

FLOODS IN THE HUNTER
ABC RADIO 1233 BROADCAST - 19 JUNE 2007 1.30 PM
PRESENTER: CAROL DUNCAN
GUEST: GIONNI DI GRAVIO

INTRODUCTION

The recent devastating storms and floods and the beaching of the coal ship the Pasha Bulker has again drawn focus to the subject of flooding in the Hunter Region.

I have been involved with the Coal River Working Party and the re-discovery of the the birthplace of the Australian coal mining industry in the long lost convict mines of Newcastle. Such work has made us very aware of the importance of the Region with regards to the climate change debate and where we choose to head in the future.

I was therefore very interested in ascertaining from the historical record to what extent flooding was a natural and ongoing feature of the landscape and to what degree was climate change a factor in the current intensity of storms.

The Hunter Region has a long history of recorded floods from Aboriginal dreaming stories to the earliest records of the white settlers dating from 1818-1820 to the present.

ABORIGINAL FLOOD LEGENDS

From *Information Regarding the Aboriginals of N.S.W. Collected by the L.M.S. Deputation (1824) - Hunter's River* (18 September) (Ref: Gunson 1974: 339):

“They are said to have a tradition of the deluge, when the waters overtopped the Blue Mountains, and two men only escaped the devastation, in a *kobou noe*, or large ship.”

In his installment of the Reminiscences published in the *Christian Herald* 3rd February 1855 pp 412 – 413 Threlkeld says (Ref: Gunson 1974: 64):

“The Aborigines have also a tradition that a great flood covered all the neighbouring mountains, but that one family escaped in a canoe, and the blacks told me as a proof of the flood, that cockle and other shells were found on the mountain tops.”

LADY NELSON SURVEY MISSION 1801

In 1801 the interest generated within government circles in Sydney of the coal discoveries in Newcastle (then Coal River, later Hunter's River) inspired Governor King to send an exploration party to the Hunter in June 1801 led by Lieutenant Grant and

Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to report on "where the most eligible place would be to form a settlement, both with respect to procuring coals and for agricultural purposes".

Grant, Paterson, Barrallier and Surveyor Grimes all mention evidence of flood inundation on the landscape during their survey from observations of debris in the tall trees as high as 40 + feet in the air.

Grant

Friday, 19 June, 1801.

"On the shore we found large banks of excellent shells, which lay in some places nearly three feet thick, washed up by the tides or floods, as also all the roots of the trees by the water side stuck full of oysters."

Monday, 22 June, 1801.

"though at the foot of the island (i.e. Nobbys) and on the reef were several beds of good coals ; but these were covered with large stones which the flood and tide had rolled up and were overflowed every tide;"

[Ref: Grant "Hunter River" in *Historical Records of New South Wales. Vol. IV. Hunter and King. 1800, 1801, 1802. Edited by F.M. Bladen. Sydney: Charles Potter, 1896. (pps. 404-409)]*

Paterson

11 August, 1801.

"The two rivers may become objects worth the attention of Government, one for wood, and the other (Hunter's River), from the excellent soil in its neighbourhood and not subject to floods, would, in my opinion, be a very fit situation for forming a settlement for the cultivation of grain or grazing."

16 June, 1801.

"Went up a creek that opens from the south'd into a bay about two miles above Colliers' Point, where it divides into several arms. The ground is low, and apparently subject to floods; the soil blackish, mixed with sand; the trees very lofty, mostly blue gum (Eucalyptus) and Casuarina. From the great quantity of driftwood all over this place, and the country for many miles being low and intersected with creeks, I am convinced that the floods here are much higher at times than what has every been known at the Hawkesbury."

1 July, 1801.

"Here is an extent of country for about three miles to the southward with several lagoons and rather low, but except on the banks of the river not subject to floods. The soil in most places is good, thinly interspersed with fine lofty trees. This I named Shanks' Forest

Plains in honor of Captain Shanks, the projector of the Lady Nelson, a gentleman much interested in the prosperity of this colony.”

10 July 1801. **First mention of coal in the Valley**

“From Schanks’ Forest Plains to the extent of our journey, the ground on both sides the river is good soil, and where the banks are low there is abundance of useful timbers; indeed, the cedar, ash, and box are only found in low situations. The flood at this part of the river rises up 30 to 35 feet. I observed several large pieces of coal washed up – a proof of its being in the interior as well as on the sea coast.”

[Ref: Lieut. - Colonel Paterson to Governor King (King Papers) in *Historical Records of New South Wales. Vol. IV. Hunter and King. 1800, 1801, 1802. Edited by F.M. Bladen.* Sydney: Charles Potter, 1896: 447-448.]

Grimes

11th December, 1801

“Beyond the fall, on the west side of the river, are the finest stringy-bark and black-buttred bluegum trees I every saw, but the flood rises to a considerable height.”

Schanck’s Forest Plains, above the New River.

“The ground is good between the river and the hills; but much lower than the bank in most places, so that the country is under water before the banks of the river are generally overflowed, and there are marks of the flood a considerable distance up the hills at the back, which are of a light sandy soil and covered with small ironstone.”

[Ref: Mr Surveyor Grimes on Hunter’s River in *Historical Records of New South Wales. Vol. IV. Hunter and King. 1800, 1801, 1802. Edited by F.M. Bladen.* Sydney: Charles Potter, 1896: 634-635]

Barrallier

“as to the Paterson’s River it is a stream which will never be of use to the New Settlement, if I may estimate the degree in which floods rise by traces on the Trees of above 40 feet high.”

Location: Morpeth Date: 1801 [Cited in Brayshaw 1986 Barrallier 1802:80]

“I may estimate the degree in which floods rise by traces on Trees of above 40 feet high and all the country called schank Forest plain appear, consequently, to be under water at certain times of the year and ponds of different dimensions are in great number at other seasons. Patersons River has... the advantage to have on its Banks the finest Cedars ever seen.”

[Ref: Barrallier, F. 1801 Letter to C.F. Greville (Banks Papers) Brabourne Collection: 80-83.ML MS A78-3. Online: http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/banks/series_23/23_25.cfm Also cited in Brayshaw 1986]

EARLY DESCRIPTIONS OF FLOOD LANDSCAPE

These early observations were confirmed by a succession of explorers and visitors to the region who recorded their descriptions of the landscape and the visual indications in the past of extensive flooding. The following accounts are documented in Dr Helen Brayshaw's *Aborigines of the Hunter Valley: a study of colonial records*. Scone, N.S.W.: Scone & Upper Hunter Historical Society, 1986.

Cunningham 1825 (Brayshaw 1986: 16)

"In April 1825 Cunningham saw "the dark line of forest trees marking the Course of the River as also of the channels of a water discharg'd into it on its northside"- this was the junction of the Goulburn with the Hunter.

In the branches of the large swamp oaks higher up the Goulburn there had been flood debris twelve feet above the ordinary level. Here on the lower Goulburn, however, Cunningham and his party "could not but with awe remark" flood debris 50 to 60 feet above the river level. Where he had first joined the Hunter on the 1825 expedition, north east of Mt Thorley, stubble high in the trees had indicated a great flood, "such a Deluging...however having not taken place since the residence of Settlers on the lower part of the River or even since the settlement of Newcastle has been established".

Ellen Bundock 1826 (Brayshaw 1986: 16)

Mrs Ellen Bundock (ML MS 1120) related being delayed by floods for many weeks at the Government residence at Wallis Plains (Maitland) early in 1826.

P. Cunningham 1826

Location: Maitland (Brayshaw 1986: 23) Ref: P Cunningham 1827: 150-151

"Wallis Plains are of no great extent, and being originally densely wooded, required great labour in clearing, a disadvantage, however, amply compensated by the amazing fertility of the soil, which is alluvial, and still subject to being covered with water during high flood.., The country back from the river consists of rising hills, inferior soil, with fertile flood vine brushes, watered by lagoons communicating with the river."

Dangar 1828

In 1819 John Howe had noted flood debris "where the bushes were about breast high" on the flats near Jerry's Plains, and Henry Dangar later wrote (1828:44) of the Hunter that "The banks of the river, so low down as Morpeth, are subject to inundations, the river sometimes rising thirty or forty feet above its usual level."

[Ref: Dangar, H. (Henry), 1796-1861. *Index and directory to map of the ... River Hunter; the lands of the Australian-Agricultural Company, with the ground plan and allotments of King's Town, New South Wales : ... a complete emigrant's guide*. London: Joseph Cross, 1828: 44 <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/archives/dangar/044.html> cited in [Brayshaw 1986:16](#)]

1870 'FLOODS IN THE HUNTER' REPORT

In 1870 a report for the New South Wales Parliament was prepared by the Hunter River Flood Commission entitled *Floods in the Hunter: report of Commission appointed to organise into and report respecting floods in the district of The Hunter River*. Sydney: Thomas Richards, Govt. Printer, 1870. It is a marvelous compendium of eye witness testimony from the early settlers of the Region. The oldest inhabitant recorded is Mr John Eckford who provided testimony of the 1818-1820 floods.

THE HUNTER REGION AND THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

It was John Stanley James, journalist and author of the Vagabond papers that hit upon an apt comparison of the Hunter Region with the land of the Pharaohs, and similar inundation of the Nile. The ancient Egyptians worshipped their river, should we worship ours as well?

James, John Stanley (1843-1896) – Vagabond Papers 1878

"From Greta I was driven through the bush to the celebrated Dallwood vineyard, which I had been invited to visit. The homestead here is one of the oldest in the district. It has a goodly site on the rising ground above the flats. Before one stretches the open valley formed by a bend of the Hunter. Hills are all around. The cleared flats on this side are grassed, and bloom beautiful with many a nameless wild-flower. Across the river are the cabins of many small farmers. On the banks are great patches of lucerne and maize, growing as luxuriously as in Egypt. And the conditions here are similar to those in the land of the Pharaohs, for the soil is alluvial, and the periodical floods which destroy property in the townships still are blessings in disguise. These floods, however, certainly prove rough on the cottagers who live on the banks of the river, and who often have to fly for their lives. Not very far from Dallwood are the posts erected as mementos, showing where, some fifty years ago, the Hunter rose over thirty feet in one night. What has happened once, may again; and, if so, woe to Singleton and Maitland! In ordinary flood-time the latter place is now, I believe, somewhat damp. Sitting on the verandah with my host, with this peaceful scene before me, I desire nothing better than to dream away the

days here. Everything is so soothing ; there is more green here than I have yet seen in Australia : and the iced wine at my elbow is remarkably good. But in spite of the heat of the day, it is my duty to examine the vineyard. This is one of the oldest in the colonies, and occupies all one paddock on the high ground just above floodmark. The vines are regularly planted, supported by wooden standards and wire trellises.”

[Ref: *Vagabond, 1843-1896. The Vagabond papers : sketches of Melbourne life, in light and shade.* Melbourne : George Robertson, 1876-1878 AUCH - RB/COLL 994.031 VAGA 1877 1st series - 5th series: (5th Series: 163-164)]

NEWCASTLE FLOODING 1908

Having established that the region is definitely flood prone, one wonders whether Newcastle has suffered to a similar extent as in recent days. I did locate a news clipping from 1908 (Ref: *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miner's Advocate* 25 Feb 1908:5) that records that flooding was quite extensive across Newcastle with 12 inches registered and some people having had to be rescued in boats. The article also said that Cottage Creek broke its banks and flooded Steel street to a level of 3 feet. See a rare image of this event from the archives of the Newcastle and Hunter District Historical Society.

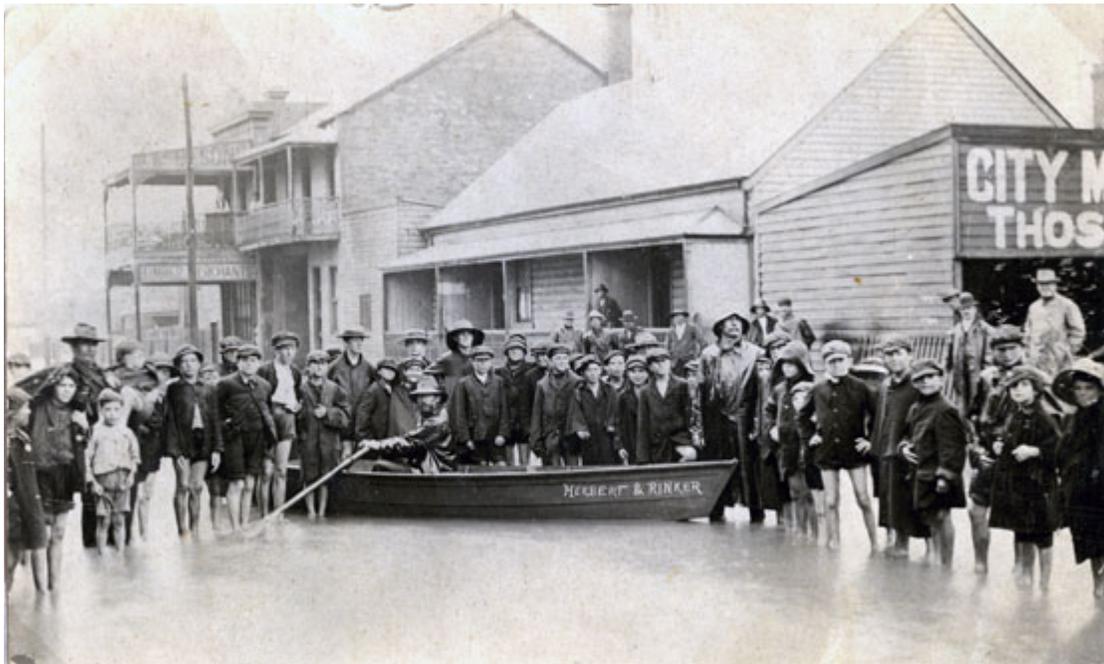


Image P441 Newcastle West Flood in Steel Street (off Hunter Street) in 1908.

The flooding that occurred in Hunter Street during the 2007 flooding was a reenactment. Eyewitnesses report the current could be felt coming from the Cottage Creek direction.

SHELLEY BEACH MAYFIELD

There is no doubt that this is a region prone to floods and we need to adequately adapt to the landscape. However we have also made the landscape adapt to us, by altering the course of the river as was the case with the filling in of Platt's Channel during the 1940s. In 1942 the Municipal Assembly of the A.L.P. voiced its concerns about BHP's intentions to fill in Platt's Channel known as the 'Shelley Park Proposal'. At the time they feared that the land between Hexham and Mayfield would be flooded if this proposal went ahead. [Ref: *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 11 May 1942:3] The then Minister for Lands Mr Tully agreed to have reports prepared on the Shelley Park proposal. [Ref: *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 18 May 1942:2]. By 1948 the decision had been made to reclaim the river channel brushing aside the fears of the farmers and others who objected reporting that "Government experts more than once have conducted tests and surveys on the wisdom of closing the arm. Every consideration has been given to the claims by farmers and others, but the experts have found their fear groundless. In fact, they believe that closing this arm off will strengthen other channels." [Ref: *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 11 November 1948:1] Incidentally that same year was published another Report of the Hunter River Flood Mitigation Committee who noted that there had been no concerted approach at a comprehensive levee protection system to mitigate against future floods. This would certainly change with the devastating 1955 Maitland floods.

The newly re-discovered complete Barrallier Survey June-July 1801 shows the rivers' run at the initial point of white settlement. We have overlaid areas of this survey with the landscape in the present day Google Earth and it is interesting to note that the shape of the river has changed over the years due to the onset of floods and human activity. Some of the original bends in the river are now billabongs, ghostly reminiscences of the river that once was.



I told my children that the Pasha Bulker had been thrown onto the beach by the god Neptune himself, angered at the decision of the Planning Minister the very same day to approve the controversial Anvil Hill mine. It is striking that it sits exactly half way between Nobbys and Fort Scratchley, or Collier's Point home of the early convict mines. We have come full circle and the great ship stands as a monolith that inspires awe in all who visit her. From the voices in the historical records, we live in a flood prone land. Why we would want that exacerbated with the whip lash catastrophic effects of climate change? Is it a portent of the future?

ARCHIVAL AND RARE BOOK MATERIALS RELATING TO FLOODS IN THE HUNTER REGION

ARCHIVES

A5414 (xix) Photographs - Flooding at Jewell's Crossing, Lake Macquarie, 1975.

A5505 (ix) Maitland Flood, 1955.

MITCHELL, CECILY [CECELE] JOAN:

A5516 Floods in the Hunter. [Typescript].

SOUTH MAITLAND RAILWAYS LIMITED:

A5566B (i) Correspondence relating to floods and coal haulage, 1950 - 1955.

A5578 (xiii) Photographs of floods 1955 and locomotives.

A6164 (v) Photographs. South Maitland Railway, flooded, March, 1955.

RENWICK, CYRIL-DIRECTOR OF HUNTER VALLEY RESEARCH FOUNDATION:

A6678 (v) 17. Floodwaters, [n.d.].

A6722 (ix) Raymond Terrace in flood [n.d.];

NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

A6923 (iii) Floods in the Hunter River District - correspondence relating to the Grant of 200 pounds made to the Mayor of Raymond Terrace for relieving cases of distress, April, 1893.

R W MILLER & COMPANY PTY LTD – PHOTOGRAPHS:

A7724 (iii) Hexham flood, 1949

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE - CANON CARLOS STRETCH

[Son of Bishop John Francis Stretch]:

A7725 (i) Bundle of newspaper cuttings relating to Maitland flood, June 1949.

A7730 (ix) Report of Hunter River Flood Mitigation Committee, 1948: Contains maps, photos and cross-sections of the Hunter River.

FARRELL, TOM:

A8288 (xxx) Power generation; flood mitigation. Clippings. 1950 - 1952, 1971.

MERV COPLEY COLLECTION:

C295 MAITLAND FLOOD 1955

BOOKS

New South Wales. Hunter River Flood Commission.

Floods in the Hunter: report of Commission appointed to organise into and report respecting floods in the district of The Hunter River. Sydney: Thomas Richards, Govt. Printer, 1870. Q627.4099442 NEWS

New South Wales. Parliament. Legislative Council. Committee of Advice on Flood Control and Mitigation.

The incidence and behaviour of the record flood and the extent of inundation of the towns, villages and farm lands of the Hunter Valley, February, 1955 / Committee of Advice on Flood Control and Mitigation. Sydney : Govt. Pr., 1957.

The Rise of High Street, Maitland: a pictorial history by John Turner.

Q994.42 TURN-2 1989

Maitland on the Hunter by Brian Walsh and Cameron Archer. 994.42 WALS

Memento of Maitland floods, March 1893, May 1913: 24 views. 551.48909944 MEME

AUDIO VISUAL

363.3493 FLOO Flood 1955 [videorecording] : will it happen again?

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

SOUTH MAITLAND RAILWAYS LIMITED:

A5578 (xiii) Photographs of floods 1955 and locomotives.

A6164 (v) Photographs of East Greta Junction Station, March, 1955, and South Maitland Railway, flooded, March, 1955.

D'OMBRAIN, ATHEL:

B10398/N416 *Kaludah*, Lochinvar rear view with flood debris 1955

B10400/N1020 Aerial photo of 1955 flood and Belmore Bridge (copy made 1965)

B10402/N1534-1547 Lifesavers march past in High Street, Maitland on the anniversary of Maitland flood. February 25, 1956 (has good photographs of Maitland buildings - many now demolished). The lifesavers participated in the rescue work at the Maitland flood, 1955.

MAITLAND FLOOD 1955:

B10403/N1633 Athel D'Ombraïn "toasting the mud" - Athel leaning out of window drinking from a cup - flood debris below

B10403/N1634 Belmore bridge with floodwater and debris

B10403/N1635 Water pouring through Belmore Bridge

B10403/ N1636 Ekerts from Cappers at Bolwarra

B10403/N1637 Robin D'Ombraïn below Ekerts' after flood had gone down showing where farms had been washed away.

B10403/N1638 Helicopter bringing in bread supplies to Bolwarra

B10403/N1639 Vickerey's house

B10403/N1640 Long Bridge

B10403/N1641 Plane over Bolwarra

B10403/N1642 Maitland - view from under Long Bridge

B10403/N1643 House near Long Bridge

B10403/N1644 Sand bagging on the river bank

B10403/N1645 Ekerts' break where flood went through

B10403/N1646 Robin D'Ombraïn on Bolwarra Road

B10403/N1647 Flood damage in front of Athel's house at Lorn - bulldozer cleaning up.

B10403/N1648 Cleaning up in front of Athel's house, Nillo Street, Lorn.

B10403/N1649 Tree in Mt. Pleasant Street, where one old lady spent the night

B10403/N1650 Photo taken from under Long Bridge with St. Mary's in background - looking across flooded farms.

B10403/N1651 House in Nillo Street, Lorn - cleaning up

B10403/N1652 Cliff's house next door to Athel D'Ombraïn's house in Nillo Street, Lorn - cleaning up.

B10403/N1653 Mt. Pleasant Street

B10403/N1654 Ekerts' farm showing erosion after flood

B10403/N1655 Ekerts' farm turned into a lake by the flood

B10403/N1656 One of the few houses left in Mt. Pleasant Street

B10403/N1657 Scobie's tunnel at Oakhampton

B10403/N1658 Maitland Railway Station

B10403/N1659-1660 Tree in Mt. Pleasant Street and surroundings

B10403/N1661 Small bulldozer cleaning up

B10403/N1662 House on East Maitland Road, with flood debris

B10403/N1663 Athel trees in Nillo Street, planted by Athel D'Ombraïn (Athel trees were brought in from Arabia by Essington Lewis and planted extensively in Whyalla - the Maitland trees were grown from cuttings)

B10403/ N1664 Robin D'Ombraïn looking over flood damage

B10403/N1665 St. Andrew's Street, Court House in background

B10403/N1666 Cars and bus partly under water in back of County Council yard

B10403/N1667 Bottom of Elgin Street, near railway station

B10403/N1668 Debris in Nillo Street

B10403/N1669-1671 Belmore Bridge taken from Lorn side

B10403/N1672 Piled up cars

B10403/N1672a Half-buried car

B10403/N1672b Salvage work by mechanical navy

B10403/N1673 Esma D'Ombra at front gate of house in Nillo Street

B10403/N1674 Debris

B10403/N1675 Dragline tipping a load of debris on to a truck

B10403/N1676 Partly buried tree at Bolwarra

B10403/N1677 Flood at Maitland

B10403/N1678-1679 Photo taken from train from East Maitland to West Maitland, when trains were still running.

B10403/N1680 Flood near Maitland baths

B10403/N1681 First break in the bank at Maitland - taken from the ceiling of Mrs. Sorrenson's house at Nillo Street, Lorn

B10403/N1682 Elgin Street

B10403/N1683 Rescue workers in front of Belmore Hotel after rescuing a woman from across the road.

B10403/N1684-1685 Train at Maitland Station

B10403/N1686 Complete devastation of Mt. Pleasant Street. Now (1981) occupied by cricket pitches

B10403/N1687 Rescue of Vickereys by helicopter

B10403/N1688 Car on Maitland Road, near Wallis Creek covered in water hyacinths

B10403/N1689 Vickerey's house and erosion

B10403/N1690 Long Bridge where John Mitchell and party were sucked under - rescued about two miles down river.

B10403/N1691 Close up of tree where an old lady spent the night

B10403/N1692 Athel and Esma D'Ombraim walking home carrying possessions after spending a week with friends at Bolwarra.

B10403/N1693 View through back window of Mitchell's house

B10403/N1694 Robin D'Ombraim climbing up from debris on Bolwarra Road

B10403/N1695 Break in river bank where flood came through

B10403/N1696 Athel and Esma D'Ombraim arriving home with birds in cages

B10403/N1697 Mt. Pleasant Street and tree

B10403/N1698 Complete width of river roaring across Ekert's farm - half a mile wide

B10403/N1699 General flood conditions near courthouse

B10403/N1700 Cleaning up - St. Mary's Anglican Church in the background

B10403/N1701 Helicopter landing with bread

B10405/N2335 Supply plane 1955, Maitland Flood

B10405/N2368-2371 Panorama of Maitland looking across from the Gas Company towards Maitland Park during the 1930 flood.

COPY OF PRINTS FROM FRANK CROKER, MUSWELLBROOK:

B10406/ N2553 *S.S. Warringhi* at Clarencetown wharf with the William River in flood over 50 years ago (1930)

**NEWCASTLE & HUNTER DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY -
PHOTOGRAPHS:**

A8803/P00042(a) West Maitland. Belmore Bridge during the 1893 flood (Hunter River). Looking towards Lorn. Copy of a photograph from Compton & Pankhurst.

A8803/P00042(b) West Maitland. Belmore Bridge during the 1893 flood (Hunter River). Looking towards Lorn. Photograph. Stamp on back – M.Moss, High St, West Maitland. Donated by M.M. Bramley.

A8803/P00043 West Maitland. Belmore Bridge during the 1930 flood. Looking towards Lorn. Photograph. Stamp on back – Jakeman, Chemist, W. Maitland.

A8803/P00045 West Maitland. Belmore Bridge during the 1930 flood. Looking towards Lorn. Photograph. Stamp on back – Jakeman, Chemist, W. Maitland.

A8803/P00046 West Maitland. The “raging torrent” taken from the Belmore Bridge. Hunter River flood 1930. Rear of shops in High Street. Names visible are McDonald & Grogan, O.K. Young, (Produce Merchant, 450 High Street), Chemist (E. Jakeman). Large building with horse (whisky ad?) is Imperial Hotel. Corrugated iron fencing, paling fencing backing to the river. Photograph. Print from Jakeman, Chemist.

A8803/P00047 West Maitland. Railway Station. 1930 flood. Water over the railway lines. Photograph.

A8803/P00048 West Maitland. View from the overhead bridge at the Railway Station. 1930 flood (Hunter River). [Looking westward?] Photograph.

A8803/P00049 West Maitland. High Street [looking east]. Names include Fren & Rose, [car dealers etc.], H. Corby, Boot Repairer. Motor car, horse and rider, horse and cart in the street. Photograph.

A8803/P00050 West Maitland. “Sharrow”, Dr. Percy Cohen’s residence. [Dentist]. Lorn side of the Hunter River. Corner of Brisbane and Melrose Streets. 1930 flood. Photograph.

A8803/P00051 West Maitland. Melrose Street, Lorn [towards farms] after the water had gone down. “Dalkeith” on the left behind the ‘telepole’. [1930 flood]. Photograph.

A8803/P00052 West Maitland. Melrose Street, Lorn [towards farms]. “Mrs. Doust’s with the fence down. The water was over our fence when at its highest.”. [1930 flood]. Photograph.

A8803/P00062 West Maitland. High Street. [looking east. W.J. Tierney, tailor, on left. Bank of New South Wales on right behind tree.] 1893 flood. Compton & Pankhurst photograph.

A8803/P00065 (a) West Maitland. Bourke Street. [Post Office on left, Grand Central Hotel beyond. Telegraph office on right corner with High Street.] 1893 flood. Compton & Pankhurst photograph.

A8803/P00065 (b) West Maitland. Bourke Street. [Post Office on left, Grand Central Hotel beyond. Telegraph office on right corner with High Street.] 1893 flood. Photograph donated by M.M. Bramley.

A8803/P00066 (a),(b) West Maitland. High Street. [Looking west. Commercial Banking Company building behind awning on left. Catholic Church tower in distance. Cappers building at right.] Compton & Pankhurst photograph. 1893 flood.

A8803/P00081 (a),(b) West Maitland. Damage caused by 1893 flood and Old Courthouse. Compton & Pankhurst photograph. 2 copies.

A8803/P00081 (c) West Maitland. Damage caused by 1893 flood and Old Courthouse. Compton & Pankhurst photograph. Larger print.

A8804/ P00441 Newcastle West. Flood in Steel Street (off Hunter Street) about 1905. Steel Street was the Vegetable Market Site for Newcastle area. Men and boys around rowing boat labeled "Herbert & Rinker".