



Oberon Museum, New South Wales.

Originally named Bullocks Flat, The town of Oberon was the home of bellmaker Denis Hughes. Today the museum has a small bell collection including a Hughes bell. The bells above are also in the collection. The B&S bell may have been made by Blews & Son.



Ray, a museum attendant, beside the railway station at Oberon.



Left: The main street of Oberon NSW.

Below: The cottage in the photo (previous page) has been relocated to the museum site at the location of the now unused railway station. This image is inside the cottage kitchen and shows Laurie holding a kitchen sink that was made from a kerosine tin.



Oberon

M U S E U M



This bells at the museum is a cleanskin, but it does have some characteristics of a Denis Hughes bell. Typically the sides of the mouth are squared off and the tongue has a tapered bullet like shape. It was found in the Oberon district, hanging on an old farm implement in a farm garbage dump.



Left: These photos of a 10 inch Hughes bell show the characteristics of his typical pot bell. Although these bells are not marked, we are confident they are genuine. Firstly the owner - collector's father acquire the bell from James Hughes who knew the bell's history and secondly the only place this shape bell is seen is in this part of New South Wales.



Above: James Hughes' bullock team hauling logs through an Oberon street.

Right: A cleanskin condamine bell reputedly made by Denis Hughes. The strap is original to the bell and was used by James Hughes on his bullocks.

We would like to thank the owner of these bell for allowing us to photograph them. At his request, his identity is not revealed and his bells are definitely not for sale.

