Jessie M Stewart

Jessie Marie Stewart, MB, ChM (Glasgow 1904), L Mid of Rotunda Hospital in Dublin, started a practice in rooms in Molesworth Street at the end of January 1907. She was born in Brisbane and went to Scotland and Ireland for her medical education, then visited Italian hospitals before a short time in Beenleigh in her home state. As the first lady doctor to work in Lismore, she was very popular with the women and children of the town and gave lectures to the schoolteachers and pupils in health and first aid, as well as being Honorary Medical Officer to the Women's Benevolent Society. She was appointed anaesthetist at Lismore Hospital and Medical Officer to the Hibernian Society.

Dr Stewart seemed to be a happy part of the medical family in the town but in November 1908, resigned from the hospital, apologising for the lack of usual notice. She did not leave a successor and went to Toogoolawah in Queensland, then married and practised in Toowoomba.

Joseph Coen

In November 1907, Joseph Coen, MB, ChM (Sydney 1905), a boy from Yass, who did his residency at St Vincent's Hospital in Darlinghurst, started as a locum for Dr Tilley, who was in poor health. He had spent almost two years visiting the principal hospitals of England and the Continent. He was appointed straight to Lismore Hospital and in March 1908, took over the practice in Zadoc Street on his own.

Dr Coen was mainly a physician, acted long term as Medical Superintendent, and his wide social interests included the rowing club, annual Lismore Irish Music Festival Club, Hibernian Club, Catholic Club as founding president and St Carthage's Debating Society. In 1909, he married a keen lady golfer and, as a pioneer of the game in Lismore, he maintained an active role in the Lismore Golf Club—having the distinction of becoming the first member to get a hole in one, although this was at Ballina.

He was vice-president of the football club, played club and district tennis, was Honorary Surgeon to the race club and on the committee of



JESSIE M STEWART
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



JOSEPH COEN
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



RONALD L HENDERSON
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



ROBERT KELLAS
(Photo: NSW State Archives)

the Lismore Musical Society. Dr Coen was Medical Officer to the Pride of Lismore Protestant Alliance Lodge for his twenty years in Lismore and somehow found the time to be active in the philosophical society.

Fittingly, he was farewelled by the golf and Catholic clubs in April 1927. He sold his practice to Dr JR Ryan and hoped to see America. He went on to a new career in Sydney as a physician at Lewisham Hospital and in 1938 was honoured by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians with a Foundation Fellowship.

John G Dunlop

It is recorded that John Gordon Dunlop, MB, ChM (Glasgow), Fellow Royal Institute Public Health, London, advertised in 1908 in the local papers that he was House Surgeon in Lismore. He had been in Longreach in Queensland and West Wyalong in NSW, available for consultation in the local chemist's shop, mainly for diseases of the skin.

In March 1908, the Hospital Committee Secretary took it upon himself to call Dr Dunlop to attend patients in the hospital and as a result of the rapid reaction from the elected Medical Officers, he was made Medical Superintendent for about two months before sanity prevailed and he resigned. He had warned the Hospital Committee that he was liable to be 'called away at any time' and it appears that is what happened at the end of May 1908.

John Service

John Service, LRCP&LRCS (Edin. 1878), L.Mid (Edin.), was brought by the Hospital Committee to Lismore from Wee Waa in 1908 as a salaried replacement (with Dr Dunlop) for the absent appointed Medical Officers. He had been previously at the Sydney Quarantine Station and various rural parts of NSW, but after staying with his wife at a local hotel from mid-April, he was told that the committee had had second thoughts about the hospital situation and by June he had no job. He had advertised his presence in town but had to leave soon after and was compensated by the Hospital Committee. He went to Sydney and started work at the Sydney Medical Institute and wrote novels as a sideline.

After his departure, normal harmonious relations between the Hospital Committee and the Medical Officers were resumed at the hospital.

Ronald L Henderson

In January 1909, Ronald Lennox Henderson, MB, ChM (Edin. 1903), leased the former house of Dr Innes Mackay in Lismore. He was born in 1878 and

educated locally in Townsville, after which he qualified to enter medicine in New Zealand but after first year, he transferred to Edinburgh, graduated and then worked as House Physician and Surgeon at the Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle. Dr Henderson returned to Australia in 1903 and worked in Adaminaby in NSW. He was appointed as Medical Officer to a MUIOOF Lodge and to the Lismore Hospital, doing both surgery and anaesthetics, but he left the public hospital after about two years.

His wife died suddenly of peritonitis in January 1913, leaving him with three-year-old twins and, after trying to continue in Lismore, he later went in 1913 to Crows Nest in Queensland, where he had the help of his stepsister. The sad story continued when he resolved to go to the war and married his sister-in-law in the vicarage the night before he embarked, then was wounded twice, was awarded the Military Cross for valour and died from his multiple wounds in Woolwich Military Hospital in 1917, aged thirty-nine, without seeing his new wife or children again.

On 18 April 1912, the North Eastern Medical Association (NEMA) was started as an affiliate of the NSW BMA, with members from the Richmond, Clarence and Tweed River regions. The NEMA served as a central body to amalgamate what was threatening to become a fragmented and disorganised lot of individual practitioners. From that time, the doctors would be able to join the membership of the NEMA.

Arthur J Cahill

Arthur James Cahill, MB (Melbourne 1903), ChB (Melb. 1904), had practised as a GP in Coraki until March 1911, when he went to England and Scotland to start specialising in eye, ear, nose and throat surgery. In July 1912, he opened his rooms in Molesworth Street, becoming the first specialist in both eye and ENT surgery and was appointed to Lismore Hospital straight away.

He lost no time in resuming his intense involvement in music and opera as an acclaimed conductor, baritone and concert pianist with the Lismore Philharmonic Society, Operatic Society and Lismore Music Festival Society. He had a ready-made ally in Dr Humphery. Dr Cahill's contacts and influence in the musical world were so extraordinary that he arranged for nationally and world famous artists to perform in Lismore. His enthusiasm was so great that the rise in popularity of the local music, drama and opera scene led him to worry that it might become overdone. His initial home, the elegant 'Tooloona' in Goonellabah was ideal for hosting his frequent visiting stars.

He did his share of lecturing in first aid in the community and volunteered to serve as Medical Officer at Ennogerah and then overseas, mainly in Egypt, as captain, then major in WWI. Dr Cahill was a valuable attendee of Lismore Hospital staff meetings with his vast experience in committee procedures. After fifteen years in Lismore, Dr Cahill was only forty-seven when he disposed of his practice to Dr KB Gaden, and went to the new developing city of Canberra in October 1927 to begin forty years in the nation's capital.

Robert Kellas

In November 1912, Robert Kellas, MB, ChB (Aberdeen 1910), started as assistant to Dr RL Henderson in Keen Street. Born in Aberdeen in Scotland in 1881, he was reported to have started as a chemist's apprentice for a time. After medical school, he was House Surgeon at St Mary's Hospital for Women and Children in Manchester, House Physician at Walsall District Hospital in Staffordshire, Ophthalmic House Physician at Coventry Hospital and House Surgeon at Croydon General Hospital in London.

Later in 1913, Dr Kellas continued on his own in the practice and became very involved in medical, hospital and civic affairs. He was appointed commandant of a Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment, patron of the poultry society and was Honorary Hospital Medical Superintendent for some years. On one occasion, Dr Kellas and some of the men about



Lismore District Hospital, c.1909

town went for a rabbit shooting trip to Tamworth and bagged forty-eight rabbits to sell for the financially ailing hospital, disappointed at their tally because the car broke down on the hunt.

In 1919, he took leave from the hospital to go to the front as captain in the AAMC in WWI. He returned to Lismore in time to have his appendix removed by his colleagues, earning ten days' rest in hospital. He also showed daring on many occasions by acting as a judge at baby shows, which seemed to be all the go in those days.

In 1922, Dr Kellas declined appointment to Lismore Hospital to start his local government career, with more than twenty years as an alderman and two one-year terms as mayor. As well, he became president of the New State League, formed in 1923, patron of the Ambulance Association and medical assessor of the Workers' Compensation Commission, chairman of the Lismore Memorial Baths Committee, having led for years a hard fight for their construction, and earned the description from the Hospital Committee President as having an obsession with building a home for the aged and infirm, with the added comment that it was likely to come to fruition.

In 1927, he was joined in practice by Dr JM Banks. When he returned to the hospital, from 1934 he was classified as a surgeon under the new system to allow the qualification of Lismore Hospital as a Grade A Base Hospital.

Thereafter he took the mantle of Government Medical Officer and the coveted position of Deputy Sheriff of Lismore, for whom one task was ensuring the safety and comfort of the visiting judge, which put him at odds on occasions, with claimants feeling that he was a doctor on the side of the law. In 1935 he took a trip to the UK and did a course at the Hammersmith Hospital in London.

In 1947 he risked public unpopularity by supporting the Women's Christian Temperance Union in opposing an application for a liquor licence by the Lismore Golf Club where, of course, members—including thirsty doctors—had managed to get a refreshing alcoholic drink after a game for quite some time. In later years, Dr Kellas became chairman of the Rous County Council and was behind the move to start an annual Robert Burns 'nicht' at the District Scottish Association.

He rekindled Dr Bernstein's visions of extended sewerage, drainage and electrical power services and had close association with the bridges at either end of the town and development of the Rocky Creek Dam. He was instrumental in development of the Women's Croquet Club after removal of the saleyards from downtown Lismore. He was almost eighty-five when

he died on a trip to Brisbane and was buried in Lismore in 1966. He was the first Lismore doctor to have a street named after him.

Francis L Bignell

Francis Lawrence Bignell, DSO, MB, ChM (Melbourne 1911), born in Carlton in Melbourne in 1886, had worked as Resident Medical Officer and Senior Resident Medical Officer at the Brisbane General Hospital. In December 1912 he started practice in partnership with Dr Humphery in 'Meringa' in Molesworth Street, and in 1914 he moved into a new house in Magellan Street to practise alone. In 1915, he started lectures to the Field Ambulance Corps and the next year went to war as captain in the AAMC for over three years in which he was Mentioned in Despatches twice, then awarded the DSO for gallantry. He was gassed severely at the front and when 'recovering' in London, he took the opportunity to gain further experience at the renowned Queen Charlotte's Women's Hospital, the Middlesex and Great Ormonde Street Children's Hospital, in London and the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin.

When he returned home, he was major in command of the 15th Field Ambulance in Lismore, later on the 41st Battalion, and became a lifelong great supporter of returned servicemen.

Rather than taking things quietly, Dr Bignell had six children, became president of the musical society, played and was on the committee of the golf club, was on the Anglican Parish Council, Medical Officer to two lodges, Honorary Medical Officer to the Richmond Rugby League Association, was elected to the committee of the NRMA. He was Honorary Hospital Medical Superintendent at the time he died at forty-two on 27 August 1928, two weeks after seeming to have recovered from an appendicectomy two weeks before, but never having recovered from his 'war injury'. His practice was taken over by Dr Bluett. Dr Bignell has a memorial stained-glass window in the St Andrew's Church he served so well.

Roy V Graham

Roy Vescys Graham, MB, (Sydney 1913), Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1914, took over Dr Humphery's practice in April, 1914. He was a captain in the AAMC Reserve and while he practised full-time, he continued to study and attained the ChM (Sydney) in 1919 and his MD (Sydney) in 1921. Dr Graham played a big role during the pneumonic flu epidemic in 1919, visiting the Alstonville area, which was without a resident doctor, and arranging virtual isolation of the village from Lismore with a great result for the villagers.

He took on the position of Medical Officer to the Red Cross Society, president of Lismore Tennis Club, later on becoming a board member of *The Northern Star* newspaper and, in 1926, Deputy Sheriff of Lismore—which required him to sit on the court bench on occasions.

In 1925 he and Dr AJ Opie installed the first X-ray machine in the area, in the private hospital. He was on the visiting staff of Lismore Hospital, but at the end of 1927 he was joined in practice by Dr RE Longworth, who carried on solo when Dr Graham left at the end of January 1928 to continue his surgical career, becoming a Fellow of the RACS and being attracted by one of the founding fathers of Australian Orthopaedic Surgery into a long-term association at Lewisham Hospital in Sydney in that speciality.

Inglis Robertson

At the end of May 1914, Inglis Robertson, MB, ChB (Glasgow 1912), started in partnership with Dr Muller, in Molesworth Street. Son of a Scottish doctor in Sydney, he had been sent to Glasgow for his medical education and repaid the support of his family by topping his final year and getting four distinctions. Then he was House Surgeon, Senior House Surgeon at the Western Infirmary and Honorary Physician to the Skin Department at that hospital. Soon after arrival in town, he was appointed to Lismore 'General' Hospital and took over from Dr Bignell (on leave at the front) as Medical Officer to the Recruiting Department in town.

Dr Robertson was a talented flute and piccolo player and a great exponent of the bagpipes, so it was only natural that he should become an enthusiastic member and executive of the Lismore Orchestral Society, Musical Festival Society, Caledonian Society and its pipe band. Dr Muller had a huge practice, but his partner and successor still found time to be an active member and trustee of Lismore Tennis Club and help found the Lismore Protestant Foundation. Dr Robertson was a popular guest speaker, notably at the august Women's Christian Temperance Union on some occasions, because he was especially interested in children's health and welfare.

He was one of the growing number of professional people from Lismore who repaired to the seaside, e.g. Brunswick Heads, for a break from their hectic lives. He told a meeting once that it was very important to have an engrossing hobby as a distraction to use different portions of the brain to allow those used all day to rest.

He lasted ten busy years in Lismore, until April 1924, when he gave in to his wish to re-visit the UK and he handed over to Dr AJ Opie. Dr

Robertson later practised in North Sydney with special interest in children's health, also setting up a flautist society and starting a fulfilling role in Rotary International. His son later expressed the opinion that Lismore had a special place in his father's memories.

Theodore W Van Epen

Theodore William Van Epen, MB (Sydney 1913), ChM (Sydney 1914), arrived in Lismore on 4 April 1914 to start a practice opposite the Lismore Hospital. He was born in Copmanhurst and his father was a schoolteacher who schooled his son and later became a faith healer in Lismore. Theodore became a schoolteacher at Booerie Creek and then went to do medicine at Sydney University, was a Resident at Sydney Hospital in 1913–14 and was soon appointed to Lismore Hospital.

Dr Van Epen was a keen lecturer in first aid to the teachers and in home nursing classes. He joined the Lismore Musical Festival Society and the golf and bowling clubs. As captain in the AAMC, he served at the front in Egypt and Palestine from early 1916 until mid-1918, when he returned to Lismore, where he resumed his practice and also used his talent as a pianist to perform publicly. He moved to Casino in January 1920.

Alexander Y Fullerton

In June 1916, Alexander Young Fullerton, LRCP (Eng.), MRCS (Eng.), arrived in town to work with Dr Kellas. He was born in Sydney, but after high school went to England to study medicine and was a House Surgeon at Liverpool Royal Infirmary before he went to the Boer War, where he was awarded a medal and two clasps for bravery. Back home in 1902, he was in practice in Murrurundi in northern NSW for eight years, then Windsor from where he went to Gallipoli as major in WWI and was repatriated with gunshot wounds to the foot.

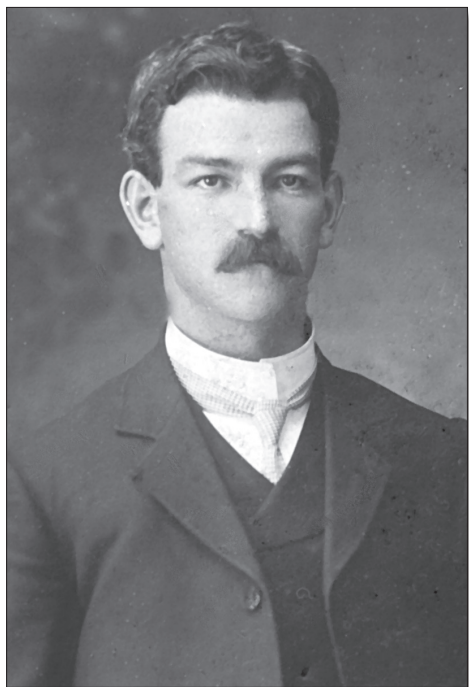
In Lismore, Dr Fullerton was in a very busy practice, was a great worker for the RSL, was on the Hospital Committee and pushed very hard to get a benevolent home for the town. He was president of the RSL Association in 1918 and Hospital Superintendent in 1919, when he also took over the Government Medical Officer duties because Dr Franceschi was too busy, and worked tirelessly during the flu epidemic, doing 427 urgent calls to the hospital. He lasted until October 1919 when he resigned and disposed of his practice to Dr Bignell, going to practise in Pennant Hills in Sydney, where he was reported to be 'now enjoying a little leisure after a very strenuous time in Lismore' and starting a poultry farm.



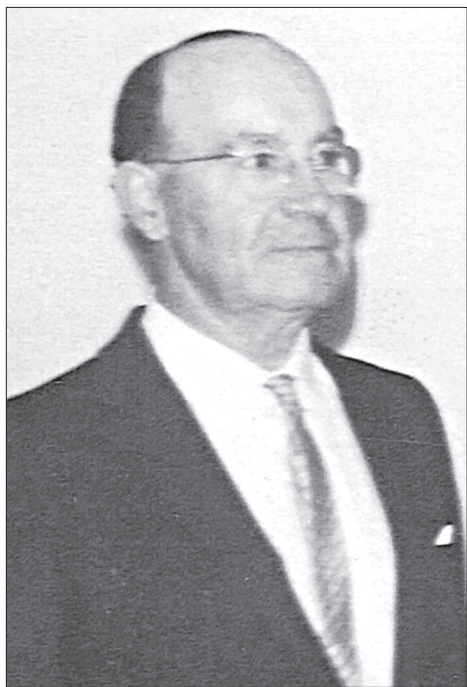
FRANCIS L BIGNELL
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



ROY V GRAHAM
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



THEODORE W VAN EPEN
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



JOHN L ROBERTS

Arthur M Aspinall

Arthur Martel Aspinall, MB (Sydney 1911), ChM (Sydney 1913), was practising in Lismore in Little Keen Street at the beginning of 1920. He was born in Forbes and his father, the first headmaster of The Scots College in Sydney, managed to put all his five children through medicine. Dr Arthur Aspinall trained at Sydney Hospital and was Resident Skiagraphist and Pathologist in 1911–12, then went to the UK, working as Resident Medical Officer at Queen's Hospital for Children in London in 1913 and Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital in 1914. He worked in 'the thriving township' of Nimbin for one year in 1915–16 and enlisted as captain in the AAMC serving at the Base Hospital at Randwick and then in Egypt and Palestine.

He was a popular guest speaker and lectured in first aid, was Medical Superintendent for some years and was the operator for the X-ray at the hospital. Dr Aspinall was a talented tennis player and on the club executive, on the Lismore Musical Festival Committee and active member of the North Eastern Medical Association. He was an active supporter of the orchestral society, the rowing club, Lismore Golf Club, the radio club and the RSL movement. He was still single when he was given an official farewell in September 1928, but this changed in 1930 when he was in general practice in Turramurra in Sydney. He was replaced by Dr JB Oakeshott.

John L Roberts

In the middle of 1922, John Leslie (Les) Roberts, MB, ChM (Sydney 1922), came to help Dr Franceschi during his illness and took over his practice in Conway Street. Born in 1898 in Roma, Queensland, he did some training at RPAH in Sydney and then was appointed Honorary Surgeon at Lismore District Hospital and later at St Vincent's Hospital in Lismore. He became Senior Medical Officer to the Hibernian Society and soon settled in as a keen worker for the medical profession, being chairman of the Hospital Medical Board and president of the NEMA, also serving long-term as their delegate to the state branch of the BMA.

Dr Roberts was on the executive of the coursing club and Honorary Medical Officer and timekeeper at the inaugural Lismore Jockey Club meeting in December 1934. He lectured to the ambulance officers, was vice-president of the rowing club, the athletic club, Marist Brothers' Baseball Club and Honorary Medical Officer to Ballina–Lismore Surf Club. He was a keen member of the golf club. He was active in the Irish Music Festival Society, a foundation member of Lismore Rotary and so he was able to

play an important part in the foundation of the Lismore branch of the Richmond River Historical Society, by organising Rotary to subsidise the initial expenses of the society. In 1937 he did a ten-month tour of the UK, Europe and America and was able to report that the average standard of the Australian GP was higher than a panel doctor in England.

Dr Roberts was at the forefront of the development and growth of St Vincent's Hospital and was the Government Medical Officer and Medical Examiner for the Department of Civil Aviation for many years, as well as taking a leading role in the education and registration of nurses. He was joined in practice in 1950 by Dr NJ Rogers and in 1955 by his son, Dr TL Roberts, who moved later to specialise in obstetrics and gynaecology. When Dr Rogers left to work alone in 1971, Dr RM Miller started with Dr JL Roberts, who retired in 1975 and died in St Vincent's Hospital in June 1979.

Archelaus J Opie

Archelaus James Opie, MB, ChB (Melbourne 1906), took over the practice of Dr Inglis Robertson in April 1924, practising in Molesworth Street. Often referred to as 'Father' Opie, he was born in Bendigo in Victoria in 1883 and spent the first part of his life in Melbourne, and did such traditional things as going to Melbourne University, doing a residency at Royal Melbourne Hospital for three years, becoming a pianist of concert standard, having a very good singing voice and playing Australian Rules football for Carlton. He was always keen on physical fitness and played many sports to a high standard in spite of his vast number of medical and social undertakings.

Having practised in Kapunda in South Australia and Devonport in Tasmania, he ran a solo practice in Coraki before doing postgraduate work back in Melbourne for one year and then settling in Lismore for the rest of his life, which was so productive and long that any reasonably accurate temporal documentation is not attempted.

Dr Opie practised in Molesworth Street, initially on his own, was appointed Honorary Surgeon at Lismore Hospital, was Medical Superintendent for many years, also on the Hospital and Medical Boards and was responsible (with Dr JR Ryan) for the development of the Regional Blood Transfusion Service. In 1925, he and Dr RV Graham installed the region's first X-ray machine, in the private hospital. As time passed, he became the ultimate surgical opinion on the difficult or important cases of other colleagues over far more than the Lismore area. In 1932, he was considered worthy of the honour of Foundation Member of the RACS—an amazing feat for a doctor out of the mainstream in rural NSW.

He was, over the years, president of the Lismore Music Festival Society and the operatic and dramatic society, as well as a member of Rotary and the lodge. Dr Opie was the frequent holder of well-attended musical soirees lasting sometimes all weekend, at his home or his beach house. He maintained such a high level of fitness that he swam regularly and played at a very competitive level tennis, golf and bowls. He carried out the office of president of the NEMA. When he became a leading figure in the Lismore Club at the other end of town, the golf club complained about his increasing absence. He was a force behind the rowing club and a founding director of *The Northern Star* newspaper and Radio Station 2LM.

His two sons graduated in medicine, Richard practised for two years in Lismore and Jim for many years. 'Father' Opie became a Consultant Surgeon in 1956. He retired from active practice in 1966 and was awarded the MBE in 1970 for services to the community. He died in Lismore in July 1981 at the age of ninety-eight, three years after having become what was surely the oldest Australian to have a cardiac pacemaker inserted, this having been done in Lismore by doctors from 'The Coast' training school.

Louie M Fraser

At the beginning of 1927, Louie Mansel Fraser, MB, ChM (Sydney 1926), a Lismore girl, started in practice in Lismore and at the hospital. In April 1928, she advised that she was leaving to become a Resident Medical Officer at St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn in Sydney. Ultimately, she practised in Queensland. When she was appointed Honorary Medical Officer to the hospitals again in 1961 for a short time, perhaps she was just doing a locum near her mother.

James R Ryan

James Redmond Ryan, MB, ChM (Sydney 1922), Resident Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney from 1922–1926, succeeded Dr J Coen in March 1927 in his Zadoc Street practice and in his appointment with the Pride of Lismore Lodge. Born in Lithgow, he was widely known as 'Reddo' and he practised on his own from 1927 to 1965. Like his state politician father, he became very popular and served as a member of many committees, especially that formed to start St Vincent's Hospital, Lismore, which was opened in 1932 and administered by the Catholic Church.

Dr Ryan and Dr AJ Opie were responsible for the setting up of the Regional Blood Transfusion Service, and Dr Ryan was at the forefront of regular diphtheria immunisation programs. He was also vice-president

of Marist Brothers' Football Club and the Marist Brothers' Baseball Club, Honorary Medical Officer to the boxing association and gave long service to the NEMA as secretary then president, and was involved with the Catholic Church and its Education Board. He was on the committee of the Irish Musical Festival Society but, apart from his support for the formation of an apparently short-lived GPS Old Boys' Association, he avoided any appearance of religious exclusivity, which was starting to appear in the town.

He took on the presidency of the Lismore and District Co-operative Building Society, formed in 1935 to assist townspeople to buy their own home. He was a keen supporter of the rowing club, vice-president of the Brunswick Heads Surf Life Saving Club, and was active in local government politics.

In 1939 he was elected to the very responsible position of member of NSW Medical Registration Board, which met every month in Sydney and he missed very few meetings in the next twenty-nine years. During the war he was behind the formation and administration of the JB Oakeshott Fund, which gave financial support to doctors serving away in the war and their families. Not surprisingly, he was awarded the Coronation Medal in 1953. Dr Ryan's son Peter became a doctor in 1957. 'Reddo' stopped practising in 1965 and died in November 1976.

Frank ER Biggs

In March 1927, Frank Eric Raymond Biggs, MB, ChM (Sydney 1917), commenced practice in Skype Chambers in Woodlark Street. He was a Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1917–18 and Registrar in 1920, serving in WWI as captain in the AAMC Reserve. He had then been Honorary Associate Radiologist at the Mater Hospital in North Sydney and Honorary Radiologist at Prince Henry Hospital in Sydney before he commenced his solo private radiology practice in Lismore. As the first of his specialty in the town, he had his own equipment and provided services over a large area. He was an Honorary at Lismore Hospital, but as the board president stated, the X-ray plant there was valueless and needed to be improved or replaced, so he carried out a great deal of the hospital work at his own premises, which was quite an imposition on him.

Dr Biggs being the only radiologist around, the Richmond River Rugby League Association astutely appointed him their X-ray doctor. He was a very keen golfer, appearing to enjoy the usual popularity accorded a 20-marker.

He resigned from the hospital in October 1933 after selling his practice to Dr RJ Stabback, and was thanked officially for his generosity towards the hospital. Dr Biggs went to Bendigo in Victoria.

James M Banks

James Matthew Banks, MB, BS (Sydney 1924), was appointed to the Lismore Hospital as Honorary Medical Officer in October 1927 and practised with Dr Kellas. He was a Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1924 and practised in Woodburn from October 1924, playing golf at Lismore Golf Club in that time and after he moved to Lismore.

He worked hard and relaxed hard, got his pilot's licence and his own plane in 1929, and then started flying medical missions in the region. His golfing ability was such that he was the local club champion soon after arrival in the area, and in 1929 he won the Queensland Amateur Golf Championship 6 and 5, building his game around long straight driving and accurate putting. He continued golf at that level during his time in Lismore and had the great disappointment of missing out on a four-ball game with his local partner—with whom he also won the Queensland Amateur Foursomes—against the great American golfer, Walter Hagen and the Australian star, Joe Kirkwood, because of Lismore's torrential rain which had marred the lives of many of the non-golfing local doctors over the years. Naturally, he was captain of the Lismore Golf Club but he also played competition tennis to tournament standard.

He was vice-president of the St John Ambulance Society and was active in the aero club. He must have had a flair for surgery, laying the foundation for his future after Lismore, which he left without much warning in July 1931, going to Sydney and then London where he was 'a well-known plastic surgeon', flying himself (and on one occasion ten gold bars illegally) to visit patients on the Continent. He served as a lieut-commander in the Royal Navy in WWII.

Keith B Gaden

In November 1927, Keith Burton Gaden, MB (Sydney 1914), succeeded Dr Cahill in his specialist practice in eye and ear, nose and throat surgery in Molesworth Street. He had been previously in Rockhampton. He was a supporter and vice-president of the rowing club. From the beginning of 1934, there were two eye and ear, nose and throat specialists in Lismore, Dr Gaden and Dr RH Fletcher, then Dr Gaden and Dr T Boyd Law until Dr Gaden left in March 1936 after his appointment by the Queensland government to work in the north of the state investigating more prevalent diseases in the area.

Roland E Longworth

Roland Edward Longworth, MB, ChM (Sydney 1926), started practising with Dr RV Graham in December 1927, on the corner of Molesworth and Conway Streets. Born in Petersham in Sydney in 1890, known as ‘Rolly’, he had been Resident Medical Officer at Western Suburbs Hospital in Sydney in 1926–27. He had served in WWI from 1914 to 1917 at Gallipoli as a private in the Infantry, was wounded, recovered and then became RSM in the Imperial Camel Corps in Palestine. In 1918, he studied for the Matriculation Certificate and graduated at the age of thirty-six.

He was a very good tennis player and had played at the Australian Championships, so he joined the Lismore Tennis Club in its inaugural year in 1928. The official opening of the club was marred by heavy rain, so the players held a bridge tournament in the clubhouse instead.

Dr Longworth was appointed Honorary Medical Officer at Lismore Hospital and after two months he was on his own in the practice. He was a physician with special skill in giving anaesthetics and was Honorary Cardiologist.

As a music lover and good pianist, he became a popular accompanist at the regular gatherings of the ex-servicemen, of whom he was a great supporter. Over the years, he was involved with the Music Festival Society, the music lovers’ club, lodge, the rugby union club, Eastwood United Soccer Club, the Lismore Workers’ RLFC, the rowing club and the Rugby League Referees’ Association.

In 1931, Dr Longworth started the Lismore United Diggers and Citizens Choir, probably to have a bit of fun, but they were very much in demand and even went on tour. A keen golfer and bowler, in 1934 he was the inaugural president of the Lismore Jockey Club and became a racehorse-owner. He was a long-term president of the RSL Club and the Association, being elected life member for his services.

He volunteered in WWII as major in the 15th Cavalry Regiment, but was transferred to the Medical Corps. Dr Longworth became associated with Dr FL Nicholl in practice. Later on, he compiled *A History of Medical Practice in The Richmond River District* up to 1925, for members of the North Eastern Medical Association, complete with anecdotal comments, an extraordinary undertaking in his day. He died in Lismore in 1961, after a long illness.

In 1928, Lismore District Hospital Committee resolved to open the doors for all registered doctors practising in Lismore to apply to attend to patients at the hospital and even included Dr Broughton of Bangalow and Dr Bluett of Alstonville.

Charles C Corlis

Charles Christopher Corlis, MD (Ohio Wesleyan University 1898), MC, was appointed an Honorary Physician to Lismore Hospital in April 1928. Born in Ontario, Canada in 1877, he was a brother of Dr Phillip, son of Drs Josiah and Margaret Amelia Corlis of Ballina and Bangalow, in which sections they are reported. 'Dr Charlie' left Bangalow at the age of fifty-three and was associated with the hospital until about 1938, when he started to reduce his workload, which had been considerable over many years.

He was a very keen bowler, also involved in golf and rifle-shooting. He was a keen supporter of the Wanderers' Cricket Club and Medical Officer to the Oddfellows' Cricket Club. In 1934 his son, Wilson, joined him in Lismore. In 1944, Dr Charlie was in Bonalbo, where he managed the much slower pace for five years before, at the age of seventy-three, he died after having been in medical practice in the Richmond River district for over fifty years.

Cecil Bluett

In September 1928, Cecil Bluett, LMSSA (Eng. 1914), LRCP & MRCS (Eng. 1919), moved from Alstonville after nine years in solo practice. He was born in Tamworth in NSW but went to England to study medicine and then served in the RAAMC in WWI. In Lismore he took over from the late Dr Bignell, joining Dr R Kellas and Dr JM Banks in Magellan Street.

Dr Bluett was Honorary Surgeon at Lismore District Hospital and enjoyed bowls. He was a dedicated supporter of returned servicemen, serving as patron of the Alstonville RSSAAILA for twenty years. He revisited England in 1936 and saw his son, who had also chosen to study medicine in London. Dr Bluett had been ailing for some time when he died in Lismore in November 1943 at the age of fifty-four and official flags were flown at half mast in Lismore and Alstonville. The practice was taken over in August 1944 by Dr TG Hewitt.

John B Oakeshott

John Bernard Oakeshott, MB, ChM (Sydney 1925), born in Sydney in 1901, took over Dr Aspinall's practice in Keen Street in September 1928 and became an Honorary Physician at Lismore Hospital, with special



JAMES R RYAN



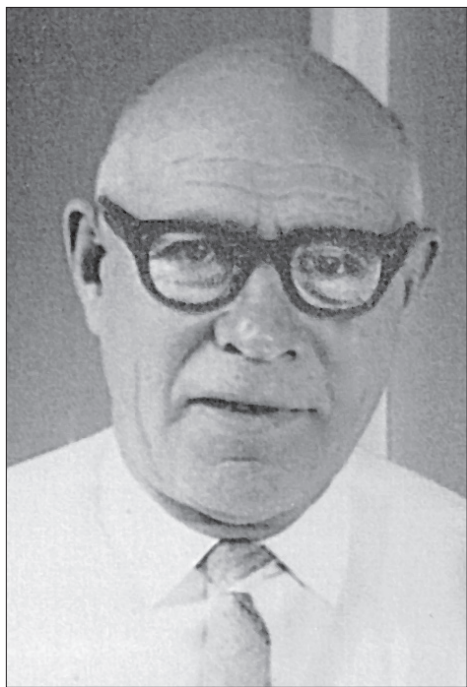
ROLAND E LONGWORTH

(Photo: NSW State Archives)



JOHN B OAKESHOTT

(Photo: NSW State Archives)



GLANVILLE RDJ RAWLE

interest in cardiology. He was soon involved in the United Services Lodge, the orchestral society committee, the St John Ambulance as examiner and running home nursing and first aid classes.

He was a very good competition tennis player, also enjoyed golf and entered the flower shows. Dr Oakeshott was a stalwart of the St Andrew's Anglican Church, serving on the Parish Council and on the executive of the Hostel for Girls, which provided shelter and education. In 1932 he joined the growing number of town doctors who had had surgery for appendicitis.

On 8 September 1934, he was Deputy Medical Superintendent when there were a record number of eighty-seven patients in Lismore Hospital. He moved his rooms to Magellan Street, and in 1939 started lecturing to the newly-formed Women's Voluntary Services group. He was elected vice-president of the Empire Day Committee and was always a very cool head at Hospital Committee meetings. Dr Oakeshott was behind the move to get an artificial respirator for Lismore District Hospital, which he recognised needed to purchase more equipment to get up to the standard of a base hospital.

In May 1941, he enlisted for service as captain in the AAMC in the AIF, was given a farewell by the Hospital Committee and granted leave for 'the duration of the war'. The chairman thanked Dr Oakeshott for his quiet performance as a good doctor and philanthropist, complimenting him on his ability to work harmoniously with everyone. Dr Oakeshott was captured in the fall of Singapore to the Japanese, became a POW in Borneo and took part in the infamous Death March of Sandakan over two years. He refused an opportunity to escape, choosing to stay with his men and lost his life in a war atrocity two weeks after enemy surrender.

His service to the town and tragic end were commemorated with the naming of a street after him and the setting up of the JB Oakeshott Fund to aid the care of families of local doctors serving in the war. Dr Oakeshott's practice was taken over by Dr SB Hatfield. His son, Robert, was born in Lismore and was to return in due course to practise medicine in his home town.

Glanville RDJ Rawle

In mid-1932, Glanville Robert Druery Jeffries Rawle, MB, ChM (Sydney 1926), started up a new practice in a house in Ballina Street and was appointed Honorary Surgeon at Lismore District Hospital. Born in Helensburgh (NSW) in 1903, he was Resident Medical Officer and Senior Resident Medical Officer at Balmain and District Hospital in 1926–27,

then Honorary Medical Officer at Wallsend District Hospital and Mater in Newcastle in 1927–32 before he began in Lismore, his wife's hometown. Dr Rawle ('Glannie'), was sworn in as a JP in 1934, but there were twenty-one others appointed on the same day, so circumstances for JPs were somewhat different from the days of Dr Bernstein and Dr Pratt, who acted as magistrates in court.

He was soon involved in the bowling club, School of Arts (which ran the library) and the Red Cross Society as lecturer and examiner in first aid. He was a keen tennis player and on the executive of the local club and a member of the Lismore Operatic Society, although there is no recorded instance of him singing. He was a keen member of the executive of Lismore Apex Club, which was very active especially in support of the Flying Doctor Service, and Honorary Medical Officer to the Richmond River Rugby League Group.

In 1941, the second official public disharmony between doctors occurred when he brought a slander case to court against Dr (Ald.) Kellas, apparently related to a remark about Dr Rawle 'squatting' in the town, but a very wise presiding judge pointed out that both were educated men, respected in the community, and encouraged them to sort out their differences out of court and the public eye. When this occurred, harmony seems to have been restored as Dr Rawle was elected president of the NEMA in 1953.

In the meantime, the astute doctor took himself off quietly to the famous American Mayo Clinic to have a cardiac pacemaker inserted. He also became patron of the table tennis club and joined the rifle club. In 1955 his son, Dr JG Rawle, joined the Rawle Practice and in 1972, Dr FGE Hughes joined them for six years. In 1973, he became a Consultant Surgeon at Lismore Hospital. After overcoming cardiac problems for many years, Dr 'Glannie' Rawle died in 1982.

In 1933, Lismore District Hospital Board started official classification of appointed doctors as physician, surgeon or specialist as a requirement to qualify as a Grade A Base Hospital. In practice, the delineation did not restrict any doctor's clinical activities.

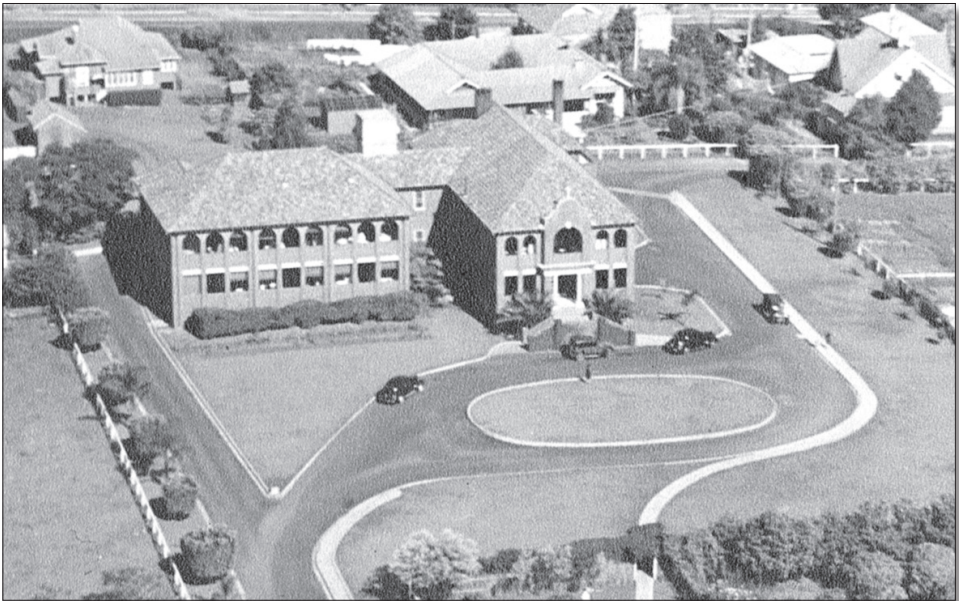
William JS McKay

William James Stewart McKay, BSc (1887), MB, ChM (Sydney 1891), started consulting in Molesworth Street early in 1933. He had started as a surgeon at Lewisham Hospital in Sydney in 1896, after training in Germany, Vienna, Paris and Birmingham. He became very well-known as a senior surgeon who had written several surgical textbooks, including one on appendicitis.

Dr McKay's memoirs indicate that in 1932, he was sixty-seven, had serious problems with gout and was getting little surgical work in Sydney at the time of the Depression. He had had a long-standing interest in thoroughbred racehorses and his wealthy bookmaker was sad to see him leave Sydney. He looked at Lismore and spoke with the local doctors who told him he would be welcome to town but only as a Consultant Surgeon and did not do home visits.

Dr McKay went to Lismore, set up an apartment and rooms in the T&G Building and married for the first time two years later. He was allowed to use the Base Hospital, which had an open policy for specialists, but soon after he started operating on private patients, the committee suddenly brought in a rule that surgeons had to stop operating at sixty-five. He tried using St Vincent's Hospital and the small private hospitals but he could not survive without doing GP work, which was unfamiliar to him, although did develop an interest in allergies. He did not have a car, relying on the local bus service and hire cars for remote consultations.

As an authority on racehorse breeding and claiming to be an expert on all kinds of venoms and agricultural diseases, he was a prolific writer for the newspapers and was regularly asked for his tips on the big horse races. Dr McKay probably led a pretty isolated life, not least because he knew he had to avoid at all costs excesses of Scotch whisky, which set him apart from a lot of the other professional men in town. He was a keen member of the Richmond River Historical Society, but was not popular with the members



St Vincent's Private Hospital, c.1938

of the Primary Producers' Union when he stated publicly that twenty-five per cent of dairy cows in the region had tuberculosis. He died in Lismore in January 1948, at the age of eighty-one, but his funeral was held in Sydney.

Reginald J Stabback

In October 1933, Reginald James Stabback, MB, BS (Sydney 1931), took the place of Dr Biggs as Honorary Radiologist, with rooms in Skype Chambers, in Woodlark Street. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1931 and then Resident Radiologist at Balmain and District Hospital. Soon after he arrived, he found, as did Dr Biggs, that he was doing in his own rooms most of the X-rays which should have been done at the inadequately equipped Lismore Hospital and had to apply to the Hospitals Commission for a subsidy to recompense him for that work. He expanded radiology services to Murwillumbah, even though some of the Lismore Hospital Committee were worried that patients would be lost to the Tweed area. Dr Stabback was a captain in the AAMC and left Lismore in July 1940. His practice was taken over by Dr HG Benson.

Robert H Fletcher

Robert Horner Fletcher, MB, ChM (Sydney 1923), started his eye and ear, nose and throat practice in Lismore at the beginning of 1934. Born in Armidale in 1897, he started at Sydney University but went in 1916 to France as a corporal in the AIF, was promoted to lieutenant and was awarded the Military Cross for bravery and distinguished service, ending up as captain. He was severely gassed, returned to medical school and a residency at Royal North Shore Hospital of Sydney, went to rural Queensland, then London and Vienna to study his specialty.

When he was in Lismore he gained great respect as a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church, a keen bowler and member of the RSL and lodge. In that short time in Lismore, there were two eye and ear, nose and throat specialists, but a serious illness ended his life in March 1935, at the age of thirty-eight. Later in 1935, Dr T Boyd Law took over the practice of Dr Fletcher.

Wilson L Corlis

In late 1934, Wilson Leighton (Bill) Corlis, MB (Sydney 1931), BS (Sydney 1935), started in practice with his father, Charles, and was appointed Honorary Surgeon at Lismore Base Hospital. He had been Resident Medical Officer at St Vincent's Hospital, Resident Medical Officer and Senior Resident Medical Officer at The Coast Hospital, and Relieving Resident

Medical Officer at the Royal Hospital for Women, in Sydney. He played town A-grade cricket, tennis and, in true Corlis family tradition, bowls. In his second year in Lismore, Dr Wilson Corlis made the headlines when his car was in a serious collision and he was able to start treatment of the two injured occupants of the other vehicle on the spot.

He was a captain in the RAAMC and Area Medical Officer of the AMF. He was a member of the Festival Music Society, in the Lismore Angling Club, ran first aid classes as the area commandant, was instructor to the Women's Auxiliary Transport Service and involved in air-raid training. Dr Corlis played a very active role at the hospital, taking the place of Dr Oakeshott, who was on war service, as Deputy Medical Superintendent when the hospital was making a great effort to expand both in size and status.

He left Lismore at the end of 1946, went to Petersham in Sydney and began a distinguished career as a GP with dedicated service to the Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners, especially in the field of medical education. His practice was taken over by Dr DB Sillar and Dr J Gribben.

In 1935, the Board of Lismore District Hospital resolved to apply for official change of name to the Lismore Base Hospital in view of its greater facilities and the more important sounding name. It was noted that the institution had been referred to over recent years unofficially as 'Base Hospital'.

The next aim was to have it upgraded to level A status.

In 1936, Lismore was a city with a population of 13,000.

Joseph M Skype

The next doctor in Lismore was caught in a very strange situation. With the Lismore Base Hospital having been opened to all registered doctors practising in Lismore and nearby towns, the Hospital Board told Joseph Michael Skype, MB, BS (Sydney 1935), that there was no vacancy at the hospital, on at least three occasions from 1939 when he tried to join the Visiting Medical Officer list. Born in Lismore, son of Mr Abdulla Skype, a well-known successful businessman who had emigrated from Lebanon in his childhood, Joseph won the prize for surgery in final year at Sydney University Medical School and was a Resident Medical Officer at Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital in 1935–36 and at Newcastle General Hospital in 1937. He went back home and worked as a locum in Ballina for Dr Yeates, and in Alstonville for Dr Lawrance, before trying to start a general practice in a house his father built for him in Conway Street at the beginning of

1939. He was finally appointed to Lismore Base Hospital in August 1941 on instructions from the Health Commission—as a ‘Temporary Assistant Honorary Physician’—a position not previously recorded at the hospital.

Dr Skye then became lecturer in first aid classes and was president of the Marist Brothers’ Old Boys’ Union, as would be expected of a boy born in Union Street. He was elected in 1939 to the thirty-three members on the committee of the Lismore Music Festival Society, who were apparently less selective than the Hospital Board. He served as Medical Officer in the AIF in New Guinea, was wounded and discharged medically unfit in December 1942, thereafter being prone to cardiac disease.

He achieved his aim to be appointed Honorary Surgeon at Lismore Base Hospital, also acting for a time as Honorary Cardiologist but decided to go to Sydney in June 1947, his practice being taken over by Dr NE Brand who was appointed to Lismore Base Hospital at the next board meeting. Dr Skye practised initially in Randwick but soon moved into a position of high esteem as a surgeon and gynaecologist in Macquarie Street for seven years before he collapsed suddenly and died while on a visit to his home town in October 1954.

Thomas Boyd Law

In the second half of 1935, Thomas Boyd Law, MB, ChM (Sydney 1924), (DOMS (Eng. 1935), FRACS (Ophth. 1936), took over Dr Fletcher’s practice as eye and ear, nose and throat specialist. He was born in Boness in Scotland in 1901 and his parents brought him to Australia when he was ten. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Balmain and District Hospital in 1924 before practising in Maleny in Queensland from 1925 to September 1933. He had developed an aptitude for debating and surgery and he went to London, where he trained at the Moorfields Eye Hospital, and Vienna to train in his specialty. Dr Boyd Law arrived back in Australia as assistant surgeon (i.e. the one who looked after the second- and lower-class passengers) on board a motor liner, which recorded the fastest time ever from London to Australia via Suez and the Torres Strait, averaging 18.4 knots.

He described his Lismore practice as covering the area from south of Taree to the Gold Coast. He seemed to have no trouble getting periods of assistance from promising junior colleagues, thus giving them a start to their specialist career and giving himself a break, often at the coast. He was ordered in 1944 to take six weeks off because of overstrain.

After a couple of years in Lismore, he paid a record sum for a building

in central Molesworth Street and made it his rooms—Allen Chambers. He was a flight-lieutenant in WWII, but was not allowed overseas. He became very involved in the operatic and drama society, Rotary and the Lismore Art Trust, which was responsible for the formation of the Lismore Gallery. He would have been very excited when he painted the winning entry in the (Dr) Pook Memorial Prize for landscapes.

Dr Boyd Law did a term as Medical Superintendent at the hospital and used his debating skills to good effect. He was a very popular lecturer on a wide field of topics. He could communicate in Chinese, Russian, Italian and German. He had a very innovative attitude and in pre-penicillin days he had a very successful 'go' at treating a case of deadly frontal brain abscess with direct intracranial infusion of the still experimental sulfanilamide solution. In 1945, with the arrival of Dr Mure Robertson as otologist (purely an ENT surgeon), he was able to concentrate solely on surgery of the eye.

On the social side, with a remnant of the Diggers' Chorus, he joined the 2LM Male Voice Choir, formed for serious competitive singing. He was active in the golf club and the Richmond River Amateur Sailing Club, as well as having a term as president of the NEMA and his Rotary club. When his wife died, Dr Boyd Law decided in about 1960 to take the opportunity to serve the many people in New Guinea and outback Australia suffering from eye disorders. He had taken a practice partner in 1952, Dr N Kerkenezov, who was another ex-RAAF doctor, but in the early sixties, they dissolved the practice and Dr Kerkenezov remained in the old rooms while Dr Boyd Law moved to new rooms further along Molesworth Street.

He was assisted significantly during the mid-sixties in the running of his practice by Melody Joy Grice, MB, BS (Queensland 1957), DO (Eng. 1960), FRACO, who was in the early stages of her ophthalmology career. Dr Boyd Law was awarded the MBE in 1968, retired in 1969 and died aged seventy-seven in May 1978, after some years of ill-health.

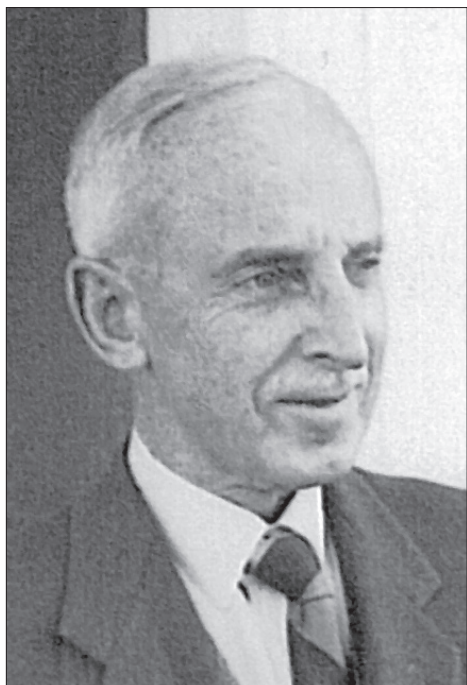
Murree Allen

Murree Allen, MB, BS Hons (Sydney 1933), Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital, set up his practice in Conway Street in mid-1936. He was the son of a doctor in Goulburn and topped the Leaving Certificate in NSW. He applied for a position as Junior Honorary Ophthalmologist at Lismore Base Hospital in 1936 and this was deferred initially before he acted in the post of Honorary Physician and Cardiologist.

Dr Allen was elected a parish councillor of the Anglican Church soon after his arrival, was a member of the rifle club and played district first-



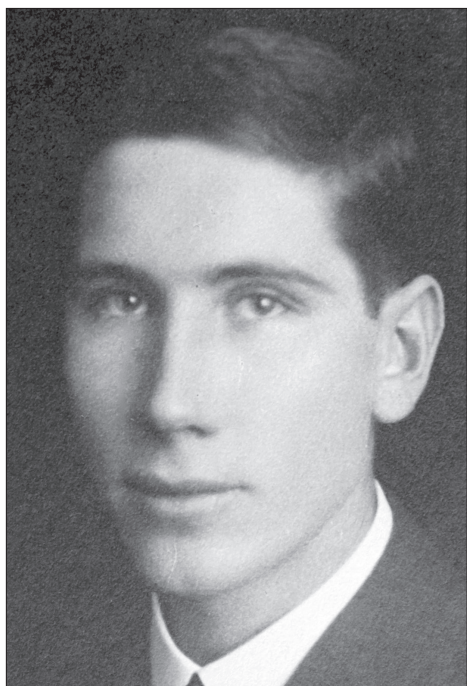
WILLIAM JS MCKAY
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



THOMAS BOYD LAW



FREDERICK L NICHOLL
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



THOMAS G HEWITT
(Photo: NSW State Archives)

grade cricket. He was said to have had wide field of interests and learned Italian while doing medicine. He was a foundation member and secretary of the Lismore Apex Club.

In February 1942, he became attached to the Field Ambulance in the AIF and in 1943 started service with the 113th AGH for four years, leaving the Honorary Radiologist, Dr Benson, as the Acting Cardiologist. Unfortunately for Lismore, he spent the war as Medical Officer at RGH Concord in the medical and dermatological wards, qualified for his FRACP and became a Specialist Physician. Dr Allen was farewelled soon after he returned from war service in January 1946 to go to Newcastle, where sadly he lasted only another ten years. His Lismore practice was taken over by Dr V Meek.

Frederick L Nicholl

In mid-1937, Frederick Livingstone Nicholl, MB, ChM (Sydney 1925), was in Lismore, with rooms in Molesworth Street and an appointment to Lismore Base Hospital (LBH) as an Honorary Surgeon. He had practised in Paterson and been Honorary Medical Officer at Maitland District Hospital for over nine years and was well known for his ability to play golf and the piano. He soon settled in to become involved with the Lismore Jockey Club and the golf club. Dr Nicholl, known as 'Snow', started arranging Christmas concerts for the old diggers in the area with Dr Longworth and also organised concerts by the 'Boys of the Old Brigade' to cheer up the local people in wartime.

He did terms as Honorary Medical Superintendent at Lismore Base Hospital, held lectures in first aid and ran immunisation campaigns. He was on the committee of the Lismore Game Fishing Club. As a Bright Street resident, he was a strong supporter of the East Lismore Progress Association. He and Dr Longworth got on very well together and joined their practices in about 1949. Dr Nicholl retired from the hospital in 1969 and died in 1971, Dr CG Miller having taken over from him. His son, Neil, practised in Casino from 1961 and later Ballina.

Henry G Benson

Henry Gordon Benson, MB, BS (Sydney 1936), started radiology practice in July 1940 in the T&G building in Molesworth Street, replacing Dr Stabback, for whom he had done a locum earlier in the year. He had visited the area with bowls teams when he was practising in Brisbane. When all the physicians were at the war for some years, Dr Benson acted as the Honorary Cardiologist at Lismore Base Hospital. In his stay, the radiologist in Lismore covered Murwillumbah and Casino. He was a member of the Presbyterian

Men's League and was a popular speaker to church groups. Dr Benson sold his practice to Doctors Pook and Byrne from Sydney, in March 1946.

Thomas G Hewitt

In August 1944, Thomas George Hewitt, MB, ChM (Sydney 1924), took over the practice of Dr Bluett in Keen Street. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at The Coast Hospital in Little Bay and The Royal Women's Hospital in Crown Street. His parents were pioneers in Lismore and Dr Hewitt started a general practice in Marvell Street, Byron Bay in August 1925.

He enjoyed membership of the surf club and played cricket as well as being Honorary Doctor to the football club. In April 1927 he started as GP in Cairns, where he remained for fourteen years. Dr Hewitt was an Honorary Surgeon at Lismore Base Hospital and did a wide variety of operations when he was initially in solo general practice. He was a very keen woodworker and a desk made by him was in the Keen Street Clinic, suggesting that he joined Dr Lawrance there in later years. He died in 1963.

Mure R Robertson

Mure Royston Robertson, MB, BS (Sydney 1928), started in Lismore in March 1945 as the first local ear, nose and throat specialist, or otologist, as he called himself. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1928–29, then the Women's Hospital in Sydney in 1929 and the Brisbane Mater Children's Hospital in 1931. Then he went to Childers in rural Queensland until 1938, when he proceeded to get his 'BTE' (Been to England) by training at the Liverpool Eye and Ear Hospital in 1938 and London Central Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital in 1939.

After serving in WWII from 1942–1946 as major in the AAMC with the 2/7 and 2/6 AGH in the Middle East, Dr Robertson relieved a grateful Dr Boyd Law of the ear, nose and throat component of his old specialty. Known to his colleagues as 'Scotch' Robertson, he was a great supporter of Legacy. He practised in Lismore until 1973, having had great difficulty in attracting a successor in the busy specialty.

Victor R Meek

In March 1946, Victor Robertson Meek, MB, BS (Sydney 1938), took over the practice of Dr Murree Allen in Conway Street. In 1939, Dr Meek had been the Resident Medical Officer at Lismore Base Hospital, which had been trying to get a Resident Medical Officer for some years in order to improve its standing as a base hospital.

He settled in easily in the town but then served as a flight-lieutenant, rising to squadron leader in the RAAF from 1940 to 1946, starting duties at Evans Head and then in Milne Bay and Port Moresby. Then he went back to Lismore and was appointed as Honorary Physician at Lismore Base Hospital.

He is remembered as a very dapper gentleman who had done a world tour after university and was a popular speaker about his travels. He lectured in first aid, was vice-president of the newly-formed amateur theatrical society in 1947, played golf regularly and in 1950 was on the committee and medical adviser to organise a youth club and sports centre in Lismore. Dr Meek left in about 1956, going on to practise in Kogarah in Sydney.

John Byrne

Two specialist radiologists, Dr W Pook and Dr J Byrne, acting as partners, took over Dr Benson's practice in the T&G Building (but did not act as cardiologists) in March 1946. John Byrne, MB, BS (Sydney 1921), MCRANZ, had been Resident Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent in 1921–22 at St George and District Hospital in Sydney. Then he took over a general practice in Gundagai in NSW, until the end of 1937, when he did postgraduate study in New York.

He served in WWII from 1942 to 1946 and became qualified as a radiologist. The practice covered Lismore, Casino and the Tweed, but Dr Byrne found time to be a keen bowler and on the executive of the Lismore Philharmonic Society, the Musical Festival Society and the Marist Brothers' Baseball Club. He left the practice in September 1953, going to Grafton and disposing his share of the partnership to Dr J Bell.

William Pook

William Pook, MB, BS (Melbourne 1922), MCRANZ, had been Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in 1922. He had practised before the war in Kerang in Victoria. He was CO of the 2 AAMC Target Battalion and then major at 2/6 AGH (Concord), where he was a radiologist and presumably met Dr Byrne before they resumed civilian life in Lismore.

He became president of the Goonellabah Progress Association and Director of Arts for the Lismore City Council. Dr Pook pushed very hard for the development of an art gallery, which was actually opened in 1954. He was also president of the Richmond River Historical Society and played bowls. He continued the radiological service with Dr J Bell from 1953 until his death in 1960, his place being taken by Dr BV Mutton.

Samuel B Hatfield

In 1946, Samuel Bolan Hatfield, MB, BS (Sydney 1939), took over the practice of the late Dr JB Oakeshott, in Magellan Street and became an Honorary Physician at the hospitals. He had been Resident Medical Officer at Newcastle General Hospital in 1940–42, Senior Resident Medical Officer there in 1945 and Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Women's Hospital in Sydney in 1946.

In WWII in 1942, as captain in the AIF, he had been wounded when performing valiantly in New Guinea and was invalided back home, resumed his duties at RGHC in Concord as major until 1944. He started in Magellan Street and went later to the Star Court Arcade.

Dr Hatfield was an active member of Apex, a foundation member of the Lismore RSL in 1947 and the hard-working president of the Lismore, later Richmond, Rugby League Association. On the last day of the year 1950, he was another doctor to survive his car rolling over when he sustained significant limb injuries in High Street and had a taste of his own medicine in Lismore Base Hospital. In November 1951, he left Lismore to take up a scholarship at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney to specialise in radiology. His successor was Dr D Gillies.

Richard C Opie

Richard Cunynghame Opie, MB (Sydney 1941), who had been Resident Medical Officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney in 1941–42 and Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Hospital for Women in 1946, was appointed Honorary Surgeon in Lismore on 21 September 1946, the same day as his brother James was appointed as a physician. He had served as flight-lieutenant in the RAAF Reserve in 1942–46.

After practising at 185 Molesworth Street (the future Lismore Clinic), with his father and brother, he went at the end of 1948 to start a career as a general surgeon in Sydney.

James G Opie

James Gordon Opie, MB (Sydney 1942), DA (Eng.), MFARACS, MRCP (Edin. 1957), FRCP (Edin. 1982), MRACP (1958), FRACP (1972), was a Resident Medical Officer at Balmain District Hospital in 1942–43. Born in Coraki, he joined the RAAF in 1943 and then began in Lismore in 1946 as a GP with special interest in medicine and anaesthetics. In 1956, he went to the UK for further study and returned to his old practice, by now the Lismore Clinic.

He was a follower of his father's example of physical fitness, starting the day at dawn with many laps of the local pool with his inimitable, slow but strong stroke—often also seen among the dolphins at Byron Bay, before embarking on the day's work. He drove all around the region and spent most weekends consulting in the smaller towns, providing a great service to the patients in their local small hospital to avoid their having to travel to Lismore or other big centres.

He was a very good pianist and keen golfer. He kept up with new developments in medicine and became a keen exponent of gastric and colonic endoscopy in addition to his anaesthetics for remote GPs. He served terms as Honorary Medical Superintendent and on the Medical Board Executive. Dr James Opie survived the transition in 1975 from Honorary Medical Officer at the hospitals to Sessional Visiting Medical Officer and in 1985 was transferred from active hospital duties, becoming a 'Consultant Emeritus'.

Donald B Sillar

In August 1946, Donald Boyd Sillar, MB, BS (Hons, Sydney 1929), a Dubbo boy, started as a GP with surgical and obstetric expertise, in place of Dr WL Corlis in Zadoc Street. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1929–30 and then went to work as Resident Surgical Officer at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital in England in 1932–33. After a short time in Rose Bay on his return to Australia, he was at Kurri Kurri in NSW until he enlisted in the RAAMC from 1941–46, rising to the rank of major.

During the war, he met Dr John Gribben and they teamed up in Lismore in the AMP building in Molesworth Street, then in 1951 joining the Lismore Clinic, which was enlarging considerably. Dr Sillar was Honorary Surgeon at the hospitals and became a strong supporter of the Scouts, even having a group in the garage of his lovely house, 'Tulloona', where many a garden fete was held to help the movement and many other charities.

He was very vocal about the poor accommodation for the Resident Medical Officers needing much improvement and he fought for the opening of a TB clinic at the hospital. After the death of his wife, Dr Sillar was in sole charge of five sons doing high school and university education in Sydney, so in 1962 he had to leave his very busy practice to Dr CA Burns and start in general practice in Forest lodge. One son, Stuart, returned to Lismore later as a Specialist Urologist.

John Gribben

John Gribben, MB, ChM (Sydney 1924), was appointed Honorary Physician in Lismore in September 1946 and joined Dr DB Sillar, initially in the old Zadoc Street rooms of Dr WL Corlis. He had served in WWII as lieutenant in the Field Ambulance 2/5 AGH. He had been in Canowindra in NSW from 1926.

Dr Gribben was a regular bowler and was president of the Nursery Kindergarten Committee. He went on long leave in 1952 to do postgraduate study in England and introduced his locum, Dr J Sheils, to the Lismore medical scene, in the Lismore Clinic. Dr Gribben died in Lismore in 1965.

William TH Scales

At the beginning of 1947, William Thomas Hudson Scales, MB, BS (Sydney 1940), D.O (1947), was appointed Honorary Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon, because of the workload on Dr Boyd Law, with whom he practised. After graduation, he spent WWII as a squadron leader in the RAAF from 1941–45. He trained at Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital and was Clinical Assistant at the Eye Hospital until 1947. Dr Scales was in town for about three years and became president of the Lismore branch of the Air Force Association, which had a fair share of eye surgeons as members over the years. It seems that the squadron leader landed happily in Grafton, and set up practice there

Nugent E Brand

Nugent Elliot (Bill) Brand, MB, BS (Sydney 1941), FRCS (Eng. 1955), FRACS (1961), started a general practice on his own, taking over the rooms of Dr Skype in Conway Street in June 1947. Born in the town, he was Junior Resident Medical Officer at RPAH in Sydney in 1941–42, then served as captain in the AAMC in WWII in 1942–45 in New Guinea, where he was Mentioned in Despatches for gallantry. He was then Senior Resident Medical Officer at RPAH in 1945–46.

Dr Brand was a very accomplished speaker, always well-attired and enjoyed engaging in committee work, so he was a very popular choice of his colleagues to represent them on the Medical Staff Board, as Medical Superintendent of both hospitals and in the NEMA. After a couple of years on his own, he joined the Lismore Clinic as a GP but went to England in 1955 as Resident Surgical Officer at Doncaster Royal Infirmary in 1955–56 to qualify as a Specialist Surgeon. On his return home, he rejoined his old group practice, but then went into solo specialist surgical practice.

He was a very good natural golfer and had a long association with

Lismore Golf Club as a top player, committeeman and president. Dr Brand had a wide range of expertise, but seemed to favour urological and bowel conditions. His astute surgical mind led to his inspirational idea for devising a low cost, easy to use and effective diagnostic test for bowel cancer, which resulted in Rotary sponsoring the start of 'Bowelscan' which became used Australia-wide. He was also a strong advocate for the formation of a breast screening program. He was active on the board of the local newspaper and radio station and was a regular attendee at Rotary. After his golfing days, Dr Brand liked to relax by the seaside and enjoyed the quiet solitude of bream fishing. He was named as Lismore Citizen of the Year in 1986.

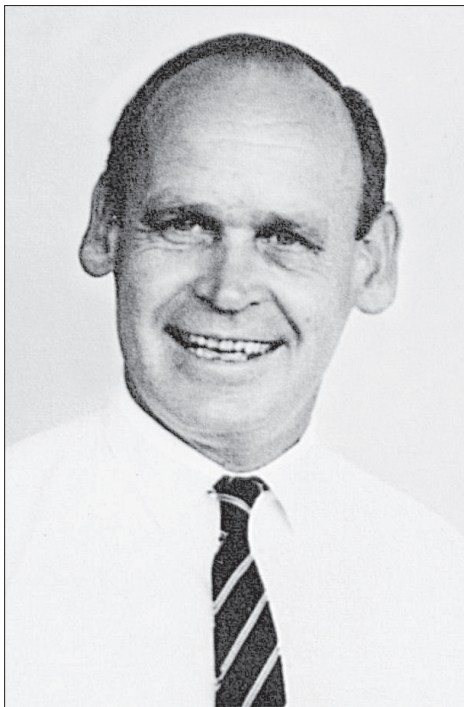
Kenneth G Lawrance

In 1947, Kenneth George Lawrance, MB (Sydney 1929), FRACGP, started his general practice in Lismore. He had been in Sydney before taking over a solo practice in Alstonville in 1936. Dr Lawrance had been appointed Honorary Surgeon at the Lismore hospitals since 1938 to avail himself of the operating facilities so he was involved in the medical administration in Lismore while having his place of practice and home in Alstonville.

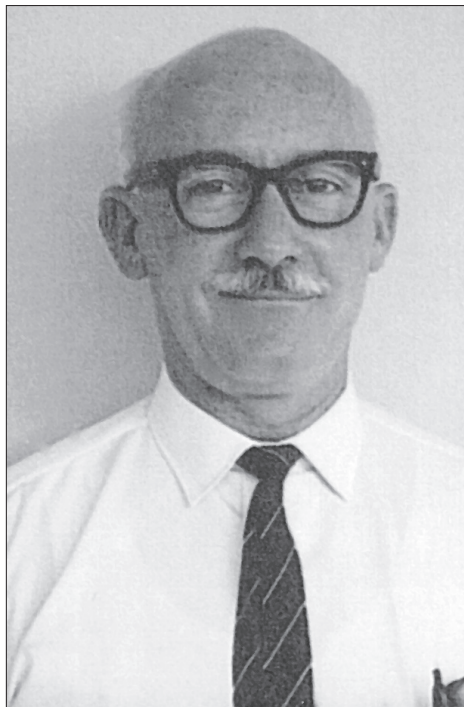
He took service leave from January 1943 to March 1946 as captain in the AIF, returning to Alstonville until he could arrange to start up in Lismore. He was the founder of the Keen Street Clinic in 1953. His initial two pursuits were the running of an efficient blood bank and the building of a rehabilitation centre for disabled people, so he became director of the Lismore Blood Transfusion Service and in 1966, the first director of the state of the art Rehabilitation Unit at St Vincent's Hospital, named after him to honour his part in its development.



The entrance to Lismore Base Hospital, c.1948



JAMES G OPIE



DOUGLAS N GILLIES



NUGENT E BRAND



NORMAN J ROGERS

Dr Lawrance was involved in the running of many other worthy causes, notably the Anglican Church Young Men's Society, Legacy and the Summerland Sheltered Workshop. He still had time to serve his profession as Hospital Medical Superintendent and president of the NEMA, while his sporting interest was bowls and he was patron of the Far North Coast Baseball Association. Little wonder that in 1977, he was awarded Lismore Lions' Citizen of the Year but, sadly, he died half-way through his year of public recognition, aged almost seventy-three.

Norman J Rogers

In 1950, Norman James Rogers, MB, BS (Sydney 1947), FRACGP (1969), joined Dr JL Roberts in his practice in Conway Street. Dr Rogers had been a Resident Medical Officer at Lewisham Hospital in 1948–49. He started at the hospitals as Honorary Medical Officer, working as a GP with expertise in surgery and obstetrics.

When he arrived in Lismore, he was chosen to play first-grade cricket and continued for ten years, later becoming a very keen golfer and sailor at the Ballina Yacht Club. He was a stalwart of the NEMA and long-term office bearer, active member of both hospital medical executives and took over the position of Government Medical Officer for Lismore from Dr JL Roberts whose son, Dr Thomas Roberts, joined the practice in 1956.

Because of his committee expertise and wide knowledge of the doctors in the area stemming from his long service with the NEMA, Dr Rogers was frequently called upon by various authorities and even individual doctors to step in and help resolve bitter disputes, so he was involved in things like the effects of the introduction of Medicare and accreditation rights of doctors at the various hospitals.

He added to his skills by going to Sydney in the mid-1950s to acquire the art of taking Pap smears and in 1963 had training to become the first exponent of continuous long-term epidural anaesthesia for obstetrics in Lismore. Dr Rogers left the Conway Street practice in 1971 and started a general practice in the AMP Building in Molesworth Street, being joined by Dr G Cawley in 1974. In 1984 he retired from the Lismore Base Hospital as Consultant Emeritus and stopped practising full-time.

Douglas N Gillies

In December 1951, Douglas Neil Gillies, MB (Sydney 1940), BS (1946), Dip Trop Med (1946), started to practise in the Star Court Arcade in place of Dr Hatfield. After his Resident Medical Officer year at St Vincent's Hospital in

Sydney in 1940, he served in WWII as captain in the AAMC from 1941–46, MID for bravery in 1942 in Dutch Timor, where he was captured by the Japanese and held in Java until the war ended. He resumed his study after the war, joined the Colonial Medical Service in Borneo and then was in general practice in Double Bay before accepting an Honorary Medical Officer position in Lismore, where he was in general practice until 1970.

Unfortunately, he became restricted physically by the effects of his four years as a POW in Java but was a great worker for, and onetime president of, the NEMA. He left to take up desk duties in Brisbane.

Nicholas Kerkenezov

Nicholas Kerkenezov, from a Bulgarian family, MB, BS (Sydney 1943), DOMS (Dublin 1951) DO (Eng. 1952), was appointed in September 1952 as Honorary Junior Ophthalmic Surgeon at Lismore Base Hospital, where the eye surgery had always been performed. The time of his progression to full status is obscure, but he had served in the RAAF in WWII, went to the UK to specialise in eyes and left his Woodburn general practice to join up with Dr Boyd Law in Molesworth Street, until the early 1960s, when Dr Boyd Law moved to new rooms further along the street.

Dr Kerkenezov was a dedicated orchid grower and wily catcher of blackfish at Ballina. He was also an avid fossicker for ancient instruments and prostheses, his source of these being kept as secret as his fishing holes. Although very busy with his eye work, Dr Kerkenezov was drawn into local government and as an alderman, proved he could be a worthy opponent in debates. He was joined in 1969 by Dr MP Tester. After thirty years in practice in Lismore, he left his well-used hothouse in Dalley Street and started a practice in office ophthalmology in Ballina in about 1982.

James Bell

In September 1953, James Bell, MB, BS (Sydney 1930), MRCRA (1954), was appointed as Honorary Radiologist to Lismore Base Hospital to take over as Dr W Pook's partner. He had been Resident Medical Officer at Balmain District Hospital in Sydney in 1930–32 and went to Queensland as Medical Superintendent to the Queensland towns Alpha, Aramac and Bowen before practising for twelve years in Toowoomba. He was joined by Dr BV Mutton after Dr Pook's death in 1960 and left to go to Melbourne in 1974.

Arthur B Chappell

Arthur Brian Chappell, MB, BS (Sydney 1953), started to practise as a GP at the beginning of 1954. He had served in WWII in 1943–45 before

doing medicine. He had been a Resident at the Base Hospital in 1953 and then was appointed as an Honorary Surgeon. He carried out GP obstetrics and surgery until 1963, when he went to practise as a GP in Croydon and Canterbury in Sydney. In 1978, he returned to Lismore as a GP and seems to be the only Lismore doctor to have engaged in pig farming in his spare time.

John G Rawle

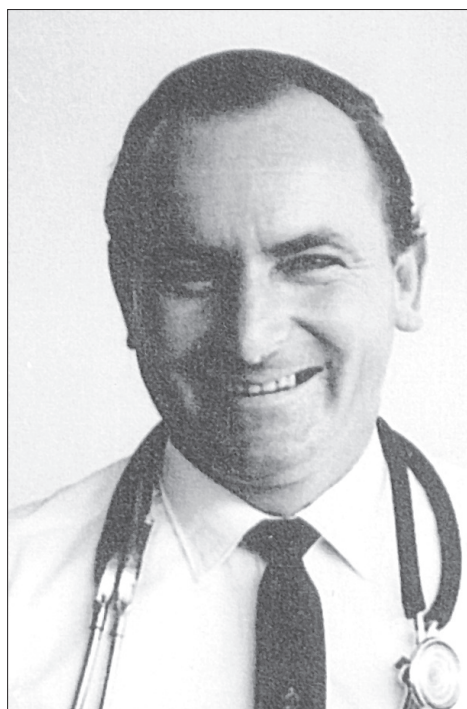
In 1955, John Glanville Rawle, MB, BS (Sydney 1954), joined his father's clinic. He grew up in Lismore and on occasions played competition tennis with his father. After his residency at Lismore Base Hospital in 1954, he was appointed Honorary Surgeon there in 1955 and the two Rawles practised together until they were joined in 1973 by Dr FG Hughes for five years. John relaxed when off-duty at the beach, where there was a growing colony of his confreres. He went from Lismore to the Gold Coast and the Rawle practice closed down.

Bruce A Frith

Bruce Austin Frith, MB, BS (Hons Sydney 1946), MRCP (Edin. 1955), MRCP (Eng. 1955), MRACP (1968), FRACP (1973), FRCP (1983), opened his rooms in Keen Street in 1955. Born in Lismore in 1924, he did his residency at Sydney Hospital in 1946, was Resident Medical Officer at Bundaberg General Hospital in 1947 and in 1948 he was anatomy lecturer at Queensland University. He forsook the academic life and was a GP in Mullumbimby until 1954. Then he went to the UK for postgraduate study and having acquired a wide knowledge of neuroanatomy, Dr Frith opted to



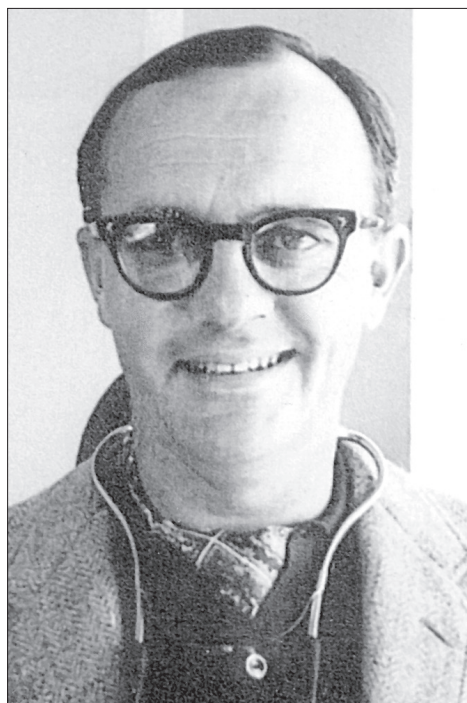
Lismore Clinic during the 1954 floods



PETER A JOHNSON



JOHN G RAWLE



THOMAS L ROBERTS



JOHN D SHEILS

return to his home town and became one of the first Consultant Physicians in rural NSW. He went later to London and Boston to further his knowledge of cardiology.

He was joined in practice in 1974 by Dr BJ Kelly, who lightened somewhat Dr Frith's long-standing heavy workload. Over the years, he had enjoyed tennis, golf and fishing. He was also a keen member of the NEMA/AMA and Rotary. His health deteriorated and forced his retirement from the Lismore medical scene in 1986 and he followed his doctor daughter to Sydney, where he worked at a much more leisurely pace.

Thomas L Roberts

In 1955, Thomas Leslie Roberts, MB, BS (Sydney 1953), DOBst RCOG (1957), joined his father, Dr Leslie Roberts and Dr NJ Rogers in the Conway Street practice. Born in Lismore, he had been Resident Medical Officer at the Cootamundra District Hospital in NSW in 1953 and did a senior residency at St Margaret's Women's Hospital in Sydney in 1954. He was a family doctor but became very popular with obstetric patients and this became a big part of his practice. In 1956, he went to England for further obstetrics and gynaecology experience and qualification, before returning to Lismore in 1957.

He was a staunch supporter of the Catholic Church, St Vincent's Hospital and the AMA. With the advent of Dr ML Lewin in 1966, Dr Thomas Roberts joined him to form the first specialist obstetric and gynaecological clinic in Lismore, in the T&G Building, later to be joined by Dr BT O'Sullivan in 1972. He was a popular marriage counsellor for the area. Dr Roberts was a keen Rotarian, stalwart of the NEMA, president of the Arts Council and champion of the cause to attract good Resident Medical Officer staff to the Lismore Base Hospital. He was taken ill at the end of 1974 while still practising and died in 1975.

John D Sheils

John David Sheils, MB, BS (Sydney 1947), FRCS (Eng. 1960), joined the Lismore Clinic in 1955. He had been a Resident at Prince Henry Hospital in Sydney (formerly The Coast Hospital) in 1948–49 and 1951–52, and Surgical Registrar at Broken Hill & District Hospital in 1949–51. He had done almost one year locum for Dr Gribben in 1953.

After working as a GP surgeon, Dr Sheils took leave in 1960 and was Surgical Registrar at the Southend Hospital in Essex from 1960–62. Then he returned to the practice as a Specialist General Surgeon, attached to the hospitals. He was a very keen sailor and after working very hard in Lismore,

he sailed off in 1976 in his yacht for the Solomon Islands for two years and then headed to the Kimberleys. His place was taken by Dr DM Grosser.

Peter A Johnson

In 1956, Peter Arundel Johnson, MB, BS (Sydney 1954), Junior Resident Medical Officer at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney in 1954, started at the Lismore Clinic as a GP, at the age of thirty-one. He had been in the RAN Reserve in 1944–46. Dr Johnson was also a very experienced anaesthetist. On weekends off he relaxed with the family on his farm and, later on, down by the beach at Lennox Head.

Broughton V Mutton

In 1960, Broughton Vernon Mutton, MB, BS (Sydney 1943), MCRA (1958), started in the radiological practice with Dr James Bell, succeeding Dr Pook. Dr Mutton was a flight-lieutenant in the RAAF in 1943–46. He had practised in Sydney after training for radiology and the partnership lasted until about 1974, when Dr Mutton was left on his own.

He had assistants from time to time, with **Brian Jens Whitlocke**, MB, BS (Sydney 1965), DMRD (Eng. 1969), MRACR (1977) and **Arthur Henry Kannemayer**, MB ChB (Witwatersrand 1956), DMRD (Eng. 1966) doing longer stints. In about 1981, Dr Mutton started a smaller practice in Ballina, the Lismore practice being taken over by Dr Ramon Lun.

Philip W van Gelderen

Philip William ('Bill') van Gelderen, MB, BS (Sydney 1944), FRCS (Eng. 1959), FRACS (1962), was appointed Honorary Surgeon at the Lismore hospitals in 1961. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1944–45 and from 1945 to 1949 he was a surgeon lieutenant-commander in the RAN Reserve. Then he was a Registrar at RPAH from 1949–50 and went into general practice in Bathurst from 1950–57. In pursuit of a surgical career, he went to England and worked as a Registrar at St Luke's Hospital in 1958–59 and returned home as a Specialist General Surgeon in Goulburn, NSW, in 1960–61, following which he became the first Specialist Surgeon at the Keen Street Clinic, remaining with them until he went to Bathurst in 1967.

Clement AC Burns

In 1961, Clement Aylesbury Colin Burns, known as 'Charlie', MB, BS (Adelaide 1954), took the place of Dr Sillar in the Lismore Clinic and Lismore Base Hospital. Born to missionary parents in India, he was educated in Fiji

and New Zealand. He had been a Resident at Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1954, Resident Medical Officer at Mildura Base Hospital in 1955 and then Honorary Surgeon at that hospital in 1956–60. He had been a sub-lieutenant in the RAN Reserve in WWII from 1942 and was Mentioned in Despatches while on HMAS *Australia*, spending some time in the Philippines.

Dr Burns was very involved in the important project of developing and setting up of a disaster plan utilising the emergency services and the Lismore hospitals, devoting a lot of time also to Legacy and the Citizens' Military Forces. He was also involved in the tricky task of sorting out the clinical privileges of GPs in the hospitals. He died very prematurely in August 1975, his place being taken by Dr DM Grosser.

Ronald AA Macqueen

Ronald Alan Archibald Macqueen, MB (Sydney 1911), set up his rooms in Spring Street, Lismore in 1963. He was the son of Archibald John Macqueen, who practised in Lismore until 1898. He was previously a GP in Ballina from 1939, but he wanted to specialise in dermatology, which he did for ten years. He was always keen on all sports and horse racing. Dr Macqueen left Lismore in 1972 and went to Sydney where he died in 1973, aged eighty-four.

Raymond W Gordon

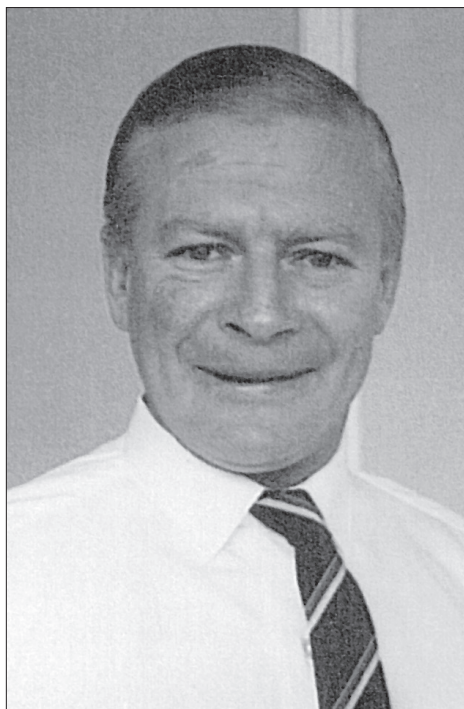
In 1963, Raymond Warwick Gordon, MB, BS (Sydney 1960), MRCP (Edin. 1966), DA (Eng. 1966), came back to his home town as a GP at the Keen Street Clinic. Known from school days as 'Steinie' (for Einstein), he had been a Resident at Royal Newcastle Hospital in 1960–62. He soon felt the call of further study and went to the UK in 1965, working as Anaesthetic Registrar and Clinical Medical Officer at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1965–66 and obtaining the MRCP and his Anaesthetic Diploma.

He returned to his clinic in 1967 and was a GP and accredited Honorary Physician at the hospital, also able to give anaesthetics, so he became very busy, not only in the town, but at neighbouring hospitals which lacked qualified anaesthetists. In 1977–78, Dr Gordon did psychiatric residencies in centres in Newcastle and Gladesville, before becoming Clinical Superintendent and Staff Physician at Lismore Base Hospital from 1979 to 1985.

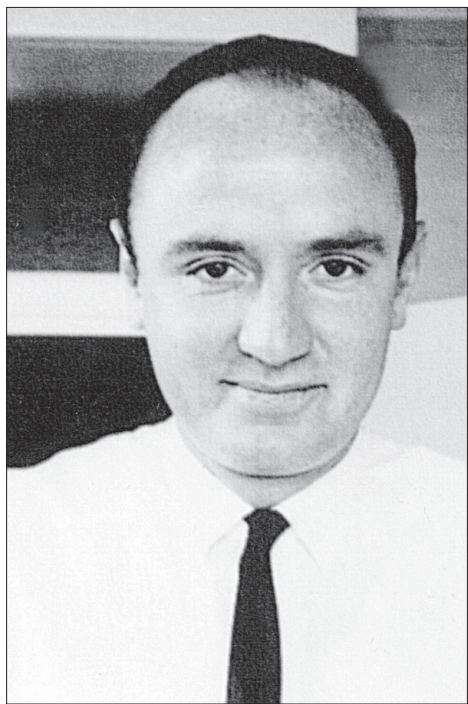
He was a very successful recruiter of Resident Medical Officers and other doctors to the region, resulting in one of the more frequent answers to why new doctors went to Lismore being that they met Ray Gordon somewhere or other and he told them of the attractions of his home town. From 1985, he went back to general practice on his own, with occasional



MORRIS W LEWIN



CLEMENT AC BURNS



RAYMOND W GORDON



JOHN OLIVER

assistance from part-timers. He did not have a lot of spare time, but he did like the beach and social golf, later becoming an enthusiastic bowler.

John Oliver

John ('Jock') Oliver, MB, ChB (Edin. 1948), DPH (Edin. 1959), joined the Lismore Clinic in 1963, continuing the line of Caledonian medicos in the town. He had served as a sergeant in the Highland Light Infantry in 1943–47 before graduating. Dr Oliver had been a Medical Officer with the Bechuanaland Government Service from 1951–63, unique preparation for becoming a family doctor in Lismore.

Peter W Stewart

In 1963, Peter William Stewart, BSc (Sydney 1951), MB, BS (Sydney 1957), FRCS (Edin. 1961), started his own clinic in Conway Street. He had been a Resident at Sydney Hospital in 1957–60 before going to England to work as Surgical Registrar at South Teeside Hospital in Yorkshire in 1961, Resident Surgical Officer at Jersey General Hospital in 1962 and Clinical Assistant at St Thomas' in London in 1963.

Dr Stewart was a devoted, hard-working family doctor, with faithful patients coming over to his Lismore surgery from places like Casino. He loved spending time farming and was a great believer in large families. He was a GP, busy general surgeon and did a lot of obstetrics, being renowned for the spot-on timing of his response to urgent calls. He also developed expertise in microsurgery to reverse sterilisation in both sexes. Dr Stewart often had an assistant GP in his earlier days and Dr R Percy worked with him for some years.

Harley S Roberts

Harley Stuart Roberts, MB, BS (Sydney 1959), DObst RCOG (1962), MRCOG (1964), joined Dr Stewart in practice in 1965 after arriving back from England. He was a Resident at Sydney Hospital in 1959–60, Senior House Officer in Obstetrics at Queen Mary's Hospital in London in 1962, Senior House Officer in Gynaecology at St Mary's Hospital in Manchester in 1963 and Registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Groundslow Hospital in Staffs in 1964. He was appointed Honorary Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Lismore Base Hospital. After two years he went to the rapidly growing Penrith area and became a pioneer of obstetric ultrasound investigation.

Morris W Lewin

In October 1965, Morris Walter Lewin, MB, BS (QLD 1959), DObst RCOG, MMSA (Eng.), FRCOG, FRACOG, started to practise with Dr TL Roberts in the T&G building, forming the first Specialist Obstetric and Gynaecology clinic. He had gone to the UK after his resident year and trained at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1960–62, Hammersmith Hospital in London in 1962–64 and at the Middlesex Hospital in 1965. Dr Lewin developed an interest in horticulture, growing guavas and macadamia nuts but had problems with the extremes of the local climate. He was joined in practice later by Dr BT O'Sullivan and they worked for a time in a converted old cinema building in Molesworth Street.

Robert J Oakeshott

Robert John Oakeshott, MB, BS (Sydney 1956), FRCS (Edin. 1965), FRACS (1967), went into the Keen Street Clinic as their Specialist Surgeon in 1967. He was born in Lismore, son of Dr JB Oakeshott and was a Resident at Lewisham Hospital in Sydney in 1956–57, Resident Medical Officer at Royal Women's Hospital and Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in 1958, Surgical Registrar at RAHC in 1959–60 and RGHC at Concord in 1960, then at Broken Hill Hospital in 1961–62.

He went to England and was Surgical Registrar at the Royal West Sussex Hospital in 1963–65, returning to RAHC for a year. He was very active in the running of the NEMA. In 1972, he went to Perth to pursue a career in rehabilitation medicine, later continuing in that field in Sydney.

Anthony J Thompson

In 1967, Anthony John Thompson, MRCS (Eng. 1959), LRCP (Eng. 1959), MB, BS (Lond. 1960), joined the Lismore Clinic as a family doctor. He had been practising in Wynnum in Brisbane. After about ten years, he moved to Hawthorn in Melbourne.

Barbara M Tonking

Barbara Mary Tonking (née Tredinnick), MB, BS (Sydney 1958), started in 1969 as a GP assistant with Dr P Stewart. She had been a Resident at Bankstown Hospital in Sydney in 1958 and then worked as a GP in Panania. There were no full-time specialist anaesthetists in Lismore, so she went to England and worked in Reading General Hospital to gain experience and her Diploma of Anaesthetics (1971) and the MFARCS, returning to be the first Consultant in Anaesthetics in the whole area. She brought up her son

on her own and worked full-time, including on-call, still finding time to breed pedigree dogs and help run regular dog obedience classes.

Charles G Miller

Charles Grant Miller, MB, BS (Sydney 1967), arrived in Lismore in March 1969 to work in the Lismore Clinic as a GP, taking over from Dr FL Nicholl. Born in Runcorn in Cheshire, he did the first two years of medicine at Liverpool University in England, arrived in Sydney in 1963 and completed the degree there. He was a Resident at Sydney Hospital and Ryde DSM Hospital in 1967–68. Dr Miller did family medicine with GP surgical procedures and also gave anaesthetics in the earlier part of his career.

He became a real bushman, making intrepid inland trips in search of butterflies, so he became a noted lepidopterist, discovering several new species and publishing in the journals. He was also a keen appreciator of classical music.

Malcolm P Tester

In 1969, Malcolm Percy Tester, MB, BS (Sydney 1959), DO (Sydney 1964), FRANZCO (1969), came to Lismore to join Dr N Kerkenezov, much to the relief of Dr T Boyd Law who promptly retired. Dr Tester had been a Resident at Sydney Hospital in 1960 and Royal Hobart Hospital in 1961, then Assistant Registrar at Sydney Eye Hospital in 1962–64 and Research Fellow in Ophthalmology at the University of Sydney in 1964–67. He had then followed the well-established pattern of newly-qualified specialists in those days of being on at multiple hospitals, driving all over Sydney doing a lot of unpaid work, in his case being a Honorary Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Sydney Eye Hospital, near the Domain, Hon. Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Sutherland Hospital and Visiting Ophthalmic Specialist at RGH Concord. He retained his academic interest by publishing journal articles on retinal detachment and the diabetic eye.

Dr Tester was a Rotarian and did an eye mission to India and started regular missions to Fiji, where he had discovered on a holiday the appalling incidence of eye pathology in the non-urban communities. From 1982, he practised on his own in Conway Street. He was an expert fisherman, enjoyed golf and moved out of Lismore suburbia to live on his Poll Hereford cattle farm.

Michael P Barbato

In 1970, Michael Patrick Barbato, MB, BS (Sydney 1966), MRACP (1969), joined the Keen Street Clinic as Specialist Physician and Honorary Medical Officer at the hospitals. He was a Resident at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney in 1966–67, at RGH Concord in 1968–69 and Medical Registrar at St Vincent's Hospital in 1969. He went to practise in Armidale in 1973.

Francis GE Hughes

Francis Gerald Eamon Hughes, MB, ChB (NU IRE 1947), BAO (NU IRE 1947), joined the Rawle Practice in 1972. He had been a Medical Officer at Nottingham General Hospital in England in 1947–49, a GP at Ollerton in 1949–68 and Medical Officer to the St John Ambulance, Nottinghamshire 1950–68 before being the Medical Administrator at Nyah County Hospital in 1968–72.

Dr Hughes did family medicine and gave anaesthetics in Lismore for seven years and was persuaded by his friends at Lennox Head to be the first doctor in that village.

Robert J Buck

In 1972, Robert John Buck, BA (UNE, Armidale, 1959), DipEd (UNE 1960), MB, BS (Sydney 1966), DObst RCOG (Eng. 1969), DipAnaesth (Eng. 1970), joined the Keen Street Clinic to do GP as well as anaesthetics and obstetrics at the Lismore hospitals. He had been a Resident at St George Hospital in Sydney in 1966 and 1967, before going to England and working as an Obstetrics and Gynaecology Senior House Officer at Wolverhampton Women's Hospital in 1968 and Anaesthetic Senior House Officer at St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth in 1969. He returned to England to be Obstetrics and Gynaecology Registrar at St John's Hospital in Chelmsford, Essex, from 1974–77 and on his return to Australia, he was Senior Registrar in O&G at the King Edward Memorial Hospital in Perth in 1978.

He went back to Lismore in 1979 but joined Dr MW Lewin and Dr BT O'Sullivan in the Specialist Obstetric and Gynaecology Practice in Molesworth Street. Later, he went out on his own in the old bishop's house in Uralba Street.

Brendan RT O'Sullivan

Brendan Reginald Thomas O'Sullivan, MB, BS (QLD 1964), MRCOG (1970), FRACOG (1979), worked as a locum at the beginning of 1972 as Specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist with Drs TL Roberts and MW

Lewin and soon joined them in the T&G Building in Molesworth Street. He had been Resident Medical Officer at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane in 1964–65, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Registrar at Mater Mothers' and Mater Public Hospital in 1966–68, then in London at St Stephen's Hospital and UCH in 1969, followed by St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth in 1969–70 and St Mary's on the Isle of Wight in 1970–71.

Dr O'Sullivan enjoyed tennis and beach swimming and became an avid reader and supporter of the Byron Literary Festival. He had a brief partnership growing guavas but found the elements were not favourable to that pastime.

For the next four years from 1973, there was a great influx of doctors into Lismore, mainly of specialists.

David G Thomas

In 1973, David Gwynne Thomas, MB, BS (Sydney 1965), FRACS (1972), joined the Keen Street Clinic as their surgeon, replacing Dr RJ Oakeshott, after being told by a 'drug rep' in Ipswich there was an opening in Lismore. Born when his father was a GP in Ulmarra, he was a Resident at Royal Newcastle Hospital in NSW in 1965–66, then tried GP in that city in 1967–68, before working as a Surgical Registrar at the Royal Masonic Hospital in London in 1968–70, as Surgical Registrar at St Mary Abbot's Hospital 1970 and Epsom District Hospital in Surrey in 1971.

Back home, he worked at Ipswich General Hospital in Queensland in 1972. A methodical left-hander, Dr Thomas sourced out a large variety of left-handed instruments, which did not stop his being a patient teacher of any students, residents or local doctors who wanted to come to his regular pigs' trotters suture classes held at the hospital. A trained microsurgeon, he became very experienced in nerve anastomoses and related conditions, also obtaining enviable results from divided hand flexor tendon repairs, for which he eschewed post-op fixed splinting and went for very early mobilisation.

He was a proud Medical Officer to the Surf Life Saving Movement, which led to his great involvement in the establishing and medical manning of the Helicopter Rescue Service. He did several terms as chairman of the Medical Staff Council and was a very capable and firm leader. He did annual voluntary skin clinics at Byron Bay beach every December-January holidays.

Dr Thomas had a comprehensive home workshop in which he made anything wooden or metallic, including toys and powered model aeroplanes. Being an experienced advanced and rally-cross driver, he lost little time

‘Fanging’ his car to emergency calls to the hospitals. He was a very successful representative pistol and rifle shot from his cadet days at school.

Robert M Miller

Robert Macdonald Miller, MD (Uni. Columbia, New York 1946) took over the practice of Dr Les Roberts, but moved further up Conway Street in 1973. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, he had to repay the state for his medical education by working as Medical Officer in the Air Force and developed a love for flying and being part of the crew, which led to his involvement in the Berlin airlift. He left the US in the 1970s, but despite becoming a naturalised Australian in 1976, was forever known to his medical colleagues as ‘Tex’, which was a misdiagnosis, and to the general population, with whom he was very popular, he was ‘Pally’, or formally Dr Bob.

With his trade-mark unlit cheroot dangling between his lips, he was never offended when a patient asked for a specialist opinion and was very good at getting them an early appointment, usually by phoning the specialist personally. He was an extraordinarily talented musician, favouring the Jew’s harp, guitar and banjo, and formed the basis of his group ‘Pally’s Players’ who were in great demand in the area. He wrote a lot of his own songs and was at his best singing ‘Mississippi Mud’.

He and his sons restored Jeeps in the driveway of his home and he had a sugarcane farm. Tex was a keen collector of antique firearms and considered himself a fully-fledged armourer. Always a popular figure at the golf club, he did not play the game himself. With his background it was natural that he was a popular supporter of a local baseball team.

Alice D Miller

Alice Dale Miller, MD (USA 1951), practised with her husband, moving with him to near Lismore Base Hospital in Uralba Street later on. They were purely family physicians, but always kept up with any patient in hospital. Alice became very unwell and Bob devotedly supported his ailing wife for some years. One of their boys, Robbie, became a doctor.

Roger W Percy

In 1973, Roger William Percy, MB, BS (Queensland 1952), FRACGP (1968), joined with Dr PW Stewart in Conway Street. He had been a Resident at Brisbane General Hospital in 1953, at Cairns Base in 1954–55 and Medical Superintendent of Gordonvale Hospital in Queensland in 1955–57, practising in Edmonton before Lismore. He had served in the Army in 1943–47. Dr Percy did family medicine and gave anaesthetics.

John M Chadwick

John Marsden Chadwick, MB, ChB (Manchester 1957), DOBst RCOG (1960), came in 1973 to the Lismore Clinic as a GP and obstetrician. A native Mancunian, he had been House Surgeon at the Hope Hospital in Salford in 1958 and Resident Medical Officer in Obstetrics at Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport, Lancs. He was then in general practice and on the medical staff of his beloved Man United football club before migrating and finding himself as Obstetric Resident in 1972 at Townsville General Hospital, where he learned to his horror one night that his duties included emergency internal fixation of a fractured femur.

In Lismore, apart from his practice, Dr Chadwick was a keen Medical Officer for the local Army battalion. Having taken up the married life at a mature age, he was very domesticated and a great host, displaying at all times the typical engaging humour of the English Northerners.

Frederick W Buddee Jnr

In 1973, Frederick William Buddee, MB, BS (Sydney 1964), FRACS (1969), entered into practice with Dr NE Brand in Molesworth Street. He was born in Glen Innes, son of Dr FW Buddee who had practised for four years in Bonalbo around 1930. Dr Buddee Jnr was a Resident at Sydney Hospital in 1964–65 and Surgical Registrar at Royal North Shore Hospital in 1966–70. After about six months as surgeon at the Sepik District Hospital in Wewak, PNG, he worked as Surgical Registrar at the famous Groote Schuur Hospital



Lismore Base Hospital, c.1970

in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1971–72. He practised in all fields of general surgery, including vascular surgery in the earlier years.

Dr Buddee was very involved in the running of the acclaimed Summerland House with No Steps at Alstonville. As some of the doctors from the past in the region did, he relaxed in the garden as a prize-winning grower of roses displayed annually at the A&I Show. He also enjoyed a regular round of golf and following the form of the thoroughbreds. Dr Buddee devoted a lot of time to the Medical Staff Council and appointment of Visiting Specialists to the staff of both hospitals. He played a big part in the eventual establishment of accredited Surgical Registrar training posts at Lismore Base Hospital.

William Nardi

William Nardi, MB, BS (Sydney 1968), FRACO 1972, DO (Sydney 1973), started his Specialist Ophthalmic Practice in 1973. He was born in Nimbin and was a Resident Medical Officer at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney in 1968–69, Ophthalmic Registrar at St Vincent's Hospital in 1970 and at Sydney Eye Hospital in 1971–72. He wanted to practise in his home area but was offered the advice that Tweed Heads would be more suitable. He actually tried that for a short time but he proved his prospects were much better in Lismore by setting up in the large building housing the former rooms of Dr JL Roberts. Dr Nardi was then able to play jovial landlord over the years to many new doctors in town who started off their practices in the various parts of the ground floor of the large building.

He found relaxation from the confines of eye surgery by farming, but initially this involved him and his neighbours draining the unfriendly Tuckean Swamp to improve the land. He was an Apexian, strong supporter of the Scouts and Guides and prominent in the school P&C Association. He also enjoyed social tennis and the odd game of cricket.

Bryan P Shea

In 1973, Bryan Patrick Shea, MB, BS (QLD 1968), DObst RCOG (1973), FRACGP (1975), joined the Keen Street Clinic. He was a Resident Medical Officer at Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1969–70 and Registrar in General Practice at RBH in 1971–72. He replaced Dr MP Barbato, but he was a GP who became very busy with obstetrics and giving anaesthetics. Dr Shea was a regular golfer and started a macadamia nut farm before returning to Brisbane suburbia in 1986 to continue in general practice.

Kantilal B Raikundalia

Kantilal ('Kanty') Bhimji Raikundalia, MB, BS (Bombay 1964), FRCS (Edin. 1969), started in 1973 as a Specialist Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon, in Magellan Street, filling the void left by Dr Mure Robertson. Dr Raikundalia had been practising in Uganda and was given little warning to leave, arriving in Australia with virtually no possessions.

He was soon very busy in Lismore, being the only doctor doing ENT for the next twelve years. He had the Indian love of cricket and became a great supporter of the Lismore District junior players.

Raymond A Gwynne

In 1974, Raymond Alexander Gwynne, MB, BS (QLD 1969), Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1970–71, went into the Keen Street Clinic in place of Dr RJ Buck. He did GP, obstetrics and anaesthetics, which meant he was on call a lot and worked very hard with little spare time. In 1977, he decided to leave and start training in radiology at his old hospital.

Geoffrey GV Cawley

Alstonville-born Geoffrey George Vickers Cawley, BA (Sydney 1957), MB, BS (Sydney 1963), DCH (Eng. 1966), DA (Eng. 1968), joined Dr NJ Rogers in 1974 in his general practice in the AMP Building. He had been Resident Medical Officer at Parramatta District Hospital in 1963–1964, Resident Medical Officer at St Margaret's Hospital in Darlinghurst in 1965, Medical Officer with the Snowy Mountains Authority in Cooma in 1965–66 before going to the UK to work as Medical Officer at Bristol Children's Hospital in 1966–67, Registrar at St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth in 1967–78, Medical Registrar in 1968–79 and Anaesthetic Registrar in 1969–70 at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and on returning home, Registrar at Wollongong Hospital in NSW in 1970–71. He practised in Mildura in Victoria from 1971 to 1974 and brought his wide expertise to Lismore, where he was a GP, but also very busy with obstetrics and anaesthetics, while acting as the local paediatrician until at least 1979.

He still found time to be a staunch supporter of the Anglican Church, sing in various choirs, take over the post of Government Medical Officer from Dr Rogers in due course for many years, take on the long-term presidency of Musica Viva, belong to Rotary and help re-beautify Dalley Street after the lovely original Cassia trees were cut down.

Igor Petroff

In 1974, Igor Petroff, MB, BS (QLD 1963), MANZCP, became in the first resident psychiatrist in the region. After his residency at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane in 1968-69 he then trained as Registrar in Psychiatry at Stockton Hospital in 1970 and Gladesville Hospital in 1971-73. A Brisbane boy with Russian parents, he was an Honorary at the hospitals and Superintendent of the Richmond Clinic which was the first provincial psychiatric centre in NSW (and probably in Australia). With Dr HW Freeman arriving in the following year, the clinic grew rapidly and soon provided a very popular registrar post.

Dr Petroff started a cattle farm, complete with tennis court and he hosted many competitive matches against visiting teams around the region. He played competition tennis in town and also resurrected a promising junior cricket career cut short by studies when he became organiser, captain and wicket-keeper of the Doctors XI in the later 1970s, providing a pleasant form of group bonding for the members and interaction with other professionals in town, while also unearthing some unexpected talent amongst the 'Docs'.

William R Turnbull

William Robert Turnbull, MB, BS (QLD 1968), MRACR, returned to his home town in 1974. His father Bob was the long-serving (chief) radiographer at Lismore Base Hospital and he deserves mention as virtually all the surrounding hospital X-ray facilities were set up with his advice and guidance over a long period of time. Dr Turnbull had been a Resident at Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1969-70 and Registrar in Radiology at RBH in 1971-73. He was very well trained and the new generation of radiologists learning an increasing range of interventional procedures resulted in other specialists using the new diagnostic facilities being attracted to Lismore. It was only natural that the demand for the sophisticated investigations was great and the huge outlay in setting up a modern X-ray practice was only possible with partnerships sharing the cost, not only the initial purchase cost but the very high service and repair overheads. Dr Turnbull set up his own rooms and plant in a former department store building in Molesworth Street and he was joined in 1975 by Dr PC Meyer and the practice expanded rapidly.

Dr Turnbull started a cattle stud in the attractive Tregeagle area on the outskirts of Lismore. Dr WW Herbert joined in with Turnbull and Meyer Radiology in 1979 and when the radiology building and plant were destroyed by a mysterious fire one night in 1980, rapid action led to

reopening of the renamed Killclare Radiology in the striking Keen Street Federation building, which had nearly become a private hospital. Not long after, Dr Turnbull headed west to Inverell where he found a bigger farm in a better cattle-raising area.

Brian J Kelly

In June 1974, Brian James Kelly, MB, BS (Hons NSW 1968), MRACP (1973), started in Lismore as a locum for Dr B Frith for a year, following which they practised in association in the Keen Street rooms. He had been a Resident at Prince of Wales and Prince Henry Hospitals in 1968–69, went to be a GP in New Guinea in 1969–72 and was Medical Registrar at POW/PHH in 1972–73. He was a general physician, but developed a particular interest in oesophageal and gastric conditions. As a result, from 1978 he mastered the art of gastroscopy as an office procedure. Dr Kelly was a qualified pilot and flew his own plane, becoming a Regional Consultant in Aviation Medicine. He also enjoyed deep sea fishing and windsurfing.

Harry W Freeman

Harry William Freeman, MB, BS (NSW 1968), MRANZCP (1974), revisited Lismore in 1975 to do a locum for Dr I Petroff in his Consultant Psychiatric Practice. He had been a Resident at St George Hospital in Sydney in 1968–69, Medical Officer at Kenmore Hospital in Goulburn in 1970 and Psychiatric Registrar at Broughton Hall Psychiatric Hospital in Sydney in 1971–1974. He had spent his boyhood in Harden in southern NSW and always felt his future lay in regional psychiatric practice.

His first visit to the Far North Coast was when he was a Registrar in 1973 and he attended the Aquarius Pop Festival and was prevailed upon to provide medical care for the masses in Nimbin. As a result of his efforts the long-closed Nimbin District Hospital was re-opened and staffed again. He and Dr Petroff ran the Richmond Clinic with remarkable results for the community, which was his favoured area of practice. Dr Freeman consulted also from his home and in Keen Street. He was a gifted ‘muso’ and performed on the piano in operas and bands in Nimbin and Lismore. He was a keen jogger and enjoyed social tennis.

Peter C Meyer

In 1975, Peter Charles Meyer, MB, BS (Hons QLD 1969), DRACR (1975), FCRANZ, joined Dr WR Turnbull in his radiology practice in Molesworth Street. He had been a Resident at Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1970–71 and Radiology Registrar in 1972–74. When he arrived in Lismore, there were



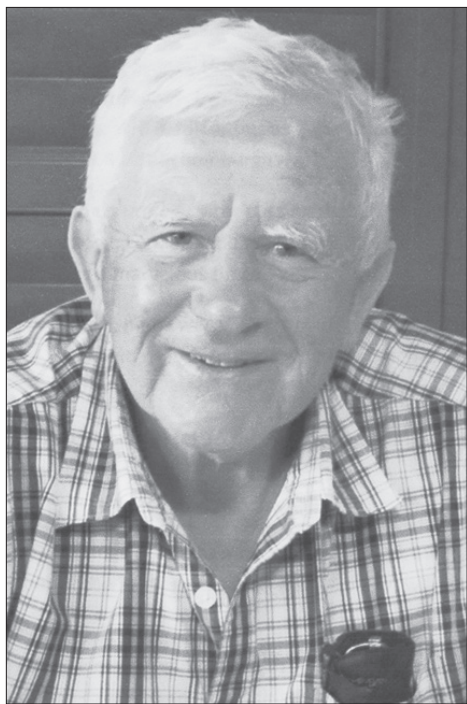
PETER W STEWART



DAVID G THOMAS



ROBERT M MILLER



STUART R SILLAR

two X-ray practices in town. It was therefore a bold venture for the two new radiologists to take the great plunge into developing a state of the art practice from the ground up. Nevertheless, they succeeded in their aim to start and maintain a unit which lost nothing in comparison with those of their big city colleagues.

Dr Meyer had a great interest in exotic flowering plants of the world. He and Dr Turnbull were joined by Dr WW Herbert in 1979.

James L Walter

In 1975, James Leonard Walter, BSc (Sydney 1963), MB, BS (Sydney 1969), FACD (1973), set up his dermatology clinic in Lismore. He was a Junior Resident Medical Officer at Hornsby District Hospital in 1969, Senior Resident Medical Officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1970–71 and Registrar at RPAH in 1971–73. He went to Perth and was a Visiting Medical Officer at the Royal Perth and St Margaret's Children's Hospitals in 1973–75, before returning east.

Dr Walter was an aviator doctor and consulted in Taree and Coffs Harbour. He was a keen sailor, both motor and canvas, but found time to do voluntary free skin inspection clinics at Byron Bay beach at Christmas time. He wanted to go into the growing field of cosmetic medicine and went to practise in Neutral Bay in Sydney in 1985.

Brian PV Pezzutti

Brian Patrick Victor Pezzutti, RFD, MB, BS (Sydney 1970), FFARACS, FANZCA, arrived in Lismore at the beginning of 1976 to practise as an anaesthetic and intensive care specialist. He was a Bonalbo boy and after graduation was a Junior Resident Medical Officer at Parramatta District Hospital in 1970, Senior Resident Medical Officer at Prince of Wales and Prince Henry Hospitals in 1971 and Registrar on the POW/PHH Training Program for anaesthetics and intensive care in 1972–75. With Dr DB Ulyatt and Dr BM Tonking, there were then three full-time Specialist Anaesthetists in Lismore and the Recovery Ward and Intensive Care Unit blossomed. He was Director of Intensive Care from 1980. The flow-on effect of the availability of these services, along with the ever expanding radiology services, was the influx of specialists in other fields. Then more anaesthetists were required, etc.

Dr Pezzutti had been in the Army Reserve in his university days and his involvement with the Army continued with his appointment as Resident Medical Officer of the local 41 Battalion. He received the National Medal in 1978 and his Army career continued with great distinction beyond 1986, the year he was awarded the Reserve Forces Decoration with 3 Bars.

In addition to his strong commitment to the anaesthetic services of the region, he joined Rotary, was elected vice-president of the North Coast Branch of the Peer Support Foundation, and in 1983 set out to found a branch of the Liberal Party in a National Party stronghold with a little help from his friends, resulting in his election in 1983 as president of the new branch of the Liberal Party, which took up a lot of his time. He liked to relax with a game of tennis.

Christine J Pezzutti

Christine Jillian Pezzutti (née Spence), MB, BS (Sydney 1972), met her husband on the Prince of Wales, Prince Henry Hospital circuit, where she was a Junior Resident Medical Officer in 1971 and Medical Registrar in 1972–73. In Lismore she practised as a family doctor, notably with Dr S Dymock and Dr FB Wagner's clinic. Her introduction to Lismore practice was as a locum for the dynamic Dr JG Opie, but she survived that experience. Dr (Mrs) Pezzutti enjoyed tennis in her spare time.

David B Ulyatt

In 1976, David Byam Ulyatt, MB, BS (NSW 1974), FFARACS (1974), FANZCA, arrived in Lismore as a colleague of Dr BP Pezzutti in anaesthetics and intensive care. He had been an intern at Mona Vale Hospital in Sydney in 1969–70 and Anaesthetic Registrar at Prince Henry and Prince of Wales Hospitals in 1971–75. He served in the Vietnam War as Medical Officer in the RAAMC in 1970–71. He managed to start a farm well out in the country and enjoyed the bush life. He left in 1985, planning to work in New Zealand.

Stuart R Sillar

Stuart Roy Sillar, MB, BS (Sydney 1961), FRCS (Eng. 1967), FRACS (1971), returned to Lismore in January 1976 as the first Specialist Urologist. He had first seen Lismore in 1946 when his father, Dr DB Sillar, started in practice there, but he left to start studying medicine in Sydney, already bearing the name 'Doc' attributed to the son of country doctors in those days. After being a Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1961–63, Demonstrator in Anatomy at Sydney University in 1964 and Surgical Registrar back at Sydney Hospital in 1965, he followed the popular path of the times and went to 'chop up the Poms', as was termed the gaining of vast surgical experience by working in busy UK hospitals where the local graduates did not have the same blood lust as the colonials—often carrying on the tradition of arriving as impecunious unpaid ship's surgeons.

Dr S Sillar worked as Orthopaedic Registrar at Kirkcaldy Hospital in Scotland in 1966, Surgical Registrar at Victoria Central Hospital in Wallasey in Cheshire in 1967, before starting serious urological training at St Peter's Hospital in London in 1968, Meath Hospital in Dublin in 1969–70 and at Prince Henry Hospital in Sydney in 1970–71. He was Honorary Urologist at Sutherland and Marrickville Hospitals in 1972–75.

In Lismore, he covered the Richmond, Clarence, Brunswick and Tweed valleys, but he managed to serve on the committee of the House with No Steps, start one of the first macadamia nut farms and be a member of the local growers' association. He enjoyed returning to the beach of his youth and erected a well used backyard cricket net.

Keith H Larsen

In 1976, Keith Herbert Larsen, MB, BS (QLD 1968), started at the Keen Street Clinic in the place of Dr RW Gordon. He was a Resident Medical Officer at Bundaberg Hospital in 1969 and then was a captain in the RAAMC, working in military hospitals in Perth and Singapore in 1971–75. He was an all-round family GP and did some obstetrics. Dr Larsen moved out of suburbia after a few years and started a Kiwi and other exotic tropical fruit farm. He enjoyed being chairman of the Medical Staff Council and was a firm advocate for his colleagues. He was a regular attender at Thursday golf and heavy smiter of the little white ball.

David M Grosser

David Maxwell Grosser, MB, BS (Sydney 1968), FRACS (1972), FRCS (Eng. 1975), moved from Sydney to join the Lismore Clinic in October 1976 as Specialist General Surgeon in the group. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Prince of Wales and Prince Henry Hospitals in 1968–69, Surgical Registrar at POW/PHH in 1970–73, Anatomy Lecturer at UNSW 1971, Registrar in Vascular Surgery at the Chelmsford Hospital Group in Essex in 1974–75 and Senior Surgical Registrar at POW Hospital 1976.

He was the designated vascular surgeon in Lismore and left the clinic to set up his own rooms. Dr Grosser was the only doctor in this study to relax by playing his full kit of drums. He moved on to the Gold Coast in 1985.

Neil GH Thompson

In October 1976, Neil George Hugh Thompson, MB, BS (Sydney 1965), FRCS (Edin. 1970), FRCS (Eng. 1971), FRACS (1975), arrived in Lismore to become the first orthopaedic surgeon to reside and practise full-time in the town. A Bondi boy, he had been a Resident Medical Officer and Orthopaedic

Registrar at Parramatta District Hospital in 1965–67, Anatomy Prosector at the RCS London in 1968, Registrar in General Surgery at New Lambeth Hospital in 1968, Neurosurgery at Walton Hospital, General Surgery at St Catherine's, Birkenhead and then Broadgreen Hospital, Liverpool in 1969–70. He trained in orthopaedics at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge in 1971, Parramatta District Hospital in 1972 and Prince of Wales and Lewisham Hospitals in 1973–74. Dr Thompson started in specialist practice as a Visiting Medical Officer at Parramatta in 1975–76, but after doing a couple of trial operating lists in Lismore, decided to settle there, initially in Dr Nardi's refuge for new doctors and then in Killclare House.

He was on his own for four years before the next resident orthopod started and he could find time to enjoy club and district tennis—reviving the old pleasure of town doctors going to Country Week and veterans' events. He was also able to play social golf and relax by the sea. Dr Thompson was awarded the Australian Commendation for Brave Conduct and the Silver Medal of the Royal Humane Society in 1978. He was in the Battle of the Dalley Street Trees and involved in the rehabilitation project afterwards.

Robert Park

Robert Park, MB, BS (Liverpool, Eng. 1972), MRCS & LRCP (Eng. 1972), joined the Lismore Clinic in 1977 as a GP. He gave a more modern business perspective to his longer-standing senior colleagues and, after some success for about two years, moved on to New Farm in Brisbane.

Mary L Ali

At the beginning of 1977, Mary Louise Ali, MB, BS (Sydney 1971), FFARACS (1976), began in Specialist Anaesthetic and Intensive Care Practice in Lismore. She had completed the Prince of Wales and Prince Henry Hospital Group training rotation program and was inveigled to join the growing number of colleagues from the 'Coast group'. Dr Ali had a very refreshing outlook to rural practice and after hours enjoyed a tranquil life in her bush retreat.

Francis B Wagner

In 1977, Francis Bernard Wagner, MB, BS (Sydney 1963), MRACP (1968), FRACP (1975), returned to his home town, practising as a Specialist General Physician, starting off in the Nardi building. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at the Brisbane Mater Hospital in 1963–64, a GP in Port Moresby in 1965 and Medical Registrar at the RGH Concord in Sydney in 1966–68.

He had been a Staff Physician at Port Moresby and Goroka Hospitals

in PNG in 1969–76, but had lost none of his skills in ballgames, particularly playing baseball at a very high level, also tennis and cricket. As a local lad, he was a very popular doctor with the Lismore locals and became very busy. He took over the role of director of the Rehab Unit when Dr Lawrance died, but found time to start a farm on which his family lived and for a short time was home to some camels. He founded a horse stud, which gave him direct involvement in a longtime interest in the sport of kings. At one stage, he had a very good galloper in which a lot of locals took such an active interest that one afternoon the punters supporting the horse drained the bank at the local TAB, which had to suspend paying winning bets.

Dr Wagner was in the first group of doctors to move into consulting rooms across from and up the road from Lismore Base Hospital, transforming the previously very popular residential area of Postmans Hill into 'Pill Hill'.

Brian Dennison

Brian Dennison, MB, ChB (UK 1961), DA (1964), MRCGP (1974), FFARCS (1980), joined the Keen Street Clinic in 1977, as a GP but also specialising in anaesthetics. He had been House Physician at South Shields Hospital in Yorkshire in 1961, House Surgeon in 1962 and Anaesthetic Senior Resident Medical Officer and Registrar at Dundee Infirmary in Scotland in 1962–64, served as Specialist Anaesthetist in the RAMC in 1964–69 and Medical Director of Dubai Petroleum 1969–76.

Dr Dennison was an internationally accredited aviation and underwater medicine specialist and was such a comfortable overseas traveller that he went back to England briefly in 1980 to catch up with his local contemporaries by getting his FFARCS. Being a bit of an adventurer, he took off in 1981 and finished up in the UN Forces, but sadly perished in a fatal motor vehicle accident.

Soo H Choo

In 1977, Soo Huat Choo, MB, BS (Singapore 1956), FRCS (Edin. 1960), FRFPS (Glasgow 1960), FACS (1974), FRACS (1978), joined the Rawle Clinic, in answer to their ad in the *Australian Medical Journal* for a general surgeon. He had been Resident Medical Officer, Resident Surgical Officer and Surgical Registrar at Johore Bahru Malaya in 1956–59, Post-graduate Medical Officer at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Western General Hospital in 1960–61, Special Surgical Registrar at Taiping Hospital in Malaya in 1961–67, Consultant Surgeon at Klang Hospital in 1968–72, Plastic Surgeon at Kanto Rosai Hospital in Tokyo in 1972 and Consultant Surgeon at Assunta Hospital in Kuala Lumpur in 1973–76.

After about eighteen months in Lismore, he went into solo surgical practice with a strong plastic surgical emphasis. He was able to do a lot of the more minor procedures in his rooms, while doing a complete range of cosmetic and reconstructive operations in both hospitals. Dr Choo relaxed from his taxing work by gardening—like many of his predecessors. His wife, **Helen Patricia Yoong**, MB, BS (Adelaide 1960), although not in her own practice, was an administrator at Lismore Base Hospital and active in child health care.

Brian S Gaynor

Brian Seymour Gaynor, MB, BS (Sydney 1952), FRACGP, DCH (Eng.), MRCP (UK), started as Specialist Paediatrician in 1978. He had served in the RAAF in 1944–46 and been Resident Medical Officer in Tamworth Base Hospital in 1952, Resident Medical Officer at RAHC in Camperdown in 1958–59 and Assistant Paediatrician at RAHC and Consultant Paediatrician at Parramatta District Hospital in 1971–75, then Staff Paediatrician at Royal Canberra Hospital in 1976. He was appointed Visiting Medical Officer at the hospitals but after one year, he returned to work in Sydney.

Michael Tsicalas

At the beginning of 1978, Michael Tsicalas, MB, BS (Hons NSW 1970), FRACP (1977), DDU, started the first solely Specialist Cardiologist Practice in his home town. He was a Resident Medical Officer at the Prince of Wales and Prince Henry Hospitals in Sydney in 1971–72, then stayed on as Medical Registrar in 1973 and Fellow in Cardiology in 1974–75. He was Cardiology Registrar at Harefield Cardiac Hospital in London in 1976–77 and Fellow in Cardiology at UNSW in 1977–78.

Dr Tsicalas was the only cardiologist in the region for ten years, so he was very busy, introduced cardiac pacemakers to Lismore and provided an active clinical link to the cardiac surgical centres. He was a dedicated rose grower and started the well patronised rose farm, later growing avocados for his family and friends. He also built a picturesque tennis court, which was very popular with older players who felt they could play a little more adventurously with expert cardiac care available on the other side of the net.

Kuttetur AS Rao

Kuttetur Ananthashar Sarvajna Rao, ('Sarge'), MB, BS (Karnatak 1964), BSc was a GP in the burgeoning Goonellabah area in 1978. He was very popular with the young local families and a quiet family man. Dr Rao left after about three years, believed to be heading to Ryde in Sydney.

William R Thompson

In 1979, William Robert Thompson, MB, BS (Sydney 1974), DObst RCOG (1977), FRACGP, took his place in the Keen Street Clinic. He had been Resident Medical Officer at Prince of Wales and Prince Henry Hospitals in 1974–76 and Senior Resident Medical Officer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Royal Women's Hospital in Sydney in 1977–78. He was a family doctor with a busy obstetric practice. A regular golfer, he also had a large, well-equipped shed-workshop and at the instigation of his children was one of the pioneers of Christmas light displays in Lismore.

David W Gilmore

David William Gilmore, MB, BS (QLD 1970), FRACP (1978), set up as Consultant Paediatrician in Lismore in 1979. He had been a Resident at Toowoomba General Hospital in 1971–72, Senior Resident Medical Officer in 1973 and Registrar in 1974–1977 at RAHC at Camperdown, then Registrar at Brisbane Mater Children's Hospital in 1978. He was very busy while the only one of his kind for some years, especially because of the policy that he was required to attend all Caesarean births. Dr Gilmore was a keen collector of Persian carpets and avid gardener and landscaper.

Warwick W Herbert

In May 1979, Warwick William Herbert, MB, BS (Sydney 1972), FRANZCR (1976), FRCR (1979), joined Dr Turnbull and Dr Meyer in the radiology practice in AGR's Building, post-fire moving to Killclare. He was born in Leeton, NSW, and had been Resident Medical Officer at Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1972–73, Radiology Registrar in 1974–76, a locum in Killclare in 1977 and then was Senior Radiology Registrar at the Royal Free Hospital in London in November 1977–May 1979, getting extensive training in diagnostic ultrasound.

After being cooped up all day in the rooms or hospital, he enjoyed tennis and golf and the open spaces of the lychee farm he established. Dr Herbert served as rural representative of the NEMA and did a term on the board of the House with No Steps. The X-ray practice soon outgrew the space at Keen Street and had started branches in other towns.

Richard D Harvey

Richard David Harvey, MB, BS (Sydney 1975), went into the Lismore Clinic in 1979, having been a hardworking Senior Resident Medical Officer at Lismore Base Hospital in 1977–79. Previously he had been a Resident Medical Officer at Launceston General Hospital in 1975–76, then a GP in

Sydney in 1976–77. After starting as an all-round GP, Dr Harvey became attracted to sports medicine and revived the past when any doctors interested in sport were snavelled up as Medical Officer to various teams.

He enjoyed his own intensive fitness training with serious swimming and cycling, being one of the earliest riders to conquer the awesomely steep slope of the notorious Cynthia Wilson Drive.

Andrew F Binns

In 1979, Andrew Frederick Binns, BSc (Adel 1968), MB, BS (NSW 1973), DObst RCOG (1977), set up his own general practice in Goonellabah. An Adelaide boy, he went back there after graduation and worked as a Resident Medical Officer at Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1973–74 and as a Resident Medical Officer at Royal Adelaide Children's Hospital in 1974–75. Then he went to England and was Senior House Officer at Upton Hospital in Slough in 1975–76 and at the City Hospital in Nottingham in 1976–79.

Armed with this experience, he was told there was no room for him in Lismore, but he found plenty to do when he started up his own general practice. He was asked to give anaesthetics for eye and dental lists, was doing his own obstetrics and he got a bit short of time when he took on the role of director of the new Palliative Care Unit at St Vincent's Hospital. He continued his own practice, where he had been joined by Dr G Ellis in 1983.

Dr Binns became a force in the great development of visual and performing arts in the area, showing a flair for innovation. He was a driving force behind education in rural medicine, nutritional health and weight-loss programs, while maintaining his own physical exercise discipline of jogging, cycling and walking. He was a charter member of Goonellabah Rotary in 1983, helped establish the Lismore Tourist and Heritage Centre and was president of the Early Intervention Centre for children.

Noel R Morrison

Noel Robert Morrison, MB, BS (NSW 1975), arrived to join the Lismore Clinic in June 1979. He had sounded out the Lismore medical scene in 1977 with a 3-month locum and found the town suited him. After being a Resident Medical Officer at Prince of Wales Hospital in 1975, he toured Europe and Asia and then was a Senior Resident Medical Officer at St George Hospital in Sydney in 1977–78, Senior Resident Medical Officer at RAHC Camperdown in 1978 and Senior Resident Medical Officer at the Women's Hospital in Sydney in 1978–79. He was a family doctor and practised GP obstetrics, with an evolving interest in skin conditions. He was in Rotary and enjoyed surf kayaking and trekking.

Suzanne M Dymock

In 1979, Suzanne Marie Dymock, MB, BS (QLD 1976), started a general practice in Lismore in Conway Street. She had been a Resident at the Brisbane Mater Hospital in 1977–78 and at Lismore Base Hospital in 1978–79. She did GP obstetrics and worked on her own until joined by her younger sister, Dr FH Dymock, in 1982. The following year, they moved to a house in Second Avenue, which eventually employed four lady doctors. Dr Dymock managed to be a family doctor, raise a family, support her church and relax with horseriding, although not emulating the pioneer doctors by riding to house calls.

Adrian W Johnson

Adrian William Johnson, MB, BS (Sydney 1979), started in December 1979 as an assistant at the Rawle Clinic. Born in Sydney, he had been a Resident at RNSH in Sydney in 1978–79 and did family medicine with some obstetrics. Dr Johnson became a partner in the clinic in 1982 when Dr Glannie Rawle died, but Dr John Rawle was suffering indifferent health and in 1985 retired and handed on to Dr CF Hew. Dr Johnson became a keen exponent of the demanding sport of windsurfing.

Arthur DN White

At the beginning of 1980, Arthur David Norman White, MB, BS (Sydney 1965), FRACS (1980), set up the second full-time orthopaedic surgery practice, in Nardi Building in Conway Street. He had served in the RAN before medical school. After a time in general practice, he was Senior Resident Medical Officer (Orthopaedics) at Prince of Wales Hospital and trained at St George and St Vincent's Hospitals in Sydney in 1978–79. Dr White was a keen golfer and started a hydroponic farm on the outskirts of suburbia, but he decided to move to tropical Mackay in 1984.

Michael M Tuch

Michael Melvyn Tuch, MB, BS (QLD 1972), FFARACS (1977), started practice as a Specialist Anaesthetist in Lismore in 1980. He had been a Resident at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane in 1972–73, Anaesthetic Registrar at RGH at Chermside in 1974, at Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1975–76 and Staff Specialist in Anaesthetics at RBH in 1977–79. Dr Tuch was a major in the Royal Australian Army Reserve.

Denis Gribbin

Denis Gribbin, MB, BS (Hons NSW 1975), DObst RCOG, FRACGP, joined the Keen Street Clinic in mid-1980. He was born in Egypt. He was a Resident Medical Officer at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst in 1975–76 and at Crown Street Women's Hospital in 1977 before becoming a Family Medicine Program trainee in 1978 at the KSC in 1978. Dr Gribbin served as a Primary Care Physician in the US Hospital in Augsburg (Germany) in 1979–80.

In Lismore he was a GP with special interest in obstetrics. His recreations were motorcycling and adventure travel. In September 1987, he started a successful transition by going to Brisbane to train in radiology and nuclear medicine.

Anthony J Kirkwood

In 1981, Anthony John Kirkwood, MB, BS (Sydney 1974), FFARACS (1979), took the place of Dr B Dennison as Specialist in Anaesthetics and Intensive Care. He had been born in Sydney and was a Resident Medical Officer at St Vincent's Hospital in 1974, then at Orange Base Hospital in NSW in 1975. He was a Senior House Officer at Royal Hampshire County Hospital in England in 1976–77, relieved on occasions at Orange in 1977, before finishing his training as Anaesthetic Registrar at St Vincent's Hospital in 1978.

Having received a cool reception where he wanted to practice—a not uncommon experience for well-trained doctors starting off their careers in those times—he did a locum in the Lismore hospitals where, being wiser now, he did not take the advice of an old hand to go somewhere else and was made welcome by the younger colleagues. He had four happy, hard-working years in Lismore and even was a charter member of Goonellabah Rotary, but in 1985 he took off for the greener, and colder, pastures of Orange.

Ramon W Lun

Ramon Wayne Lun, M PhC (QLD 1955), MB, BS (QLD 1968), MRACR (1975), started practice as a Specialist Radiologist in 1981. He was born in Hong Kong, did pharmacy first and had his own shop before completing medicine and training at Royal Brisbane Hospital as a Resident in 1969–70, then Registrar in Medicine in 1971, Pathology in 1971–72 and Radiology in 1972–75.

After practising in Ipswich, he took over the practice of Dr BV Mutton in Conway Street and then amalgamated with the Killclare Radiology Group after about a year. Dr Lun was a keen traveller, with a particular liking for ocean liners.

Fiona H Dymock

In 1982, Fiona Heather Dymock, (later Wagner), MB, BS (QLD 1979), created an historic first for the Richmond area when she joined her sister, Dr SM Dymock, in her general practice in Conway Street. Dr Fiona was a Junior Resident Medical Officer at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane in 1980 and Senior Resident Medical Officer at Lismore Base Hospital in 1981. She was busy with her family medical practice which included obstetrics. She took an active part in her church activities and relaxed by going for a regular horse ride with her sister.

David CE Begg

David Colin Elly Begg, MB, BS (NSW 1971), FFARACS (1981), joined the swelling numbers of specialist anaesthetists in Lismore in 1983, having been a locum while establishing his family farm in 1982. A Sydney boy, he was Junior Resident Medical Officer at Balmain and District Hospital in 1971 and then he and his wife, **Janet Leuwin Harrison**, MB, BS (Melbourne 1969), FFARACS (1984), went overseas touring before they embarked on anaesthetic careers, Dr Begg training at St George Hospital in 1975 and 1976, then joining the Prince of Wales Hospital training circuit in 1978 after working in intensive care in London in 1977.

In Lismore he was a keen medical attendant on the rescue helicopter and worked at keeping his reputation as 'Big Wave Dave' on his surfboard.

Graham R Ellis

Also in 1983, Graham Roy Ellis, MB, BS (NSW 1979), joined Dr A Binns in his general practice in Goonellabah. He was born in Sydney and was a Resident Medical Officer at Royal North Shore Hospital in 1979, then worked as a locum in Port Macquarie, Kempsey and Taree in 1980. He was a Senior Resident Medical Officer at Lismore Base Hospital in 1981 and the next year was spent constructing his own beautiful stone house and adjacent lawn tennis court, which he manicured proudly, to the delight of his tennis-playing friends. Dr Ellis played competition tennis in town and enjoyed golf.

Christine H Gestier

In 1984, Christine Helen Gestier, MB, BS (QLD 1974), was in the Keen Street Clinic as their first lady. She had done her residency at Royal North Shore and Hornsby Hospitals in 1974–75 before combining general practice in various parts of Sydney with starting a family. Dr Gestier was popular with women and children patients, also making an important contribution to

the community by accepting the very difficult responsibility of being the Medical Officer attending female and children assault cases. She relaxed as a serious gardener and by walking to keep fit.

David G Guest

David George Guest, MB, BS (Sydney 1980), started his general practice career in 1984 by joining the experienced pair of Dr NJ Rogers and Dr GC Cawley in the AMP Building. He had been Resident Medical Officer at Woden Valley Hospital in Canberra in 1980–82 and was Registrar at Lismore Base Hospital in 1982–83. Dr Guest introduced the use of computers in the clinical management of patients in his practice and with his genial nature became a consultant for his colleagues in the new approach to diagnostic aids and record keeping in clinical medicine.

Roger C Head

In 1984, Roger Cameron Head, MB, BS (Monash 1971), MRACR, joined the radiology group. He had been a Resident at Royal Brisbane Hospital for a year before returning to train in radiology in Melbourne. He left Lismore in 1986, heading for Sydney and leaving Dr I Cappe as his successor.

John RS Ashwell

John Robert Scott Ashwell, MB, BS (NSW 1974), FRACS (1982), was appointed Visiting Medical Officer in orthopaedic surgery in Lismore in 1984, practising initially from Nardi Chambers, later in Uralba Street. He was a Resident at RGH Concord in 1975–78, Registrar there in 1978–79 before joining the Australian Orthopaedic Registrar Training Program in 1979–82. He went to England to be Orthopaedic Registrar at Oswestry in 1982, Hand Surgeon Registrar at Derby in 1983 and Registrar at Hereford General Hospital in 1984.

Dr Ashwell had particular interests in hand surgery and joint replacement, while he was a pioneer in arthroscopic surgery in the town. His early recreational interests were go-kart racing and archery.

Hugh Fairfull-Smith

In 1985, Hugh Fairfull-Smith, MB, BS (Aberdeen 1975), MRCP (1979), MRCP (1980), FRACP (1983), was appointed Visiting Rehabilitation and Geriatric Medicine Specialist at the Lismore hospitals. Born in Scotland, he was Senior House Officer at the West Lothian Hospital in 1976–79, Medical Registrar at Falkirk Infirmary in 1979–80 and then set out for the Antipodes, working in New Zealand as Medical Registrar at Whakatane Hospital in

1980–81 and Wellington Hospital in 1981–82 before working as Registrar in Geriatrics in that hospital in 1982–84.

He was based at St Vincent's Hospital and became director of the Rehab Centre. He enjoyed international travel, was a keen road cyclist not deterred by the hilly rural area where he lived and was a regular kilt wearer—alas, the Caledonian Society was not active when he arrived.

Ellen E McGirr

Ellen Elizabeth McGirr, MB, BS (Sydney 1977), FRACP (1983), started the first full-time practice as a specialist in rheumatology in March 1985. She had been a Resident at RPAH in Sydney in 1981–82 and Medical Registrar at St George Hospital in 1983–84. She found after doing some visiting sessions in 1984 that there was a real need for her specialty in the town and set up dual rooms in Uralba Street to share with her husband, Dr ST Prince.

Dieter Werner

In 1985, Dieter Werner, MB, BS (NSW 1973), FRACP (1981), set up as Lismore's first Specialist Gastroenterologist. He was a Resident at Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1974–75, Senior Resident Medical Officer at Royal Hobart Hospital in 1975–76, Medical Registrar at Queen Elizabeth in Adelaide in 1978–80 and then did a Research Fellowship in GE at the Bristol Infirmary in 1981–82. He resumed in Australia with a practice based on Bega Hospital in 1983–85, then went north. He relaxed from the confines of his specialty with a vigorous game of tennis.

Austin M Curtin

Austin Mark Curtin, MB, BS (Sydney 1977), FRACS (1983), started his Consultant General Surgical Practice in 1985. A member of the men's eight produced by his eminent physician father, he decided that he would forge his own future in a different hospital in surgery. He was a Resident in 1978–79 (doing a term at Lismore Base Hospital) and Registrar in 1980–81 at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney. He had obtained valuable wide experience in handling surgical trauma in the turmoil of Belfast when he was a Registrar at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in 1982 before returning to fine tune his surgical career at Royal North Shore Hospital. Dr Curtin took on the vascular surgical work in the region as well as being busy with general surgery. He started a farm and enjoyed young veteran rowing.

Paul Phillip Laird

In July 1985, Paul Phillip Laird, BSc Med (Sydney 1970), MB, BS (Sydney 1972), FRACP (1978), took over Dr B Frith's practice in Keen Street as Consultant General Physician. Born in Sydney, Dr Laird had been at RPAH in Camperdown as Resident Medical Officer in 1971–72, Medical Registrar in 1973–76 and Clinical Medical Superintendent in 1978–79. He did a Fellowship at Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and Vancouver General Hospital in Canada in 1979, before being Senior Medical Registrar at St Thomas' Hospital in London in 1980–81. He was in practice in Sydney and Visiting Consultant General Physician at RPAH from 1982.

Dr Laird's reason for changing to Lismore was very unusual in that he had met Dr FB Wagner in Goroka when he did a term there from RPAH, heard about life in Lismore and then did a locum for Dr Frith later to try it for himself. To complete his tree-change, he moved onto a farm well out of town.

Stephen T Prince

Stephen Thomas Prince, MB, BS (Sydney 1977), FRACS (1985), who married Dr McGirr in their student days, started as Specialist Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon in 1986. Sydney-born, he had been a Resident at RPAH in Sydney in 1979–80 and underwent training as an ENT Surgical Registrar at Sydney Hospital in 1981–85. He started a farm just out of town.

Raymond E Randle

Raymond Eric Randle, MB, BS (Hons NSW 1978), FRACS (1985), started his Specialist Orthopaedic Surgical Practice in 1986. Born in nearby Bentley, he did his residency at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney in 1978–80, was Orthopaedic Registrar in Training at Auburn District Hospital in 1982, Sutherland District Hospital in 1983 and Prince of Wales Hospital in 1985. He had a year at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in London in 1984.

Dr Randle started up the squire's home life with a lovely farm on which he started breeding quarter horses and Poll Hereford cattle, also competing in campdrafting.

Peter J McClaren

In 1986, Peter James McClaren, MB, BS (NSW 1977), FFARACS (1985), joined in the Specialist Anaesthetic and ICU services. Born in the area, he went west and was a Resident at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth in 1977–79, Resident Medical Officer in the Heath Department in 1979–81,

Senior House Officer at Plymouth Hospital in England in 1981–82, Registrar at the Brisbane Mater Hospital in 1982–84, Registrar at SCGH in Perth in 1984–85 and the Fremantle Hospital in 1986. He opted to live in the quiet suburban life.

Ian P Cappe

Ian Philip Cappe, MB, BS (Sydney 1980), FRACR, became a partner in the radiology practice in July 1986, having worked as a locum in the previous six months. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1980–81 and was Radiology Registrar at RPAH in Sydney in 1982–85. He was enthused by the rapidly developing invasive, or ‘interventional’ radiology, particularly in the vascular and spinal fields. He had the unusual privilege of having his father do a locum for him. He was a keen supporter of his church, became a fledgling pilot and scuba diver and set up a farmlet retreat on the outskirts of town.

David M Townend

In 1986, David Maxwell Townend, MB, BS (NSW 1977), FRACS (1984), commenced in his Consultant General Surgical Practice in Lismore. He had trained at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney, as an intern in 1977–78, Senior Resident Medical Officer in 1978–80 and Surgical Registrar in 1978–83 before going for experience in England as Surgical Registrar at the Southend on Sea General Hospital in 1984–85. He took over the former Turnbull farm in what was becoming Doctors’ Row on the outskirts of town.

Charles FC Hew

Charles Foong Chong Hew, MB, BS (QLD 1980), started in the Rawle general practice in 1986, taking over from Dr JG Rawle with Dr AW Johnson. He had been Resident Medical Officer at Townsville General Hospital in 1981–82, Senior Resident Medical Officer in Ayr Hospital in 1983, Medical Registrar at Townsville in 1984 and Lismore Base Hospital in 1985.

Kim H Kerr

Kim Helen Kerr, MB, BS (QLD 1982), was Resident Medical Officer at Townsville in 1983–84 and went as Senior Resident Medical Officer at Lismore Base Hospital. The wife of Dr Hew, she later worked as assistant at the Johnson-Hew clinic. They were both keen joggers, setting an example in physical fitness to their patients.



LEIGHTON KESTEVEN

(Photo: NSW State Archives)



DUNCAN D GIBSON



JAMES REIACH

(Photo: NSW State Archives)



JOHN WARD

(Photo: NSW State Archives)

Mullumbimby



Settlement of Mullumbimby was under way in the late 1870s but in 1894, the rail line reached Mullumbimby from the south and changed its status from a small town with easy access only from the previously more populated seaport of Brunswick Heads to being the larger town. The medical services reflected the population and there were no recorded practising doctors resident before 1904.

Delph Singh

Mr Delph Singh was reported in the local paper as living and practising in the town in 1901 but he was the subject of prosecutions for calling himself 'doctor' while unregistered under the Medical Practitioners Amended Act, advertising as being experienced especially in the treatment of 'incurable diseases'. He was, therefore, an Indian herbalist and he worked from Grafton to Murwillumbah, including Magellan Lane in Lismore, and had a house in Mullumbimby which he rented to Dr Kesteven just before it was burnt down in October 1904. Then Mr Singh went to Queanbeyan to continue his herbal career.

Leighton Kesteven

Leighton Kesteven, MRCS, MRCP (Eng.) started practice in Mullumbimby in September 1904, having the misfortune of losing most of his possessions in a mysterious fire within months of his arrival as the first registered doctor resident in the town. He was born in London in 1852, the son of a doctor, with whom he did an apprenticeship before training at St Bartholomew's Hospital and working in Macclesfield and Derby Asylums. He became Government Medical Officer and Deputy Magistrate in Fiji in 1881 and Brisbane as Medical Superintendent, Superintendent Brisbane General Hospital 1887, then a surgeon in Sydney from 1891, but reports indicate that efforts to engage in private rooms and a hospital failed financially so he took to the road.

After working as Medical Officer at Bourke Hospital from the late 1890s,

Dr Kesteven set up rooms briefly in Lismore, in January 1904 at 'Riverview House' on the corner of Molesworth and Zadoc Streets. He then moved to Mullumbimby, in a house in Jubilee Avenue.

In his four years there, he engaged in community affairs including being president of the Progress Association, forming of a branch of the Australian Light Horse and being a JP involved in court work, in which he had a lot of experience, not only as an official, but as a plaintiff and defendant. He was an avid contributor to the newspapers and medical journals about political and medical issues—one to the *British Medical Journal* while at Mullumbimby regarding the causes of eczema. By September 1908 he had left Mullumbimby to practise in Randwick. He got severe appendicitis in 1924 and died soon after. (He had a son who practised from Bulahdelah, on the lower North Coast).

William Connor

Towards the end of 1904, William Connor, MB BS (Edin. 1896), started visiting from Byron Bay on a weekly basis, apparently not for long.

Francis G Connor

Francis Gillies Connor, MB, ChM (Edin. 1883), MD (Edin. 1895), arrived in Mullumbimby at the beginning of 1906. He was born in 1861 at Swan Creek, on the Clarence. He started on the Far North Coast in Coraki in 1886 and moved to Lismore in 1890. He started to run his Mullumbimby practice as a physician and surgeon from a house in Stuart Street, opposite the Anglican Church. He was feeling the effects of his many years in very busy all-round practice and went to Mullumbimby to 'help out' but, true to his nature, he stayed for three years and in January 1909 sold his practice to Dr James Reiach.

Dr Connor had completed a very distinguished career in which he performed successfully extraordinary operative feats and was one of the most experienced and respected medical practitioners on the North Coast. He retained a rational and objective attitude towards unregistered 'medical men', unlike some of his more vocal colleagues. After retiring to a farm in Tamworth for a while, he died in Sydney in 1921, aged sixty.

James Reiach

In January 1909, James Reiach, MB, MS (Edin. 1893), born in Greenock, Scotland in 1869, started to practise in Mullumbimby. After practising in Sydney, lecturing to the St John Ambulance Society and then in Molong, NSW for five years, he took over the practice of Dr Connor in Stuart Street

and attended maternity and other ‘non-infected’ patients at the small general hospital in Gordon Street. He left in August 1912, succeeded by Dr Ward and went to Sydney, enlisting in the AAMC as captain in September 1914 and serving overseas, before becoming a career Medical Officer in the Army.

Duncan D Gibson

Duncan David Gibson, MB, ChM (Sydney 1906), started as the fourth solo GP in Mullumbimby in 1909, at the age of twenty-nine. He was born on the Manning River and had worked around Windsor in NSW, and did locum tenens work in Lismore in 1908, when the medical politics there were in some degree of turmoil, so he opted for the quieter, but probably far busier, Mullumbimby. He was to practise for almost fifty years in Mullumbimby and was revered as ‘The Doc’ or ‘DD’. Dr Gibson treated patients in the Gordon Street hospital until 1916 when it closed and he attended the ‘Mullumbimby Private Hospital’—a house in Dalley Street.

He changed his smart sulky and pony to the first motor car in town and was very active in the community, in particular, with the Brunswick Heads Surf Club, the golf club and tennis club. He worked in very friendly co-operation with the next doctor in the town, Dr Ward. Such was his dedication to his patients that in 1917 he postponed his own wedding service to deliver twins in a difficult labour.

Particularly during the Depression in the early 1930s, Dr Gibson often accepted payment in kind for his services with dairy foods, other farm produce and trade work. In 1924, he started living in the beautiful house ‘Cedarholm’ and became an avid horticulturist, with his own glasshouse and its exotic orchids, ferns and dahlias.

In 1948, he took over the Mullumbimby Private Hospital in Dalley Street. He outlasted many doctors, ‘retiring’ in 1957, nine years after his son, Lloyd, joined him in practice, although he did see a few patients in Brunswick Heads until he became ill in 1962 and died in Mullumbimby Hospital in 1965.

John Ward

In September, 1912, John Ward, MB, ChB (Melbourne 1907), followed on from Dr Reiach in the busy practice. After his residency, he was the Medical Superintendent at Richmond and Croydon Hospitals in Queensland. On one occasion he was reported in the national news for his efforts in attending a sailor after a serious incident on the ill-fated SS *Wollongbar*.

He was also very involved in community activities, including formation of the Mullumbimby Ambulance Brigade, running first aid classes and membership of the surf and cricket clubs and the local Progress Association. At the end of 1916, he was Medical Officer at Ennoger Military Hospital before resuming in Mullumbimby.

In the severe epidemic in 1919, Dr Ward and his wife were stricken with the pneumonic flu and he did not recover, dying in June, aged thirty-one—a very sad occasion for Dr Gibson who was trying to manage the local very severe epidemic and also lost his good colleague whose practice was kept open for a time by **Dr William Wells Greer**, MB BS (Edin. 1904), MD (Edin. 1906), who had been previously in Kyogle.

Arthur Cole

Arthur Cole, MRCS, LRCP (Eng. 1903), started in Mullumbimby in February 1914. He had been a student at St Mary's Hospital, London, then Resident Medical Officer at Mildmay Hospital, Assistant Medical Officer at Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital and Clinical Assistant in the Dermatology and Throat Department at St Mary's before he came to Australia. He started on the Far North Coast at Woodburn, acting as short-term locum for Dr S Monti, before running a general practice in town on the corner of Dalley and Tyagarah Street for the Friendly Societies until June 1915.

Dr Cole was given an emotional farewell at the Court House Hotel and revealed that he was leaving mainly to go to the aid of the Serbians who were at war and, because he loved hospital work, he had to offer his services.

Francis Quirk

In 1919, Francis Quirk, LRCP&S (Edin.), LFPS (Glasgow 1911), came to take over the practice of the late Dr Ward. He had been a captain in the AAMC Reserve. Dr Quirk was responsible in 1921 for outfitting with a modern operating theatre the private hospital, later called Kurraba Private Hospital, which eventually became the Mullumbimby and District Hospital. He left in 1921, heading to Sydney.

Archie S Cockburn/Coburn

Archie Sheridan Cockburn, MB, ChM (Sydney 1916), Resident Medical Officer Lewisham Hospital, Sydney in 1919, took over the Stuart Street practice from Dr Quirk in 1921. Born in 1892 in Bowral, he enlisted in the AAMC in July 1916 and went as Medical Officer with the 6th Battalion for three years, being awarded the Military Cross in France for conspicuous

bravery when he stayed at his RAP after being severely gassed to the point of his eyesight being affected and leaving him with permanent effects.

In Mullumbimby he went under the name of Coburn and became very involved in the community, including the parish council, lodge, the RSL, agricultural society, P&C Association, and bowls, from where in 1930 he was called to a motor cycle accident at Billinudgel and reported in the papers as picking up the injured rider and rushing him back to hospital in his own car.

Dr Coburn was very busy until 1942, when he was seriously ill after a major operation and complications. However, such was the spirit of the man that he continued in the practice with help from various locum doctors—including in 1942, **John Charles Lane**, MB, BS (Sydney 1941)—for another two years until he died in Mullumbimby in June 1944, aged fifty-one.

Thomas F Tonkin

In 1944, Thomas Francis Tonkin, who won a university exhibition to graduate MB, BS (Sydney 1931), Dip Trop Med (1935), Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1931–32, took over Dr Coburn's practice in Stuart Street and worked in the town until he died in 1948, leaving the Gibson practice on its own for about a year.

Lloyd C Gibson

Lloyd Cameron Gibson, MB, BS (Sydney 1943), Resident Medical Officer at Wollongong Hospital, came in 1949 to practise with his father in Mullumbimby, where he had been born in 1919. This made Lloyd the first child born in the town to study medicine and a second-generation North Coast doctor. The Gibsons started the first medical partnership in Mullumbimby. When his father retired in 1957, Dr Lloyd Gibson moved to Dr Alderman's practice and eventually left for Hurstville, Sydney in 1959.

Bruce A Frith

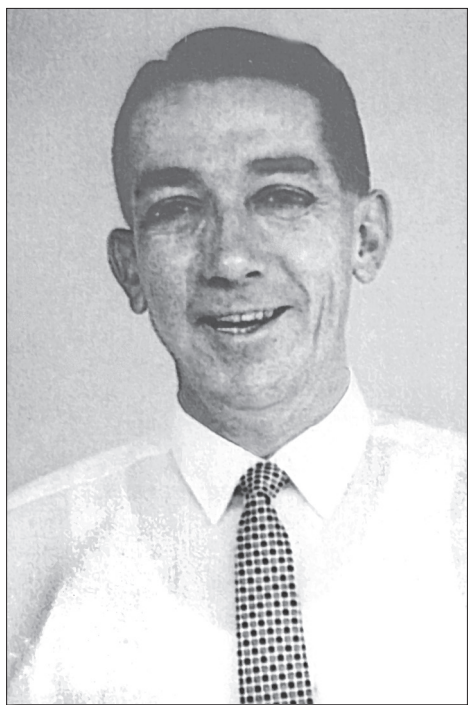
Also in 1949, Bruce Austin Frith, MB, BS (Sydney 1946), Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1946–47, Lecturer in Anatomy (Uni. Queensland 1948), took over Dr Tonkin's practice, but built a two-storey surgery and residence in Stuart Street (later to become the Mullumbimby Medical Centre). In February 1950, he was reported in the national press after wading from 10.00 pm across the flooded creek at Main Arm by holding onto a 60-foot rope held by two men and reaching a farmhouse at 4.45 am to deliver a baby, then returning by the same route to town fourteen hours after he set out. Dr Frith had to handle polio and diphtheria outbreaks, and showed great flair by doing his own clinical pathology.



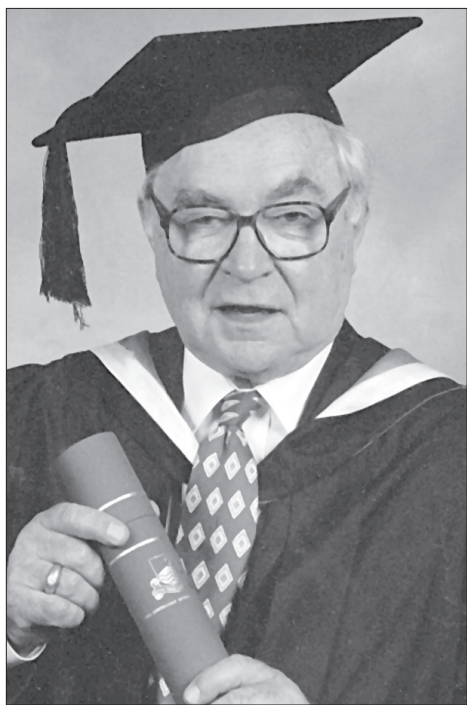
WILLIAM W GREER



ARCHIE S COCKBURN



BRUCE A FRITH



KEITH R BARNES

His outside interests were tennis, golf and fishing. He had left by 1954 to go to England for further training and obtained his MRCP, before becoming a Specialist Physician in Lismore.

Lawrence W Alderman

Lawrence William Alderman, MB, BS (Hons, QLD 1944), FRACGP, took over Dr Frith's practice in Stuart Street in 1954. Born in Hobart in 1920, he acquired a vast experience in rural medicine, having worked in hospitals in Queensland and the Northern Territory and with the Flying Doctor Service in Alice Springs and Broken Hill, before going to Darwin.

In Mullumbimby, he was joined by Dr Lloyd Gibson in 1957 for two years. Dr Alderman was busy in his general practice, doing anaesthetics and obstetrics, was Government Medical Officer for many years and still found time to help found the Pacific Players Drama Group in 1956, go to Rotary, serve as deputy mayor of the municipality for six years and spend time in his pottery kiln. From about 1960, he also had a branch surgery in Brunswick Heads.

Dr Alderman was always ready to help out his colleagues in neighbouring towns and gave a lot of recent graduates a good grounding in general and rural medicine in his practice. One of these doctors was Dr Ian Ralph Curley, MB BS (Sydney 1966), who worked in the practice in 1969 and developed his interest in surgery before going to England to train, later practising in Byron Bay.

Thereafter Dr Alderman ran his rooms with a series of assistants, including in 1971, **Harry House**, MB (Sydney 1974). He went into semi-retirement in 1972, concentrating on Brunswick Heads and was able to spend more time on his drama and pottery pursuits. 'Semi-retirement' also included being Medical Superintendent of the Mullumbimby and Byron District Hospitals for some years.

Harry T Goodman

In 1954, Harry Thomas Goodman, MB, BS (Sydney 1949), Resident Medical Officer at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst in 1949, was in town. He had been previously in Tullamore, NSW. Dr Goodman was a Repat LMO and the Government Medical Officer, in Stuart Street for at least three years.

Ronald L Thomson

Ronald Leslie Thomson, MB, BS (QLD 1956), Resident Medical Officer at Brisbane General Hospital in 1957, started up in January 1958 with Dr Alderman and Dr Lloyd Gibson in the Mullumbimby Clinic as a GP and

surgeon, operating at the twenty-bed private hospital. He was a family man who worked very hard and had little time for organised recreations. Dr Thomson went to Seven Hills, Sydney in June 1961 to further his interest in surgery.

Keith R Barnes

In 1960 Keith Reginald Barnes, MB, BS (QLD 1952), joined Dr Alderman. He did his residency at Brisbane General Hospital in 1953–55, then trained at Royal Women's Hospital in 1956 and 1957 before going to the UK and obtaining his MRCOG (Eng. 1959).

Dr Barnes visited Mullumbimby with his wife straight after coming back to Australia to see her sister, and Dr Alderman knocked on the door to seek surgical help for his son with appendicitis and after operating on him, Dr Barnes stayed eight years in the town. He practised in the town as a GP with special expertise in obstetrics and gynaecology. He went to Canberra in 1968 and specialised in obstetrics and gynaecology and became an esteemed Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Among his outside interests were Apex, cooking, Australian and Pacific map collecting and tertiary study.

David J Stephen

David Johnston Stephen, MB, ChB (NZ 1950), DPH (Eng. 1959), practised from 1965 with Dr Alderman for some years and then after working with Dr Miller, went out on his own, building a medical centre in Dalley Street. He was an experienced GP also with expertise in anaesthetics. In his early days in the town, he had his own X-ray machine in his rooms. Dr Stephen liked to spend recreational time on his farm on Mullumbimby Creek. He opened a branch practice in Brunswick Heads next to the hotel until 1979.

Peter JA Rich

In 1973, Peter James Angus Rich, MB BS (QLD 1970), bought the old Gibson practice in Burringbar Street. He was there in general practice for about two years before leaving for Brisbane

Madhukar Wable

Madhukar Wable, MB, BS, MRCP (Eng.), took over from Dr Rich in 1975. He was born in India and after his training in England, he was on sabbatical from India and spent time doing rural general practice in Hay, Parkes and over one year in Mullumbimby.

Surendranath Rananavare/Suresh

In January 1976, Surendranath Rananavare, always known as Dr Suresh, MB, BS (Bombay 1967), Dip Hyp, Dip Acu, set up in solo practice after Dr Wable on the site of the original Gibson practice. After five years working in several disciplines in Bombay, he had arrived impecunious in Australia in 1971 and began Senior Resident Medical Officer posts at Newcastle Royal and Mater Hospitals for four years. He was a bachelor who liked to drive a fast sports car. Dr Suresh had a solo general practice with obstetrics, GP surgery, anaesthetics and medicine which included hypnosis, acupuncture, nutrition and musculoskeletal fields.

He had a vast library of various medical disciplines and was a follower of ayurvedic medical principles. He retained his interest in surgery as a regular assistant at major operations. He was also notable for having his own X-ray machine when he started in his rooms. Dr Suresh was very interested in postgraduate education and also found time for golf, meditation and regular running, which led to his participation in the popular annual Mount Chincogan Charge, long distance many times. He was involved in local charity groups, particularly the Flying Doctor Service and was still practising in 1987.

David D Miller

David Douglas Miller, MB, BS (Sydney 1971), Resident Medical Officer Mater Hospital, Newcastle 1971–72, DA (Eng. 1972), DObst RCOG (Eng. 1974), began in Dr Stephen's practice in 1976. He was the son of the eminent Sydney neurosurgeon, Sir Douglas Miller, who actually had operated on a patient in Kyogle Hospital years before. Dr David Miller had been a Resident Medical Officer and Registrar at Whipps Cross Hospital, London in 1972–74 and Registrar at Western Suburbs Hospital, Newcastle, NSW, in 1975.

In 1976, he was joined by Dr M Pelmore in the rooms adapted from the old town clerk's building in Dalley Street. Dr Miller was very interested in obstetrics and became a strong advocate and skilled exponent of home birthing, which made him very popular in the Mullumbimby region. He had a strong interest in ocean sailing and built his own yacht in his yard at home and sailed northwards, working in Cairns from 1980 to 1983, before returning to practise in Mullumbimby.

Michael H Pelmore

In 1976, Michael Hugh Pelmore, MB, BS (Eng. 1971), went to Mullumbimby to do a short-term locum and did not leave. Born in England with an anaesthetist father, he graduated from St Thomas' Hospital in London,

and after his residency there in 1971–72, worked at St Helier Hospital, Jersey in 1972, was Senior House Officer at Bath Royal United Hospital for his DA (1973) and completed the DObst RCOG (Lond 1975).

He came to Australia overland via Nepal, working in a hospital in Kathmandu. He then did locums around the Hawkesbury before settling in Mullumbimby and practising with Dr D Miller in the old town clerk's building in Dalley Street. In 1980, Dr Pelmore took over on his own until Dr G Taylor joined him in late 1980 to begin a practice across the road. In 1987, they moved down the street to start the Meadows Medical Centre.

He was very busy with general practice, as well as doing obstetrics and anaesthetics at Mullumbimby and Byron Bay, but found enough energy to sing and play guitar in groups around the area, go surfing and sea kayaking, cycle and do photography.

Alastair W Swanton

Alastair William Swanton, MB, BS (Sydney 1956), FRCS (Edin. 1961), FRCS (Eng. 1962), FRACS (1965), arrived in Mullumbimby in 1976 as the town's first specialist. He had done his residency at Royal North Shore Hospital (1956–1957), before heading off to the UK in 1958 for surgical study in Edinburgh and training in London in the East Ham Hospital group for eighteen months and in Hampshire in the Winchester Group in 1960–1962.

Back home, he started up in Consultant General Surgical practice at Wollongong from 1962 to 1976, after which he brought his surgical expertise to Mullumbimby and Byron Bay, notably working without Resident Medical Officer support in the hospitals. In his very spare time he recaptured his surfing expertise and also became a prominent windsurfer just across the road from his house.

Giles C Taylor

In 1980, Giles Crispin Taylor, MRCS, LRCP (Eng. 1971), arrived in the town. His mother was a GP, and he graduated from Guy's Hospital, London. Then he did residencies at Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford and St Helen's Hospital, Hastings, England before spending two years in Africa and then qualifying for the DRCOG (Eng.) back in Guildford.

He came to Australia after working in the Solomons in 1979 and reunited with his old friend from student days, Dr Pelmore, in the Dalley Street family practice as a GP with special interest in obstetrics and aviation medicine. His recreations included family activities, surfing and regular

golf. Dr Taylor seems to be the only doctor in the study to be a qualified glider pilot and started a long association with the local flying club.

Ian B Kingston

Also in 1980, Ian Bramwell Kingston, MB, BS (Sydney 1970), started working as an Assistant in the Dalley Street practice. He had been a Junior Resident Medical Officer at Royal Newcastle Hospital in 1970, Medical Officer in Royal Australian Navy in 1971–72, Surgical Registrar at Balmoral Naval Hospital in 1973, Fleet Surgeon in the RAN in 1974 and worked as a Surgical Registrar at the Royal Marston Hospital in London in 1976. Dr Kingston became very involved in civic affairs in the area.

Robert S Adam

Robert Shedden Adam, MB, BS (QLD 1965), took over Dr Stephen's practice in Dalley Street in 1981. He was a Resident Medical Officer at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane (1966–67), followed by Surgical Registrar at Ipswich General Hospital in 1968, Toowoomba General in 1970 and Royal Perth in 1972–73 before running his own general practice in the town.

Peter G Bowles

Peter Gordon Bowles, MB, BS (Sydney 1978), joined the Meadows Clinic in 1986. He did his residency at RNSH in 1978, then worked at Gosford Hospital in 1979–1981 and in general practice in Gloucester on the North Coast for four years. Dr Bowles was a GP with expertise in anaesthetics and had spent six months in Brunswick Heads in Dr Holmes' practice before he moved to Mullumbimby.



Meadows Clinic
Group—
Drs Kingston, Taylor,
Pelmore and Bowles,
with Dr Pelican,
discussing the method
of billing



Nimbin

First the cedar loggers moved into the Nimbin area, thirty kilometres north of Lismore, in the 1840s and then settlement proper began from 1903.

Arthur M Aspinall

Arthur Martel Aspinall, MB (Sydney 1911), ChM (Syd 1913), started a general practice in May 1915, in what the press referred to as the thriving town of Nimbin. He was born in Forbes in 1885 and in 1911 was Resident Medical Officer, then in 1912 the Resident Skiagrapher and Pathologist at Sydney Hospital. After two years in the UK and two more in Sydney, he arrived in the town and was described as a bachelor, short in stature and quietly efficient. The townspeople had been trying to get a resident doctor for four years and had managed to arrange a government subsidy and a guarantee from the Nimbin Farmers and Settlers Association.

Unfortunately, he had to leave after a year to serve as captain in the RAAMC at the Base Hospital in Randwick and then in the Middle East. After the war, he started practising in Lismore.

Hugh AC Wall

At the end of 1921, Hugh Alton Chandos Wall, MB, BS (Sydney 1915), was in Nimbin. Born in Glebe, he had been a lieutenant in the RAMC in 1915 and temporary surgeon in the RAN in 1917. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney in 1917, and was a GP in Mortlake until the end of 1921. Dr Wall seemed to have an attachment to the Education Department to do medical visits to schools, including Coraki and Nimbin, where he set up a little private hospital in his house and practised until early 1924. He went to Coraki for the next thirty years.

Austin A Callen

Austin Arthur Callen, MB, ChM (Sydney 1922), was practising in Nimbin in 1924. He was mentioned in the local press for his sporting prowess, playing cricket and proving to be a prolific run-scorer in local representative matches, playing in the local rugby league team, even going in for novice

wood-chopping events and scaring the locals by starting off scratch in 100-yard footraces. In the middle of 1925—perhaps he was worn out—he heeded the call to practise in Sydney, and sold to Dr Egan.

Edward C Egan

In May 1925, Edward Charles Egan, MB, ChM (Sydney 1924), arrived in Nimbin. He settled into village life and was soon elected vice-president of the Parents & Citizens Association, the cricket club and football club. In June 1927, he sold the practice and went to Sydney, where he found his way into psychiatry.

Alexander Leiper

Alexander Leiper, MB, ChB (Glasgow 1925), started in Nimbin in 1927, after Dr Egan. He applied to be on the Visiting Medical Staff of Lismore Base Hospital and was probably not successful. He left in March 1928, with the aim of practising in Sydney, later working as surgeon on the P&O steamships.

Robert W Schuch

In April 1928, Robert William Schuch, LRCP&S (Edin.), LRFPS (Glasgow 1926) succeeded Dr Leiper. He had served in WWI and may have been in indifferent health as he left in November 1930 for Chatswood and he died in Katoomba in 1939.

George A Chambers

George Alexander Chambers, MB, ChM (Sydney 1925), started in the town in November 1930. He had come from the small town of Penong in South Australia. Typically, the doctor found himself in great demand for lots of committees. In particular, he was a strong supporter of the golf club, his church, the A&I Society and horticultural society. Dr Chambers also lent his support to the effort to build a hospital in Nimbin, which opened in 1933, under the control of the Country Women's Association for quite some time. He left in May 1934, with a view to 'advancement of his career' by moving to Eastwood in Sydney.

Edwin SA Meyers

In 1934, Edwin Solomon Alexander Meyers, MB, BS (Sydney 1934) went to Nimbin and practised as a GP. Born in Sydney, he was a very keen bowler and his time on the committees of the bowling club and the A&I Society for about two years were a prelude to his going back to Sydney to start a career with the Health Department in which he rose to become State Director of Health.

Arthur E Malaher

Arthur Ernest Malaher, LMSSA (Eng. 1901), FRIPH, was a GP in Nimbin in July 1936. He was born in Shetnil, England, in 1873 and from 1904 had been in Queensland, working in Nambour, Dayboro and Cleveland. He was active in the tennis club, the School of Arts and library and was the Honorary Medical Officer to the A&I Society. In March 1939, he was practising in Bonalbo.

Leonore E Jakins

In 1940, Leonore Edith Jakins, MB, BS (Sydney 1936), was in Nimbin. She had been in rural practice south of Sydney and was married to **William Barton Jakins**, MB, BS (Sydney 1935), who had been a Resident Medical Officer at Wagga Base Hospital in 1937. It seems that Dr Leonore Jakins ran the practice in Nimbin and she was very popular with the residents who entrusted her with long-term appointments as judge at the flower shows and the more hazardous judge at the baby shows. She gave regular first aid lectures and served Nimbin for the relatively long time of ten years before the death of her husband in April 1949 led to her being given a farewell by the locals and going to Sydney in June 1949.

Joyce I Russell

Joyce Ingram Russell, MB, BS (Sydney 1944), was appointed in April 1949 to the Nimbin Memorial Hospital (which now existed but with no X-ray facilities) and conducted a vaccination campaign prior to Dr LE Jakins' departure. Dr Russell was accorded the honour of having Dr Kellas fill in for her when she had to go away for a time. Dr Russell followed the pattern of the Nimbin doctors paying particular attention to the health of the schoolchildren. She left in April 1951, aiming to go to Lithgow in NSW.

Ruth I Godden

In October 1951, Ruth Irene Godden, MB, BS (Sydney 1946), took over from Dr Russell. She had done a locum at the practice for seven months the previous year. Dr Godden held regular first aid classes open to anyone in the town. She was still there in October 1954 but by 1957, she was in Cronulla.

Endel Kroll

The next doctor in Nimbin was the very interesting personality, Endel Kroll, an Estonian-born overseas medical graduate (MD Tartu 1943) who had found his way to Kyogle in the early 1950s. He told of having had his introduction to blood and gore as a Medical Officer pressed into service

with the German Army right at the Russian front in WWII, finding himself in a dodgy situation with his previous neighbours.

His English was poor but the kind doctors in Kyogle found him a job for four years as wardsman at the hospital, where he was a real treasure, having medical knowledge, working very hard and being the unofficial radiographer. He endeared himself to the locals who taught him to speak English well and unselfishly helped him on the path to become qualified by working under supervision at Lismore Base Hospital, then as a Resident Medical Officer from 1958 to 1962.

After he became registered, Dr Kroll went to fill the medical void in Nimbin in 1962. He was very well liked by the locals as a hard-working doctor despite having bouts of illness and physical infirmity, but he was also on very good terms with his colleagues in Lismore. This warming story came to an end when he died still working in Nimbin in August 1970.

Jan J Saavr

In 1974, Jan Jerzy Saavr, MD (Marburg, Germany 1948), Dip Pub Health (Edin. 1958), DTM&H (Liverpool 1958), was in general practice in Nimbin. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at the University of Marburg Teaching Hospital in 1948–49 and embarked on a career based on public health with particular interest in parasitology, which may have led to humorous comments about why he chose Nimbin, after working in Papua New Guinea with the government. Actually, he had met Dr RW Gordon in PNG and was told of the delights of the Far North Coast.



Opening of the
CWA Hospital in 1933.
After 1947 it became
known as the Nimbin
and District Memorial
Hospital.



ARTHUR M ASPINALL
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



GEORGE A CHAMBERS
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



ALEXANDER LEIPER
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



KENNETH B SHALLARD
(Photo: NSW State Archives)

Dr Saavr worked in the town and enjoyed living a rural lifestyle for about four years, then resumed his association with the PNG and Australian governments.

David A Helliwell

David Andrew Helliwell, MB, BS (Eng. 1976), set up his GP practice in 1981. Before his arrival, short-term periods of cover or rotations to the town were arranged. Born in Kuala Lumpur to English parents, Dr Helliwell had been a House Officer at St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth, England, in 1977–78 and then Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester in 1979–80. He left the beautiful south of England countryside to try rural practice in Finley in the NSW Riverina in 1980–81, attracted to Australia by a chance short visit on family duty.

The usual ad in the *Medical Journal* attracted him and he started at the hospital and in his own rooms in the 'CBD'. He had to start from scratch and get an ECG machine and resuscitation equipment at the hospital, although there were no X-ray facilities in the town. Nimbin had been developing problems with 'substance abuse' and Dr Helliwell had become unreasonably busy by 1985 when he was joined by Dr KR Pearson in the practice. They were confronted with a serious incidence of hepatitis B and were responsible for the introduction of the first free needle exchange program in rural NSW in about 1985, when Dr Helliwell was able to find time to complete his home on his farmlet retreat, after some years of 'living behind the shop' in the centre of town.

Kingsley R Pearson

In 1985, Kingsley Robert Pearson, MB, BS (NSW 1980), joined Dr Helliwell in the Nimbin practice. They had met at a social gathering and Dr Pearson liked the idea of moving to Nimbin. He was born in Sydney, did his residency at Hornsby District Hospital in Sydney in 1980–81 and got obstetrics experience as Senior House Officer at West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds, England in 1982. Then he worked as a locum GP in Singleton and Brisbane in 1983, following which he was with the Royal Flying Doctor Service at Broken Hill for the first half of 1984.

He set up his small farm outside Nimbin and, despite the busy practice, he made time to take part in the A&I Society, karate and community gatherings.



Urbenville

Urbenville, eighty-three kilometres from Tenterfield and sixty-five kilometres from Casino, found it difficult to attract a resident doctor in early times, despite the efforts of the Bush Nursing Association, the town fathers advertising widely and government subsidy offers. Injured patients had to be treated at hospitals in Casino, Tenterfield and even Beaudesert to the north.

Kenneth B Shallard

Kenneth Boulton Shallard, MB, ChM (Sydney 1924), Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital in 1924 and then Medical Officer at Wahroonga Sanatorium, was one of three doctor sons of a family from South Woodburn. He came from Coramba, further south, to start a practice in Urbenville in July 1952. It was reported that the town at last had a permanent resident doctor, having relied in the past on visiting doctors from Kyogle one afternoon a week. After years of agitation from the community, the government gave a grant of 1500 pounds for his salary. He looked after patients in Urbenville and Woodenbong areas for almost three years, leaving in January 1954, apparently for Queensland.

Maksymilian Kanarek

In 1960, Maksymilian Kanarek, MD (Cracow 1951), who had been working as a Specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in Wroczaw (Poland) in 1957, was in practice in Urbenville in Boomi Street. He had been supported by Dr AR Lewis to use the operating theatre at Kyogle in 1960 to do a Caesarean section. Dr Kanarek was still recorded as in Urbenville in 1966 and later apparently satisfied the specialty requirements, as in 1968 he was practising in Bondi and Macquarie Street, Sydney.

Robert W Williams

Robert Wilson Williams, BSc (Wales 1939), MB, BCh (Wales 1943) who had been Resident Surgical Officer at Weymouth District Hospital England and then served as major in the RAMC from 1944–48, was appointed Honorary

Medical Officer at Urbenville Hospital in 1969. It is likely he was in the town for about one year before he went to Heywood in Victoria.

Josse C van Opdenbosch

1974 saw the arrival in Urbenville of Josse Cornelius van Opdenbosch, Dr Med Surg & Obst (Ghent, Belgium 1950), Dip Trop Med (1951), who worked as Medical Superintendent in hospitals in Congo in 1951–54, Medical Officer in Stanleyville in 1954–60 and Superintendent Women's Hospital in Astrida, Rwanda in 1961–62. Before medical school, he was a war volunteer in the European Campaign Underground Army from 1939–46, being awarded the Croix de Guerre.

He became the Superintendent of Urbenville Hospital from 1974 until 1981 and had a branch practice in Woodenbong. He was a very dedicated athletic coach of the local youth and a keen member of the local medical association.

Hugh L Lee

Hugh Ling Lee, MB, BS (Adelaide 1967), started to practise in Urbenville in 1981. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1967–68, Medical Officer in the SA Mental Health Service in 1969–73, Medical Officer with the Victorian Mental Hygiene Health Authority in 1974, Medical Officer in the RAAMC, Melbourne in 1975–76 and then worked in general practice in Melbourne in 1977–79.

After a year in Queensland Psychiatric Services in Brisbane in 1980, newly-wed Dr Lee arrived in early August 1981, having arranged to do a locum for Dr van Opdenbosch for one month. He finished up as permanent GP in Urbenville, with hospital appointment, and saw patients also in nearby Woodenbong. Dr Lee's recreations were stamp collecting, playing the piano and photography. He was still there in 1986.





Wardell

Just south of Ballina, Wardell started in the mid-1850s as a port for the cedar cutters and remained a small town.

Francis G Hankey

The first recorded person treating people for illnesses in the area commenced in May 1883. Francis George Hankey, was from the UK and arrived in Grafton and moved to the Richmond River area, basing himself as 'a medical man' in Wardell, but going to and fro from 1883 until 1890. He gave no medical qualifications but had a string of aliases, one of which, 'Guerin', he used around the Far North Coast. He faced court in Wardell, Casino, Lismore and Grafton and in reality he was an ex-inmate of Darlinghurst, Maitland and Port Macquarie gaols on counts of fraud, uttering and forgery, so it is likely that a good deal of the seven years in the area was actually taken up by a five-year sentence in gaol.

His medical *modus operandi* was to get advertisements in local newspapers, purportedly written by local citizens, extolling the wonderful healing properties of 'Dr' Hankey's treatment for painful conditions. He gave the local authorities a break with his return in 1891 to Sydney, where he continued his career.

James Chilcott

In March 1884, James Chilcott, LSA (Eng. 1871), MRCS (Edin. 1872), who had been in practice in the Mere District of England and then being a 'travelling' doctor around NSW, had started in practice at Wardell and was available for consultation daily. He died in Wardell in September 1884.

William B Violette

William Bradbury Violette, MB, ChM (Glasgow 1881), arrived in February 1885 in the port of Lismore, on the steamer, *Lismore*, and went to Wardell. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital (1883) and Resident Medical Superintendent at Little Bay Sanatorium (later Prince Henry) in 1884. He was soon swapping his management of fevers and

smallpox for snake bites and violent injuries. His nearest colleague was Dr Tennant in Ballina. He ran a general practice and also acted as the Coroner, which in those days was a busy job—at least a paying position. He consulted also at Woodburn on Monday and Thursday at noon, presumably giving him time for the trip from his home on the northern side of the river.

Despite his wife and daughter coming to be with him the next year, the popular Dr Violette left in December 1886 to work with the Board of Health in Sydney, where he was Medical Officer at Parramatta Gaol and other institutions. He died in Parramatta in October 1912.

William H Tomlins

At the beginning of 1887, William Henry Tomlins, MRCS, LRCP (Eng. 1884), LSA, took over the practice of Dr Violette. Born in London in 1858, he trained at University College Hospital, London. He had arrived in Australia in December 1884 and tried Kempsey first. He was recorded as having very high ideals, an endearing personality and a proverbial devotion to duty, but it seems that he was physically rather delicate and found the primitive conditions and rough travelling required to be wearing and dangerous.

Dr Tomlins sold his practice and tried a return to England in 1891, but the climate forced him to return to Australia, so he resumed in 1895 in



Barquentine, *Adelaide*, moored opposite Wardell, c.1885

Wardell where he was busy with his general practice, was a lay preacher in the Anglican Church and participated in the lodge. He was the lecturer in first aid for St John Ambulance Society, Dr Connor being the examiner. In 1901, he went to Ballina until 1903 and then to Alstonville by 1904.

Armitage Forbes

Armitage Forbes, LRCP (Edin. 1879), LRCS (Ireland), LMid, formerly House Surgeon at the National Orthopaedic Hospital of Ireland, took over the practice of Dr Tomlins in Wardell at the end of 1891. He was born in England in 1845 and started in Campbelltown (NSW) in 1879 before going to Walgett, then the Tweed region in 1887 and on to Grafton and then Dorrigo. He was officially registered in NSW in 1885.

He advertised patent medicines, belonged to the local school council and was the Government Medical Officer for the area. He developed a sugar cane farm called 'Coolgardie', suggesting an association with Dr Josiah Corlis of Maclean who had been in the WA goldfields, and also had a cattle herd.

Dr Forbes left for Carcoar in NSW in March 1896, Dr Tomlins having returned from England because of the inclement climate there. Dr Forbes continued to move around while continuing his efforts at mail-order consultations and medical supplies.

Edwyn M Lilley

In October 1928, after a gap of twenty-seven years, Edwyn Mitford Lilley, MB (Sydney 1914), started up the next practice in Wardell, having been in Boonah in Queensland. He was available for consultation in Casino at the end of 1929 but after about two years in Wardell, he was showing signs of being unable to cope with his circumstances and required urgent attention from the Coraki doctor. He survived the acute crisis but moved back to Queensland, leaving a sad end to the history of practice in Wardell, whose residents thereafter had to rely on visits to or from neighbouring doctors.





On the banks of the Richmond, thirty-four kilometres south of Lismore, Woodburn was initially a busy port settled from the 1840s.

Arthur W Power

In March 1885, Woodburn was reported to have secured the services of a ‘medical man,’ Arthur Worsley Power, formerly of Port Macquarie. His claimed LFPS (Glasgow), with experience as Assistant Colon Surgeon was not accepted for registration and his previous jobs in Australia were Resident Dispenser at Royal Melbourne Hospital and Medical Officer at HM Gaol at Port Macquarie.

He advertised a complete dispensary service and extraction of teeth. He took part in civic meetings and was reported to have had land cleared near Bangalow by the original settler there. He practised in Woodburn until the end of 1886 and moved to Casino. (While he was in Woodburn, Dr Violette was in neighbouring Wardell.)

When ‘Dr Power’ left, Woodburn residents relied on medical attention from Coraki, Wardell and Lismore.

Silvio Monti

Silvio Monti, MD, ChD (Modena Uni.), worked from Broadwater from 1902 to 1937 and had an extensive following of patients in Woodburn.

John W Tarleton

John Willington Tarleton, MB (Sydney 1902), advertised the start of his practice in Woodburn in February 1919. The citizens celebrated his arrival, also lamenting that it had taken so long to get the village’s own doctor (in 1919, Dr Opie was in Coraki).

He had previously been in Nanango, Queensland, and from the end of 1920, he went to other rural parts of NSW—being reported in 1939 at the time of his death, as having practised in all states except WA.

Percy N Whitehead

Near the end of 1920, Percy Newell Whitehead, MB, BS (Melbourne 1915) started in general practice in Woodburn and stayed almost eighteen months. At his farewell gathering in March 1922, one speaker revealed the difficulties the doctor faced—prejudice against his apparent youth despite his large hospital experience previously in Victoria, and the problem of gaining the confidence of the citizens.

The chairman intimated that owing to the extremely healthy nature of the residents, the practice did not come up to expectations, with little support for the doctor and the lack of a hospital leaving him no opportunity for advancement. These factors were stated to be involved in the inability to find a successor to the doctor after he returned to Victoria.

James M Banks

James Matthew Banks, MB, BS (Sydney 1924), came from Sydney in October 1924 to reside and practise in Woodburn. He was a very accomplished golfer and very good tennis player in his spare time. He was a Honorary Medical Officer at Coraki Hospital for three years and in October 1927, moved to the larger medical and golf centre of Lismore, where he began a fairly adventurous life.

Thomas Acton

In October 1927, Thomas Acton, LRCP (Eng.), MRCS (Eng.), took over the mantle of Government Medical Officer at Woodburn discarded by Dr Banks. He had been Resident at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London before working in Australia as medical superintendent at Burketown and Augathella Hospitals in Queensland.

He had bought the practice of Dr Alexander in Broadwater in July 1927 but soon moved to Woodburn. Dr Acton was in practice in the town for three years, despite not having access to Coraki Hospital. He stayed until July 1930, when he went to Goodooga, then Cumnock in NSW.

Norman A Walker

Norman Arthur Walker, MB (Sydney 1929), BS (Sydney 1930), was appointed to Coraki Hospital in September 1930, having his rooms in Woodburn. He was a keen gardener and exhibited in the local flower shows. He was in Woodburn for nearly four years, having participated with the locals in competition cricket and tennis.

Albert A Wearn

In May 1934, Albert Arthur Wearn, MB, BS (Sydney 1930), took over from his old medical school yearmate and ran the practice for a year until he left with plans to do studies overseas.

John P Barry

John Patrick Barry, MB, BS (Sydney 1930) was the third member of his year to take on the Woodburn practice by following Dr Wearn. He was a keen golfer and seems to have been in Coraki for three years.

Nicholas Kerkenezov

In 1947, Nicholas Kerkenezov, MB BS (Syd 1943), Resident Medical Officer at Dubbo Base Hospital in 1943–1944, started in general practice in Woodburn. Born in Australia of Bulgarian heritage, he had served as flight-lieutenant in the RAAF in WWII in 1944–46. He became typically resourceful in dealing with the inevitable floods in the area and avoiding the numerous brown snakes associated with them.

Apart from possessing great skill at angling, he was always interested in civic affairs and the running of the hospitals, starting off as Government Medical Officer of Woodburn and Honorary Medical Officer at Coraki



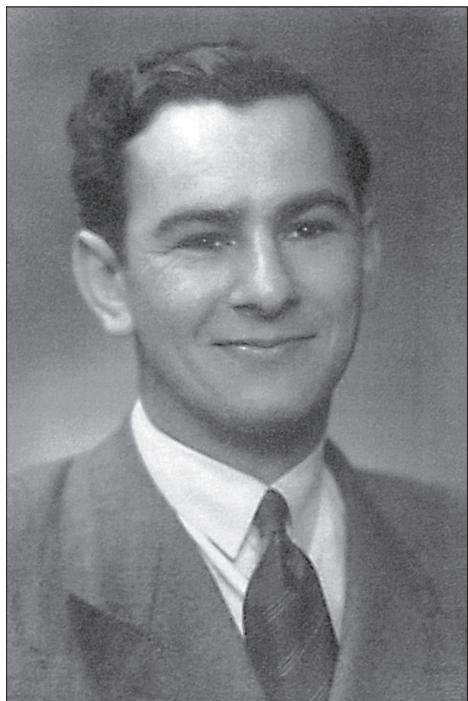
Paddle Steamer, *City of Grafton*, and River Steamers, *Magnet* and *Britannia*,
at Woodburn, 1892



SILVIO MONTI
(Photo: NSW State Archives)



JAMES M BANKS



NICHOLAS KERKENEZOV



HUGH L LEE (*Urbenville*)

Hospital. He developed a serious interest in the diseases of the eye and went in 1951 to start training in ophthalmology in the United Kingdom, returning with the DOMS (Dublin) 1951 and DO (Eng. 1951) to practise in Lismore for many years.

Desmond G Sisley

Desmond Gerald Sisley, MB, BS (Melb 1942), started in 1951 as a GP in Woodburn Road. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at Mooroopna Base Hospital, in Victoria in 1942–43, then served as captain in the AAMC in WWII in 1943–46, before working as District Medical Officer in the Coal Board in Cessnock, NSW. Dr Sisley moved on in 1954 and in 1957 was in Dungog (NSW).

Thomas C Wall

In September 1954, Thomas Charles Wall, MRCS (Eng.), LRCP (Eng. 1951), took over from Dr Sisley in Woodburn. He had been a Resident Medical Officer at St Mary's Hospital in London and was a squadron leader in the RAF in WWII.

He practised for about two years in the town and later gave his address as Thailand and then Woollahra in Sydney.

Anthony I Graham

Anthony Ismay Graham, MB, BS (Eng. 1954), House Physician at West Suffolk General Hospital in 1954, House Surgeon at King George Hospital, Ilford in 1955 and Resident Medical Officer at City Maternity Hospital, Carlisle, England in 1956, commenced practice in Woodburn in February 1957. He had served, before his medical course, in WWII with the Black Watch in France and Germany in 1943–45 and with the Royal Ulster Rifles in Palestine in 1945–47.

It is not surprising that he seemed to live a full life outside his medical practice in the town, which he served until early 1964. He saw patients also in Coraki and Evans Head.

John RJ Glavina

In May 1964, John Robert Joseph Glavina, MB, BS (Durham), graduating in 1950 after serving in the Royal Navy in WWII, worked in Woodburn. He was appointed to the Campbell Hospital at Coraki and seems to have left in 1968.

After 1968, several doctors are recorded as being in practice in the town, but none seemed to stay more than a few months.

Olive T Lloyd

In 1974, Olive Tyndale Lloyd, MRCS (Eng.), LRCP (Eng. 1928), MA (Cambridge 1936), a graduate of Westminster Hospital Medical School, and therefore of fairly senior years when she died in Coraki while still in practice in Woodburn. She was probably there for two years, as her service was publicly appreciated by the hospital board.

Kenneth Chung

Kenneth Chung, MB, BS (Malaya 1972), Resident Medical Officer at Uni. Hospital, Kuala Lumpur in 1972–73 and then Medical Officer with the Health Ministry in KL in 1974–75, was in general practice in Woodburn in 1977, in River Street. He left in May 1979 and went to Tweed Heads.

Chanchal K Marik

In early 1979, Chanchal Kumar Marik, BSc (Calcutta University 1959), MB, BS (Calcutta 1965), FRCS (Edin. 1973), took over Dr Chung's practice, as the result of an advertisement in the *Medical Journal*. He had vast experience in general and most other facets of surgery in England, including work in hospitals in Hastings, West Bromwich, East Birmingham, Middlesbrough, North Ormsby, Doncaster and Hertfordshire over a period of ten years.

After sampling general practice in Bondi, Dr Marik arranged to start in Woodburn with re-opening of the theatre facilities at Campbell Hospital, so he was, with the aid of visiting anaesthetists, able to continue with his expertise in surgery on a regular basis until 1984, when the central administration decided to downgrade the Campbell Hospital again and he had to use the theatre facilities at Casino Hospital for his patients. At least, unlike his forbears, he did not have to make the journey by horse transport. He also did obstetrics until the unit was closed because of the minimum number of confinement rules.





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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMF	Australian Military Forces
BA	Bachelor of Arts
BAO	Bachelor of the Art of Obstetrics
BM or MB	Bachelor of Medicine (graduate degree from a university medical school)
BS or BCh or ChB	Bachelor of Surgery (graduate degree from a university medical school)
BSc	Bachelor of Science
ChD	Doctor of Surgery (Italian universities)
ChM or MS	Master of Surgery (postgraduate degree from a medical school). Optional alternative to graduate degree BS (Syd) from about 1902 to 1925.
CO	Commanding Officer
DObst RACOG	Postgraduate Diploma of Royal Australasian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
DObst RCOG	Postgraduate Diploma of Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (UK)
DA	Diploma of Anaesthetics (postgraduate award from a royal college)
DCH	Diploma of Child Health (postgraduate award from a medical school)
DipEd	Diploma of Education (postgraduate diploma from a university)
DLO	Diploma of Laryngo-otology (postgraduate award from specialist society)
DO	Diploma of Ophthalmology (postgraduate award from specialist college)
DOMS	Diploma of Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery (variation on DO)
DPH	Diploma of Public Health (postgraduate award from a university)
DSO	Distinguished Service Order (military award)
Edin.	Edinburgh
Eng.	England
ENT	Ear, Nose and Throat specialty
FACRM	Fellow of the Australasian College of Rehabilitation Medicine
FFR	Fellow of the Faculty of Radiologists
FRACGP	Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
FRACP	Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of (Specialist) Physicians
FRACR	Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of (Specialist) Radiologists

FRACS	Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of (Specialist) Surgeons
FRANZCP	Fellow of the Royal Australian and NZ College of Psychiatrists
FRCOG	Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (UK)
FRCS	Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, or Ireland)
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society, London, usually Medicine
GMO	Government Medical Officer for town or area
HMO	Honorary Medical Officer, i.e. not remunerated for treating non-private hospital patients
HP	House Physician (UK term for Resident Medical Officer/RMO on medical ward, usually same as Resident Medical Officer/RMO in Australia)
HS	House Surgeon (surgical counterpart of House Physician/HP in UK)
ICU	Intensive Care Unit in hospital (Not to be confused with Expensive Care Unit)
JP	Justice of the Peace in an area, appointed by the Justice Department
JRMO	Junior Resident Medical Officer in Australia, usually pre-registration year, general duties
L&LM	Licentiate in Medicine and Midwifery (from a teaching hospital or medical school)
LFPS	Licentiate of Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons (Glasgow)
LKQCPI	Licentiate of King's and Queen's College of Physicians (Ireland)
LM and LMSA	Licentiate in Medicine from a Society of Apothecaries (registrable basic licence)
LMSSA	Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery of the (Worshipful) Society of Apothecaries, London
LRCP	Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians (usually London)—a graduate qualification
LRCP&S	Licentiate of Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (usually Edinburgh)
LRCS	Licentiate of a Royal College of Surgeons (registrable qualification)
LRFP&S (Glasgow)	Licentiate of Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow
M&L Mid RCS	Member and Licentiate in Midwifery of a Royal College of Surgeons
MB	Bachelor of Medicine (graduate degree of a university)
MC	Military Cross
MCh or MS or ChM	Master of Surgery (postgraduate degree)
MD	Doctor of Medicine (American graduate qualification), also Doctorate of Medicine (postgraduate degree from a university)

MO	Medical Officer (a registered doctor, civilian or military)
MPH	Master of Public Health (postgraduate degree)
MRACO	Member of the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists
MRACR	Member of Australasian College of Radiologists
MRCP	Member of the Royal College of Physicians (usually London), a postgraduate award
MRCS	Member of the Royal College of Surgeons— London/Edinburgh/Glasgow
NEMA	North Eastern Medical Association (of NSW)
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RAAMC	Royal Australian Army Medical Corps
RAF	Royal Air Force (British)
RAMC	Royal Army Medical Corps (British)
RAN	Royal Australian Navy
RANR	RAN Reserve
RMO	Resident Medical Officer in a hospital
RSLA	Returned Services League of Australia (formerly RSSAILA)
RSO	Resident Surgical Officer (resident specialist in British hospitals)
SHO	Senior House Officer (in British hospitals)
SM	Stipendiary Magistrate
SRMO	Senior Resident Medical Officer in Australia, registered and above Junior Resident Medical Officer year
VMO	Visiting Medical Officer at a hospital



‘Anxious Moments: A Sick Child, its Grieving Parents, a Nursemaid
and a Medical Practitioner’,
John Whitehead Walton, 1894 (Wellcome Library Collection, UK)

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*Dr Margaret A Corlis
in her surgery at Bangalow in the early 1900s*

This reference chronicle has been meticulously researched by a retired local doctor and records available details of the doctors living and practising in the Richmond Valley area of NSW—from the first in 1866, for another 120 years.

**It focuses on their backgrounds,
the hardships encountered and their
contributions to community and social life.**

**The book is written as a tribute to those
hardy doctors in the belief that their worthy
efforts should not be forgotten.**



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