

- Murray*
1. The pioneer settler of the Mayfield area was John Laurio Platt, who, in August 1821, received a grant of 2,000 acres along the bank of the Hunter River from what is now Mayfield West to Ironbark Creek. The area became known as "The Folly" because of Platt's unsuccessful attempt to grow wheat. In 1831 his homestead, "Ironbark" was destroyed by fire and two of his young sons were burned to death.
 2. What was once the Murray Dwyer Orphanage at Mayfield West, was originally the home of the superintendent of the Australian Agricultural Company. Built on land known as the Old Mill Paddock, it was sold to the A.A. Company by the executor of John Laurio Platt, Mayfield's first settler. The BHP bought the property in about 1968 when the Catholic Church transferred the boys from the traditional orphanage situation to small home units.
 3. The first wine produced in Newcastle was made in 1859 at Peter Crebert's vineyard on a five acre riverfront allotment between what is now Mayfield West and Port Waratah, and then known as "The Folly". Crebert's "Folly" gardens became well known in later years and on Sundays and holidays, Newcastle people used to drive out to walk through the gardens and buy fruit and wine.
 4. Much of the 40 acres between what is now Mayfield West and Port Waratah, developed by Mayfield's pioneer resident, John Laurio Platt, came to be used for orchards, vineyards and dairy farms. Three of the occupiers in the 1860's were Messrs. Crebert, Bull and Williams whose names are perpetuated in Mayfield streets.
 5. Mayfield's first school was conducted by Miss Tourle in a small wooden building at the end of Crebert's vineyard. When in 1874 "The Folly" public school opened in a slab building on the corner of what became Crebert and Ingall Streets. Opposite the school was the residence of Mr. Ingall, a well known Newcastle draper.

6. What was described as "the largest and most modern equipped soap manufacturing plant in the Southern Hemisphere" opened in Mayfield in February 1886. Built by the Sydney Soap and Candle Company on land east of Ingall Street, the factory cost about £50,000 to build with machinery a further £83,000. The soap factory provided employment for a number of people, many of whom became residents of what is now Mayfield East.
7. In 1860, Simon Kemp of Newcastle, gave portion of a large area of land he owned in Mayfield to the Church of England for a school, church and parsonage. The land extended from the northern side of Maitland Road through to Bull Street. At that time the southern side of Maitland Road was still heavily timbered and used as bullock paddocks and slaughter houses by Newcastle butchers.
8. On the 21st of May 1861, the Bishop of Newcastle opened St. Andrew's Church of England, Mayfield. The church, which seated 150 people, was built at a cost of £200. After the opening ceremony, those present were entertained at Mr. Tourle's residence, where a large pavilion had been erected.
9. Another early resident of Mayfield was Charles Simpson, a customs collector in Newcastle in the 1840's. In 1848 he bought three allotments on the banks of the Hunter River near what is now Kerr Street and built a mansion. He named it Waratah House, because Waratahs grew there in profusion and it was believed this was the most northerly spot where these flowers grew. Waratah House was later demolished to make way for industries.
10. One of Mayfield's earliest hotels was the Waratah, owned by Benjamin Tonks. It was on the corner of Maitland Road and Hanbury Street, now the site of another hotel. The road running from Tonks' hotel to the Railway Station was named Hanbury Street, because it led to the private township of Hanbury (now Waratah) founded in 1862 by Thomas Grove.

11. One of Mayfield's chief attractions in the 1890's were the Crystal Palace Gardens. Situated on six acres in Hanbury Street, where the Masonic Hall now stands, the gardens contained the Sir John Peel hotel, a miniature zoo and aviary, running tracks, large playing areas, dancing pavilions and swing boats. The grounds were surrounded by a 12 feet high fence and it was a popular spot for picnics, sports, band contests and flower shows.
12. Before its transformation to an industrial area, Mayfield, in the late 1800's was a pleasant rural retreat for Newcastle's wealthy. Some of the families who settled on the Mayfield hill are still well known. Arnott, Winn, Langwill, Creer, Windeyer, Scholey and Chinchon. When John Scholey, a Newcastle butcher bought a tract of land there, he called it May-field, after one of his daughters.
13. By 1900, there were 600 houses and 2,700 people in the Waratah-Georgetown-Mayfield area. It was not until after World War One that Mayfield was transformed by the BHP Steelworks and other industries. The industries not only brought about a complete change of lifestyle, but changed the very shape of the area.
14. On the site now occupied by the Rural Bank, Joe Brewster once lived and ran a horse bus service from Mayfield Terminus to Newcastle. His arch rival was Harry Holmes, who ran a similar service from Tighes Hill. To settle argument as to which was the better outfit, a race was arranged from the Abattoir gates to Tighes Hill. Joe was leading until he reached his home in Victoria Street, when his horse pulled up and refused to go any further. Harry dashed past and won in a canter.
15. Unofficial historians tell us that two early families in the Mayfield district, the Lambkes and Norgards lived in Bull Street, just about where Stewarts and Lloyds Recreation area now stands. Lambke's well was the main source of water supply for both Mayfield and Waratah for some years.

16. Thomas Tourle, a wealthy squatter who bought Waratah House, near what is now Kerr Street, Mayfield, ^{in 1854} had a fine chestnut horse which he kept for special use in his phaeton. One morning the horse was missing and it was thought he had been stolen by Ben Hall, Frank Gardiner or some other bushranger. Days later a disreputable looking grey horse with bobbed mane and tail turned up at the stable. It was never learned who did the whitewashing and lopping.
17. A well known feature of Bull Street, Mayfield in the 1880's was the village pump. In those days, galvanised iron tanks were scarce and water was usually stored in underground wells. These often failed, particularly in dry weather and water had to be obtained from either this pump or from one at Islington. An enterprising gentleman, Sam Fordham, sold water at the rate of 1/- a cask (about 40 gallons).
18. Dangar Park was not always the pleasant area it is to-day. Until 1912 there was a coal mine and a brickyard on the 11 acre site which the Dangar Estate presented to Waratah Municipal Council, of which Mayfield was part. Later the Council bought two areas from private owners. These in time became Mayfield Park and Webb Park, named after the last Mayor of Waratah, Mr. S. F. Webb.
19. When Waratah Municipality, of which Mayfield was part, came into existence in 1871, Waratah was a hamlet with a population of a couple of hundred and Mayfield a pleasant rural area of orchards and vineyards. Along with other suburbs, Waratah Municipality was absorbed into Greater Newcastle in 1938.
20. Mayfield's drainage scheme started by the Hunter District Water Board in 1921 and completed in 1927 at a cost of almost £40,000, removed from low lying areas the recurring threat of floods during heavy rain. The wide concrete stormwater channels were part of the big Throsby Creek scheme.

21. The Municipal Gas Works established in 1889 by Waratah Municipal Council (of which Mayfield was part) served the area until after the opening of the BHP Steelworks. Mayfield and Waratah then expanded to such an extent that the Council was faced with the alternative of borrowing £50,000 to enlarge the gasworks or to sell them. In 1921 the City of Newcastle Gas and Coke Company bought the Gasworks for £15,000...a good price in those days.

22. When Newcastle butcher, James Scholey named Mayfield after his daughter in 1881, it consisted of two large areas bounded on the west by Kerr Street, the North by Crebert Street, the east by a line ~~about five blocks~~ from Church Street, southwardly to Maitland Road and along Maitland Road back to Kerr Street. This area originally belonged to a slaughterman named James Price of Buttai to whom it was granted in 1854.

23. Mayfield can claim two firsts in Newcastle transport...the first electric tram service and the first double decker buses. The steam tram service to Mayfield started with a single line in ~~1891~~ ¹⁹⁰¹ but this was ~~fourteen~~ ^{Fourteen} years after the opening of the steam tram service from Newcastle to Plattsburg.

24. Mayfield's steam tram service started with a single line in 1901. Duplication of the line was done in stages and completed in 1925. The route followed Hunter Street to the Bank Corner, turned into Hannel Street where Wickham Station now is ...along Hannel Street ...turned into Albert Street, then through to Maitland Road on through Tighes Hill to Mayfield.

25. It was a gala occasion when the electric tram line from Newcastle to Mayfield was officially opened on December 17th, 1923. Ribbons were cut at the Newcastle end by the Mayoress, Mrs. H. Cornish and at Mayfield by the Mayoress, Mrs. H. J. Ireland. Thousands of spectators lined the route to cheer on the decorated double set of tram cars, driven by Inspector J. Picken.

26. The last electric tram ran to Mayfield on the night of September 25th, 1948. Double decker buses came into service the next day. Long before Government buses, there were private bus services in the area and, like The Streetcar Named Desire, every bus had a name. Red Cardinal..Sunbeam....Excelsior....Westralia... Irresistible.....She'll Do Us.....were a few.
27. BHP.....Comsteel....Stewarts and Lloyds....Australian Wire Industries....Seco Titan.....~~Common~~....are some of the great Heavies that make Mayfield the industrial heart of Australia. These industries provide work for thousands of people, with an annual wages bill of millions of dollars. This vast industrial development has all come about since construction of the BHP Steelworks began in 1913.
28. One of the men who played a part in the rural activity of the now industrial riverbank east of Tourle Street, Mayfield, was Herbert Morris. From 1904 until the 1920's, Mr. Morris had a dairy farm on what is now the site of Stewarts and Lloyds. On his 47½ acres he successfully grew lucerne, corn and oats for his 30 cows and and leased one corner of the property to Chinese market gardeners.
29. On May 6th, 1929, the Newcastle Morning Herald reported....
"Beautifully situated in seven acres of land, rich in natural decoration, overlooking the Hunter River and with a glimpse of the Pacific Ocean in the distance, the additions to the Convent San Clemente of the Dominican nuns in Havelock Street, Mayfield, were opened yesterday afternoon, the ceremony being performed by the Right Reverend Dr. P.V. Dwyer, Bishop of Maitland. In 1976 San Clemente became the first Catholic school in Maitland diocese to be staffed entirely by lay teachers.

30. One of Mayfield's oldest hotels is named after a memorable race^{horse}course, the mighty BEAUFORD, who, in 1921, twice beat the New Zealand galloper, GLOAMING. Three generations of the Amos family have been associated with Mayfield's three hotels.
31. When the Redemptorist Monastery in Woodstock Street, Mayfield, opened in 1887, it was the first establishment of its kind in Australia. The three storied brick building on an 18 acre site was designed by the distinguished architect, Frederick B. Menkens. The Monastery is the mother house of the Redemptorist order in Australia.
32. Nestling quietly behind St. Andrew's Church at Mayfield is the original St. Andrews, completed in 1861 at a cost of £200. 150 people attended the opening ceremony on May 21st, 1861, which was followed by a banquet at Mr. Tourle's residence. The present St. Andrews was built in 1924 to serve the needs of the rapidly growing area.
33. Many well known Newcastle people were members of the MAYFIELD LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY from 1922 to 1930. They included former State Dockyard Director, D.L. McLarty... Mrs. Charles Dean, remembered for her work with the Victoria LeagueC.P. Macfarlane, a well known bank manager and astronomer, Mark Howarth, who, for many years, conducted an observatory from his home in Bull Street.
34. Lord and Lady Casey...Lord and Lady Wakehurst...the Duke of Gloucester...Lord de Lisle...are just a few of the many distinguished guests of the BHP at BELLA VISTA in Crebert Street, Mayfield. Built by the BHP in 1919, Bella Vista ceased to be the Manager's residence in 1936 and became the Directors' residence. In the gardens, there are many magnificent trees, including a Cumquat, believed to be well over 100 years old.

35. On April 21st, 1899, the Mayfield pioneers met at the residence

35. On April 25th, 1899, nine Mayfield pioneers met at the residence of Mr. William Arnott, "ARNOTT HOLMES" and decided to erect a ^{Methodist} // church at the corner of Kerr and Highfield streets. The contract was for a building to seat 150 people and costing £800. The present church was opened in 1937.
36. One of Mayfield's earliest charity clubs, Lysaght's Excelsior Welfare Club, celebrated its 46th birthday last month. For about 30 of those years, Mrs, Philis Williams has been President. The Club began in the early 30's, when women of what was called "The Village" got together to help families of men involved in a strike. The Village consisted of about 75 houses built by John Lysaght to accommodate employees brought from Wales. To-day, Lysaght's Excelsior Welfare Club has about 30 members, including several original members.....and Mrs. Williams is still President.
37. The opening of the \$400,000 Tourle Street bridge in 1965 was the first step in eliminating the Newcastle-Stockton vehicular ferry and providing access to the 7000 acres of industrial zone land in the Island Development project. Preparatory work on the bridge started in March 1962.
38. As the Industrial centre of Newcastle, Mayfield was the ideal site for the headquarters of the Federated Ironworkers Association which opened in December 1975, on the site of what had been the old movie theatre. Prior to this, the FIA had been seeking its own premises for about 15 years. Addressing the Union's first National Council in the new 1.8 million dollar building, Mr. L. Short said a lot of famous FIA men had come from the Mayfield area.

39. The Salvation Army has been at Mayfield for almost 60 years. The opening meeting was held at the old tram terminus in Maitland Road on February 11th, 1922. A special meeting was held later the same day in a marquee on the site of the present citadel at the corner of Victoria and Dora Streets. The band of Salvationists in those days numbered ten.....and meetings for young people averaged attendances of 100;
40. The number of hospitals, remedial centres, shelters and caring institutions in the Mayfield area is an indication of the willingness and generosity of Mayfield people in their support of local sports and charity organisations. One of these is Annersley House, a refuge for the aged and ill, in the historic home of biscuit manufacturer, William Arnott, who was a devout methodist.
41. Mayfield's Olympic swimming pool in Dangar Park, was the second to be built in the Newcastle area. Opened in 1966, the \$160,000 pool was a gift of the BHP to mark the company's 50th anniversary. At first it was feared Dangar Park might not be suitable because of possible undermining, but tests revealed 35 feet of clay and 5 feet of rock and work on the pool went ahead.
42. In 1959 seven handicapped people, lead by John Aird of Mayfield formed the Newcastle and District Physically Handicapped Association. To-day, the Association runs a commercial laundry and laundromat in Valencia Street, Mayfield and a Sheltered Workshop in Corona Street.....all administered by John Aird. Known as Mattara Enterprises, the workshop provides employment for sixty disabled people. They do contract work for local industries.....sewing.....duplicating and, as John Aird says... anything else that comes along.

43. Moves to establish an abattoir in Newcastle started as early as 1904. The Abattoir became a city concern in 1919, primarily as a health consideration. During World War Two, the Abattoir played a significant part in the supply of meat to the armed forces. In 1956, a herd of 65,000 cattle, 180,000 sheep, 35,000 calves and 34,000 pigs ended a dusty journey along the stock routes of the Hunter or arrived by train or truck at the Abattoir paddocks. And these figures were lower than normal! Closed by Newcastle Council last month, the Abattoir is currently being run as a private enterprise.
44. Work on reclaiming swampy land for construction of the BHP Steelworks at Mayfield, started in January 1913. Two years later.... on January 19th, 1915, the first load of 2,800 tons of Iron Knob ore arrived at the Steelworks ore wharf. The blast furnace was blown on March 8th of the same year...and the Number One open hearth was charged and tapped on April 8th. A heat of good quality steel was produced the next day, April 9th, 1915. The first manager of the Steelworks was leading American iron and steel authority, Mr. David Baker.
45. The Seco Titan tungsten carbide plant at Mayfield is a familiar sight to motorists driving along the Industrial Highway. Seco Titan's history of tungsten carbide production started 40 years ago through the ingenuity and expertise of a small team of researchers. To-day Seco Titan is the leading Australian producer of Tungsten Carbide and associated products for the mining, engineering and manufacturing industries, and there are 170 people in the company.
46. When Australian Wire Rope Works began production at Mayfield in 1924, the basic wage was about £3.2.6. a week. Parent company of the Rope Works is Australian Wire Industries, who also operate Newcastle Wire Mill and Titan Mining and Engineering Division. A.W.I. has a total work force of almost two thousand people and an annual salary bill of nearly 30 million dollars.

47. The first police officer was appointed to Mayfield in 1919, and for the next 17 years, local guardians of the law lived in rented premises at various addresses in Mayfield. In 1936, police moved into the present quarters at 221 Maitland Road, built at a cost of £2,496. To-day, Mayfield Police Station has a strength of 6 sergeants and 15 constables.
48. Mayfield's first postmaster (non official) was Alexander Clendenning who took up his position on October 15th, 1910. When he died the same year, his sister, Mrs. Eliza Marlborough became postmistress. She moved to new premises on the corner of Kerr Street and Maitland Road, where she continued to operate the post office until 1921. Mail was delivered by a postman from Waratah. Mayfield post office became official at the end of 1925. The present post office was opened on December 8th, 1969.
49. Mayfield Chamber of Commerce started as a Businessmen's Club in 1945. It ceased functioning in 1968 and was re-formed as a Chamber of Commerce in 1972, with a membership of 30. The Chamber meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 1.15 at the Stag and Hunter Hotel, and to-day has 48 members.
50. In 1926 there were 79 places of business spread out along Maitland Road, Mayfield. There are now well over 100 shops of all sizes and types in the main centre alone, making it one of Newcastle's busiest suburban shopping areas. Every bank is represented in Mayfield, and there is as well as Building Societies...//a large Supermarket and a fine RSL Club.
51. Established in 1858, Mayfield East Public School was known originally at The Folly School.....then Waratah North.....the Mayfield School and, eventually, Mayfield East. The school occupies three buildings on the hill overlooking the BHP. They were erected in 1874....1920 and 1937. ~~The first principal was James Kilgour.~~ In 1872 there were 50 children at the school. To-day, there is a total enrolment

52. Mayfield branch library, operated by Newcastle City Council, opened on October 2nd, 1953. The library has almost four thousand registered borrowers, who make good use of the twenty thousand volumes on the shelves. Just on 15,600 transactions were recorded in the month ended August 31st this year.
53. Formed in November 1947, Mayfield Rotary Club was the first suburban club sponsored by Newcastle Club to extend the influence of Rotary in the area.
Original membership was 23 and the first president was Mr. J.C.W. Bridge. To-day, Mayfield Rotary has 35 members. The Club meets each Tuesday night at Mayfield Bowling Club, and has recently been involved in completing Mayfield Meals on Wheels. Current president is Hector Duncan, Principal of Mayfield East Public School.
54. Mayfield Bowling Club in Dangar Park came into being at a public meeting in Waratah Council Chambers on March 19th, 1938.
The first ^{balls} were rolled on the green on February 24th, 1940 and the Club was officially opened six months later, on August 24th. Night play began on October 28th, 1941, but, because of the war, was suspended after only six weeks, and did not resume for five years. The Club's sole remaining foundation member, James Firth, died this year. To-day, Mayfield Bowling Club has 340 members.
55. The Working Womens Centre at Mayfield first opened its doors in October 1975, to offer a wide range of services and facilities to women from all walks of life. These include free legal and financial advice... medical care....English classes for migrant women....information and counselling on all womens problems. The Centre is open Monday to Friday, nine till five, on the corner of Avon Street and Industrial Drive.

56. It is estimated that about 1500 people in the Newcastle area suffer from Agrophobia....a paralysing fear that comes upon a person outside the security of their own home. A special interest of Owen Smith, Director of Mayfield Community Centre, is the formation of self help groups for people suffering from Agrophobia. Owen can be contacted on 683.780 or at the centre, 115A Maitland Road.
57. Mayfield's first blacksmithing business was established about 1892 in Hanbury Street, just north of Maitland Road. The blacksmith was a Mr. Gleeson, father of the former Bishop of Maitland, the late most Reverend Dr. E. Gleeson.
58. One of the districts most popular clubs is Waratah-Mayfield RSL in Hanbury Street. Formed in 1936, the Club had an original membership of 20. Its first President was S.F. Webb, resident and Mayor of the Municipality for many years. To-day, Waratah Mayfield RSL Club has almost three thousand members.
59. Besides catering for its ^{almost 3 thousand} members with a wide range of amenities and facilities, Waratah-Mayfield RSL Club, funds one of Newcastle's biggest youth sporting clubs. More than 800 boys and girls between 8 and 18 are members of this sporting club which has 10 soccer, 10 cricket, 25 netball and six Rugby League teams.
60. In November 1916 when Vaisey's Store was opened, there were probably less than 12 businesses in Mayfield. Vaisey's, described as Universal providers, had a staff of 35 and was the largest suburban business in the district. A billiard saloon ~~and a shop on the corner~~ of Corona Street completed the business establishments as far as Tighes Hill. Businesses on the northern side of Maitland Road included two butchers, two barbers, an hotel and a boot repairer.