

Using the Rates Books Indexes



Shooting Party at Strathairn c. 1935 Local Studies Photo Collection, PF-21, No. 3961

What are Rates Books?

Rates Books are the ledgers used to record rates on properties around Goulburn. They can be an invaluable tool for any historian. The rates books can hold information such as:

- Occupiers name
- Owners name/location/business name
- Lot number
- Section number
- Assessment number
- Land frontage size
- Occupation of occupier
- Type of dwelling
- Property value

How to Use the Rates Books Indexes

The indexes are all organised in different ways depending on the year of the rate book, and the information collected. In most of the Indexes, the assessments are organised alphabetically by street name. They will then move down the street sequentially on one side, then cross the road and go back in the opposite direction on the other side of the street. Other indexes will also be organised alphabetically by the surname of the occupier.

In the earlier rates books, building lots were decided by starting at the far south east corner, and moving anti-clockwise around the block.

Each index will vary slightly from year to year. Earlier indexes will use the Ward system, either Centre, South, North or East Wards. These can be distinguished using the colour coded map. Not every rate book from every year and every ward has survived or been transcribed.

The 1941 index varies from earlier indexes as it has modern street numbers as a cross reference, which are not available in earlier rates books. Also, the 1941 index does not use the Ward system.

Key:

Asst No./Rate No./ Val. No. = Assessment or Valuation Number (these are not fixed and vary through the years).

Sec No = Section Number. City blocks are called sections, and have a number associated that can be seen on most historic maps. This number is fixed. Not all blocks have section numbers.

Lot No = Lot Number. These are numbers associated with the individual properties within a section and can sometimes be helpful to find on historic maps. However, they are also not fixed, and not always accurate between the rate book and historic town maps, as land can be subdivided etc.

Land Size and frontage is in the imperial measurement eg. Feet

Need more help?

Contact the Local Studies section of the Library.

Phone 4823 4435 email: library@goulburn.nsw.gov.au

The indexes to Goulburn City Council rate books were compiled by E. T. Cross over many years, from the original volumes held by Goulburn City Council. The indexes include the information contained in these original volumes, which was not always consistent across the years.

Our Local Studies Collection has been greatly enhanced by the research conducted by Mr E. T. Cross. 'Ted' Cross, 1914 – 2005, was Principal of the Goulburn South Public School for many years; as well as an avid Historian and member of the Goulburn Historical Society. He very kindly donated his research and Indexes to the Library for the benefit of all researchers.