

VINCENT GUY KABLE

1891 – 1947



Tamworth Town Clerk
Manager Tamworth's Electricity Undertaking
Chief Electrical Engineer

1912 – 1947

1924 – 1947

1935 – 1947

A BIOGRAPHY

R. W. Greer
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A Biography of V. Guy Kable

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Preface

Most Tamworth people know the name Kable. They know Kable Avenue and they know the Guy Kable building in Marius Street. Not so many know who Guy Kable was and even fewer know what he did for Tamworth and Australia. Arguably, he did more for the wellbeing of Tamworth's citizens than did anyone else during the first half of the twentieth century.

Guy Kable was a quiet, unassuming family man who lived simply, did not seek attention or notoriety, yet he was an outstanding achiever both for Tamworth and for Australia. Sadly, his life was cut short at 55 years of age. His achievements stand as a legacy for Tamworth and its people.

The 9th November 2013 marked the 125th anniversary of Tamworth being the first municipality in Australia to use electricity to light its streets. The occasion was celebrated with the unveiling of a bronze plaque commemorating V. Guy Kable, following an address on Guy Kable's life and work by Tamworth Historian, Dr Warren O. Newman OAM. Sadly, Dr Newman died just a few weeks later, prompting the need to record his address from the notes which he had kindly made available.

RWG

Henry Kable 1764- 1846 and Susannah Kable (nee Holmes) 1764-1825

The story of the life of Vincent Guy Kable cannot be fully appreciated without some knowledge of the backgrounds of his Great Great Grandfather and Great Great Grandmother, their descendants, and their relevance to the birth and development of Australia as a nation.

Guy Kable's Great Great Grandfather, Henry Kable, was born at Laxfield, Suffolk, England, on 26th August, 1764, the son of Henry Keable and Dianna (nee Fuller). On 1st February, 1783, when aged 18, in the company of his father and their friend, Abraham Carman, he broke into, and stole goods from the country house of Abigail Hambling at Alburgh, Norfolk. At the Norfolk Lenten Assizes (court sessions) held from 14th – 18th March 1783 all three were convicted and sentenced to death.

The trial judge, Baron Eyre, wrote the standard letter seeking the King's mercy on behalf of young Henry and fourteen others convicted at those Norfolk Lenten Assizes. The names of Henry's father and Abraham Carman did not appear on the letter. Nor, it would appear, did they have people who could, or would, petition the King on their behalf. Perhaps Henry's youth – he was 18 at the time of his crime – had engaged Baron Eyre's sympathy; perhaps the older men had prior convictions. The letter did not say why some should live and others should die. Henry's father and Abraham Carman were hanged outside the Norwich Castle Gaol near the market place on Saturday, 5th April, 1783.

Henry Kable the younger, in due course, had his sentence commuted to transportation to America for seven years; but the American war meant that transportation to America was no longer possible so Henry remained at Norwich Castle Gaol where he had been held since his arrest.

Guy Kable's Great Great Grandmother, Susannah Holmes, was born at Surlingham, Norfolk, England, on 1st March, 1764, the daughter of Joshua Holmes and Eunice (nee Brooks). On 13th November, 1783, nineteen-year-old Susannah Holmes was charged with having burgled the house of Jabez Taylor at Thurlton, stealing 'one pair of linen sheets value 10 shillings, one linen gown value 5 shillings, one linen shift value 2 shillings, four yards of Irish linen cloth value 6 shillings, three linen handkerchiefs value 3 shillings, one silk handkerchief value 2 shillings, three muslin neck cloths value 18 pence, two black silk cloaks value 10 shillings, two silver table spoons value 12 shillings, two silver tea spoons value 2 shillings, goods of the said Jabez Taylor'. (Total £2.11.6). At the March 1784, Lenten Assizes at Thetford, Susannah confessed to the crime.

The law prescribed the death penalty for burglary and on 19th March, 1784, the Norfolk Circuit Court judge, Mr Justice Nares, put on his black cap and sentenced Susannah to "be hanged by the neck until she be dead". It must have been awesome to stand in court as a 19 year old and have the death sentence imposed. (We don't know if any of the stolen goods were recovered).

After the courtroom rituals had been completed, the judge stayed some punishments and on 13th May, 1784, wrote the standard letter to the King. "... Some favourable circumstances appearing on their behalf respectively at their trials...", the judge continued, "I humbly recommend them to Your Majesty, as proper objects of Your Majesty's Royal Mercy upon the several conditions following ... Susannah Holmes, spinster, for a burglary, on condition of her being transported as soon as conveniently may be to some of Your Majesty's Colonies or Plantations in America for the term of Fourteen Years".

Susannah had been fortunate enough to have her name included in the judge's letter along with one other woman and nineteen men who had been convicted of capital offences on the Norfolk Circuit in March 1784. His Majesty was 'graciously pleased to extend his Royal Mercy' to Susannah.

Norwich Castle Gaol was a makeshift affair. Like many other gaols in eighteenth century England, the mediaeval castle at Norwich had been converted into a gaol with rough shelters built up against the castle walls for some of the inmates. These were not the high security single cell prisons of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. There was a great deal more coming and going, both between the prisoners within the gaol, and between the gaol and the outside world.

In eighteenth century gaols, prisoners often relied on family and friends to supplement their rations. The gaol was crowded, food was in short supply, and the local residents of Norwich took pity on the prisoners during the winter of 1784, and sent in special food for the festive season. But the numbers of people building up in their local gaol since the war had ended transportation to America worried the good citizens of Norwich and they petitioned the government to do something about it.

It was in the midst of all their troubles, their trials, the convictions, having the death sentence imposed, their reprieves, the execution of Henry's father and the pitiless conditions of Norwich Castle Gaol, that Henry and Susannah met. It is doubtful they had known each other before. Perhaps love blossomed in their bleak circumstances. Maybe they provided each other with solace in a fearful time. Whatever the case, they formed a relationship and on 17th February, 1786, Susannah gave birth to Henry's child, whom she called Henry, in the gaol. They applied several times for permission to marry but this was refused.

In that year of 1786, the first fleet of ships was being prepared to transport 750 convicts to a place called Botany Bay. Cook had landed there sixteen years earlier and explored the east coast. Now the British Government planned to establish a colony there. Prisoners were being mustered from the overcrowded gaols into old ships (hulks) moored in ports around England. When it was discovered that there were insufficient women prisoners for the fleet, the order came from London to transfer the female convicts at Norwich gaol to the hulks at Plymouth. From there they would be loaded onto the ships bound for Botany Bay. Susannah Holmes was one of these women. Henry Kable's distressed pleas to be allowed to marry Susannah and accompany her and the baby to Botany Bay fell on deaf ears.

Worse was to come.

When Susannah and her breastfed child were delivered to the hulk *Dunkirk* in Plymouth harbour on 5th November, 1786, the nine month old baby was torn from her on the captain's orders. The captain refused to accept the child on the grounds that he had no lawful authority to do so.

The prison turnkey, John Simpson, who had ferried Susannah out to the hulk, could see she was devastated and he feared that she might take her life. Simpson then did an extraordinary thing. He took the baby into his care. More than that, he decided to take matters into his own hands. With the infant on his lap, he travelled to London to confront Lord Sydney, the Home Secretary, with the tragedy.

Undeterred by the refusals of a personal interview from Lord Sydney's staff, he waited at his house until his Lordship appeared. When a surprised Lord Sydney descended his stairs, Simpson seized his opportunity and pleaded with him to order that mother and child be reunited. Not to be daunted, Simpson also pleaded to Lord Sydney for Henry to be allowed to marry Susannah and accompany her and the child to Botany Bay.

Instead of sending him away or referring him to officials, Lord Sydney listened to Simpson's story. Greatly affected, he promised that the child would be restored to its mother, and that Henry should accompany them, commending Simpson for his spirit and humanity. Simpson took the news back to Henry at Norwich and then escorted him to the hulk at Plymouth where, according to the captain's report, the family was reunited after 11 days of separation.

In those days Ministers of the Crown saw no need for spin doctors so it is doubtful that Lord Sydney was a politician with an eye for a good story, nevertheless Simpson's mercy dash, a round trip of some eleven hundred and fifty kilometres by coach, and the story of the Kables made headlines in several newspapers.

The Norfolk Chronicle was pleased to report that 'the laws of England, which are distinguished by the spirit of humanity which framed them, forbid so cruel an act as that of separating an infant from its mother's breast.... it cannot be but a pleasing circumstance to every Englishman to know, that, though from the very nature of the situation of public Ministers, they must, on most occasions, be difficult of access.... when the object is humanity, and delay would materially affect the happiness of even the meanest subject in the kingdom, the Minister himself not only attends to complaints properly addressed, but promptly and effectually affords relief'.

The London newspapers were equally fascinated by the story of 'John Simpson, the humane turnkey'. This attracted the attention of Lady Cadogan¹ who organised a public subscription which yielded the substantial sum of twenty pounds –

1. Mary Churchill, daughter of Charles Churchill and Lady Mary Walpole, the daughter of Robert Walpole, 1st Earl of Oxford and Prime Minister of Great Britain.

about one and a half times the annual wage of a labourer at that time, (about \$46,000 in current Australian dollars) and almost eight times the value of the goods Susannah had stolen; money enough for her to buy clothes and other items for their new life in New South Wales, and more.

Their parcel was loaded onto one of the transport ships, the *Alexander*, and Australia's first clergyman the Reverend Richard Johnson was charged with giving them the parcel on their arrival in New South Wales. Henry, Susannah and baby Henry embarked on the *Friendship*, sailing first to Portsmouth and thence to Botany Bay, on 13th May, 1787. At the Cape of Good Hope Susannah and her son were transferred to the *Charlotte* to make way for livestock, leaving Henry on board *Friendship*.

The eleven ships, carrying 1,487 and none bigger than a Manly ferry, arrived in Botany Bay on 18th January, 1788, after an horrendous 252 day voyage where 48 had perished. Botany Bay being an unsuitable site, the fleet moved to Port Jackson, arriving at Sydney Cove on 26th January, 1788.

There was no dock. The new arrivals were ferried ashore in rowing boats. There were no buildings, so they lived in tents. Lord Sydney did not only establish the colony of New South Wales as a military prison, but also instigated the British institutions of a civil administration, including the rule of law, the courts, marriage, and the Anglican Church.

Along with four other couples, Henry and Susannah were married on 10th February, 1788, by the Reverend Richard Johnson, in a group marriage ceremony, the Kables being the third couple. This was the first wedding ceremony in the new settlement in Australia. Of these five married couples only Henry and Susannah produced descendants in Australia.

After the Kables had disembarked in 1788, Henry went to collect their parcel from the *Alexander* but it had been plundered on the voyage.

On 1st July, the Kables issued a writ in the names of Henry and Susannah Kable from the new Court of Civil Jurisdiction in New South Wales. The writ recited that the parcel loaded onto the *Alexander* had not been delivered to the Kables in Sydney despite many requests, and they sought delivery of the parcel, or its value. It named the ship's captain, Duncan Sinclair, as defendant.

The court, consisting of Judge Advocate David Collins and two civilians issued a warrant to the Provost Marshall ordering him to bring the captain before the court the next day to answer the complaint against him.

On the day of the hearing the court received evidence that the parcel had been loaded on the ship but, with the exception of some books which were of no use to either of them as neither Henry nor Susannah could read, the contents of the parcel could not be found. Henry Kable swore that the missing goods were worth fifteen pounds.

Because under English law, a convict who had been sentenced to death was regarded as dead in law and had no right to sue, Captain Sinclair had boasted that he could not be sued by the Kables. However, on the summons, in the space for the plaintiff's occupation, the words "New Settlers of this Place" had been crossed out and no other words put in their place. Describing them as convicts would have ensured that they could not sue, and the words "New Settlers" were not true.

When Captain Sinclair challenged the prosecution that the Kables were felons attainted, and thus unable to sue, the court required him to prove it but because all convict records had been left behind in England, he could not do so. The court found for the plaintiff and entered a verdict for the amount of £15 (Equivalent to about \$35,000 in current Australian dollars), the first court decision in Australian history.

This certainly put the Kables on a firm footing.

That the Court in the first civil case to be heard in New South Wales, found for the convicts and ordered the captain to pay fifteen pounds to the Kables made the case remarkable because they were felons and they had won their case against so powerful a figure as a ship's captain.

This was the first example of the Australianisation of the common law. Can those, like Robert Hughes, who liken the penal colony to a gulag, give a similar example of litigation by prisoners in a Soviet or Nazi gulag, particularly one where the Soviet or Nazi judges upheld the prisoners' assertions? Of course not.

This first civil case ever held in Australia is extraordinary in many ways. In the first place the whole story of the Kables is extraordinary. Their conditions of imprisonment at Norwich Castle Gaol allowed the opportunity to conceive the child. The intervention of Simpson, his ability to gain access to the relevant minister, and the fact that the plight of Susannah, Henry and the baby could move the minister in an age usually noted for great social distances and lack of sympathy for criminals is also extraordinary.

The fact that the case of Susannah and Henry Kable was taken up in the press and moved people to contribute to a public subscription also speaks of a sympathy not usually associated with the eighteenth-century English views on crime and the dangerous classes. The fact that they went out to Botany Bay together and were allowed to marry also runs counter to stereotyped views about the treatment of convicts. It was not unusual for convicts to be accompanied by their spouses, though usually the spouse was free.

The oddity of the first civil suit won by a convict may have brought Kable to the governor's notice, although Kable later claimed to have had influential letters of recommendation, for soon afterwards Governor Phillip appointed him an overseer, then three years later as a constable and nightwatchman over his vegetable garden.

A further three years' service saw him elevated to Chief Constable of the new colony where he was involved in the prosecution of criminal cases and was controller of the first gaol in Sydney.

As Chief Constable, Henry lived in the house next to the gaol. He had successfully crossed the order of society by beginning as a convict to quickly becoming a controller of the worst offenders in the colony. He was however dismissed from this position on 25th May, 1802, for misbehaviour, after being convicted for breaches of the port regulations and illegally buying and importing pigs from a visiting ship. Nevertheless he was allowed to keep the house. The Chief Constable of a colonial town was a role many other ex-convicts subsequently filled, many of them corruptly.

The Kables' story illustrates the central facts about transportation: the heartbreaking separation of families, the difficult voyage, the exploitation of convicts at the hands of the dregs of the British military who were often the bigger criminals. And hope; hope at the grace of a humane turnkey, but most significantly, hope from the fairness of a Governor and Judge Advocate who believed that unless convicts enjoyed the protection of the rule of law from the predations of their military jailers, a convict colony could not survive.

Their subsequent history is also quite extraordinary.

In 1798 Kable opened a hotel called the Ramping Horse, from which he ran the first stage coach in Australia, the first attempt in Australia at public transport with a coach service to Parramatta which failed because the track was too rough for the coaches.

In July 1800, Henry signed a partnership agreement with the ex-convict boat builder James Underwood and a mariner, Samuel Rodman Chase. The first vessel of any consequence built in Australia by them was a sloop of 24 tons called the "*Diana*", after the Kable's daughter. Commanded by Chase, it was deployed in sealing operations in Bass Strait for the working up of sealskins into leather for boots and shoes.

Together they built the first ocean going vessel in the colony, the "*Contest*" of 44 tons, becoming the first private enterprise partnership in Australia. Two more ships followed – the "*Governor King*", 75 tons, and the "*King George*", 185 tons.

The association with Chase proved transient, with Chase moving on in 1803 to Cape Barren or other sealing grounds, but Kable and Underwood remained partners until 1809. At first they exported sealskins in ships controlled by Robert Campbell and his Calcutta partners who had an agent in Canton, but the depressed state of the China market persuaded them to join forces with Simeon Lord who had a valuable London connection, T. W. & J. Plummer and Co., through which they could market their skins and oil. During the next two years Kable acted as "ships' husband" to Lord, Kable & Underwood (Lord & Co.).

The two partners subsequently became principal ship owners, with as many as 25 ships, and were among the very richest of the colony's mercantile class.

Henry Kable ran a number of business ventures in parallel, usually in partnership with fellow ex-convicts Simeon Lord and James Underwood, known as Lord, Kable & Underwood, and all three became very wealthy.

Kable's business activities kept him in comparative affluence for at least the next ten years. His early activities as a trader, probably as a middleman between the trading officers of the New South Wales Corps and the consumer, are suggested by his possession of capital sufficient to take part in the sealing industry on a considerable scale after 1800. He was also one of seventy signatories on a petition to Governor, John Hunter, from creditors who were anxious to prevent debtors from frustrating their demands by legal delays.

Like others in the colony, and perhaps because of his early success, Henry used the courts to argue cases against his opponents. He seems to have prospered; in 1808 shipping records show Kable and his two partners, boat builder James Underwood and the other, Simeon Lord, as principal ship owners in the expanding commerce of acquiring and exporting sealskins to the colony.

The firm was involved in a wide range of speculations, including whaling, sealing, sandalwood and wholesale and retail trading, but Lord withdrew in 1808. Underwood split from Kable in 1809 and the firm dissolved in a welter of law suits not finally settled until 1819, but not before Henry managed to divest himself of a good deal of his property to his eldest son to avoid the payment of a court judgement of £12,000 awarded to Lord in 1811. The property probably included the schooner *Geordy* which Henry junior owned jointly with William Gaudry who had married Kable's daughter. The *Geordy* was employed in the Tahitian pork trade in 1812.

Kable's contribution, together with his partners did much for pioneering sealing and shipbuilding in New South Wales. Like Lord and other early Sydney entrepreneurs, Kable always had a substantial landholding as a kind of 'sheet anchor'. He had been granted farms at Petersham Hill in 1794 and 1795, and in the latter year bought out four nearby grantees within a week of their grants being signed.

In 1807 he owned at least four farms of about 170 acres (69 ha); in 1809 in addition he held five farms at the Hawkesbury and 300 acres (121 ha) at the Cowpastures (Camden), with a variety of real estate in Sydney at Petersham and Lane Cove.

Land grants included Kable's large comfortable three storey mansion next door to the gaol he ran as Chief Constable until he was dismissed from this position in 1802. He also had 40 horned cattle, 9 horses and 40 pigs. His business reputation seems to have been dubious. He was regarded with distrust by Governor King and with active hostility by Governor William Bligh.

In 1808, Kable and Underwood fell afoul of Governor Bligh by writing to him requesting some waterfront reform by permitting goods, which were to be transhipped to another vessel, to pass customs on the incoming vessel without being taken to the dockside. Bligh took exception to the tone of the letter 'couched in improper terms' and both men were fined 100 pounds and spent a month in the gaol that Kable had previously managed.

Kable's fleet of 25 ships traded widely in the Pacific and to what is now Malaysia and China. Around 1808, however, the business began to decline. His partnerships with Lord and Underwood broke up in the welter of law suits not settled until 1819. One of his sons, James, was killed by Malay pirates along with all hands on a Kable ship in the Straits of Malacca during a return voyage from China in about 1810, and his son-in-law, the well educated and well connected William Littleton Gaudry, who married Diana in what is said to have been the colony's first "society" wedding, turned out to be a disappointment as a business partner.

It is certain that Kable played no part in public life comparable to Lord's multifarious activities. His commercial career in Sydney seems to have ended soon after Lord & Co. broke up, for as early as February 1810 he announced that his son Henry had taken over the entire management of his Sydney affairs.

Kable's commercial career cannot really be considered separately from James Underwood's, and it was of little significance compared with Simeon Lord's. In combination with these two, Kable did much to pioneer sealing and shipbuilding in New South Wales, but it was Lord who marketed the skins and Underwood who built the ships; yet Kable's achievements were remarkable for a man who could barely sign his name and had no other claim to literacy than his ability to add a column of figures.

In 1811, the Kable family moved to Windsor where Henry owned and farmed land and owned a retail store. He continued to operate Australia's first export industry of Bass Strait seal skins and oil, and a brewery in association with a partner, Richard Woodbury. His Sydney warehouse was let to Michael Hayes. He also lent money to his fellow farmers and was tough in foreclosing to the extent that, after the flood of 1809, 50 farms were transferred to his name.

In 1812, he was sending wheat down the Hawkesbury consigned to Robert Campbell junior, perhaps partly his own crop, partly the fruits of barter for his beer.

He was never again a prominent businessman, although he signed a petition in distinguished commercial company for the granting of an auctioneer's licence to William Baker of Windsor in 1821.

Evidence collected by Commissioner John Thomas Bigge in 1820 shows that, while Henry Kable had once owned 700 acres (283 ha) by grant and a further 250 acres (101 ha) by purchase, he then held only ninety acres (36 ha) and a further thirty acres (12 ha) as a tenant.

Kable, in his own words, 'reared eleven children'. At least two of them, Henry junior and James, were mariners, commanding vessels owned wholly or in part by their father. James was murdered by Malay pirates in the Straits of Malacca on a return voyage from China in about 1810, but son Henry remained prominent in Sydney mercantile circles for some time after his father withdrew to Windsor.

Susannah Kable died on the 6th Nov, 1825, at Windsor, NSW Australia, age 61, but Henry Kable, who was described as a farmer at Pitt Town in the 1828 census, survived her for 20 years and died on 16th March, 1846, at Windsor, NSW Australia, age 81. They are buried along with others of the family in a vault behind St Matthew's Church, at Windsor, NSW.

Of Henry and Susannah's 11 children, only one died in childhood, although five died before birth. The eldest, Henry, never married; he died in 1852 at the age of 66 and is buried at The Oaks, NSW. One of the younger sons, John, became Australia's first bareknuckle fighting champion of the 1820's as "Young Kable".

It was their eighth child, William Nathaniel, who became the great grandfather of Vincent Guy Kable. His second son, Henry Charlton Kable, became V. Guy Kable's grandfather, and it was his fourth son, Frederick Joseph Charlton Kable, who became V. Guy Kable's father.

Henry and Susannah's 11 children were:

- * Henry (17th February, 1786, Norwich Castle Gaol, England, – 13th May, 1852, Picton). Henry is buried at St. Matthews, The Oaks.
- * Dianna (5th December, 1788, Sydney, – 11th March, 1854, Macquarie St, Windsor)
- * Enoch (24th April, 1791, Sydney, – 27th February, 1793, Sydney)
- * James (19th August, 1793, Sydney, – 30th September, 1809, At Sea, off the straits, Malacca)
- * Susannah (23rd October, 1796, Sydney, – 20th June, 1885, 'Vanderville', The Oaks)
- * George Esto (28th September, 1797, Sydney, – 1853, Bathurst)
- * Eunice (30th May, 1799, Sydney, – 21st December, 1867, Windsor)
- * **William Nathaniel (22nd March, 1801, Sydney, - 16th November, 1837, Bathurst) – (V. Guy Kable's Great Grandfather).**
- * John (12th November, 1802, Sydney, – 30th May, 1859, Bairaba Hotel, Windsor)
- * Charles Dickenson (5th October, 1804, Sydney, – date and place of death unknown)
- * Edgar James (14th August, 1806, Sydney, – 28th April, 1849, Windsor)

Legacy

In 1968, on the 180th anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet, more than a hundred descendants of Henry and Susannah Kable met in Sydney at Crows Nest to honour them as the heads of one of Australia's founding families. It was the first reunion to acknowledge convict ancestry.

In 1984, Zillah Kable Thomas and Lola Wilkinson, descendants of Henry and Susannah, unveiled a plaque at the site of Sydney's luxury five star Four Seasons

Hotel, (formerly known as the Regent Hotel) at 199 George Street, The Rocks, Circular Quay, commemorating Henry's land grant of that site which was originally the site of both the gaol and the Kable's house. At that time the hotel's restaurant, "Kable's", was also opened. In 2014 it was still called "Kable's".

William Nathaniel Kable, 22/ 03/ 1801 – 16/ 11/ 1837 – Vincent Guy Kable's Great Grandfather

Obituary, Sydney Morning Herald, 20th November, 1837. (p.7).

'William Nathaniel Kable, 22/ 03/ 1801 – 16/ 11/ 1837 Aged 36. At his residence, Bathurst, on Thursday morning, the 16th instant, Mr W. N. Kable [William Nathaniel], inn-keeper. Mr Kable has left a wife and large family to deplore his loss, his death was occasioned by a fall down the stairs of his house, his head coming into contact with some sharp object which caused a fracture of his skull'.

Henry Charlton Kable 10/ 08/ 1830 – 11/ 09/ 1916 – Vincent Guy Kable's Grandfather

Obituary: Brisbane Courier 30/ 09/ 1916

Henry Charlton Kable 10/ 08/ 1830 – 11/ 09/ 1916. 'One of Queensland's oldest pioneers, Mr H. [Henry] Charlton Kable, passed away last week at Killarney (writes our Killarney correspondent). The late Mr Kable was born at Bathurst, New South Wales, in 1830. His father, also a full colonial, being at that time engaged in sheep farming outside Bathurst. His grandfather came to Australia as a young man in the first batch of convicts sent to the colonies.

Over 60 years ago Mr Kable migrated to Queensland, taking up country on the Dawson River, and while there he took part in the Canoona gold rush, outside Rockhampton. From the Dawson he transferred to Redbank station, and while there took an active part in the pursuit of the blacks, who were responsible for the historical 1857 Hornet Bank massacre tragedy. Leaving Redbank he took up some country in the Gladstone district, and later engaged in sugar growing in the Mackay district. In 1902 Mr Kable retired, and went to reside with his son, Mr J. Charlton Kable, proprietor of an hotel on the Clarence, New South Wales. About six years ago Mr Kable came over to Killarney, his son having purchased the Post Office Hotel there, and up to the time of his death the old gentleman was a well known and popular personage in the town'.

Frederick Joseph Charlton Kable 03/ 08/ 1860 – 01/ 10/ 1932 . – Vincent Guy Kable's Father

Frederick Joseph Charlton Kable was born in Sydney in 1860, and was taken with his parents by boat to Maryborough, Queensland, when six months old, and thence by bullock dray to Gyrandah Station on the Dawson River. When 19 years of age he was appointed manager of Carbean Station, near Springsure. Resigning after two years he entered upon sugar growing, dairying, and butchering at Eton, in the Mackay district.

In 1887, Frederick Kable married Fanny Foxlee and he and his brother became joint owners of Jolimont Station, at Nebo, 100 kms west of Mackay, Qld. Vincent Guy Kable was born there on 5th November, 1891. In 1897, owing to the ravages of

the cattle tick, the family left the property spending time in Charters Towers visiting part of the Foxlee family.

Guy was at school, and when the family were about to move the head school teacher offered to keep Guy at his home, look after him, and educate him at no cost because he recognised Guy's special capacity and brilliance. The family's answer, however was "No" and they all moved on to Taroom, Toowoomba, Sandgate, and Oxley, before settling in the Clarence Valley.

During this period Frederick Kable assisted in forming a number of the large cattle stations of North Queensland, hundreds of square miles in area. He was one of the promoters and later a director of the first sugar mill in North Queensland. Mr Kable then entered into the business of hotel keeping in Queensland and in New South Wales. Moving to the Clarence Valley, he had a farm machinery business at Maclean, also running the hotel there together with his brother. In 1904, he was Mayor of Maclean.

The family came to Tamworth in 1904, and in 1905 purchased the café run by Mrs Paull at 414 Peel Street (now Town & Country Boutique). Guy Kable was then 13 years old and attended Tamworth Grammar School for a year and a half. The school was conducted by Mr Graham, at what was then the Tamworth Showground Pavilion at the corner of Fitzroy Street and Rawson Avenue.



THE KABLE FAMILY

Josephine ("Daisy"), Frederick, Mona, Colin, Fanny, Guy

Vincent Guy Kable, 1891 – 1947

At age 14½, in July, 1906, Guy Kable commenced duties as a junior clerk with the Tamworth Borough Council whose offices were in what is now the Tamworth Community Centre in Darling Street.

On 1st January, 1907, under the new Local Government Act, the Borough of Tamworth became a Municipality and the Council became a Municipal Council.

The family lived first in Marius Street, then in Chelmsford Street. Four years later, in 1908, Guy's father, Frederick, entered the service of the Tamworth Council's electricity undertaking at their steam power station in Peel Street (now the Tamworth Powerstation Museum). By 1914 he had become the Council's Assistant Electrical Engineer. His younger son Colin, was also working for the undertaking. He later advanced to the position of power station superintendent, qualifying as a local Government Electrical Engineer on 4th September, 1931, although he had retired from the job in August, 1931.

Frederick died on 1st October, 1932, aged 72 years, having been a resident of Tamworth for 27 years.

Had the union movement been a little more active than it was, there may well have been some raised eyebrows. As the father of the Town Clerk, Vincent Guy Kable, Frederick was known as 'Daddy Kable', and as the Town Clerk was always careful with the Council's finances he informed the Council workers that if they wished to attend the funeral of F. C. Kable, they could leave work at 11.00 am and be back again by 1.00 pm. This would give them time, he explained, to change out of their working clothes and back into them. What he did not explain, and what the mourners did not discover until afterwards, was that they would all, including himself, be 'docked' for the time not worked!

Guy Kable's care with the Council's finances was legendary. On Sundays, he would go about the town checking for himself on the progress of the Council's works, always walking to save the cost of taxis or Council vehicles.

On 4th April, 1908, just three months after the Boy Scout movement was introduced into Australia, twelve boys responded to an invitation from Guy to meet at the back of his home in Marius Street. The members of the First Tamworth Scout Troop were initiated soon afterwards in an open paddock between Griffin Avenue and the railway line, about halfway between Brisbane and Fitzroy Streets. Undoubtedly V. Guy Kable was the first Scoutmaster of Tamworth's first troop, with meetings in the open shed at the rear of his Marius Street home. Each boy paid a penny a week and the troop consisted of two patrols.

In May 1912, Guy Kable was one of 65 candidates in New South Wales to sit for the Local Government Clerks Examination in Sydney. Guy was one of only seven to pass, qualifying him to become a Town Clerk.

Sydney Morning Herald Report 24th July, 1912.

'The Local Government Clerks' and Auditors' examining committee has forwarded its report to the Minister for Works upon the examinations held in May for certificates of qualification as clerk or auditor. Fifteen candidates attended the auditors' examination The following were successful: -Mr C. J. Fenton, Coraki; Mr C. N. Street, Maitland; Mr K. M. Day, Molong; and Mr T. A. Tester Young. Sixty five candidates attended the clerks' examination, the following being successful: -Mr J. R. White, Albury; Mr J. A. Fielding, Darlington Point; Mr S. M. H. Trickett, Narromine; Mr V. G. Kable, Tamworth; Mr A. Barnes, Sydney; Mr R. S. Coates, Sydney; and Mr W. J. Grieve, Auburn.'

Later that month William Arthur Hughes, who had been Tamworth's Town Clerk since 1898 retired, and Guy Kable was appointed Acting Town Clerk until his 21st birthday on the 5th November, when he was confirmed as Town Clerk. He was the youngest Town Clerk in NSW (and probably anywhere else, ever). Can anyone imagine the Tamworth Regional Council appointing a 21 year old as their Chief Executive Officer?

This proved to be a sound decision. Guy Kable was a visionary. He initiated innovative policies to promote the increased use of electricity for domestic, commercial and industrial purposes, leading to greater efficiencies, lower costs, lower tariffs and improved standards of living.

In December 1910, the *Tamworth Observer* and the *Tamworth News* merged to become the *Tamworth Daily Observer* (and later, in 1921, the *Northern Daily Leader*) with three initial directors, V. Guy Kable being one of seven additional directors appointed not long after.

By 1915 the Council's steam power station in Peel Street was fully loaded and the cramped site offered no space for extensions and with the war in progress little could be done to alleviate this.

A new larger site was needed and in 1916, Guy Kable recommended that the Council purchase land in Marius Street opposite East Street backing onto the railway for a new and up to date power station to be built. This land was acquired in 1920 but it was 24th November, 1922, before the new power station was in operation.

In 1919, Guy Kable married Lucy Winifred Hassan at St Paul's Church of England, West Tamworth. They lived firstly in Raglan Street, and later in the house at 89 Upper Street, on the corner of Fitzroy Street diagonally opposite Anzac Park, formerly occupied by George Fielder until his death in 1913. To this day the house still bears the name "Jolimont" that he gave it in memory of his birthplace.



Vincent Guy Kable



89 Upper Street



89 Upper Street

On 2nd April, 1913, Guy Kable became a member of the Peel Masonic Lodge. His membership continued until his death in 1947.

Always interested in sport, he was an administrator of the Central Northern Rugby League in the 1920's, and in 1923 he was elected President.

In 1924 the Council appointed V. Guy Kable Manager of its electricity undertaking. With an eye to expansion he had the power station's capacity increased by 80% in 1925. This enabled the construction of a 33,000 Volt transmission line and a bulk supply of electricity to Manilla in 1927. Guy Kable continued growing the electricity undertaking with a further 45% added in 1928, and bulk supplies to the Peel and Cockburn shires in 1931. He increased the power station capacity by another 75% in 1934, and again by 87% in 1938, taking it to almost nine times the original 1922 capacity. Tamworth people enjoyed the cheapest electricity of any town within 200 miles.

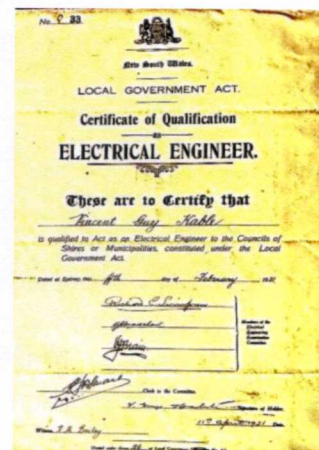
He sold 'Jolimont' at 89 Upper Street and for a time lived at 91 Carthage Street. In 1932 Guy Kable bought the vacant allotment at 93 Carthage Street and built a new home on it, in which he lived. These were depression days and Guy had local builder Tom Griffiths build the house employing as many local tradesmen as possible.

In 1938 he purchased the large house next door at 95 Carthage Street from W. L. Cousens and had it converted into two three bedroom duplex flats, one of which was rented by Miss Violet Bailey, the Deputy Town Clerk and her sister, from early 1947.

While the management of the Tamworth Municipal Council's electricity undertaking was in the hands of Guy Kable, the day to day technical work had long been the responsibility of George Dann, a man with sufficient practical qualifications and skills for the Council to have appointed him as its Electrical Engineer, even though he was not formally qualified.

About 1928, the Government legislated that only an academically qualified and certified person could hold the position of engineer in charge of an electricity undertaking. This gave Council two alternatives; either George Dann could undertake the necessary theoretical study to gain his certificate or it could appoint some other qualified person in his place.

At his time of life, the prospect of further study did not appeal to George Dann, nor did the extra expense of an additional appointment appeal to the Council. This dilemma was overcome when the Town Clerk, V. Guy Kable, undertook the course of study himself and qualified in record time on 5th February 1931. The Council then had a Certified Electrical Engineer, but it still retained the services of George Dann. Guy Kable also continued in the roles of Manager of the electricity undertaking and Town Clerk. The Council appointed Guy Kable as its Chief Electrical Engineer in 1935.



Among the public amenities and facilities that Guy Kable was the catalyst in establishing were:-

1919. He was a member of the 'men's committee' for supporting the construction of a new War Memorial Town Hall, a project that had twice previously been rejected.

1926. The deposit was paid on land in Fitzroy Street for the new Town Hall.

1932. The purchase of the land for the new town hall was completed. The new Town Hall was opened 20th November, 1934. It was during discussions with Samuel Thorp in the Sydney architect's office of Peddle, Thorp and Walker that Guy Kable insisted that the timber dance floor of the Town Hall be a sprung floor. Thorpe later won an architectural prize for his design of the Tamworth War Memorial Town Hall.

In 1939, Guy Kable was appointed a member of the NSW Electricity Advisory Committee, concerned with the electrical development of areas beyond the seaboard cities. One of these was the Clarence River Gorge combined water storage, hydroelectric and flood mitigation scheme requiring political, technical and financial expertise.

A time – line list of the many public works which Guy was involved in during the period he was Tamworth's Town Clerk is included in the appendix on Page 25.



A picnic at Moore Creek - Guy third from left

As Engineer and Manager of Tamworth's electricity undertaking, Guy Kable widely fostered and promoted the use of electricity for boosting the wellbeing of communities, not only for Tamworth, but by building transmission lines to provide bulk supplies to other towns and villages: Manilla in 1927; Nemingha and Kootingal, 1930; Currabubula and Werris creek, 1931; Quirindi, 1941; and Dungowan, Woolomin, and Nundle in 1945.

In 1941 with World War 2 in progress, the Government was looking for a Chief Executive Officer for the Commonwealth Administrative Planning Committee, based in Melbourne. Chairman of the Committee and long time associate of Guy, the Honourable J. P. Abbott MP, asked Guy to take on this job as he well knew Guy's skills and ability.

By letter from the Prime Minister of Australia, Guy was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Administrative Planning Committee, based in Melbourne, with responsibility for the establishment and programming of a new organisation to provide for:-

- The arrival and establishment of all United States troops in Australia, which was used as a springboard for victory.
- The programming, approval, and establishment of medical supplies, personnel and equipment for the military campaign in New Guinea and the Pacific Islands.
- Location of special stores around Australia, and
- Preparations for the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Guy Kable intervened at the industrial level to achieve a "return to work" of striking waterfront workers, to unload unassembled American aircraft needed for the imminent battle of the Coral Sea and the defence of Australia. He secured a relaxation of blackout and industrial conditions applicable to the Civil Construction Corps in Queensland and the Northern Territory for 24 hour, 7 days a week airfield construction.

Some years later, Sir William McKell, Australia's Governor-General from 1947 to 1953, was to say of V. Guy Kable, "He was a very great man!"

Although offered a high army rank, (Colonel) Guy Kable refused this privilege because he had not been so trained or qualified. General Douglas MacArthur was "unimpressed". Guy Kable preferred to remain a civilian.

During the war years, it was claimed that there were up to half a dozen people who could always command a seat on any aeroplane flight, even if it meant cancelling a previous booking. They included the Prime Minister, John Curtin; Army Commanders Sir Thomas Blamey and General Douglas MacArthur; and V. Guy Kable.

Every so often, Guy Kable would return to Tamworth to see how the Deputy Town Clerk, Miss Violet Bailey - the daughter of John Thomas Bailey - was coping. Apparently, she exercised strict control over the Council's affairs in his absence and it performed very well under her leadership.

In 1946, when the Government replaced the Electricity Advisory Committee with the new statutory body, The Electricity Authority of NSW, Guy Kable was appointed a foundation member and continued in this role until his death.

On 18th July, 1946, Tamworth was proclaimed a City, the eighth largest in NSW (by population) after Sydney, Newcastle, Broken Hill, Maitland, Wollongong, Lithgow, and Goulburn. This, other than being a "cathedral" city (seat of a Bishop), required satisfying two criteria:-

1. Having a population exceeding 15,000 (Actual -15,865) and
2. Council's revenue exceeding £ 20,000 (Actual - £26,509)

Of the revenue of £26,509, more than half was from electricity generation, so without the development of the power station and the supply of bulk electricity to the remote towns and villages, Tamworth would not have been proclaimed a city for many years. This can be attributed to the active promotion of electricity and the progressive development of the Tamworth power station and Tamworth's electricity undertaking by V. Guy Kable.

Guy Kable was a staunch believer in the system of local government and as such he championed and promoted the greater role of local government with more power in the hands of elected councils and less interference from state and federal governments. He was a regular presenter at conferences and to the Institute of Public Administration.

On 3rd August, 1944, he presented an address: "*Regionalism Linked with Greater Local Government*". Another was "*The Local Government Aspect*", expressing his wish for the levels of government to be questioned after the war so as to commence a better era in progressing Australia.

His booklet, "*Post War Reconstruction and the Development of the Natural Resources of Australia by Means of Greater Local Government in Preparation for the Additional Population Needed*" was published and issued by the Tamworth Municipal Council.

V Guy Kable's other interests and activities

Mention has been made elsewhere of Guy Kable's many activities and interests. Refer to:

- His appointment as the youngest Town Clerk in New South Wales.
- His management of Tamworth's electrical undertaking and its expansion.
- His service as Tamworth's Chief Electrical Engineer.
- His wartime service as C.E.O. of the Commonwealth Administrative Planning Committee.
- His service as a Director of the *Tamworth Daily Observer*, later the *Northern Daily Leader*.
- His involvement in Scouting.

His career in Tamworth had a number of other interesting facets:

- He was an administrator of the Central Northern Rugby League during the 1920s, and its President in 1923.

- As a close friend of conservative Cabinet Minister, Frank Chaffey, he was requested to stand for pre-selection against Chaffey on a number of occasions but he declined to do so with no reasons given.
- He joined The Peel Masonic Lodge on 2nd April, 1913, and remained a member until his death.
- He never owned a motor car and always walked to work.

When passing the electrical workshop at the rear of the Town Hall on his way to the office he would chat with the apprentices and encourage them.

He had once said to a friend "All I want is, when I die, people will say what a beautiful city Tamworth is".

DEATH OF V. GUY KABLE

In June 1947, Tamworth's Chief Electrical Engineer, Vincent Guy Kable, travelled with J. J. Cahill, M.L.A., the Minister for Public Works and Local Government, to open the extension of electricity to the town of Boggabri. During the return journey, Guy Kable caught a chill, which developed into pneumonia. He spent two weeks away from work recovering but while still in a weakened condition, he returned to work at the Town Clerk's office, caught another chill, and died at home from a heart attack on 2nd September, in his fifty-sixth year.

A tribute was later paid to V. Guy Kable by A. J. "Ben" Cross who had left Tamworth as a lad to work for Brambles Limited in Newcastle. To quote from a letter which he wrote on 4th January, 1999:

"The early death of Guy Kable the Town Clerk was a great blow to the city. He was a man of great vision and outstanding ability. As a member of the War Advisory Council, he organised a wool sale (the only one ever held in Tamworth) to lure out and effect the arrest of a German agent.

He also ordered low output generators which collectively assured the needs of the Power Station in the postwar period, knowing if he had ordered large generators, they would have been impounded by the Government "

Archdeacon F. S. Young, on the occasion of Guy's funeral at St John's church, Tamworth, said:

"To those of us who knew him he was unobtrusive and yet, in the quiet conversations and manner of life you found the depth of a sincere man. His work in connection with the civic undertakings in the city and country was done in a selfless manner, just behind the curtain, as it were. So this morning we tear down the curtain of class and creed that we might, together, unhindered, pay tribute and honour to the greatest man - and I say that advisedly - that the City of Tamworth has ever known."

V. Guy Kable's family

Guy was survived by his widow Lucy and children, shown below with their ages at the time of his death:

Donald Kable (26) had gained a cadetship at B.H.P. and went on to secure professional qualifications as an electrical engineer working in electricity supply

with the Hydro Electric Commission of Tasmania and later, the Bega Valley and Hunter Valley County Councils in NSW.

Muriel Kable (22) graduated as a nursing sister from St Luke's Hospital, Darlinghurst. Later, she left nursing and became a representative for a medical warehouse. Later still, she returned to nursing at Manly hospital managing their Geriatric and Rehabilitation Departments.

Kenneth Kable (20) was a returned serviceman, was an accountant/ auditor at Thomas Davies & Co, Tamworth. He became Business Manager/ accountant for Ford dealerships in Warwick and the Gold coast before conducting a caravan park on the Gold Coast.

Recognition of Kable's contribution to Tamworth

Change of street name: 'Lower Street' to 'Kable Avenue'.

In 1950, B. M. "Bruce" Treloar called on all the business proprietors in Lower Street seeking their support for a change of name to Kable Avenue as a fitting tribute to the memory of one of Tamworth's greatest citizens, Vincent Guy Kable. With their support in hand, Bruce's father, W. J. H. "Jack" Treloar was then able to formally request the Council to consider the change. The City Council agreed, but such a momentous decision clearly needed much time and thought and it was not put into effect until May 1957.

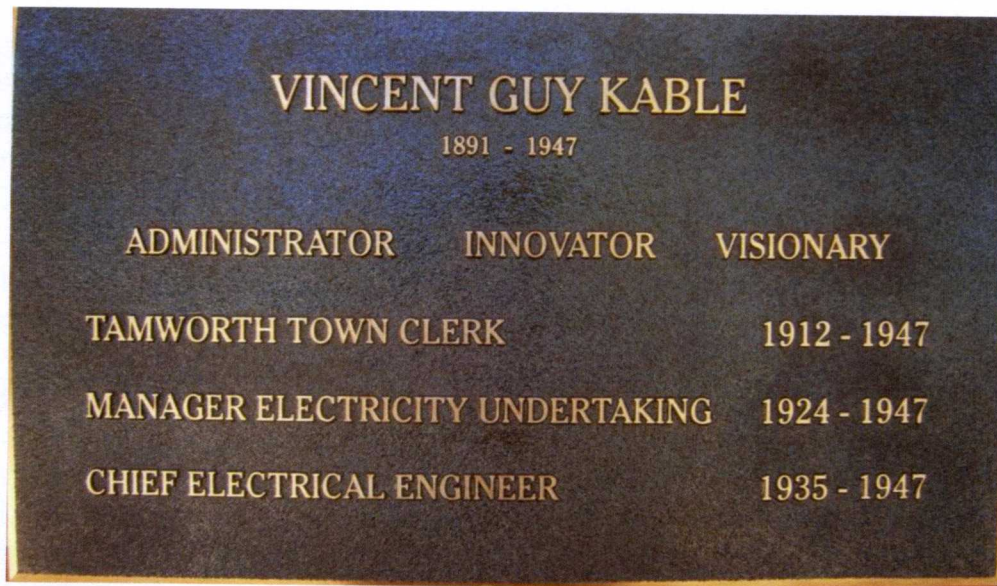
The V. Guy Kable Memorial Arts Building, on the site of the former Alhambra Hall in Marius Street was opened on 16th June, 1961 by the State Governor, Sir Eric Woodward, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. It is the original home of the Tamworth Library and Art Gallery, and now beautifully renovated and modernised as professional offices.

Tamworth Power Station. One of Guy Kable's greatest electrical legacies was his vision for Tamworth's electricity undertaking. It was the grand plan conceived by him, on a scale unparalleled at that time, for electricity extensions to supply electricity from the Tamworth power station to a huge area of northern NSW. This was achieved after Guy's death, by construction engineer George Harden Thew, who succeeded him as Chief Electrical Engineer.

By 1954, the Tamworth Power Station's capacity had grown to 23,000 kilowatts, 46 times the 500 kW it started out at in 1922. It was then supplying the whole of the North-West of NSW from Murrurundi, to Barraba, and to Gunnedah, Boggabri, Narrabri, Bellata, Moree, St George in Queensland, Inverell, and Armidale, as well as the Tamworth region. This was eight years before the Electricity Commission of NSW's high voltage power grid reached Tamworth. A fourth 5,000 kW turbogenerator was added in 1956, bringing the Tamworth Power Station's capacity up to 28,000 kilowatts.

It is entirely fitting that his name be associated with the Tamworth Powerstation Museum by the unveiling of a bronze plaque in his honour at the Museum on the

occasion of the celebration of 125 years of electric street lighting in Tamworth, on 9th November, 2013.



Plaque unveiled Saturday, 9th November, 2013
by Gary Humphreys, Chief Operating Officer, Essential Energy.

Acknowledgements

This monograph has been compiled by Ron Greer in December, 2014, from the notes used by Tamworth Historian, Dr Warren O. Newman OAM, for his address on the life of V. Guy Kable at the Tamworth Powerstation Museum on the occasion of the unveiling of the V. Guy Kable memorial plaque on the 125th anniversary of the inauguration of Municipal Electric Street Lighting in Australia on Saturday, 9th November, 2013.

These notes were received from Dr Newman one week before his untimely death on 6th December 2013. With Dr Newman's expressed permission they also include paragraphs selected from his book:- "The Chronological History of Tamworth" by L. L. Green & W. O. Newman, 2003.

Ron acknowledges with thanks the assistance and contribution of Euan Coutts, and to Paul Kable, son of Guy Kable's nephew Garvon who, from his in-depth researches, corrected many errors in the checking, editing and preparation of this monograph; to Ken Kable, youngest son of Guy, for much information from his intimate knowledge of his father, and Muriel Kable, daughter of Guy, custodian of family certificates, and to Guy's Granddaughters, Margaret Lucas and Susan Robins for providing images; to Gwyn Guyatt for the encouragement to embark on this exercise, and to Meg Larkin and Wendy Smith for proofing and formatting the document.

family history Australia

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Notes: Guy Kable (from which Dr W. O. Newman OAM, spoke when addressing the gathering at the Tamworth Powerstation Museum on Saturday, 9th November, 2013).

Measuring Worth – Purchase Power of the Pound.

<http://www.measuringworth.com/uk>

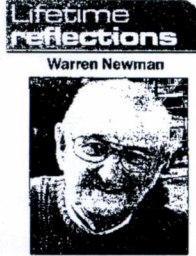
In 1780, a labourer's wage was 10^d per day = 5/- per week = 260/- pa = £13 pa.

£20 = 1.54 times a labourer's annual wage. In 2013, Aust. min wage = \$32,760 pa x 1.54 = \$50,500

£20 = 1.54 times a labourer's annual wage. In 2013, a labourer's wage = \$35,500 pa x 1.54 = \$54,670

£15 = 1.154 times a labourer's annual wage. In 2013 labourer's wage = \$35,500 pa x 1.154 = \$40,967

City loses dedicated historian



By Ann Newling

NOTED historian Warren Newman - the man honoured only four days ago with the highest civic award Tamworth can bestow - died early yesterday.

The academic, teacher, educator, historian and writer slipped away in his sleep just before 2am yesterday. A family friend, Euan Courts, said Dr Newman, 75, had, in the end, died peacefully.

Dr Newman was admitted to hospital about 10 days ago after the cancer that plagued him two years ago made a savage and swift return. But he survived to see his name added to the civic plaque that names him as only the 11th identity in our city's history conferred with the Freeman of the City title.

That ceremony took place on



PROUD HISTORY: Historians Warren Newman, second from left and Lyall Green in bowtie, at the launch of their pictorial history in 1998 with publisher Alan Halbish, left, and designer Richard Tabaka.

Tuesday and although Dr Newman was too ill to accept it personally, he was aware of it, saw the citation and was proud and honoured by the significant gesture from Tamworth Regional Council and the people it represents.

Born and raised on the family dairy farm at Alstonville, Newman studied teaching at the Armidale Teachers' College. He taught at St Mary's School in Sydney, then at the one-teacher Burrupine School near Taylor's Arm, west of Macksville, succeeding by coincidence David Maher, another noted Tamworth educational leader.

Newman returned to teach at Armidale after that stint before going overseas to Canada and post-graduate studies in education.

He returned in 1971 to the ATC as a lecturer in education and history, and was later appointed head of education when it became a College of Advanced Education.

With its amalgamation with the University of New England, he was appointed an associate professor and dean of the faculty of education, nursing and professional Studies.

In 1990 he moved to Tamworth to become regional director of programs and planning with the Education Department but took early retirement when his position was made redundant.

Newman then resumed his interest in history fulltime, going on to either write, co-author or edit many books on Tamworth or Armidale

history. His most significant work, co-authored with the eminent local historian Lyall Green, was the four-volume *Chronological History of Tamworth*, published in 2004. Before then he and Mr Green wrote *Tamworth: A Pictorial History*, produced by the then-city council.

In 2006 he was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's birthday honours list.

Dr Newman was a noted and prodigious guest speaker and authority on all things historical and educational. He's been a prolific producer of snippets of history for all types of groups and community organisations. When he first became a couple of years ago, he'd actually just completed a substantial and entrancing series of 100

articles, titled *Timelines*, drawn from Lyall Green's earlier works, and published in *The Leader* every weekend for two years. His last column appeared almost exactly two years to the day he was struck down, again by the insidious cancer that has killed him.

It was just like the generous nature of the man that he did that writing so willingly, with enthusiasm and panache, and freely. He did the same for many other groups, providing expert details and historical digging to enhance their heritage research.

A special friend of *The Leader*, he would answer late-night SOS calls from the newsdesk for often little-known facts to embellish stories for the city and its people.

For many other too, there was little known of some of his other loves.

His memorial service will be held next week, a date and time are yet to be confirmed, but it will be in his church, St John's. Parishioners will know him as the organist there.

He was, according to Mr Courts, a brilliant pianist and organist, which he'd learnt as a trainee teacher. During his college years he played at the Saturday night college gigs and he went on to be the organist at St Peter's Anglican Cathedral there later on too.

Dr Newman was also a Past District Governor of Rotary (1987-88) and was made a Paul Harris Fellow in 1989.

Appendix

Guy Kable was an Associate of Local Government Auditors (ALGA), a Fellow of the Federal Institute of Accountants (FFIA), a Fellow of the Institute of Incorporated Secretaries (FFIS), a fellow of the Local Government Clerk's Association (FLGA), a Member of the Local Government Electrical Engineers Association (LGEE), a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (FCIS), and he was a Justice of the Peace (JP).

Guy Kable's position with the Council involved him in many Tamworth developments which included:-

- 1916 Selection of a suitable site for a new power station.
- 1919 Establishment of Tamworth's first High School, corner of Napier Street and Brisbane Street.
- 1920 Purchase of the site and planning for the new power station.
- 1922 Commissioning of the new power station in Marius Street.
- 1925 Extension of the power station and the installation of an additional 400kW generator.
- 1927 The opening of Tamworth's ambulance station in Marius Street, the commissioning of a 33,000 Volt transmission line to supply bulk electricity to Manilla, and installation of the War Memorial Gates to Anzac Park.
- 1928 Commencement of a sewerage system for Tamworth and the extension of the power station and installation of an additional 400kW generator.
- 1930 Electricity supply extended to Nemingha and Kootingal.
- 1931 The provision of a bulk supply of electricity to the Peel Shire.

- 1932 Establishment of Tamworth's first licensed aerodrome (in what is now Taminda).
- 1933 – 1936 Development of Oxley Scenic Road and Lookout, providing unemployment relief.
- 1934 Extension of the power station and the installation of a 1,000kW turbine generator.
Construction and opening of the War Memorial Town Hall in Fitzroy Street.
Construction of Levee banks along the Peel River for flood protection and provision of unemployment relief.
- 1937 Construction of Tamworth's Olympic Pool.
- 1938 The first Local Government abattoirs in NSW, on Forest Road, the commencement of a new police station, a further extension of the power station with the installation of a 2,000 kW turbine generator, and the erection of the internally illuminated commemorative obelisk outside the power station.
- 1940 Establishment of an Army Training Camp on the showground and an army camp and hospital on 67 hectares at Woolomol on the Manilla Road.
- 1941 The extension of bulk electricity supply to Quirindi.
- 1943 Establishment of a munitions factory manufacturing .303 bullets.
- 1944 A further extension of the power station with the installation of a 2,000kW turbine generator.
- 1945 Electricity supply extended to Dungowan, Woolomin and Nundle.
- 1946 Tamworth proclaimed the eighth city in NSW, and a new library in the Mechanics Institute in Brisbane Street.
- 1947 Inauguration of commercial air travel Tamworth – Sydney (East West Airlines with 7 seater Avro Anson aircraft).
Commissioning of new 66,000 Volt transmission lines providing bulk electricity supplies to Gunnedah, Boggabri and Narrabri from the Tamworth Power Station. Extension of the 33,000 Volt transmission lines from Manilla to provide bulk electricity to Barraba.

\$7.50

TAMWORTH POWERSTATION MUSEUM

216 PEEL STREET - TAMWORTH - NSW

Tamworth was connected to the electric telegraph on 9th November, 1861, and 27 years later, on 9th November, 1888, Tamworth became the first Municipality in Australia to light its streets using electricity. It carries the title First City of Light. The Tamworth Powerstation Museum opened in 1988 to mark the centenary. It is an all electric museum and embodies the re-built 1888 power station on its original site together with displays of a wide range of historical electric memorabilia.



Other monographs in the series :-

The Story of Light

From the Steam Plough Works to Tamworth

The Incredible Crompton

Michael Faraday, FRS, Grand Master of Experiment

The Electric Telegraph

The Mighty Incandescent light bulb

Ronald William Greer OAM , FIEAust , CPEng. (Ret'd) was Chief Electrical Engineer to the Peel-Cunningham County Council at Tamworth, N.S.W. In retirement, he is a volunteer on the staff of the Tamworth Powerstation Museum.

Tamworth 2015