



As I have just about exhausted my memory bank of things historical, I have decided to do some research on the old 'homesteads' of the district. If anyone has pictures and information please let me know so it can become an article in the 'News'. The photos and information concerning 'Mapleville' were kindly provided by Kevin Muffet..

Rex Hockey

Charles Robert Muffet I was sentenced to 'Life in Australia' for the 'minor' crime of stealing from a dwelling. In due course he married Louisa Green June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1839 at Goulburn and acquired the Windellama property of 'Rosevale'. Charles and Louisa had fourteen children, the fourth being Charles Robert II.

Charles II married Mary Matilda Reader and their first born was Charles Robert III who married Charlotte Louise Croker, the daughter of Samuel and Mary Ann Croker. Charles (known as Bob) and Charlotte acquired a property which they named 'Mapleville'. This was situated on what is now known as 395 Muffets Road.



Pictured outside of 'Mapleville' (probably built sometime after 1891) L to R Austie, Ron, Bob III, Stewart (Kevin's father) Bill Mathews (husband of Lily Muffet) and Kevin (minus the beard). This was taken around 1953.

According to Kevin Muffet the old 'Mapleville' house was made out of hardwood weather-board timber. There was a living room which had an open fireplace at one end and a door led off to the main bedroom which in turn went off into the 'boy's' bedroom.

Another door led off from the living room into a small hallway from which the bathroom was

accessed, the other door was the back door. A verandah occupied one side of the house. This verandah led you straight to the front door.

Above this door inside the house was a photo of Rex Muffet in his World War One uniform. Rex Muffet was born Reginald Faithfull Muffet (known as Rex), Bob's youngest brother, he was in the Australian Light Horse Regiment, WW1, enlisted 1914, Regiment No. 152 with the rank of Sergeant; prior to leaving for Forbes, NSW, he and his wife Dulcie (nee McMillan) lived at and owned 'Rosevale'.

Some of the rooms, maybe all, were lined with malthoid, that is, when it was built; when the malthoid cracked Austie used to make up his own 'Clag Glue' from a concoction of flour and water and paste newspaper over the cracks, until eventually it was possible to stand and read yesteryear's news from the walls.

Kevin will always remember with affection the old camp oven which was used over and over again with the same fat, that is until an eel was cooked and, "Now my Boy (Kevin) the fat must be thrown out!" (Quote from Granddad Bob).

Another fondly remembered fixture was the separator on a bench at the end of the verandah, and under the kitchen window was the wash-bench and basin, complete with Lifebuoy soap for normal washing and Solvol for heavy stains. Another door led off from this verandah to the visitor's room and this was definitely lined with malthoid.

Kevin fondly recalls that amongst the contents of 'Mapleville' there was a wind up gramophone, a concertina and a banjo, he thinks that Grandfather Bob played these.

There was a climbing rose over the front gate and two peppercorn trees near the back door, all adding to the aroma. A 'Hokey' board hung on the west wall which was visible on return from the outside 'Dunny' which finally blew over (no-one in it).

An old bullock wagon was situated on the left as you went to the outhouse, another wagon on its left was covered with more old bottles than you could count. Austie dumped these in the head of a gutter not far from the house, and then covered them up, "Oh, dear!"

***Continued over ... ... ...***

# Working Bee at Windellama Hall Saturday 14th July

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few hours just contact  
Frances on 4844 5157

or

Cathy on 4844 5554



## Fees for Hire of Hall or Supper Room at Windellama Hall

HALL (Includes Supper Room & Kitchen)	ALL DAY	\$200
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*Refund payable on the premises being left in a clean and tidy state.*

\*\* \$2 per hour for heating

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**To Book please ring W. P. A. Secretary, Frances Knights on 4844 5157**

## **From previous page ... . . . .**

The old shearing shed has been restored. The old forge-blacksmith shop was near the sheep yards, there was an old leather bellows outside pointing into the forge in the shed. Kevin tells me that this shed was full of 'unusual' tools.

It is believed that the old house burnt down and a lot of white ants were unwanted guests. Austie Muffet built a besser block type house in the 1960's. Kevin remembers that there was an add-on fireplace on the left of the open fireplace which housed an old 'Beacon Light' type fuel cooking stove.



This is a picture of Charles Robert Muffet III (Bob) and his wife Charlotte.

An old ledger showing grocery items indicates that Bob had a grocery store or at least sold groceries, he also worked on the Nadgigoma dam which employed 400 men and he carted wool on his bullock wagon.

My wife, Bev recalls visiting Austie Muffet (Bob's son and Kevin's uncle) on many occasions and being treated to very thick slices of bread and apricot jam and cream all served on a newspaper table cloth – it saved on the washing. Austie was an excellent shot and had trophies to prove it.

## **At Your Goulburn Library**

### **Upcoming events for children** **@ the Goulburn Library**

During July the Goulburn Library is hosting a range of events for primary school aged children.

**Thursday July 5**—The Green Machine Science Education Centre from the CSIRO will be presenting Bodyworks. Bodyworks is an interactive workshop where students will investigate a variety of body systems while exploring a range of hands-on work stations. Genetic traits and cells are also examined.

Cost: \$6.00 per participant (payment must be made at time of booking)

Age: 8 to 12 years      Time: 10:30am—12noon

**Tuesday July 10**—Come for animal craft. There will be fun crafts to make and bring along your library card to borrow some interesting animal books.

Cost: \$3.00 per participant (payment must be made at time of booking)

Age: 5 to 7 years      Time: 10:30am—12noon

**Thursday July 12**— The Goulburn Library has initiated a postcard project with a number of public libraries in the United States. Children aged 8 to 12 years are invited to come to the library to write a postcard. We will also be celebrating books with some fun book related activities and there will be giveaways. Bring your library card with you to borrow some new books. Please note food will be served at this workshop.

Cost: It's free      Time: 10:30am—12noon

During the school holidays the library is offering a special prize draw for junior library members. All children have to do is borrow books from the Goulburn Library to win a signed book by an Australian author.

Parents are welcome but not required to stay at any of the workshops. Places are limited in each workshop, so book early to avoid disappointment. Bookings can be made at the library loans desk.

Please note that Storytime does not run over the school holidays. Storytime will commence for term 3 on Tuesday 17 July.

For further information please contact the Goulburn Library on 4823 4435.  
The Goulburn Library is open  
Monday to Friday 10:00am – 6:00pm,  
Saturday 10:00am – 1:00pm and  
Sunday 2:00pm – 5:00pm.

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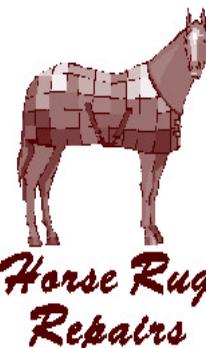
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FOR INFORMATION  
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**4844 7133**

## More on Bowerbirds

In Wild Windellama April 2006 issue I wrote a little about Satin Bowerbirds, the article also had a photo of a "bower". Since then we've seen plenty of these birds about and I have since had the opportunity to take a photo of one of each sex. They are the only birds smart enough to get through the netting over our vegie garden. Satin Bowerbirds have the most unusual coloured eyes with the outer part being bright blue and the next inner ring a vivid purple; the pupil is jet black. These photos are best viewed in colour on the Wild Windellama website.



Satin Bowerbird - Female



Satin Bowerbird - Male

## More on Tree Scribblers

The results of the search for the larvae of the Scribbly Gum Moth are in and even though my hopes were high, unfortunately they evaded capture in our trap this time. Max Day from CSIRO suggested that the dry conditions may be reducing numbers of these insects. Like I said in the original article, very little is known about Tree Scribbling Insects and is likely to stay that way just a bit longer.

## Wild Turtles

A Wild Windellama reader has found 3 juvenile turtles close to their dam which is also not far from the Nerrimunga Creek. They were about the size of a 20c piece with long necks and orange patches on their undersides. A bit of research seems to indicate they were probably Eastern Snake Necked Turtles, (*Chelodina longicollis*) these are very common in Eastern Australia and they bury their eggs in the bank above the waterline. These eggs hatch usually after sufficient rain has fallen to soften the earth above. Females may have 1 to 3 clutches per year.

Adults turtles of this species have a very long neck, often as long as their shell or carapace (which is up to 250mm long and relatively flat) and black lines between the shell plates.

These turtles often migrate through the warmer part of the year and can be seen crossing roads in the district. If handled they give out a defensive odour that comes from special glands and they are quite good at tucking their long neck and clawed feet into their shell when they feel threatened.

# **14th Annual Windellama Small Farms Field Day**

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and we will add it to our list.



## Southern Tablelands Farm Forestry Network



### FARM FORESTRY SPECIES - PINUS RADIATA

*Pinus radiata* (commonly known as radiata pine) is a remarkably versatile species. *Pinus radiata* is a native of the west coast of America and Mexico, and occurs naturally on three mainland sites and two offshore islands. *Pinus radiata* is grown extensively in plantation forestry in Australia, New Zealand, Chile and South Africa. It will grow on a wide range of soils, aspects and sites, and grow well. The only conditions that *Pinus radiata* will not tolerate are waterlogged sites, and alkaline soils, which is not a problem in most parts of Australia.

The timber from *Pinus radiata*, although not naturally durable, has a wide range of uses. The timber is used as veneer for plywood, sawn timber can be structurally graded and used for house frames and roof trusses and it is used for tile batons. At the lower wood quality end of the spectrum, *Pinus radiata* woodchips are used for high strength paper production, such as newsprint, toilet paper, tissues and cardboard manufacture. Particle board can be manufactured from *Pinus radiata*, and currently tests are underway to assess its suitability for charcoal production. It is also a highly suitable species for treatment so that it can be used for posts, and landscaping applications.

The species is also suitable for burning as firewood, provided that it has been allowed to properly season before burning, and despite some reports to the contrary, *Pinus radiata* firewood does not clog up chimneys and flues any more than native species firewood. The only disadvantage for firewood is that, due to its low density, a higher volume is required to burn the same weight.

Apart from the timber uses, *Pinus radiata* has a wide range of natural resource management benefits. Due to excellent crown growth, it reaches canopy closure at an early age, and is the best species available for suppressing weeds which are light intolerant, such as serrated tussock. In Australia and New Zealand, several plantations of *Pinus radiata* have been established solely to suppress serrated tussock. As a species, it is also useful for erosion control and for salinity control due to its ability to grow on a wide range of sites. It is also a very useful species for wind-breaks due to the denser crown and the fact that it does not shed lower branches. *Pinus radiata* used in windbreaks can still be managed for future potential commercial returns by undertaking pruning and thinning to add value.

There are a lot of myths about *Pinus radiata*. Among them are that, as a species, it is a biological desert. This is not true, and a wide range of native animals and birds quite happily adapt to living under pines. Another common myth is that pines make the soil too acid, and that if they are removed, nothing will grow where the pines were. Again, this is not true. While pines may slightly increase the acidity of neutral soils, they can actually decrease the acidity of highly acid soils.

In the 1920s, *Pinus radiata* was then known as *Pinus insignis*, and its common name was the remarkable pine, due to its rapid growth rate, ability to grow on a wide range of sites and variety of potential uses.

Although not everyone would want to grow *Pinus radiata* on their property, it is a species worth considering for its commercial value, its ability to be used for a range of natural resource management issues, and its potential for shade and shelter.

If you want to know more about *Pinus radiata*, then contact the Southern Tablelands farm Forestry Network at

[sttfn@bigpond.com](mailto:sttfn@bigpond.com)





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Turpentine Road Junction



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## Main Road 92 Upgrade, Nowra to Nerriga June 2007 update

### Stage one construction

The construction contractor for the first stage of the \$80 million upgrade of Main Road 92, Cut and Fill Pty Ltd, has completed work on the 24 kilometre section from Hames Road to Morton National Park.

This \$15 million first stage of the Main Road 92 Upgrade began in April 2006 and involved widening, strengthening and sealing the existing gravel roadway.

The stage also included building a new junction with Turpentine Road and significantly improving the alignment of four kilometres of winding road at Georges Yard, 18 kilometres west of Hames Road.

### Other works in progress:

The next phase in the MR92 Upgrade has begun with the tenders for stage two invited in April and closed this month.

The second stage of the project involves upgrading nine kilometres of the route, from 44 kilometres west of Hames Road, including construction of a new bridge near Bulee Gap.

The new Bulee Bridge will be a 60 metre long, four span concrete structure with 15 metre concrete planks supported by twin column piers.

This stage will also involve building several high retaining walls along the steeply graded Bulee Mountain section.

A large fauna underpass will be located near the Endrick River to allow koalas and other wildlife to move under the route safely.

Work to adjust Telstra utilities in the Sassafras and Nerriga areas is nearing completion and work to protect the Eastern Gas Pipeline at road crossings is continuing in the Tianjara area through to Sassafras.

### Changes to road conditions:

Motorists are advised to drive carefully on the remaining sections of gravel road as utility adjustments are incomplete and the road conditions vary. Particular care should be taken in wet weather as unsealed sections of the road can become slippery.

For current road conditions see  
[www.rta.nsw.gov.au/trafficreports](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/trafficreports)

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