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Heritage of East Lake Macquarie

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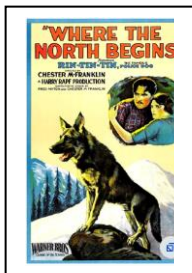
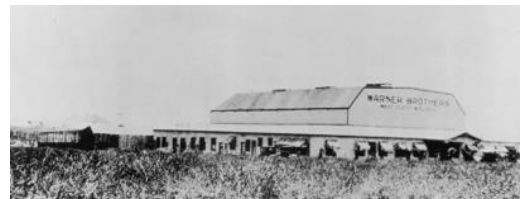
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SEP-OCT

1923 CENTENARIES

2023



Warner Bros. Pictures Inc. was founded on **April 4, 1923** by the four Warner brothers - Harry, Albert, Sam and Jack. Their first studio on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood – West Coast Studio - resembled a barn on a farm. One of the studio's top performers signed up in 1923 was Rin Tin Tin, a German Shepherd, in the silent movie, 'Where the North Begins'. Soon Rin, was their biggest star, earning \$1,000 a week. Nicknamed 'Rinty', he was an orphaned pup rescued from a WWI battlefield by an American soldier, Lee Duncan, who trained him. He went on to make 27 films until he died in 1932. Some of his descendants appeared in further movies, and the 1950s TV series. As the film industry grew and 'Talkies' were introduced, the studio moved to

Burbank California in 1928. Here they were able to expand and introduce a 'weather machine' to produce wind, sun, lightning, light; and had room to build hangars for props, plumbing, cabinets, and tin. *Sources: WBros; imdb.*



The **Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio** was founded on **October 16, 1923** by Walt and brother Roy in Hollywood. Walt, a talented artist, arrived from Chicago with \$40, a cardboard suitcase, and a pilot film combining action and cartoon pictures made into the successful series of Alice comedies. He created his most famous character Mickey Mouse in 1928; followed by the hit animated feature film Snow White, 1937. During WWII he produced propaganda and training films for the US Govt., one starred new character Donald Duck. His creative mind saw him establish other ventures, culminating in Disneyland, California, 1955. Walt holds the record for most individual Oscar wins (22) and nominations (59). He passed away in 1966, aged 65. *Source: d23.com*



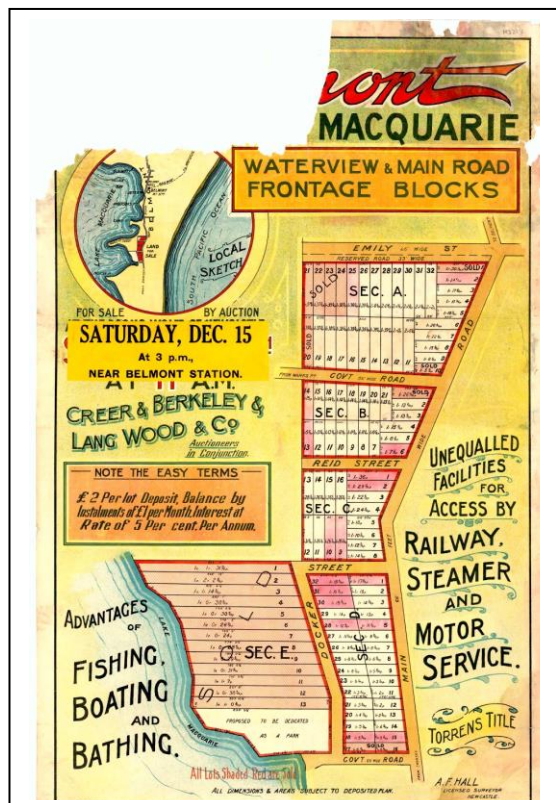
Movies; vegemite	1
Newcastle	2
Swansea	2
Belmont	3
Bellbird mine	4



Due to shortages of staple British Marmite in WWI, Cyril Callister developed the Australian version, using waste yeast from Carlton Brewery and adding vegetable extract. **Vegemite** appeared on our shelves in **October 1923**, to a lukewarm reception. Advertising, competitions, incentives; and it's nutritional value made it one of our Aussie icons; still produced in Port Melbourne today. *Source: vegemite.com.au*

Thank you to Pat Conroy and staff, kindly supporting our community; and encouraging the preservation and sharing of our heritage.

Belmont, (now Marks Point), Lake Macquarie, Saturday December 15th [1923].



Belmont Lake Macquarie Waterview & main road frontage blocks for sale by auction Saturday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. near Belmont Station. Creer & Berkeley, Lang Wood & Co. Auctioneers in conjunction. Unequalled facilities for access by railway, steamer and motor service.

Advantages of fishing, boating and bathing.

Easy terms: £2 per lot deposit, balance by instalments of £1 per month. Interest rate of 5% p.a.

Includes: Docker Road, Emily Street, Government Road, Main Road, Reid Street. All lots shaded red are sold. *Source: Living Histories, UON.*



Buses bound for Marks Point lined up at Belmont Station.
Source: LMCC; Mrs Haggarty; Ed Tonks.

GOLDEN EGG COLLIERY CARDIFF POINT (near Green Point lookout)



Barge "Platypus" leaving the Golden Egg Colliery to carry slack coal to Dora Creek for the Sanitarium factory, in 1923. The mine which was also known as Shaggy Pit dug tunnels into the hillside to retrieve coal from a shallow seam. The skips would take coal down to the waterfront to the long jetty and tip onto barges for transporting within the lake; or into steamers bound for Sydney. The building of the breakwall at Swansea and the dredging of the Swansea Channel enabled ships to navigate out of the lake. When dredging ended in the 1930s it was too shallow for steamers like White Bay, Warraneen, Tuncurry, Seagull. *Photo: George Boyd*

BELMONT 16s SKIFF SAILING CLUB.

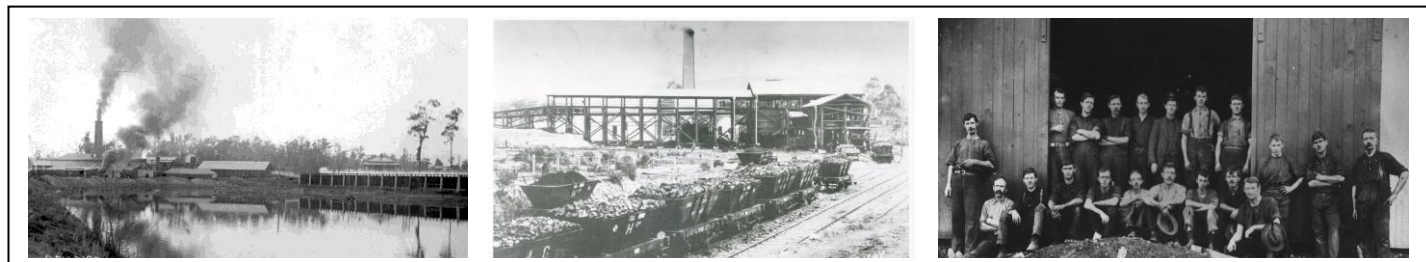


On October 6, 1923, the first clubhouse built by volunteers was opened in Brooks Parade. It was built out over the water opposite Sharpe Street. The club was formed in 1922, with the first race in October of that year.



The first yearly point score winner on handicap for 1922-1923 was 'Aeneas' skippered by Swansea's Tom Humphreys. The clubhouse relocated to new, bigger premises on reclaimed land at Mill Creek in 1952. *Sources: LMCC local history; Belmont 16s; Roger A. Steel.*

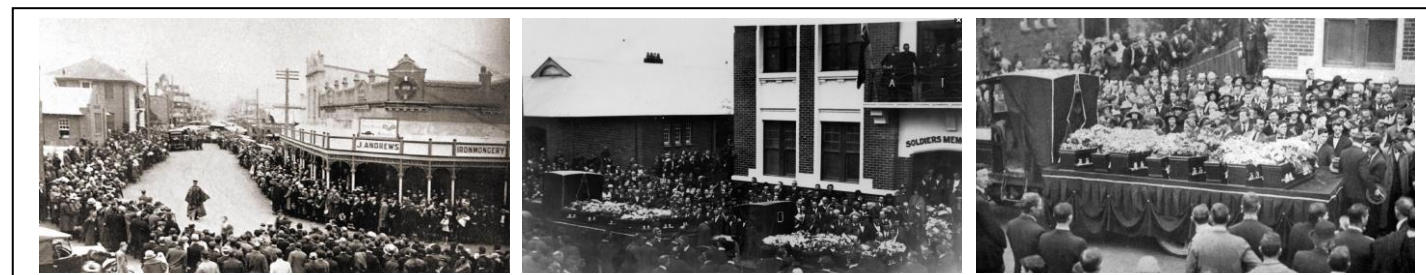
HUNTER'S WORST COLLIERY DISASTER AT BELLBIRD.



In 1923, the Bellbird Colliery, owned by Hetton Coal Co. near Cessnock employed 538 men; 369 worked underground. At 1 pm on September 1, 1923 the morning shift of 450 men left the mine and the afternoon shift began with 20 men entering the colliery, and the morning Deputies inspecting the working places in the shift handover. About half an hour later, the incoming afternoon Deputy ran back calling "Come quick, it's fire!" It was a constant danger that miners worked with. Pockets of methane gas could build up in unventilated areas, asphyxiating miners, causing fires and explosions. It was made worse because they worked with a combustible resource. Working conditions and safety were poor. Some smoked cigarettes; naked flame lamps were used. Emergency phone lines were not reliable; and there was a lack of effective hazard reporting and control. On that Saturday afternoon, as the Deputies ran towards the fire, the thick black smoke and flames forced them back. The surveyor went to the surface to get assistance. About 2 pm there were more explosions. The Deputies located the bodies of some of the miners and horses, but could not find the seat of the fire. It was decided at 4 pm to recover the bodies and seal the mine. Sealing of the mine began at 9.30 pm and was completed by the middle of the next day. The bodies of 6 men could not be recovered and were entombed inside the pit. During this time 7 underground explosions occurred, blowing the cover off the fan and much of the air shaft brickwork.



The Bellbird Mine Disaster had cost 21 men and 6 horses their lives. The funerals for the 15 recovered men were held on the same day. 25,000 people lined the streets to pay their respects as the funeral cortege of 15 coffins, placed on open flat-bed trucks, draped in black, tied with purple ribbons and covered in flowers, wound its way to the cemetery. Led by massed bands from Cessnock, Weston, Abermain and Kurri Kurri, hundreds of miners marched to honour their mates, in the procession which took about 30 minutes to pass any given point.



It took nine months before it was safe enough for rescue teams to re-enter the mine and search for the rest of the bodies. New "proto" mines rescue suits were used, letting the rescuers move deeper into the pit. The disaster was the catalyst to establish a mines rescue service, with the first NSW Mines Rescue Station established at Abermain in 1926.

Sources: mineaccidents.com.au; amjs.com.au; Cessnock Lib; coalfieldshistory.org; UON.

