

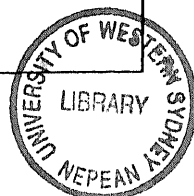
Twenty-four Miles Around Nelungaloo.

The history and importance of cinema
exhibition in pre-television times to a
country area of central-western New South
Wales.

Kevin James Cork

MASTER OF ARTS (HONS) THESIS
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY

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PLEASE NOTE

The greatest amount of care has been taken while scanning this thesis,
and the best possible result has been obtained.

"The exhibitors thought they were doing it to make money, but the patrons came because the more the exhibitors did, the greater was the sense of occasion created and the intrinsic excitement of a social outing."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." (Phil. 4:13)

I take the opportunity offered at this point to thank the University of Western Sydney for allowing me to undertake the writing of this thesis, my supervisors Dr Carol Liston and Dr Phillip Kent, the staff at both the NSW Archives Office at Kingswood and the newspapers' section of the State Library of NSW, and the people who I interviewed and with whom I corresponded, viz.

Mrs S Acret, Forbes, NSW; Mr H Armstrong, Richmond, NSW; Mr R Ashcroft, Parkes, NSW; Baroness Gardner of Parkes, London, UK; Mrs S Budd, Parkes, NSW; Prof M Carlson, New York, USA; Mrs J Clarke, Trundle, NSW; Miss M Crowley, Box Hill, Vic; Mr D Davis, Parkes, NSW; Mr W and Mrs P Farthing, Forbes, NSW; Forbes Family History Group Inc, Forbes, NSW; Mrs M Freeman, Parkes, NSW; Mrs L Furse, Mollymook, NSW; Group of Wellington Senior Citizens, Wellington, NSW; Mr J J Hall, Parkes, NSW; Mrs L Hawkins, Trundle, NSW; Mr S Heyden, Manly, NSW; Mr J Jennings, Winston Hills, NSW; Mr D Joel, Bellevue Hill, NSW; Mr B Jones, Parkes, NSW; Mr K Jones, Forbes; Mr P Johnson, Gunningbland, NSW; Mr L Kearney, Bogan Gate, NSW; Mr R Lees, Parkes, NSW; Mrs K Maguire, Parkes, NSW; Mr P Mazoudier, Willoughby, NSW; Mr W J McGlynn, Parkes, NSW; Mrs J McKeowen, Bogan Gate, NSW; Members of Forbes Senior Citizens, Forbes, NSW; Members of Parkes Senior Citizens, Parkes, NSW; Mrs R Mill, Parkes, NSW; Mr T Ohlsson, Artarmon, NSW; Dr F Opitz, Newcastle, NSW; Mrs P Pike, Trundle, NSW; Miss B Rogan, Forbes, NSW; Mr M Rogan, Parkes, NSW; Mr G H Simpson, Mt. Druitt, NSW; Mrs G Steventon, Parkes, NSW; Mr V and Mrs N Storey, Fairfield West, NSW; Prof R Thorne, Sydney, NSW; Mr R Threlfall, Sydney, NSW; Mrs G Tibbetts, Forster, NSW; Mr L Tod, Blacktown, NSW; Mr A Tom, Manildra, NSW; Mrs J Townsend, Tathra, NSW; Mr M Trimmer, Bogan Gate, NSW; Mr D Unger, Alectown West, NSW; Mr H Unger, Alectown, NSW; Mr L Unger, Parkes, NSW; Unnamed local farmer at Mandagery, NSW; Mr D L Williams, Sydney, NSW; Mr J Williamson, Bogan Gate, NSW.

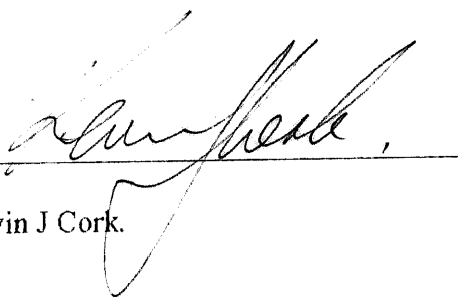
To my wife and children, I extend my deepest thanks for their encouragement and tolerance.

CERTIFICATE FROM CANDIDATE

15 January 1995.

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university.

This thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person, except when due reference is made.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kevin J Cork', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Kevin J Cork.

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ABSTRACT

Little research into historical, architectural and social significance of the picture theatre in pre-television rural Australian society has been undertaken. Taking a New South Wales country area (to represent a microcosm), this thesis records the picture venues and qualitative research material from past patrons and theatre staff.

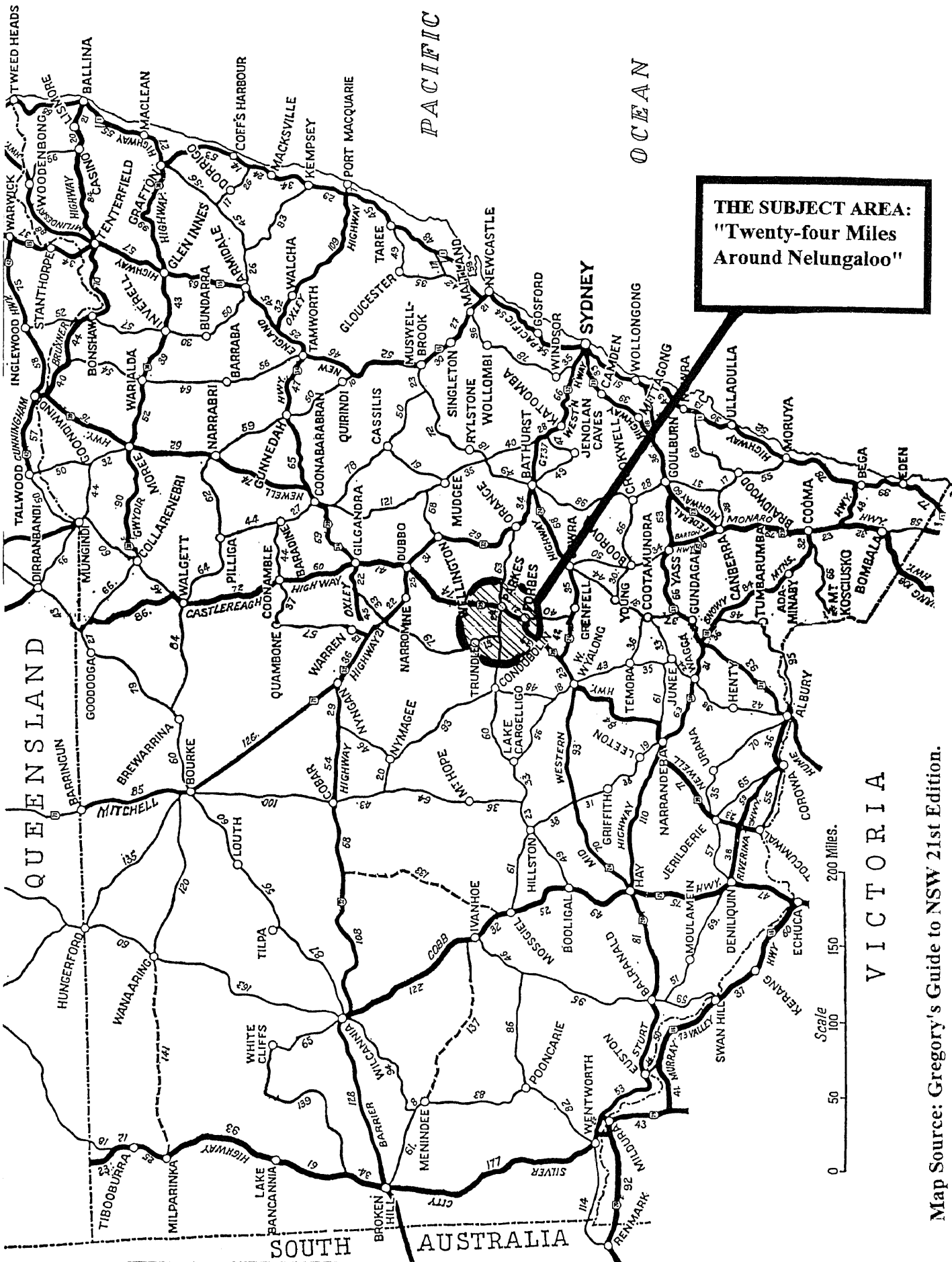
Chapter 1 establishes the environment created by a picture theatre and Chapter 2 shows that New South Wales was typical of Australia in film attendance before the 1960s. Chapter 3 introduces the Central-west subject area ("*Twenty-four Miles Around Nelungaloo*") and describes how the data was gathered. The area itself is typical of the state with its lack of pertinent records.

Relying heavily on primary sources, Chapter 4 shows the development of the picture venues within the subject area. Besides historical facts, there are comments on architectural details.

The qualitative research material (oral history and certain correspondence) in Chapter 5 gives "life" to the occasion formerly associated with going to the pictures. The results show that going to the pictures was a very important part of pre-television social life, the research supported by numerous quotes testifying to the sense of the occasion.

Chapter 6 suggests that the success of the rural picture shows was a happy co-incidence: the exhibitors' desire to make money and the patrons' desire for a social experience (and entertainment). A recommendation is made that one of the venues discovered during the course of research should be investigated for heritage listing. It is important that we should acknowledge the vital part that going to the pictures once played in pre-television days, especially in rural areas.

MAP OF NEW SOUTH WALES.



THE SUBJECT AREA:
 "Twenty-four Miles
 Around Nelungaloo"

VICTORIA

Map Source: Gregory's Guide to NSW 21st Edition.

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EXPLANATION OF CURRENCY AND MEASUREMENTS as used in text.

In the years prior to 1966, Australian currency was expressed in the form of pounds (£), shillings and pence (sometimes expressed as £- / - / -).

Decimal equivalents of the old currency are as follows:

1 pound (20 shillings)	2 dollars
10 shillings	1 dollar
1 shilling (12 pence)	10 cents
6 pence	5 cents
1 penny	1.2 cents.

Prior to the introduction of metric measurement some years after the introduction of decimal currency, length was expressed in Imperial measurements that included yard (yd.), foot (ft.) and inch (in.). Distance was measured in miles.

Metric equivalents of Imperial measurements are as follows:

1 inch	25.39 millimetres or 2.53 centimetres
1 foot (12 inches)	.3048 metre
1 yard (3 feet)	.9144 metre
1 mile	1.6 kilometres.