

Email: oberonmuseum@gmail.com Phone: 0418 671 754
Website: <https://oberonmuseum.com> Instagram [oberonmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/oberonmuseum)



From the President

The Oberon District Museum continues with its improvements. Since our last newsletter we have started to put agricultural implements and signage in our new machinery shed. Some of these are from the property “Macquarie “ which were donated to the museum by the McKibbon Family, and have been in storage until the shed was complete. More items will be moved in as time permits including the newly restored Tipping Dray the latest completed project of the Rusty Restorers.

On Friday the 27th of January Paul Toole visited the Museum to announce that the museum had been successful in securing a grant of \$108,000 under the Stronger Country Communities Fund. This money will allow the museum to restore the entrance gate to the old railway station carpark and to repost and restore the museums slab hut, as well as a number of other smaller restoration projects. The work will commence on completion of the Funding Agreement and when funds hit the bank.

In the meantime we have Daniel Gearon about to commence building the reception annex to the Muir Pavilion. This much needed project will provide a new weather proof entrance and reception area and a space for volunteers with running water and a sink.

Recently the museum was asked to identify items of historical interest in the old Timber Industries Sawmill site, before demolition was started of many of the older buildings. I am pleased to tell you that HPP has agreed to put aside for ‘future purposes’ a number of items of machinery, many from the original 1943 Cotton sawmill. Timber Industries Pty Ltd is an important part of the town’s industrial history, and it is good to see cooperation in keeping items to help tell this story. Much of the timber in the older buildings is large dimension local hardwood, which is being saved for recycling. As we go to print demolition is well under way.

Col Roberts

A link to one of Oberon’s early doctors

Dr E E Griffiths was a general practitioner in Oberon from 1919 - 1925. Prior to that he practised in Blayney for 20 years. He died in Waverly hospital in 1928.

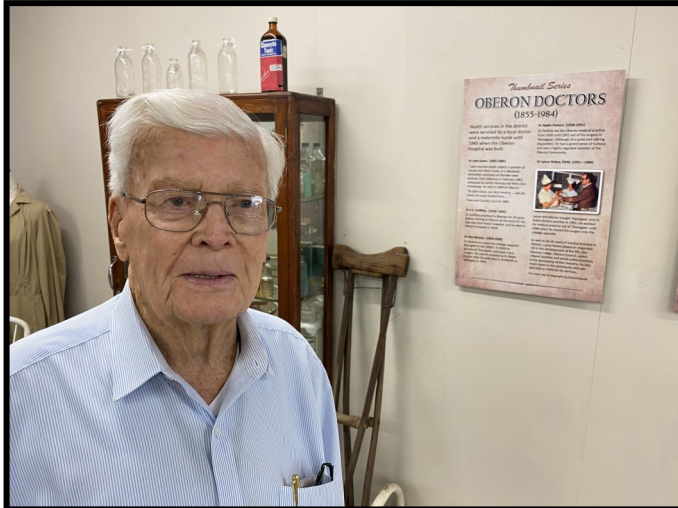
In January this year, his grandson, rear Admiral Guy Griffiths, came to visit Oberon Museum with his son, Guy junior.

Guy is pictured in front of the plaque about Oberon doctors in the Muir Pavilion. His grandfather lived in the house at 90 Oberon Street

- the green building, just down from the Vets, which in more recent years used to house the Oberon laundry.

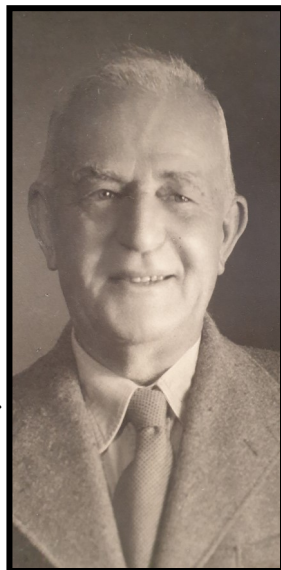
Rear Admiral Guy Griffiths celebrated his 100th birthday on 1st March this year.

We were delighted to have them return to Oberon to find some of their family history.

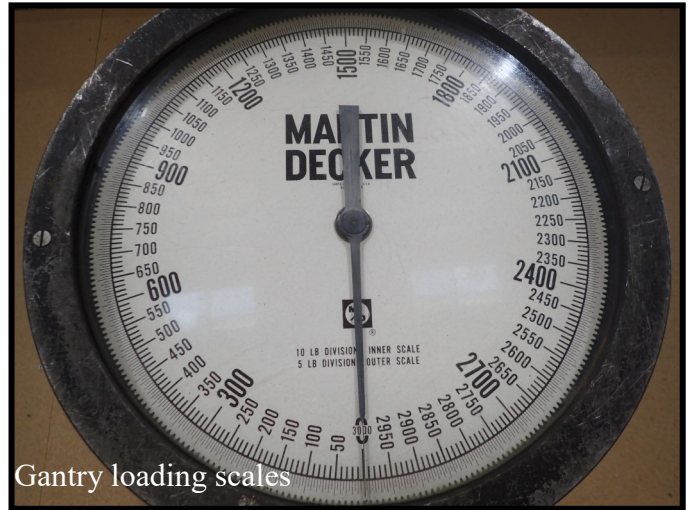


Co-operation between HPP and the Museum

The demolition of Timber Industry's sawmill site has already yielded some items for the museum. Out of one of the old offices are two black and white photos. We are confident that the three Cotton brothers are in one board room photo, but we cannot be sure who the two other people are. We are hoping that the other photo, which is a portrait, may be of HLC (Les) Cotton, but need confirmation. If anyone can help with identification please contact Secretary Pam.



Also donated are two plaques from the opening of various upgrades of the mill, an original circular sawblade and a set of gantry loading scales .



Gantry loading scales

Restoration of the Robinson Dray

The wool dray donated to the Oberon Museum by the Robinson family is one of the oldest items in the museum and one with a great local story to tell having been operated by at least three generations of the Robinson family. Unfortunately the dray is in very poor shape having spent most of its life in the open. A recent inspection has revealed its restoration may well be possible. Trials are currently underway to see if modern technology can assist the museum to cut the timbers necessary to restore all 26 fellows on the enormous dray wheels. Restoration will be a significant task but one worthy of this special piece of local history.



A challenge indeed for the Rusty Restorers!