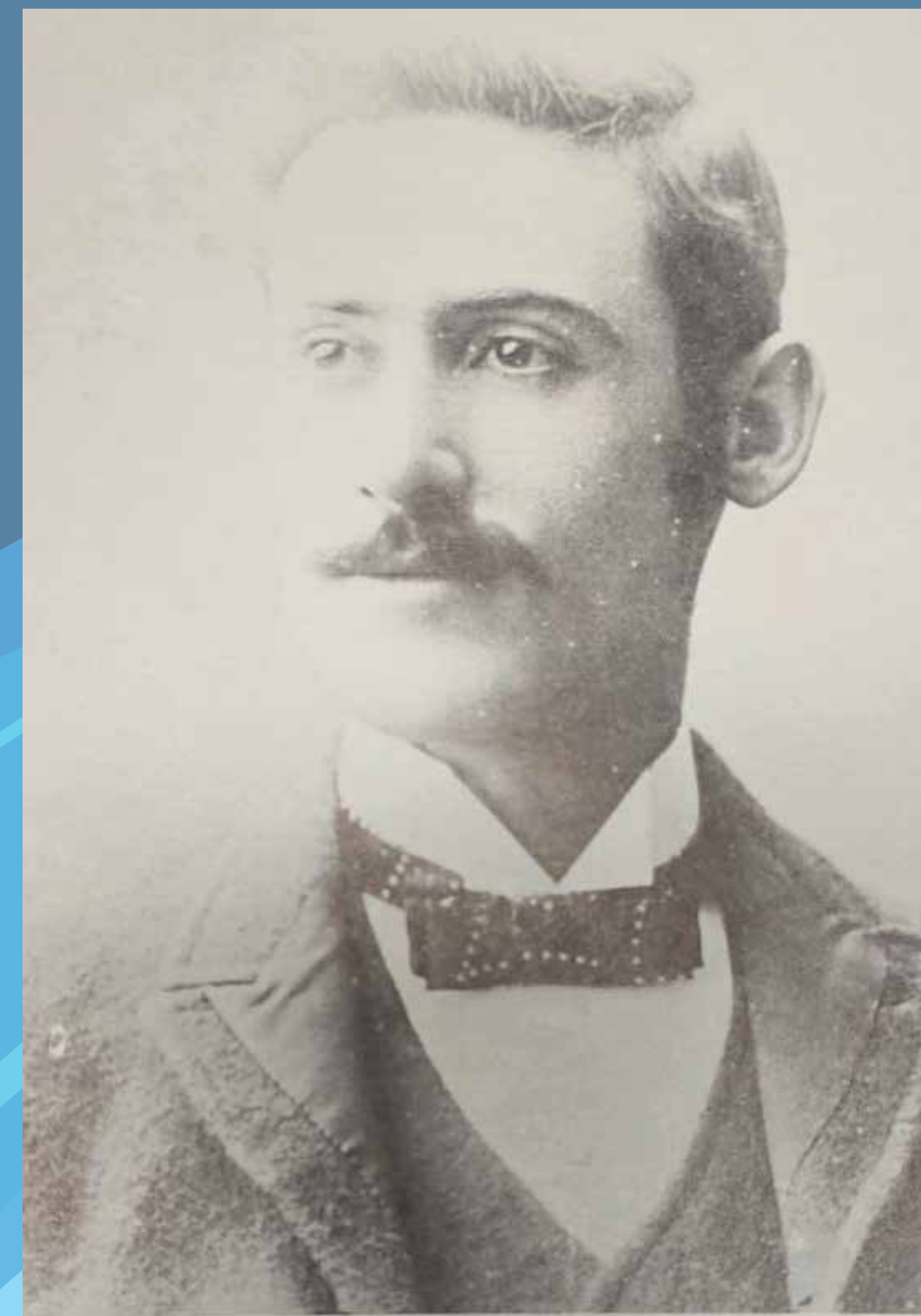


JAMES VINRACE VALE

1868 – 1955



James Vinrace Vale

James' wife, Adelaide Selina Scoles, named their 720-acre property Mannering Park, after the creek of the same name, and it later became the name of the suburb.



The Vale Homestead

In 1912, James acquired 640 acres (one square mile) through conditional purchase. This meant he had to live on the land and could not sell it for a set period. It was then a wilderness of virgin scrub and forest for which he paid ten shillings an acre.

The front portion of eighty acres was bought separately by James for four pounds. The land had passed from Edward Garth to Henry James Corden (who also owned Wyee Point) before reaching James.

In 1926, he subdivided his 640 acres into 18 lots ranging from six acres to 100 acres and sold them privately.

When James first arrived in Mannering Park, he camped in a tent by the banks of a little stream called Camp Creek, now the site of the Power Station. Christmas Bells grew in profusion (abundantly) there.

The family joined him once he and his son Rupert had built a simple house on the grounds where the public school now stands.

In 1911, James decided to forsake the city life. He was a qualified assayer, analytical chemist, mining engineer and steam engineer with a secure job in Sydney. He and his family left behind their luxurious Eastwood home complete with maids, a phaeton, buggies, sulkies and horses. James' ill health prompted this drastic change.



Adelaide Selina Scoles



Bullock team hauling timber



Aerial view of Mannering Park 1945

James' first business venture, breeding horses with around forty mares and a prize stallion, was not successful. So, he pivoted during World War I, making charcoal, acid and tar from dry wood. Australia used to get its supply from Germany but that stopped during the war. James built a distillery to extract acid and tar from dry timber. He filled 50 casks at a time and sent them to a firm in Sydney to be treated and turned into acetic acid, a common ingredient in many and varied commodities ranging from vinegar to pharmaceuticals and paint. He sold thousands of gallons (1 gallon equals approximately 4.5 Litres) and did very well as there was heavy demand for these products during the war. However, the demand ceased after the war.



The Boiler

In 1919, James established a steam-powered sawmill to cut house timber. The timber was brought in by bullock teams and shipped out on barges. He also raised beef cattle, around fifty head, which butchers would come directly to purchase. Cattle duffers (cattle thieves) were common.



Four generations from left: Peter Vinrace, Spencer Vinrace, Rupert Vinrace and James Vinrace Vale

How do you know if you are a Vale from Mannering Park?

James and Selina had three sons and a daughter who were all christened with the middle name "Vinrace", the Christian name of James' godfather and the family tradition continues down the generations although now mostly only to the boys.

There are also 5 Streets named in the family's honour. Vales Road, Vinrace Lane which runs behind the shops at Mannering Park and the streets named Rupert, Grace, and Spencer are named after James' eldest son Rupert and his wife Grace (nee Spencer).



Vale's Yacht - The Macquarie

The present Memorial Park, located on the corner of Vales Road and Waverley Road, was donated by James' wife, Adelaide. The memorial for James was funded jointly by Wyong Shire Council and Adelaide.

James, born at Rundle Street Adelaide, died in Mannering Park 1955 at the age of 86.



Aerial view of Mannering Park 2007

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Mannering Park Progress

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