

DEEPWATER

PROGRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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E:eventsdeepwater@gmail.com

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We acknowledge the elders (past, present and future) of the Ngorabul people.

Carl Wilhelm Baer

c. 1890-1962

Part two, Continued from July Newsletter

A cordial factory was set up later, in the area at the back. He also made ginger beer, known to blow the top off the bottles. The bottles he used were stamped with his name.

During his baking career Carl would periodically go off to work for different people at Dundee. Going out into the bush for two to three months and doing any work, right away from the business, into the fresh air - to get the flour out of his lungs. He was doing this when Arnie was thirteen or fourteen and Arnie took a week off school and went with him, grubbing out bushes. The bakery was just closed down while he was away and his customers had to get their supplies from elsewhere. They were east of Dundee in the Bald Nob area one time and had forgotten to take a dish for washing so Carl looked for a stringy bark tree with a bump on it. Cut around this with an axe, tapped on it, pulled it off and there was their dish.

Carl Baer had worked in Deepwater for about ten years before starting his other businesses. He would not have needed much money then to start a bakery in Deepwater. He then went on to be a big businessman, virtually self-taught in his enterprises and he remained very money conscious. He provided the first electricity to Deepwater, though he had no electrical qualifications. He was a baker who could turn his hand to a range of other pursuits. He drew up his own blueprints and employed someone to do the work to his specifications. He installed a junkers engine to generate electricity. As well as using it himself, Carl

made his electricity available to other residents in Deepwater for home lighting, appliances and even a few streetlights. Many years later the Northwest County Council took over as the power source. He maintained the engines himself, although he had no formal training. He was a brilliant man who had no fear of electricity. Had he been in a larger town and living in the 90's he would have, no doubt, been one of the big entrepreneurs.

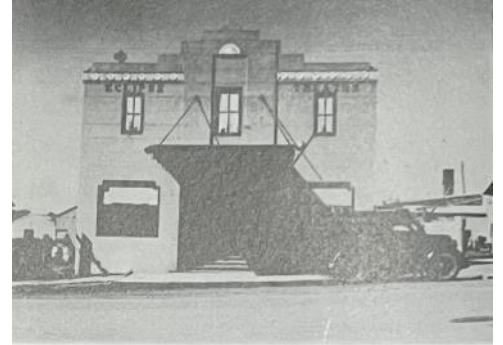
Ice making could now become another important business. Keeping food cool and fresh had always been a problem in the bush. The ice making machine was driven by electricity. With a machine he purchased from Sydney he made 56lb. blocks of ice which were cut into 14lb. pieces and sold round the village for ice chests.

Not only did Deepwater now have a bakery with a café, local cordials, electricity and an ice plant all set up and owned by Mr. and Mrs Carl Baer, but more was to come. A picture theatre for Mr. C.W. Baer was being erected by Mr. A. Loseby who expected to have it completed by the end of April. The opening ceremony took up a bit more than an entire column, (52cm. of print and presumably written by Mr. H. Barton) in the Glen Innes Examiner in 1934 and is such an excellent example of the lavish and comprehensive reporting of the time that it should be repeated in full.

"Talkies for Deepwater"

The opening ceremony Mr. Baer commented on Enterprise Saturday last, was the occasion of the opening of the Eclipse Theatre in Deepwater and a

representative gathering of the town and district assembled for this important event.



An inspection of the building and plant revealed that everything was right up to date, and that much thought and labour and money had been required to erect one of the finest talkie theatres and install one of the most up-to-date talkie plants in the north. The theatre itself is of capacious proportions, and the auditory qualities are perfect. There is absolutely no distortion of any kind and echoes are entirely precluded. A piece of hardwood beaten by a heavy hammer inside the building with all doors closed, will not create an echo, evidencing that the best materials for conducting and absorbing sound have been used in the construction of the building. After inspecting the theatre the banquet was proceeded with, at the conclusion of which the chairman, Mr. M.T. Kelly, asked those present to charge their glasses and drink to the King.

Mr. McSpedden then proposed the toast of 'the proprietor and his wife' - Mr. and Mrs. Baer. The speaker himself built the present bakery premises, and Mr. Baer took a lease of them.

Continued Page 3

FIRE PERMIT REQUIRED



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

🔥 Bush Fire Danger Period Starts Friday 1 August 🔥

From Friday 1 August 2025, the Bush Fire Danger Period will commence across the Glen Innes-Severn, Inverell, and Tenterfield LGAs.

If you're planning to burn during this time:

- ✔ You must have a valid fire permit
- ✔ You must notify the NSW RFS at least 24 hours before lighting

To support local landholders, we've introduced a new SMS-only number to assist with both permit lodgement and burn notifications:



0429 322 555 (SMS only – no calls or voicemails)

This is a local initiative of the Northern Tablelands RFS and applies only to landholders in the Glen Innes Severn, Inverell, and Tenterfield LGAs. This is not a state-wide service.

You can use this number to:

- ✔ Lodge a copy of your paper fire permit (if it was issued by a local brigade or Fire Control Centre)
- ✔ Notify us of your intended burn by texting your permit number, name, burn location address, and burn date(s)



If you applied for your permit online at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au, you do not need to send us a copy. However, you are still required to notify us before you light your burn.



Burn notifications can also be submitted online at:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify



The 1300 141 119 notification line will be phased out over the coming months in the Northern Tablelands District.

We encourage landholders to begin using the new SMS number or the online form going forward.

Please share this information with others in your community and help us ensure a safe and well-prepared start to the fire season.

Shortly afterwards Mr. Baer decided it would be a better business proposition to own the premises himself, and accordingly he made arrangements to do so. Within a very short time they were paid for, and now they saw his latest venture matured – the Eclipse theatre. Mr. McSpedden congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Baer on their enterprise. There were not many people who would expend the energy and money that Mr. Baer had expended in his business enterprise. He was now controlling an up-to-date picture theatre, electrical enterprise, ice plant, cordial factory, bakery and refreshment rooms.

In passing, Mr. McSpedden said that it was opinion that Mr. Baer was one of the best bakers in the district. The toast was then drunk to accompaniment of 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow'. In responding Mr. Baer, on behalf of himself and Mrs. Baer, thanked Mr. McSpedden for his kind remarks. However, he felt there had been some exaggeration. The main thing in business was to keep up to date and the public expected that of all businesspeople. "It has always been our ambition to be, in every way, in line with larger towns," said Mr. Baer. "The ice and electric light plants are sidelines, which we consider the business demands. As regards the Eclipse Theatre, many people have been remarking for years that there was never anything to do in Deepwater, and we have been considering the venture for some time past. We considered there was no reason why the town could not afford a picture show, so we decided to erect the Theatre and bring Deepwater into line with surrounding centres." "Excellent workmanship - proposing the health of the Contractor, Mr. Loseby"

Mr. A.J. St. C. Potter said that as Shire President he considered Deepwater was one of the most important towns in the Shire. In regard to the theatre, the contractor had done well, the building being a particularly good one, and finished off in a very thorough manner. Mr. Baer's enterprise was one on which he was to be warmly commended, and one of which the town of Deepwater and the Shire could well be proud.

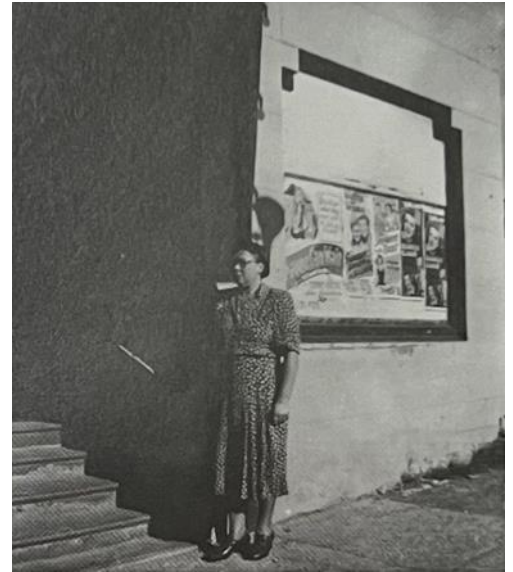
In acknowledgment Mr. Loseby spoke of the very fair treatment he had received from Mr. Baer, who had proved himself a thorough gentleman. 'The press' was proposed by Mr. E. Cullen and acknowledged by Mr. H. Barton representing the Glen Innes Examiner. Mr. T.T. Kelly then entertained with an Irish song, which was followed by an instructive demonstration of the construction and assembly of the Raycophone sound equipment. It was pointed out that Raycophone were the pioneers of sound in Australia, and eighteen months ago set out to build a machine embodying extended frequencies, i.e. 70 to 4500 cycles per second. These machines now made by Raycophone, cover from 10,000 to 30 cycles per second, which amply shows the high efficiency of the machines. Such is the machine installed in the Eclipse theatre.

An adjournment was then made to the front of the theatre, where Mr. M.T. Kelly delivered an address after which Mr. T.T. Kelly "cut the ribbon", and Mr. Baer took his stand at the head of the steps, thanked Mr. Kelly for declaring the building open and invited all inside for an inspection of the building.

This concluded one of the most important events in history of Deepwater. In the evening the theatre was packed from front to back and an excellent programme was shown to some hundreds of enthusiastic patrons. The whole programme went without a hitch, and this augurs well for the future success of talkies in Deepwater". The first picture theatre was wooden and when it burned down in 1936, he rebuilt it on the same spot. However, this time he supervised and built one of brick and concrete that would not burn down.

The picture theatre ran two nights a week probably until the late 1940's and then only on Saturday night and had a good crowd. Mrs. Baer even kept the theatre going for another couple of years after her husband died on January 14th, 1962. "Pictures in Emmaville were shown in a local hall; a theatre was never built there. They were still being shown about 1952, but due to lack of attendance were

discontinued soon after that time." It would appear that one of the films being shown in Deepwater c. 1950 and being advertised on the poster behind Mrs. Baer's head in the photograph was



Mrs Baer in front of the Eclipse Theatre about 1950.

"Heaven Can Wait".

Carl had brought Mrs. Baer's niece Alice to Australia in 1950, his nephew Gerhard in 1951 and Charlotte Menge and family in 1952. As can be seen from these references in the Examiner, Carl supported by his wife was a very community minded person, or as someone remarked "he was in everything!" His patronage also extended to Glen Innes.

3 January 1929 DEEPWATER RACES Great 2 Day Carnival - Messrs Conomos and Co had the luncheon and soft drink booths: lunch being supervised by Mr. C Baer of Deepwater and the soft drinks by Mr. J Edwards of Deepwater. A large number of side shows added to the day's entertainment.

14 January 1931 FAREWELL TO SERGEANT AND MRS. P.S. JEFFREY - Carl Baer... 'he had personally experienced the good work and many good actions of Sgt. Jeffrey especially before Government Relief was available.' Carl Baer organized the farewell with Mr. K. Newberry.

Amongst others, the golf, rifle, tennis, cricket and swimming clubs, the School of Arts, Far West and Deepwater Memorial Fund all enjoyed his support. Other random examples reported in the Examiner of the day...

Continued page 5

FOODWORKS

DEEPWATER

Serving the local community since 1948

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Trading hours:

Monday to Friday 7:00am - 6:30pm

Saturday 7:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Public Holidays 9:00am - 1:00pm

Closed Good Friday and Christmas day

Free home delivery within Deepwater Village!

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Notices

The Deepwater School of Arts Hall committee are delighted to see the Hall being used by the Community. However due to the requirements of Crown Lands (the hall is on Crown Land) – all bookings need to be recorded.

The Hall can be booked through Foodworks.

Enquiries can be made through the hall chairperson, Mary Hollingworth. tinkernanny@outlook.com

Continued from page 3

March 1937... "Mr. Carl Baer gives four guineas to George V Oval Fund in Glen Innes."

October 1939... Mrs. Carl Baer iced debutante cake for Emmaville Roman Catholic Ball."

July 1940 Mr C.W. Baer gives fifty pounds to the Glen Innes War Plane Fund"

In 1957 Mr. and Mrs. Baer retired to the home they had built some years earlier adjacent to the Eclipse Theatre, and there continued to run the theatre. The bakery was taken over by the Keys.

The land where the cordial factory had been, was donated to the local Council, and I believe a medical is now being held there regularly.

Mrs. Baer sold the home in 1966 and went to live in Sydney, where she bought a home unit on Wollstonecraft, and still resides there to this day (6th September 1955) aged ninety-three. She will be ninety-four on the 24th of October 1995."

Carl Baer was in Deepwater over forty years, and his niece Mrs

Alice Rockwell sums up a remarkable life.

"He was a keen businessman with an innovative mind but was always conscious of the community and it's needs. He appreciated what Australia had done for him and wanted to put something back. He had 'sailed seven seas' and found 'no better place than this', he was fond of saying.

The Eclipse Theatre was bought in 1976 by Bruce Pearson who ran an antique business there for a short while.

This article has involved a great deal of research and to have this particular section of our local history recorded so expertly is a most interesting contribution for our Newsletter

Thanks to Eve Chappell

Original story by Eve Chappell

Photos by Alice Rockwell

First published "Land of the Beardies History House Bulletin Volume 23 No.2

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Sudoku

						9	2	
5	4			3		1		
		8		5	7			4
	5			8				3
9		3		4	6	8		
1			3				4	
	7		4					
3	6	1		7	9		8	
				6			3	7

Answers Page 6

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Mr & Mrs Baer with Gerhard and Alice 1951

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Welcome to Deepwater web page www.DeepwaterNSW.com

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Deepwater Progress Association Committee Members

President: Willem Van der Heul

Vice President: Charles Kilby

Secretary: Tricia Stack

Treasurer: Jannette Daly



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH



Church Services:

Anglican Church Service (Forbes Street Deepwater & Moore Street Emmaville)

The Church services alternate weekly between Deepwater and Emmaville
if a Month has five Sundays the 5th Sunday will be in Torrington

Sunday	3	Deepwater	9 am
Sunday	10	Emmaville	9 am
Sunday	17	Deepwater	9 am
Sunday	24	Emmaville	9 am
Sunday	31	Torrington	9 am
Sunday September	7	Deepwater	9 am
Sunday September	14	Emmaville	9 am



Church Wardens Deepwater - Reuben Cooper 0499 868 321

Emmaville - Heather Reynolds 0428 347 252

Catholic Church Service (Simpson Street)

Sunday at 10 am

Church in the Shed (Deepwater School Of Arts Hall Tenterfield Street)

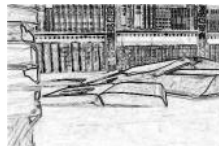
Sundays at 10 am

Deepwater Rubbish Tip Hours:

Thursday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Saturday: 1:00 pm -3pm Sunday: 10am -12 noon

Library Service:

Wednesday 10 am - 12 pm and 1.30 pm - 4 pm



Preschool:

at the CWA Hall

Tuesday 9.00am – 3.00pm

Thursday 9.00am – 3.00pm



Progress Association **AGM & Meeting**

Wednesday 13th August 5:15 pm at the School of Arts Hall

(Code Of Conduct Rules will be followed)

Everyone welcome.

Sewing Group

Meets Monday's at the School of Arts Hall

9am to 4pm - leave when you want to.



Tiny Tots Group

For Mums with little ones

Mondays 1pm—3 pm At the Anglican Church Deepwater

Refreshments provided.

Contact Trudy 0428 266 417 or Penny 0408 728 149

7	3	6	8	1	4	9	2	5
5	4	9	6	3	2	1	7	8
2	1	8	9	5	7	3	6	4
6	5	4	2	8	1	7	9	3
9	2	3	7	4	6	8	5	1
1	8	7	3	9	5	2	4	6
8	7	5	4	2	3	6	1	9
3	6	1	5	7	9	4	8	2
4	9	2	1	6	8	5	3	7

Sudoku answer

For notices to be included, please send details to eventsdeepwater@gmail.com

Cut OFF date for the next Newsletter is 20 August.



DEEPWATER PUBLIC SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION



Deepwater Public School invites all children who are ready to start Kindergarten in 2026 to register for our upcoming transition days on the following Wednesdays.

6th August - 9am to 11.30am

27th August - 9am to 11.30am

17th September - 9am to 1.30pm

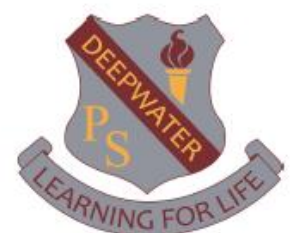
22nd October - 9am to 1.30pm

29th October - 9am to 1.30pm



For More Information
phone **67345395**

*Bring along a hat and your
recess.*





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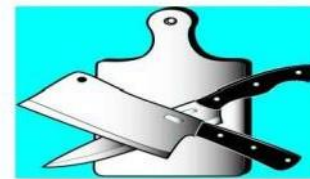
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