

Carl Weber - Pioneering Surveyor and Engineer

Carl Weber was born in London in 1852, the son of Adalbert Arnold Weber and Adelaide Amelia Schleswig. Adalbert had fled to London two years before the birth of his son, because as a Captain in the Prussian Army, he had challenged his Colonel and Captain to a duel, and now faced the possibility of a court-martial. He was also secretly engaged to Adelaide, a Baroness, despite the fact that she was to wed a Prussian prince in an arranged marriage. Because of their connections with the Royal family, England gave the pair a warm welcome.

Adalbert and Adelaide spent four years in London, in which time a daughter and a son, Carl, were born. Carl's godparents were Sir Robert Napier and Lady Emma Duke, who later married Lord Ponsonby, but at the time was one of the maids of honour to Queen Victoria. When Carl was christened in the Lutheran Church in Savoy Street on 27 November, 1853, his godmother took him to see the Queen, who cradled the babe in her arms. She could not have predicted the remarkable career that Carl was to carve out for himself as a surveyor and engineer in the harsh outback of the colony of New South Wales.


In 1854, Carl Weber arrived in New South Wales with his mother and sister on the screw steamer, "Croesus". Adalbert had travelled ahead of his family, and because of his connections, had letters of introduction to the Governor and other influential men in Sydney. He was immediately offered a position in a bank, but because he would have had to shave off his beard, declined the offer. Soon after, he received an appointment under Sir Thomas Mitchell, who was both Surveyor General and Chief Engineer of the colony. Over the following years, Adalbert was to lay out and construct roads from the Clyde River to Braidwood, and from the McLeay River at Kempsey to Armidale, and to open up communication for the goldfields at Kiandra.

When he turned fourteen, Carl Weber decided that he was capable of starting a life for himself and soon found himself surveying in some of the loneliest parts of the colony. He surveyed previously uncharted rivers, setting up camps as the work demanded. When he was surveying the Endrick River near its union with the Shoalhaven, his food of corned beef and biscuits would be lowered to him over cliffs each evening, and he and his party had only rock shelves to rest on. Later when he camped on the Molonglo River near Queanbeyan, he would spend his evenings with the old shepherds from the nearby Carwoola Rutledges Station, and listen to the horrifying tales of their convict days. Their flogging scars were sickening to him.

At the age of twenty-two, Carl was working on the initial surveys of the Sydney Water Supply, and was camped in the Darkes Forest area in a scrubby paddock owned by Mrs Rice, who lived there with her four daughters. Their father was Captain Rice, who spent most of his time at sea. Carl was working in the field all day, and on his calculations late into the night. The worry of the project put him under great stress, and just before Christmas, 1874, his health failed. He lay for some weeks solely dependent on the kindness of Mrs Rice and her eldest daughter, Elizabeth.

By the time that Carl was well again, he had asked Mrs Rice for her daughter's hand in marriage, and had written to Captain Rice on the same subject. Elizabeth and Carl were to enjoy a very happy marriage, Carl later writing, "Life was now one holiday, though I was at the bridge [over the Moruya River] almost ten hours out of twelve, the pleasure of having my darling to see me start and to meet me on my return to dinner and in the evening made the days pass quickly."

Illawarra owes much to Carl Weber. He surveyed the top portion of Macquarie Pass, part of the road from Bodalla to Cobargo, the mountain road at Cambewarra over what was called the Good Dog Mountain, the road from Broughton Creek to Kangaroo Valley, and the coastal road from Clifton to Stanwell Park, where men had to be lowered over the cliff for the initial excavations. Importantly, he supervised the building of the first lookout at Bulli Pass, which for a long time was known as Weber's Lookout. Carl Ludwig Adalbert Weber died in 1923, outliving his beloved Elizabeth by twenty years. He was survived by three sons and four daughters.



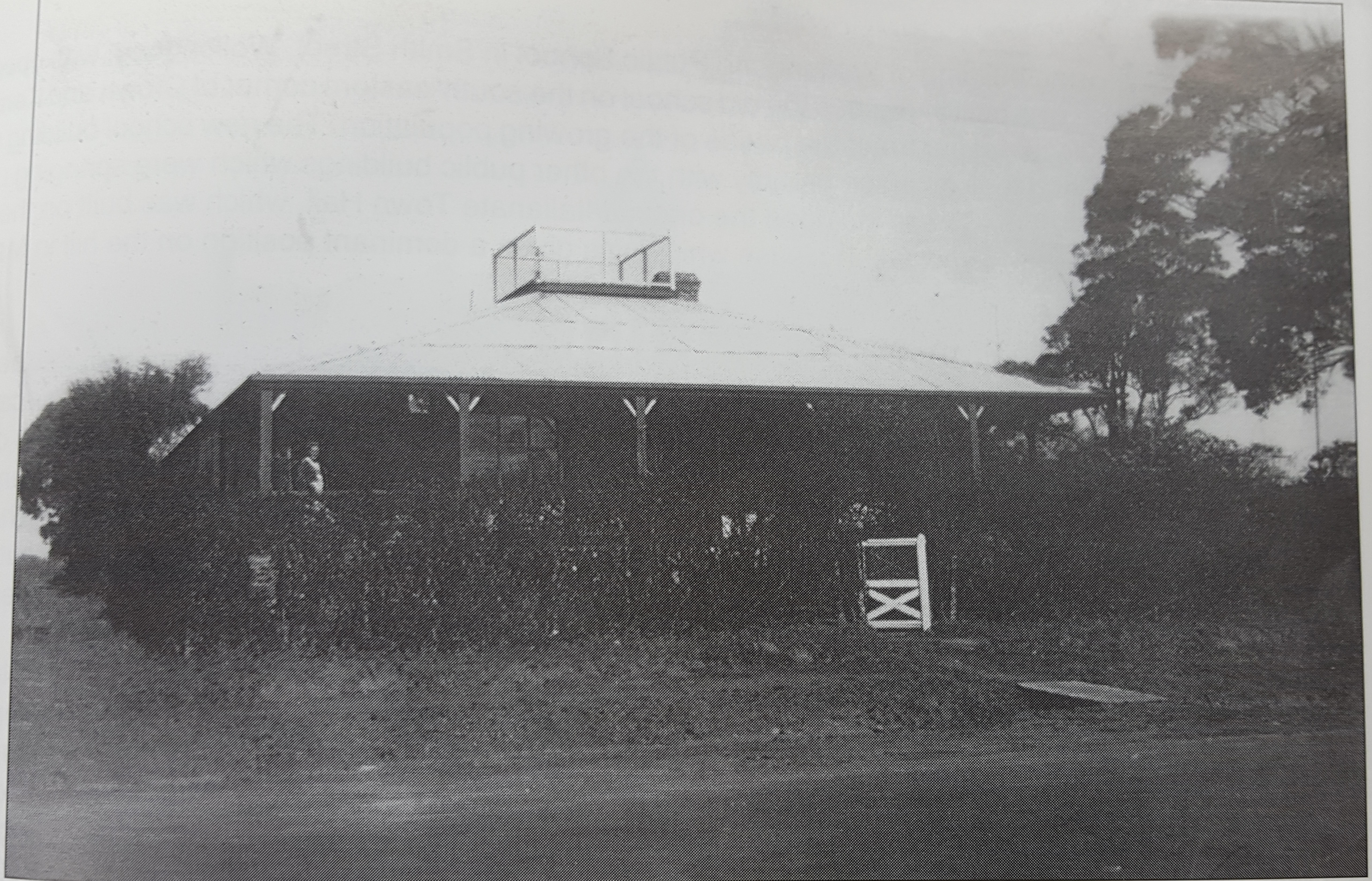
033981
~~REALE E~~

JMAK
ROY

Anne Wood Images and Stories of Illawarra's History

Glossy from our Streets More

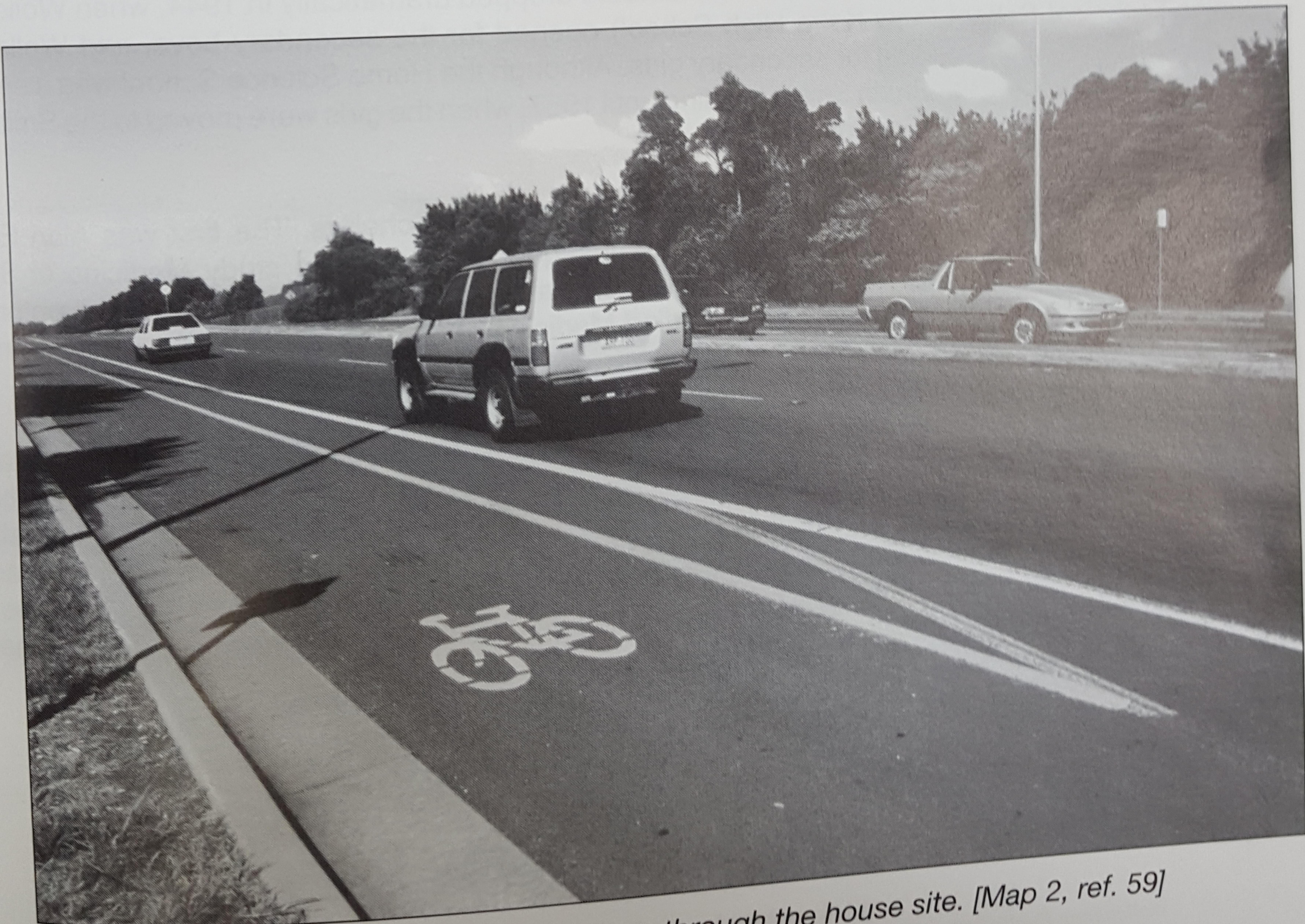
SU



The house on the south-western corner of Towradgi Rd and Ocean St, Reidtown, where Carl Weber died in 1923. His daughter, Lilian Smith (1886-1972) is standing on the verandah. The structure on the roof is a lookout.



The house on the south-western corner of Towradgi Rd and Ocean St, Reidtown, where Carl Weber died in 1923. His daughter, Lilian Smith (1886-1972) is standing on the verandah. The structure on the roof is a lookout.



The Northern Distributor now runs through the house site. [Map 2, ref. 59]

I Carl Weller of Paddington in the State of New South Wales
do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare as follows—
plan hereto annexed & marked A is a copy by me of survey
by me in June 1886
and shown by red edging on said plan over 12

Industrial Socialist Labor Party

The Federal General Elections

MANIFESTO

Comrades and Electors,—

For the forthcoming Federal Elections both the Nationalists' and the Labor Party's proposals, as set forth in their manifestos, are mere vote-catching devices, devoid of any attempt to deal adequately with the serious problems which are facing Australia to-day.

The shameless trafficking for sectional support has resulted in each party issuing sheaves of promissory notes, mortgaging the future productivity of Labor in return for power and pay for themselves.

That one or other of the old parties will gain office it is certain, but as to which one matters little to the working-class, for it is equally certain that neither of them

will be able to deliver the promised goods.

As a young and militant working-class movement, with a clear and definite objective, which reads, "The abolition of Capitalism and the establishment of a system of Society based upon the social ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interests of the whole community," the I.S.L.P. deems this a fitting time to state its position. By so doing we hope to assist in clarifying the muddy stream of confused thought which is at present responsible for rushing the country over the precipice of insolvency, and more firmly rivetting the shackles of servitude upon the working-class.

Our objective aims to establish a system of Social Democracy by the complete abolition of the Capitalist system, and the substitution of an industrial and political dictatorship of the working-class.

While realising that this cannot be brought about in a day, there is nothing but the ignorance and disunity of the workers themselves which stands in the way of its immediate accomplishment.

The I.S.L.P. therefore enters this campaign endorsing the principle of organising the working-class on the economic field by means of INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM based upon the preamble of the ONE BIG UNION, which reads:—

1.

We hold that there is a class struggle in society, and that the struggle is caused by the capitalist class owning the means of production, to which the working-class must have access in order to live. The working-class produce all value. The greater the share which the capitalist class appropriates, the less remains for the two classes are in constant conflict. Therefore the interests of working-class,

2.

There can be no peace as long as want and hunger are found among millions of working people, and the few who constitute the employing class have all the good things of life.

3.

Between these two classes the struggle must continue until Capitalism is abolished. Capitalism can only be abolished by the workers uniting in one class-conscious economic organisation to take and hold the means of production by revolutionary industrial and political action. "Revolutionary action" means action to secure a complete change, namely, the abolition of capitalistic ownership of the means of production—whether privately, or through the State—and the establishment in its place of social ownership by the whole community. Long experience has proved the hopeless futility of existing political and industrial methods, which aim at mending and rendering tolerable, and

thereby perpetuating Capitalism—instead of ending it.

4.

The rapid accumulation of wealth and concentration of the ownership of industries into fewer hands make the Trade Unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class, because craft unionism fosters conditions which allow the employer to pit one set of workers against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby defeating each in turn.

5.

These conditions can be changed, and the interests of the working class advanced only by an organisation so constituted that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries, shall take concerted action when deemed necessary, thereby making an injury to one the concern of all.

We hold that as the working class creates and operates the socially-operated machinery of production, it should direct production and determine working conditions.

The I.S.L.P., therefore, in answer to the question as to how its Objective can be realised, recognises and affirms that Industrial Organisation on the above lines is the most effective if not the only means by which that Objective can be brought into operation.

By political action we can do something to remove legal obstacles and keep the field clear, but, as set forth in our statement of principles, "Political action is

only of value to the working-class insofar as it truly reflects its organised industrial power."

It is also a solid truth, but seldom recognised in its vast importance, that the time and energy and organised effort required to win trivial and mostly worthless "reforms" could just as easily and quickly bring about a complete revolution in existing conditions if rightly applied. In fact, it is infinitely easier to fight for a high and noble objective than for paltry sops and concessions. The one fires the imagination and kindles enthusiasm, while the other fritters away our energies, degrades our ideals, and yields nothing in return but a continuous crop of disappointments.

In aiming for a complete working-class victory over the corrupt and infamous system of Capitalism, the sops and palliatives which the A.L.P. is organised to obtain at any cost will be gladly thrown to the workers by the Capitalist class for nothing, in a vain effort to stall off its coming doom.

In taking our stand, therefore, on the solid rock of Socialism and nailing the banner of "NO COMPROMISE" to the mast, we are the really sane, logical and common-sense Party, and the A.L.P. and others, who think they can make omelettes without breaking eggs, are the real visionaries and Utopians, with a treadmill policy of working hard and getting nowhere.

In contesting the Illawarra and Cook Federal seats only, on this occasion, the