

ELIZA



FORLONGE MEMORIAL



**HERITAGE
EXPLORER**

ELIZA FORLONGE

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CONTENTS

HISTORY

TIMELINE

GALLERY

NEWSPAPERS

ESPLASH

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

HISTORY

Name: Eliza Forlonge
Born: 1784, Glasgow Scotland
Married: John Forlonge 1804
Died: 5 August 1859
Buried: Seven Creeks Station
GPS: S36.843744, E145.624162

Eliza Forlonge and her sister Janet Templeton were Australian pioneers who along with their family were amongst the first to import Merino sheep into the State of Victoria and the Euroa District in 1835.



Eliza Forlonge was born to parents Alexander (teacher) and Jean (nee MacKinnon) in 1784, seventh child of eight, in Glasgow Scotland. She married Glasgow Wine Merchant John Forlonge (born November 1872) in 1804 at Glasgow. They had six children, four of whom died of tuberculosis by 1820, leaving brothers William and Andrew.





HISTORIC FACTSHEET

ELIZA FORLONGE

Preparation for Immigrating to Australia

In the mid 1820s, they decided to move their children to Australia, for a warmer climate and the hope of greater prosperity. They concluded that based on current trends, farming Merino sheep was likely to offer them the best return in the Australian climate. They moved to learn sheep farming techniques prior to travelling to Australia. First they travelled to Leipzig, Germany where they obtained considerable training in the farming and shearing of these medium sized farm animals. Eliza made three trips to Leipzig, then between 1828 and 1830 she travelled through Saxony purchasing the finest Merino sheep. Once purchased, the sheep were driven to Hamburg and shipped to Great Britain.

Decision to settle in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania)

In 1829, William and his father John arrived in Tasmania aboard the *Clansman*, with their first load of Merino sheep. Although the *Clansman* was bound for Sydney, it was held up at Hobart Town. Upon inspection of the area, the family made the decision to settle at Tasmania and subsequently purchased *Kenilworth Station* (at Winton near Kirkland's). They offloaded the sheep and moved them to their new station. John then then left his older son William in charge of the farm while he returned to England to join Eliza and Andrew.

In 1831 John, Eliza and Andrew arrived in Tasmania with the second load of Merinos aboard the ship *Czar*. During the 1830s they improved *Kenilworth Station* with numerous new structures including a new farmhouse and outbuildings.

In 1834, during a period of dispute with the Colonial officials, John and his wife Eliza took Andrew back to Great Britain aboard the ship *Norval* in an effort to gain a land grant for Andrew (who was still under age). They were unsuccessful in their effort and John died there in November 1834, leaving Eliza and Andrew who returned to Tasmania, arriving in 1835.

Upon their arrival back in Tasmania, son William first proposed that they shift to the newly settled Port Phillip District (Victoria). In 1837 William married his cousin Marion Templeton in Sydney. The Templeton's were also settlers, being the first owners at Seven Creeks, which according to *Letters from Victorian Pioneers* (Page 228) was first established in October 1838.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

ELIZA FORLONGE

Partnership problems

In 1839 William travelled to Victoria with 1,200 of the sheep and took up land. In 1840 Andrew sold the 3,000 acre Winton farm in return for 9,000 sheep, which he then invested with three Hobart based merchants. The group of businessmen planned to establish a female sheep stock (numbering over 10,000 head). The plan was to sell off the male sheep and dominate the female sheep stock in Van Diemen Land. However, within three years the partnership had gone sour and Andrew lost all 9,000 sheep (*Letters from Victorian Pioneers - Page 27*).

Return trip to Scotland

Eliza travelled back in Scotland in 1840 and again in 1844. In Scotland she assisted bounty immigrants (free immigrants whose passage was paid for by the Australian Government and were bound for Australia). It is reported that she helped over 200 immigrants and it is likely she was paid a bounty for recruiting each immigrant, as was common practice at that time.

Bounties of up to 20 pound per adult were paid to recruiting agents, while up to five pound per child. At that time in England the preference was for skilled labourers, young married couples and young single men and women.

Life in Victoria

Around 1843 Andrew and William unsuccessfully sought a land grant in Sydney. Andrew and Marion lived on their Merri Creek sheep run near Whittlesea in central Victoria and Eliza lived with them. Andrew squatted in several different areas around Victoria for a number of years prior to moving to America.

Around 1852 William and Marion purchased the now well established *Templeton Run* at Seven Creeks, near Euroa in Central Victoria. Eliza ran the house and business affairs, freeing William and Marion to travel and support their many business and political interests. In 1856 William was elected to the Victorian Parliament.

Eliza died at the property on 5 August 1859.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

ELIZA FORLONGE

Around 1935 a memorial was erected in front of her grave, at the foot of the Wombat Ranges near Euroa. Today the area is a well established memorial site erected in her memory.

Today

Today the memorial stands in memory of times past when the first 'fine wool sheep' (merino sheep) were 'imported' into the State of Victoria in 1835 by Eliza Forlonge and her sister-in-law Janet Templeton.



Reflection

It is worthy of note that in 1835 the Forlonge family still had land interests in Tasmania, as their property there did not sell until around 1840. Yet we do know that the Forlonge family were active landowners in Victoria by around 1839 and possibly earlier (*Letters from Victorian Pioneers* - Page 6). At the time of them first importing sheep from their Tasmania property to Victoria in 1835, Merino Sheep at Hobart were being sold at around 2-3 pound per head and were generally sold to new settlers travelling to Victoria via Hobart (*Letters from Victorian Pioneers* - Page 3). It was stated in the *Letters from Victorian Pioneers* (Page 5) that Victoria had become full of sheep from Tasmania. This was likely by the early 1840s, with most being high quality Marino sheep from Tasmania, such as those imported by Eliza Forlonge.



The Euroa Farmers' Arms Hotel Museum is home to relics from the Forlonge family

TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 1784** Eliza Jack was born in Glasgow, Scotland, seventh of eight children.
- 1804** Eliza married Glasgow wine merchant - John Forlonge. They had six children.
- 1813** Son William born.
- 1814** Son Andrew born.
- 1820** By 1820, four of their six children had died of tuberculosis. They decided to move to Australia.
- 1828-1830** Eliza travelled through Saxony purchasing Merino sheep. They drove them to Hamburg from where they were shipped to Great Britain.
- 1829** William and his father John arrived in Tasmania aboard the *Clansman* with the first load of around 100 quality Merino sheep. They were to land at Sydney, though liked Tasmania and decided to stay. The sheep were moved to Kenilworth Station which they purchased in 1829. John then returned for the second load of sheep.
- 1831** Andrew and his parents John and Eliza arrived in Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land) aboard the ship *Czar* with the second load of 130 Merino sheep.
- 1830s** They established a significant farming property 'Winton' at Kirklands.
- April 1834** John and his wife Eliza and son Andrew returned to Great Britain to seek support for their expansion plans in Tasmania. Their local efforts with the colonial officials had left them frustrated.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- November 1834** John (Eliza's husband) died in Great Britain.
- 1837** William married Eliza's niece (Marion Templeton) and they lived at a farming property called Woodstock at Merri Creek, Victoria. Eliza returned from Scotland around this time and moved in with them.
- October 1838** John Templeton took up the station known as Seven Creeks. (*Letters from Victorian Pioneers* - page 228).
- 1839** William Forlonge purchased the Victorian 'Grange' run from the Wedge family, and then sold it to J. Patterson a year later (*J. Patterson - Letters from Victorian Pioneers* - page 6).
- 1839** Edward Bell - In his letter to the Government (*Letters from Victorian Pioneers*) mentions dropping in on the Templeton's property at Seven Creeks. He refers to the property as Templeton Station.
- 1840c** The Merino stock the family introduced to Victoria up to this point represented some of the first Merino sheep in Victoria, and the first into North Central Victoria.
- 1840c** William and Andrew sold the 3,000 acre Winton farm for 9,000 sheep. William then went into partnership with three merchants of Hobart town, whose aim it was to build their collective female sheep numbers to 10,000 while selling off the male sheep. The deal went sour within three years and William lost all of the sheep. (*Letters from Victorian Pioneers* - page 27).
- 1840c** It appears that around this time a business deal between the brothers in Melbourne, may have led to a riff. Andrew reportedly felt deceived by William. (*Letters from Victorian Pioneers* - Page 27).



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 1840** Around this time William Forlonge was part owner in a fourteen mile property on both sides of the Glenelg river.
- 1840** Eliza travelled to Scotland to assist bounty immigrants. Some of whom may have been bound for their farming property.
- Early 1840** It was stated that Victoria had become full of sheep (*Letters from Victorian Pioneers - Page 6*).
- 1843c** Andrew and William attempted to obtain a land grant near Sydney. They were unsuccessful and instead returned to Victoria.
- 1844** Eliza again travelled to Scotland to assist bounty immigrants. Some of whom may have been again bound for their farming property.
- Circa 1850** Andrew moved to America after squatting for a number of years.
- 1851** William purchased the Templeton property at Seven Creeks, near Euroa and he and Marion moved in. Eliza also moved in and ran the house and business affairs, especially when William and Marion were travelling.
- Mid 1850** This area of the range became known as the Garden Range after Eliza planted an orchid here.
- 1856** William was elected to the Victorian Parliament.
- 5 August 1859** Eliza died at Seven Creeks aged 75 and was buried on the property. Many years later, a memorial was erected in front of her grave site at the Seven Creeks Estate.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 1932** Funds were sought from the public to repair the grave of Eliza Forlonge. (The Argus Newspaper, Wednesday 12 October 1932).
- 3 November 1932** Details of a proposed memorial was published in the Argus Newspaper.
- 1934** Further funds still sought from the farming community.
- Circa 1935** The memorial to Eliza Forlonge was complete.
- 2013** Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.
- 3 September 2018** Barnie and Di Wright of Bucks Country Bakehouse at Yarck introduced two new large tables to their dining area. The tables had glass tops placed on top of a number of historic Australian newspaper pages to create interest for diners. Just after being set up, an article was discovered that spoke of the Eliza Forlonge Memorial being erected near Euroa in Victoria. We were granted permission to photograph and use the article from the South Australian Dalgety's Review in this factsheet.

GALLERY

RELATED IMAGERY

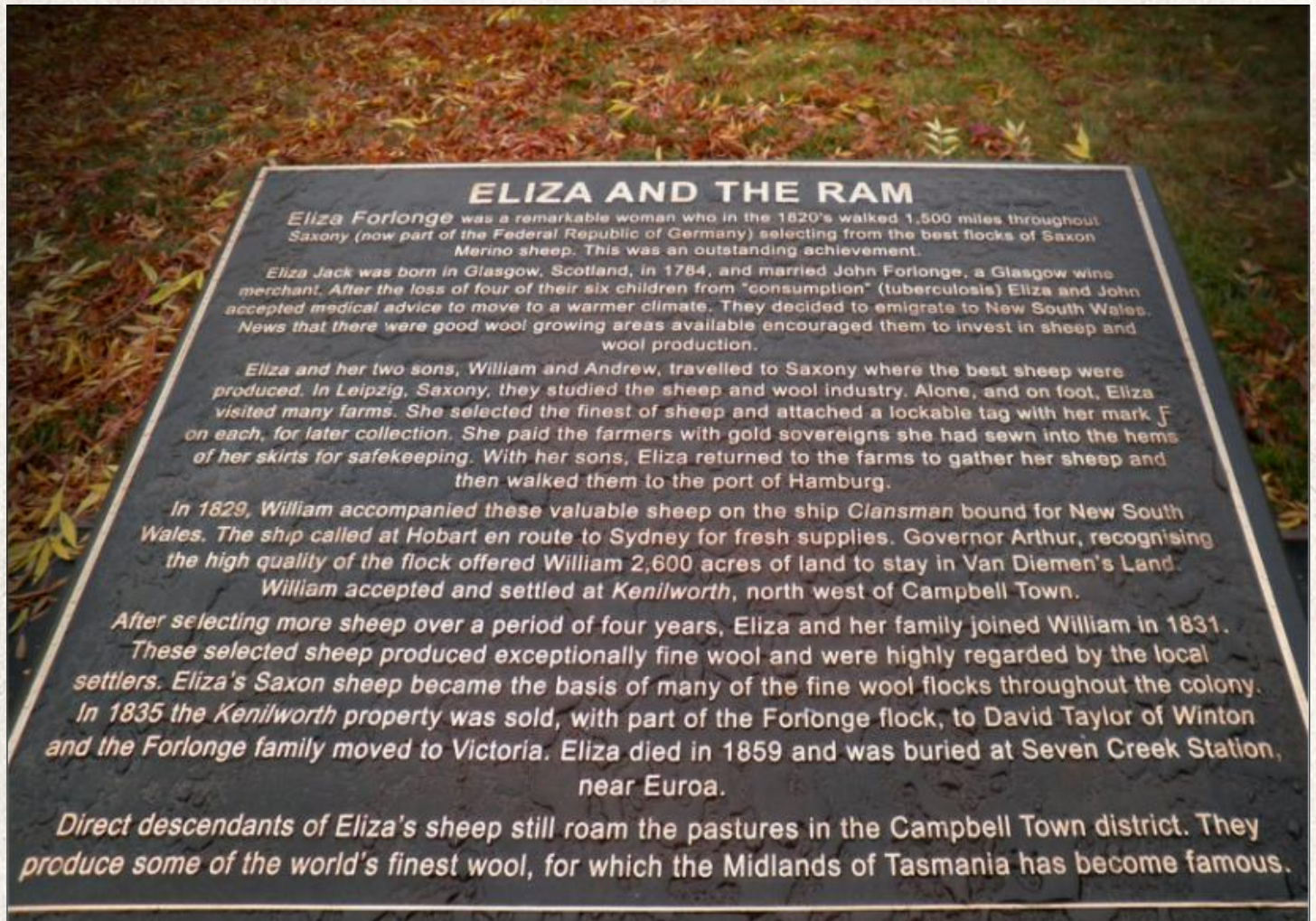


Sculptor
Peter Corlett.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



A life sized statue of Eliza Forlonge (previous page) was unveiled in Valentines Park, Campbell Town, Tasmania on 19 April 2013. A memorial plaque describing the journey of this Australian wool pioneer is also located at the site.

The bronze statue depicts Eliza leading a ram by the horns. The Forlonge family were granted land near Campbell Town in Tasmania 1829.

Photograph © Pam Petersen 2014

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



IN MEMORY OF
M^{RS}. JOHN FORLONGE
WITH HER SISTER-IN-LAW
M^{RS}. JANET TEMPLETON
IMPORTED THE FIRST FINE
WOOL SHEEP TO VICTORIA
1835

Forlonge Memorial near Euroa in 2013



NEWSPAPERS

RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

NEWSPAPERS

WOMEN PIONEERS.

INTRODUCED SAXONY MERINOES.

Funds Desired for Memorial.

On the illustrations page appears a picture showing the neglected grave of Mrs. John Forlonge, formerly of Seven Creeks Station in the Euroa district, who, with Mrs. Andrew Templeton, brought the first fine-woolled sheep to Victoria. Efforts are being made to obtain funds for the erection of a granite cairn on the site in memory of these women pioneers. The grave is situated within 100 miles of Melbourne on the roadside near Euroa. Mrs. Forlonge, upon deciding to come to Australia from Glasgow, first visited Germany to give her two sons an opportunity to study the German system of sheep farming. She resolved to bring to Australia a select flock of Saxony merinoes, and to obtain the sheep she trudged through Saxony, visiting the farms and choosing the finest sheep, which it is stated cost £30 each. Mrs. Forlonge and Mrs. Templeton came to Tasmania with their sheep on the brig Czar in January, 1831. Eventually Mrs. Forlonge came to Victoria, and the family settled at Seven Creeks. The introduction of these sheep was the foundation of the most important development of the sheep-breeding industry in Victoria. Euroa residents have already contributed towards the memorial. The Euroa Cemetery Trust is obtaining the title of the grave, and Messrs. Blackett and Forster, architects, of Collins street, are gratuitously attending to the designing and erection of the memorial.

The Argus
Wednesday 12th October 1932
Courtesy National Library Australia

Funds sought for a new memorial

The Argus
Wednesday 12 October 1932
Courtesy National Library Australia

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

FORLONGE-TEMPLETON MEMORIAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

Sir,—Permit me to make a final appeal to woolgrowers on behalf of the Forlonge-Templeton memorial. Of the £100 required so far only slightly more than £70 has been subscribed, which, to say the least, is disappointing, when it is realised that in Victoria there are 27,000 woolgrowers. Large individual subscriptions have not been asked for, the committee hoping that the amount required would be spread over a large number of subscribers. As it is desired to close the fund before Christmas, I earnestly appeal to the many thousands who so far have been silent to assist in subscribing the small sum of about £28 required to perpetuate for all time the memory of the women who did so much for the establishment of fine wool in Victoria.—Yours, &c.,

SIDNEY L. OFFICER,

**Secretary, Graziers' Association of Victoria.
422-428 Collins st., Dec. 16.**

The Argus
Saturday 17th December 1932
Courtesy National Library Australia

Appeal for donations

The Argus
Sunday 17 December 1932
Courtesy National Library Australia

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

PIONEER WOMAN'S GRAVE

Funds for Memorial

ADDITIONAL AMOUNT WANTED

Further funds are required to complete the memorial to Mrs. John Forlonge, who, with Mrs. Janet Templeton, imported in 1835 the first fine-wool sheep to Victoria. The memorial is at the foot of the Strathbogie Ranges, near Euroa, and it stands in front of the grave of Mrs. Forlonge. The portion of the range nearby is known as Garden Range, because an orchard was planted there almost 100 years ago by Mrs. Forlonge. Many of the trees are still living. Below is a stream named Seven Creeks. The memorial is of granite taken from an outcrop on the range and shaped into a form representing



The memorial to Mrs. Forlonge.

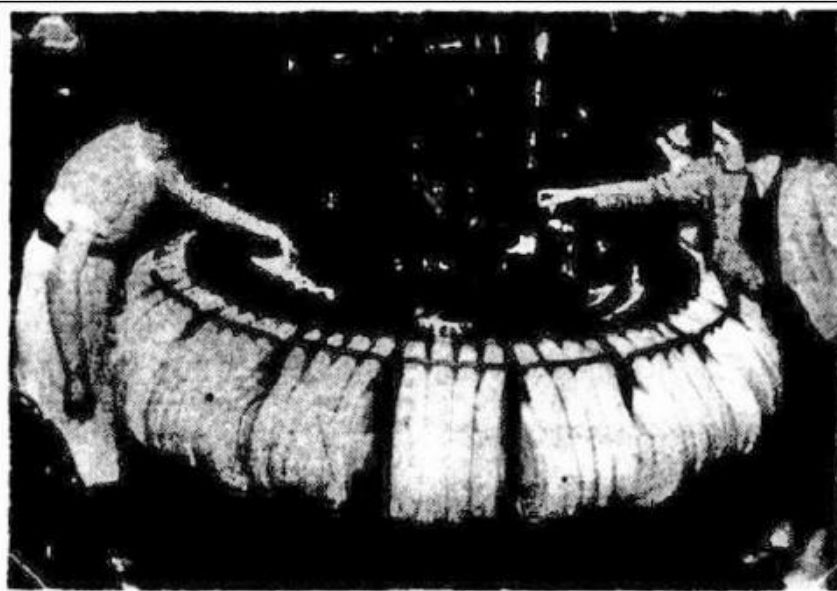
a woolpack on a stepped base. On the grave is an old English rose bush. A rabbit-proof enclosure has been erected, and the bush has been trimmed. It is intended to obtain cuttings to form a rose hedge. A wrought-iron gate made specially to resist rust has been erected.

It is proposed to plant Italian cypresses and Lombardy poplars, which grow well in the district without additional water. For this work, and to cover certain incidental expenses, £23/8/2 additional is required. Up to the present about £90 has been expended. The appeal for this money was conducted through "The Argus." Mrs. Forlonge tramped many miles through Saxony to select the best types of merino sheep, and after much hardship she eventually brought them to Victoria. As a result of her courage and determination the fine wool industry was begun in this State. All sections of the community have received benefit from her work. The secretary of the Graziers' Association of Victoria (Mr. S. L. Officer) is appealing for the additional money required to complete the memorial.

The Argus
Wednesday 28th March 1934
Courtesy National Library Australia

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS



A glimpse into a woollen mill: Combing.

The Lady of the Merinoes MRS. JOHN FORLONGE

At the foot of the Strathbogie Ranges, near Euron, there is a granite memorial, shaped to resemble a woolpack, on a stepped base. Thus Victoria honours the memory of a woman largely responsible for the introduction of merino sheep to the State, Mrs. John Forlonge.

Just behind the memorial is her grave. The section of the range near by is known as Garden Range because, nearly 100 years ago, she planted an orchard there. Some of the trees are still living. Below is a stream named Seven Creeks.

An English rose bush grows on the grave. In a few years grave and memorial will be enclosed by a rose hedge grown from slips from the bush, and it is proposed also to plant Italian cypresses and Lombardy poplars. Now there is a rabbit-proof enclosure, with a wrought-iron gate, specially treated to resist rust.

In 1826 Mrs. Forlonge, with her husband and two sons, were living in Scotland, but the health of the elder son, William, was poor. The grim Scottish climate threatened to kill him, so the family decided to emigrate to Australia. There was no ordinary emigration, however. It was done with care and forethought, and Australia has benefited.

Mrs. Forlonge, with William and her younger son, Andrew, first went to Saxony, and there spent four years on a leading merino stud farm, gaining experience and knowledge. At the end of that time they bought a number of the best sheep available, and, going on foot, drove their purchases through Germany to Hamburg. The droving trip was filled with enough incident to make an exciting

book, but this is not the place to say more than that, despite the suspicions of the authorities, and at least one arrest, they finally reached their destination and shipped the sheep to England.

The merinoes were unloaded at Hull, and driven overland to Liverpool, from which port William set sail for Sydney, with 100 of the animals in his charge.

The ship having been obliged to put in to Hobart Town, William, liking the country, decided to stay in Van Diemen's Land. Upon receipt of this news Mrs. Forlonge and Andrew returned to Saxony and purchased 130 more merinoes, and then the family embarked for Hobart Town.

Andrew took the sheep on to Sydney, but failing to obtain a land grant returned to his family. Not being able to secure suitable land in Van Diemen's Land the two boys crossed to the newly settled Port Phillip district.

Their ventures in the neighbourhood of Melbourne and on the Glenelg River were unsuccessful, and upon the death of their father Mrs. Forlonge joined William and settled at Seven Creeks, near Euron. Andrew had previously departed for America.

The introduction of the Forlonge merinoes to Victoria was highly beneficial. Several well-known studs owed much to the pure blood secured from these pure Saxony merinoes.



The Argus
Wednesday 31st May 1939
Courtesy National Library Australia

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

The Argus
Thursday 3rd
November 1932
Courtesy
National Library
Australia



MEMORIAL TO WOOL PIONEERS.—The design, by Messrs. Blackett and Forster, for a memorial to Mrs. John Forlonge and Mrs. Andrew Templeton, who introduced the first fine-wool sheep to Victoria. It will be erected on the site of the grave of Mrs. Forlonge, on the roadside near Euroa. The memorial, which is shaped like a woolpack, will be surrounded by Italian cypresses and Lombardy poplars.

Design of the Forlonge Memorial near Euroa

The Argus
Thursday 3 November 1932
Courtesy National Library Australia

NEWSPAPERS

MEMORIAL TO WOMAN WOOL PIONEER.

At Euroa, Victoria, a memorial is being erected to the memory of the late Mrs. John Forlonge, one of the pioneer pastoralists, who introduced fine-woolled sheep into that State. The memorial is to take the form of a bale of wool carved from a solid block of granite. It is being placed over Mrs. Forlonge's grave by the side of the road opposite Seven Creeks Station, near Euroa.

South Australia's Dalgety's Review
Friday 7 July 1933
Courtesy Barnie & Di Wright

Plaque from the Forlonge Memorial near Euroa

South Australia's Dalgety's Review
Friday 7 July 1933
Courtesy Barnie & Di Wright

eSPLASH MEDIA ARTICLES

ARTICLES FROM THE eSPLASH eMAGAZINE



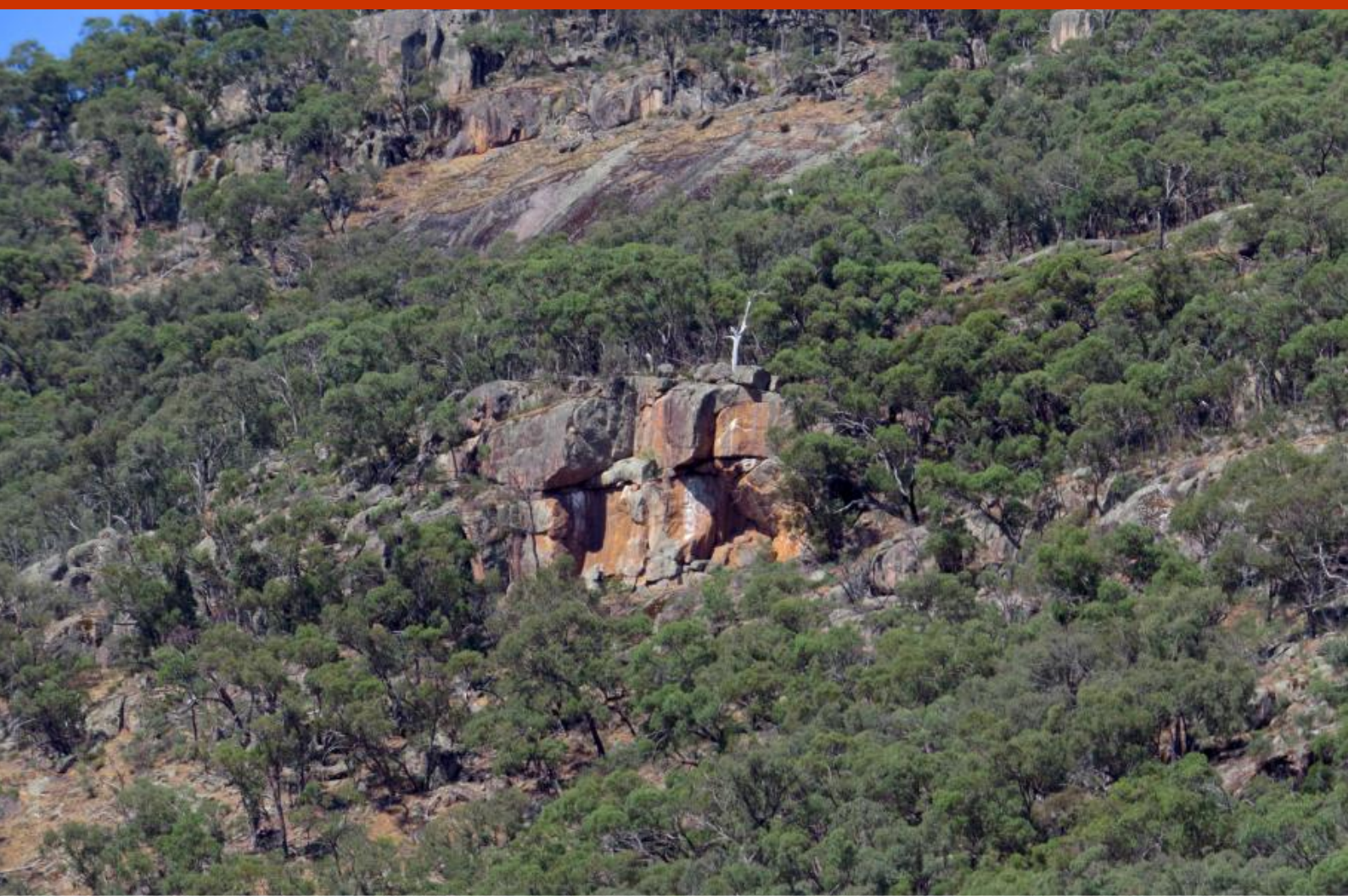


The Forlonge Memorial Site on Forlonge Memorial Road

IN MEMORY OF
M^{RS.} JOHN FORLONGE
WITH HER SISTER-IN-LAW
M^{RS.} JANET TEMPLETON
IMPORTED THE FIRST FINE
WOOL SHEEP TO VICTORIA
1835





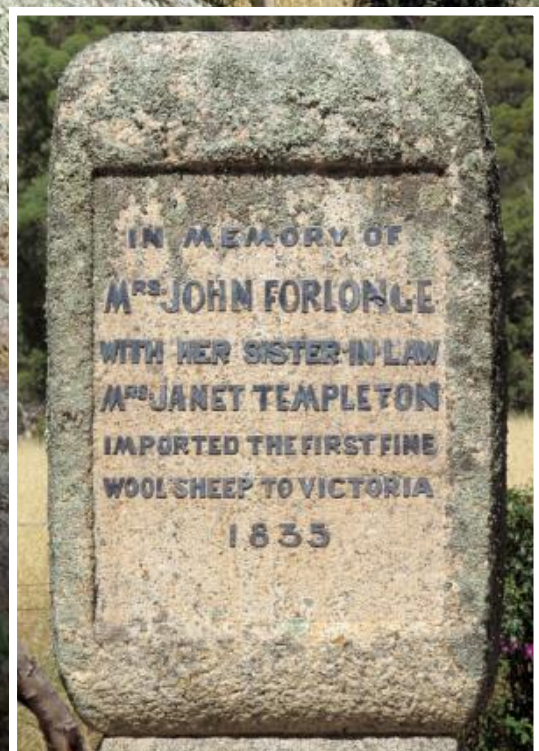


OUR HIDDEN MEMORIALS



Eliza Forlonge Memorial

IN MEMORY OF
Mrs John Forlonge
with her sister-in-law
Mrs Janet Templeton
imported the first fine
wool sheep to Victoria 1835





Artworkz
Serving the Community