

Outside of a dog,
a book is man's
best friend ...
Inside of a dog
it's too dark
to read.

Groucho Marx

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YOU BE THE JUDGE

The re-enactment is declared over. Firearms are checked to ensure they are unloaded. The public are invited to enter the arena to have photos taken with members of the cast. There will be a firearms safety officer on site to instruct, supervise and issue the firearms to be used, a local stockman to be in charge of the horses. There will also be a re-enactment director on site.

Firearms:

There are numerous difficulties using the correct firearms of the day. The bushrangers had percussion revolving rifles and percussion revolvers as well as muzzle-loading shotguns and police would have had similar weapons. As these are only available as original antiques it is not feasible to use them.

Therefore the re-enactment will be carried out using 12-gauge shotguns firing blanks loaded with black powder to give the correct effect of noise and smoke. Seven shotguns will be used and two antique revolvers. The use of these firearms is covered by the re-enactment permit issued by the Firearms Registry.

The firearms will be under the care of the safety officer.

Costumes:

The clothing will be an accurate portrayal of the type worn on the day. Much of it will be supplied to the actors and some supplied by them. All will be approved by the Re-enactment sub-committee of the Braidwood Historical Society. Tunics for the uniformed police will be made and kepi caps purchased.

New South Wales Police Involvement:

The re-enactment is a celebration of a police victory. Therefore it is important to have a high level of police presence in attendance as well the local Member of Parliament and a senior minister of the New South Wales Government.

THOMAS AND JOHN CLARKE IN BRAIDWOOD GAOL.



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COUNTRY WORKBOX



Hello!

Firstly ... Season's Greetings To All.

Enjoy your well-deserved holiday and may 2017 be an improvement on 2016.

Secondly ... You might have noticed the changes happening to 68 Wallace Street. The building is undergoing a thorough expert restoration. It will be beautiful!

Sadly, I will have to move out for a while at the end of January. So don't delay getting toys, gifts, homewares, jewellery, kitchenware etc etc before we close.

Do I feel a SALE coming on?

All the very best ... Barbara

Official Dinner:

The official dinner will be held at the Showground Pavilion on the Saturday night following the re-enactment.

Other Activities:

There will be a weekend of activity in the historic Braidwood town centre with a vintage car rally, carriage rides, cemetery tours, farmers markets, arts and crafts and a re-enactment of the trial of the Clarkes in the Braidwood Court House on the Sunday. Arrangements are still being finalised, however, there is much local support and enthusiasm for a wide range of events celebrating Braidwood's heritage.

Re-enactment of the trial

Tom and John Clarke were taken from Braidwood Gaol to Sydney to stand trial. The charge eventually preferred against them occurred at the time of their capture — the wounding of Constable Walsh with intent to murder — a capital offence. There were many other charges that could be laid at their feet, but it seemed the authorities had chosen a charge they considered to prove and the most economical, as

the main witnesses had provided the prisoners' escort to Sydney. The prosecution only needed a conviction for one capital offence as a person could only be executed once.

The trial took place in Central Criminal Court, Darlinghurst Sydney on Tuesday 28 May 1867. The presiding judge was Sir Alfred Stephen, the Chief Justice of New South Wales. The prosecuting barrister was the Solicitor General, Robert Isaacs. The trial lasted just one day and ended with the death sentence for the two brothers.

On delivering the supreme penalty the Chief Justice addressed the brothers in the most scathing all-embracing condemnation of bushranging by any judge to this day. It seemed the Clarkes were taking responsibility for the whole of the bushranging outbreak that had plagued the colony for the past decade.

The Clarkes were suspected of more serious crimes including the murder of four special police. Just about everyone including the jury knew them by reputation.

The re-enactment on Sunday 30th April 2017 at Braidwood Court House will be an abbreviated word for word version of the actual transcript of the

evidence given at the trial. As you will see there were many inconsistencies in the evidence of the witnesses. The re-enactment enables you to form your own judgement.



For further information: **THE CLARKE GANG, Outlaws, Outcast and Forgotten** by Peter C Smith, published by Rosenberg Publishing Pty Ltd, 2015, available at Braidwood Newsagency, Miss Ruby's Bookshop or www.rosenbergpub.com.au