

MANILLA CHINESE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Situated at the rear of the Museum Complex, the Memorial Garden commemorates the part our early Chinese Market Gardeners and Sharefarmers played in the development of Manilla & District.



The headstones were moved from private property to Manilla Council yard some time before the Historical Society took up the task of relocating them to the Museum complex in the 1990s. The headstone texts were translated by Mr Bing Chen from Tamworth and

although we have little written history of the Chinese story in Manilla, the Garden goes some way to acknowledging that important contribution made here as in the rest of Australia.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HISTORY RESOURCES

LOOKING for FAMILY HISTORY? Manilla Museum has an extensive Family & Community History Archive. Copies of the collected Community Histories can be found in the General History Research Room located at the front of the Museum. Original Family & community History documents and photos are kept in the Manilla Community Archives at the rear of the Museum. The facility is regularly staffed on Thursday of each week with a Historian in attendance. If you have a special history question, or some info you would like to contribute, please contact to arrange a meeting.



MHS CONTACT DETAILS:

FAMILY HISTORY Email: shirley.coote2@bigpond.com

ADMIN/HISTORY Email: manillamuseum@gmail.com

RURAL MUSEUM / HISTORY / DONATIONS Contact:

Ian Bignall J.P. MHS President: 0428 421 668

Postal Address: 197 Manilla Street Manilla NSW 2346

Phone messages: +61 2 6785 1207*

**[Please leave your contact details with the receptionist]*

MANILLA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

In 2006, the need for an accredited Tourist Information Centre led to the consideration of several potential Manilla town locations, resulting in the choice of the Museum's shop-front as the most suitable.



MANILLA's Level 3 accredited Visitor Information Centre was officially opened on May 15 2007 by former Manilla resident Fiona Coote, AM

BOOKS FOR SALE

Manilla Lost Folks

Gunnedah Lost Folks

Index for The Transformation of Manillae

Watsons Creek

Watsons Creek Public School

The Way We Were [Gunnedah history]

Little Town of Manilla [CD song]

Poems from Platypus Country



Museum Entry & Archive Access

Adult: \$4 / Concession: \$3

Children: 6-16 & School Groups: \$1 p/p

Family: \$10

Adult Group Tours of 10 +: \$3 p/p

Advance Tour Bookings: 0428 421 668

MANILLA HERITAGE MUSEUM & The Manilla Community Collection



A TREASURE-TROVE of LOCAL HERITAGE

*Inside you'll find
Jane Pymble's Pink Pocket Watch,
Loads & Loads of History,
3 x 19th Century Brides and ...
The Dreaded Dentist's Chair!*



*You never know
what you'll find at*

MANILLA HERITAGE MUSEUM

Open Daily 9am to 4pm

197 Manilla Street MANILLA NSW 2346

THE STORY OF ROYCE'S HOUSE

Tenders were called in 1883 for the erection of a high level iron bridge over the Namoi River at Manilla. It would be one of several iron lattice bridges designed by John A. MacDonald and constructed in the region by G.H. Royce & Co. Upon his arrival in Manilla in March 1884, Royce built a 7 room brick house in Manilla Street for his family. They were to reside here for the duration of bridge construction until 1886. Royce's House served as general office rooms until 1889 and there are indications of its use as doctor's rooms, with several claiming Royce's House as the birthplace of their forebears.



In 1908 the IXL Bakery was established by Mr Bates who extended the house at the rear to accommodate a bakery and kitchen and at the front to create tea rooms behind a new shop-front. Bakery operations carried on until the 1960s, after which the house became a private rental residence, prior to Council acquisition.

MANILLA RURAL MUSEUM

Safehouse for preservation of the
MANILLA & DISTRICT RURAL COLLECTION



Alexander Lane Manilla [Behind Supermarket]
Open 10am-3pm Fri-Sat
or by Appointment: 0428 421 668

HISTORY OF MANILLA HERITAGE MUSEUM



In 1975, the former home of Bridge engineer G.H. Royce was acquired by Manilla Shire Council, restored under Government grant, and handed over to Manilla Historical Society to set up and maintain as a museum. 'Royce Cottage' first opened to public viewing in April, 1976. Renamed Manilla Heritage Museum in 2000, it now houses the MANILLA COMMUNITY COLLECTION, comprising items of local significance displayed throughout and the Manilla & District Document and Photo Archives, safely stored in a protective facility. Major work on the roof structure was done by Tamworth Regional Council in 2007. Exhibition & storage spaces enhanced by Manilla Historical Society Volunteers in 2010-12.



MANILLA HERITAGE MUSEUM incorporates...

- *The MANILLA COMMUNITY COLLECTION*
- *MANILLA RURAL MUSEUM*
- *MANILLA & DISTRICT CHINESE MEMORIAL GARDEN*
- *YARRAMANBULLY SCHOOLHOUSE*
- *PUBLIC RESEARCH FACILITIES*
- *COLLECTED MANILLA & DISTRICT HISTORIES*
- *CONTRIBUTED FAMILY HISTORIES*
- *The compilation, "MANILLA'S LOST FOLKS"*
- *OBITUARY FILES & NOTICES from 1880s to today*



YARRAMANBULLY SCHOOLHOUSE

The first Yarramanbully school operated during the 1920s, the second between 1935 & 1953. In 1977 the building was brought to town in celebration of Manilla's Centenary of Education to become a Museum of Rural Schooling. It stands in Pioneer Park adjacent to Royce's House.

