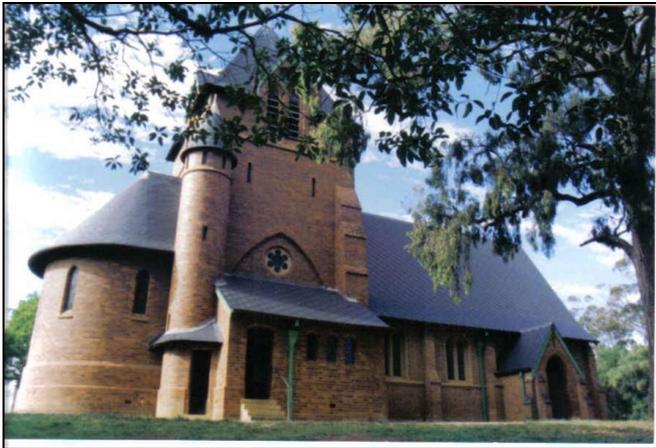


THE MENANGLE NEWS

VOL 21 NO 12

DECEMBER 2011

St James – *the light on the hill*



Enquiries: Ph. 4633 8594

SUNDAY Church Services

8.30am: Traditional Service
10am: Family Service and Sunday School
6.15pm: Evening Service

CHRISTMAS Church Services

7pm: Carols by Candlelight & supper
8.30am: Carols, Celebration & Christmas cake
10am: Carols, Celebration & Christmas cake

Kids Club: 4:30pm Fridays

Youth Group: 6:30pm Fridays

Carols on the Hill



Sausage Sizzle

Glowstix

St James' Reserve
7pm 11th Dec

11th Dec QuizWorx @ 10am
especially for children

Contributions welcome:

email: bpeacock@virginbroadband.com.au
or charlesksmj@bigpond.com

or leave written articles at 10 Station St

You can also elect to receive a copy of the
Menangle News by email.

St. Patrick's Church



Mass: 1st Sunday of each Month at 6pm.

Birthdays

1st Bradley Warner
1st Simone Collison
2nd Ethan Green
3rd Laura Howard
5th Jason Jeffree
6th Sam Ashton
6th Shane Halfpenny
7th Sara McNevin
9th Paige Robertson
11th Vanessa Perentin
18th Rosemary Tedesco
19th Neave Burt
21st Shane Koeford
21st Luke Campbell
26th Helen Robertson

The Ladies have it!

Christmas is coming, so a story about reindeers... According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in spring. Therefore, according to every historical reindeer rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolf to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should have known...only women would be able to drag a fat man in a velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

From Ass. of Independent Retirees [Macarthur] newsletter.

RAINBOW REFLECTIONS

December has arrived and Christmas trees, lights and carols now fill our eyes and ears!

Even though commercialism unashamedly seeks to exploit us, yet there is still something magical about Christmas.

Each of us has childlikeness within us – joy waiting to rise up and bring a sparkle of wonder to our eyes, a smile of pleasure to our faces, and a word of thanks to our lips. “Joy to the world, the Lord has come”. Childlikeness can be beaten out of us by the brutality of life sometimes, and our cynical responses. It can even morph into childishness without much provocation. But Christmas is the time to reconnect with the simplicity of wonder and gratitude. It is not too late, even if you are set in your ways, and in your dotage. Real, genuine, dinky di joy can be purchased this Christmas.

The price of everlasting joy is not paid in the currency of cash.

The means of exchange is self-rule. If you will give over the government of your life to Jesus, He will give you not just His joy, but His love, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

It doesn't happen instantly, but gradually. Like the dawning of a new day, the old bitterness of disappointment, the dryness of selfishness, and weariness of worry will be displaced by new hope, new vision, new purpose and joy. Like the germinating of seeds, tiny green shoots will slowly emerge from the darkness and pressure of burial, into the light of day.

Another celebration, alongside Christmas is Hanukkah: a *“Jewish holiday celebrated for eight days and nights. It starts on the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev, which coincides with late November-late December on the secular calendar. In Hebrew, the word “Hanukkah” means “dedication.” The name reminds us that this holiday commemorates the re-dedication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E.*

Jewish troops were determined to purify the Temple (after the invading nation had practiced many defiling and destructive things within its walls), by burning ritual oil in the Temple's menorah for eight days. But to their dismay, they discovered that there was only one day's worth of oil left in the Temple. They lit the menorah anyway and to their surprise the small amount of oil lasted the full eight days.” (about.com.judaism)

This year Hanukkah begins on December 20th, an invitation for followers of Jesus (Himself a Jew) to purify the temple of our lives. To bring Him all our brokenness, weariness, disappointment and cares of the year gone by, and allow His Light, His love, and His truth to purify us and refresh us for all that is yet to be! However you celebrate, may you be richly blessed and protected from all harm.

Sue Peacock

HISTORY SNIPPIT

The question posed last month about the house near the Fire Station being used by Barnardo's Homes prompted this response:

The Boarding House (not the “Pink House”) The following information has been obtained from some of the men who lived in the boarding house in Menangle.

Camden Park Estate (CPE) opened the Rotolactor on Sept 17th 1952. It required 10 operators to run it, and most of the single men employed boarded in the "old boarding house" on Quentin Stanham's property of "Camden Park" (NOT to be confused with CPE, which was a separate entity). This was a considerable distance from the Rotolactor (next to Menangle Station) and the men were conveyed to and from work twice a day by a farm truck. Milking started at 4am and 2pm. As only one of the boarders (who worked on No. 1 dairy) had a driving licence, it soon became apparent that this arrangement was unsatisfactory, and CPE had a new boarding house built in the village next to No. 1 dairy (Geoff Hughes house was probably the farm house of this dairy), from where the Rotolactor operators could walk to work across the paddock opposite (when it was flooded, as frequently happened in wet weather, they had to walk around the road along Station St, doubling the walking distance). This was probably in 1956 as the driving licence holder and one of the 1st boarders was married in Jan 1957, and had moved from the old boarding house to the new one before then. The builders may have been Herb English (head carpenter for CPE, who built many buildings on the property) and Claude Starr (vineyard worker, carpenter and painter 1920's-70). The Boarding house(s) Keeper from 1953 - 70's was Elizabeth (Lil) Fay, wife of Edmund. Other CPE workers also lived in this establishment.

Over the years, a few Barnardo Boys (?4 or 5) and young men from the Big Brother movement (?3) worked at the Rotolactor and lived in the Boarding House, but this accommodation was built by CPE, for its workers, and not for or by the Barnardo movement.

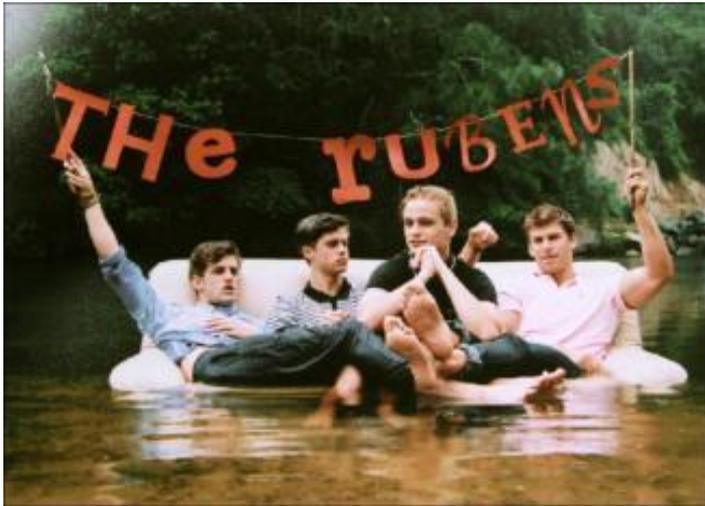
As far as is remembered, the building was always WHITE and known by the villagers and workers as "the Boarding House". It was painted pink after the Ag. Dept. bought part of the estate in the late 1980's.

Thanks to Eileen Horn for her research and for correcting misleading information.

LOCAL NEWS

Home-Grown Menangle Boys Play On Homebake Stage

by Amanda Partridge



Menangle boys The Rubens play at Homebake

THE Rubens have come a long way from rehearsing in a bedroom at their Menangle home, to fronting the stage in front of thousands of people at Homebake.

The foursome - made up of three brothers and a close family friend, who all call Menangle home - has secured a spot in this year's line-up for music festival Homebake at The Domain, Sydney, on Saturday.

Lead vocalist and guitarist Sam Margin said the group was excited to play its originals in front of the Homebake crowd.

"It's pretty crazy, amazing and unexpected - we didn't think we'd get that phone call," he said.

The band had only formed earlier this year, so they were excited to be selected for Homebake.

"We just wanted to play music and thought we'd do it as a family," he said.

The group - which also includes drummer Scott Baldwin, lead guitarist Isaac Margin and Elliott Margin on keys and backing vocals - has a lot planned for next year.

"We're going over to New York in January to record our debut album with David Kahne - he's done people like The Strokes and Paul McCartney," Sam Margin said.

"It's pretty amazing, we are hoping to have it out by early to mid next year."

Check out the boys at

www.triplejuneearthed.com or search for them

on Facebook

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA

Saturday 4th March Menangle will have an active "Clean Up Australia" group walking, talking and collecting litter along our local streets.

Please book the date on your calendar and join us for a couple of hours. The day will include a BBQ and liquid refreshments. Watch this space for details.

Dave Black and Sue Peacock

VANDALS AGAIN!

Sadly, there has been more vandalism to the war memorial in the grounds of St James' Church.

It is hard to accept that in our idyllic rural village there is still an element capable of such wanton desecration.

A substantial piece of stone capping has been prised off and smashed; indicating that the perpetrator(s) were of a certain "maturity" [for want of a better term].

Someone must know who did this. Such acts are usually accompanied by the desire for attention and, therefore, was either witnessed or boasted about.

Please come forward if you have any information - let those responsible have the consequences they deserve - surely you do not want to let acts like this continue in our village.

Following the first act of vandalism, where a section of the inscription was dislodged, we obtained a quote of \$10,000+ to refurbish the memorial.

You can see by this quote that this is by no means a trivial matter in monetary terms alone; putting aside the disdain for the bravery and human sacrifice that the memorial represents.



LOCAL NEWS

Coal Seam Gas Concern as Opposition Leader Visits Menangle

by Amanda Partridge

NSW Opposition Leader John Robertson visited Menangle on Thursday calling on the state government to reject applications to expand coal seam gas wells in the area. He said he had concerns about the impact mining had on the Nepean River.

Macquarie Fields state Labor MP Andrew McDonald, who lives at Menangle, met with Mr Robertson to discuss the issue in south west Sydney.

Mr Robertson is calling on the government to reject applications from AGL to expand its mining operations in the area. "NSW Labor is calling on the government to immediately suspend all coal seam gas exploration licences before irreparable damage is caused to ground water and aquifers," Mr Robertson said. "In the case of the Camden project, which straddles the Nepean River, the government should reject any proposals from AGL to expand its operations outright. Let's understand it before we expand." Dr McDonald said he knew Macarthur residents shared the same concerns.

"South west Sydney has become somewhat of a guinea pig for the coal seam gas industry but at what cost to the local community?" he said.

"We need more research, more science and more information."

AGL spokesman Nathan Vass said the company took pride in being a part of the community and would not be involved in any activity it thought would not benefit it.

"There is already a parliamentary inquiry underway looking at the CSG inquiry in NSW and we would encourage any MPs interested in this issue to take part," he said.

Check out the Menangle website:

<http://www.menangle.com.au>

for Menangle Community Association news.

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CAMDEN AGLOW JANUARY MEETING

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upstairs at **Narellan Library**

\$10 cover charge includes morning tea

Enquiries: Sue Peacock 4633 8261

MACARTHUR LEARN TO SWIM

2/53 Cawdor Rd Camden

ph. 4655 7735

BABYSITTING

Laura Howard - Menangle Area

Hourly Rate: \$8; ph 46338543

References available

AVON CALLING

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