



President's Report

Greetings,

What a month it has been! Covid has been among us once again and this has curtailed the participation of several archives and museum volunteers and we are aware that other members have also been ill. We wish all a speedy recovery.

Our volunteers have been working overtime on many fronts and our Treasurer Tanya Cullen has had a very busy month wrangling the income from so many activities.

It was pleasing to see the increased numbers of members who became involved in selling raffle tickets because it has eased some of the pressure on our committee members. Those few hours you have contributed all add up and keep us moving forward in what is becoming an increasingly difficult economic climate.

The raffle proceeds are nearing \$3,500 which is incredible effort. I would like to thank Judith Davidson for organising volunteers to sell tickets and others who have assisted in setting up tables, chairs and contactless payment equipment. Judith and husband Peter organised and led the two very successful fossil outings that were staged as part of the ACT Regional Heritage Festival.

The inaugural open day at the archives was a success and we look forward to displaying other treasures from the collection in the future.

We are in the process of reviewing our Collections Policy and Constitution to bring both documents in line with the Strategic Plan and the changing needs of the society. You will find a copy of the draft Collections Policy accompanying this newsletter. It would be appreciated if you would take the time to read through the policy and note anything that you consider should be changed, included or perhaps expressed differently and send your comments to secretary.ydhs@gmail.com

before the end of May.

Changes to the Constitution will need to be finalised in advance of the Annual General Meeting in October so that the amended document can be voted on at that meeting. We hope to have a draft copy of the Constitution available in the next few weeks.

We lodged an Expression of Interest in the Stronger Communities Grants with Kristy McBain, our Federal Member for Eden-Monaro but unfortunately were unsuccessful in getting past the preliminary process. However, we lodged an application with Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program for funding for new computers.

Another important grant application that we must apply for is the Community Heritage Grants available through the National Library of Australia. It is imperative that we have a professional archivist confirm the cultural heritage value of the archival collection by undertaking a significance assessment. This will enable us to securing further funds for preservation, digitisation and may also go some way to helping us secure funding for a new home for the archives.

Since our recent enforced relocation, the society has gained much needed publicity and we are pleased to say that our local newspaper the Yass Valley Times and community radio Yass FM 100.3 have proved airtime for interviews and have advertised our events. My apologies for the lateness of the April edition of *Boongaroon*. A computer glitch corrupted the file and it was necessary to start from scratch.

For a change of pace our meeting next Monday 2 May will be held at the museum so please keep that in mind.

I hope to see you at Monday's meeting.

Cheryl Mongan
President

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Monday 2 May

**A 'visit' to our museum
247A Comur Street, 2pm**

◆ **Tuesday 2 May**
Members only
Archives opening
11am-12 noon
88 Meehan Street

◆ **Tuesday 2 May**
12 noon
Drawing the wood raffle
88 Meehan Street

◆ **Monday 5 June**
Monthly meeting,
Archives
88 Meehan Street
Getting into history

POSITIONS VACANT

We urgently need two museum guides for Sunday 7 May

◆ **Please contact Adrian**
Cameron
Phone 6226 2115 or
0418 288 056

OUR SOCIETY VALUES THE SUPPORT OF

yass valley council

the country the people

**Museums
& Galleries
of NSW**



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources.



ALL EYES WERE TOWARDS THE GROUND AS EAGER FOSSICKERS LOOKED FOR SPECIMENS TO TAKE HOME [JUDITH DAVIDSON]



THE FOSSICKING TOURS WERE POPULAR WITH ADULTS AND CHILDREN OF ALL AGES. [JUDITH DAVIDSON]



GUEST SPEAKER ROSALIE BUSH WITH VICE PRESIDENT JUDITH DAVIDSON. [CHERYL MONGAN]



A HAPPY GROUP FROM KALEEN PROBUS CLUB VISITED OUR MUSEUM THIS WEEK. [VIVIAN BUGDEN]

Fossick for Fossils Tours

A winning combination, fresh air, fun and finding lots of fossils.

Both Fossil Fossick tours, organised by the Yass and District Historical Society as part of this year's ACT Heritage Festival were quickly booked out with 43 adults and 14 children taking advantage of the opportunity.

Despite very strong winds and rain squalls for the first Sunday tour all participants enjoyed the challenge of both the weather and finding the perfect fossilised example of a trilobite or ancient coral. Rugged up and ready for an adventure these fossickers were not about to let a bit of weather deter them.

The second Fossil Fossick tour last Sunday was very much luckier with the weather. The determination to find fossil specimens was the same with participants spreading out across the rocky limestone outcrop. Successful finds were shared with friends and taken to the guide for identification. The clink of hammer on rock was only interrupted by the shouts of discovery. As several visitors commented, "Fossils are just lying about everywhere once you know what you are looking

For the youngest to the more mature fossicker the fascination with holding the impression of something that had lived in the sea where Yass now stands, millions of years ago was a new experience.

For Canberra visitors the view across the expanses of green paddocks, mobs of curious cattle, the rolling hills and picturesque Yass River strongly flowing through the gorge provided the perfect backdrop to their day in the country.

Participants carefully followed in convoy to and from the site to navigate the single lane tracks, at times barely marked, across farm paddocks complete with livestock, potholes and washouts. The organiser declared all participants qualified for Intrepid driving certificates!

As well as bringing visitors to Yass for the day, the Historical Society was able to raise some much needed funds. A big thankyou from participants and organisers to Mr Tony Wade and knowledgeable guide, Mr Peter Davidson who made the day possible.

Judith Davidson

May Meeting

There is a **change of venue** for our meeting next **Monday 2 May at 2pm**. We will meet at **our museum** (247A Comur Street) for a short meeting, followed by a 'visit' to our museum. Parking can be tricky so it is best that you park along Comur Street rather directly in front of the museum.

Unless members are actively involved in guiding or visit the museum from time to time they may not be aware of the latest displays or factors that will influence our future decisions for the society.

This will be an opportunity for members to see behind the scenes and consider how they might be involved in several projects that need to be accomplished in the coming months. There will be cuppa afterwards.

A visit to the archives is planned for our June meeting.

New members

It is with great pleasure that this month we welcome five new members to the society - William Delaney, Ian McLean, Peter Shannon, Dianne Hore and Paul Flannery. We look forward to seeing them participate in our future activities.

Monthly or bi-monthly?

In our last newsletter we raised the question—do members want to move from monthly to bi-monthly meetings? At our April meeting we also asked the same question and those present voted to continue to meet each month. The committee agrees that it is important that we continue to meet, share information and have speakers on a variety of historical topics. However it will be appreciated if members

Museum & Archives.

On Wednesday we had a group from the Kaleen (ACT) Probus Club who visited the museum. Guides Vivian Bugden and Judith Davidson reported that they were 'entranced' with the model buildings in the Comur Street display and spend considerable time reading the biographical panels in the *Movers and Shakers* Exhibition. While guides at the museum are the public face of the society other members are working behind the scenes to help improve the storage conditions of the collection.

We are pleased to report that repairs to the water supply at the archives now enable us to use the kitchen and bathroom—what a luxury after two months of cross country excursions.

Archives Open Day

They came, they saw and they were amazed!

Saturday 15 April was a first for our archives when we held an open day for the community to come and see for themselves the extent of the archival collection. It was an eye opener for many who previously knew little about our archives. It wasn't just a collection of a few boxes.

Drawing on the themes from our Collection Policy (see attached email) we selected a range of colourful and interesting documents, images, maps, posters, certificates and other items to give a glimpse of the treasures that are local and unique to Yass. It is the collection's uniqueness that makes it so important as a resource for the study of local history and family history in a rural setting.

The stories behind the chosen items are not always evident at first glance and this is where the knowledge of archives volunteers comes to the fore. More than one visitor was surprised to find relatives and even themselves appearing various records.

The catalogued collection of more than 350 archive boxes, seven map cabinets and numerous storage cupboards and shelves house more than 20,000 documents, images, books, financial records, maps, ephemera and posters with a significant number of collections and images still to be catalogued. It is an ongoing task that keeps the archives volunteers very busy.

Over fifty people attended between 11am and 4pm with guided tours on the hour. Tickets in our wood raffle were sold, donations were made and we gained four new members. In all ways a very successful day promoting the society and its holdings.

If you missed the Yass Archives Open Day you missed a look at just a few of the amazing items selected for display from this vast collection. Before the items are safely stored they will be available for members to view them between 11am and noon on Tuesday 2 May after which we will draw the winner of the wood raffle.

Do you want to be part of the team that cares for this wonderful collection? If so please contact our Archives Co-Ordinator Maureen Collins to register your interest for upcoming projects such as the reorganisation of the incredible map collection.

April Meeting

Our Life Member and Public Officer Rosalie Bush was the guest speaker for our meeting. Her subject was the life of Hamilton Hume which coincided with the 150th anniversary of his death on 19 April. For many years Rosalie, a former teacher, has been a guide at *Cooma Cottage*, Hume's home from 1839 until his death in 1876. She is particularly interested in relating the historical background of Hume and his home which she has researched for many years.

Her talk concentrated on Hume's life before and after the 1824 expedition to Port Phillip with Captain William Hovell as she believed that these aspects of are less well known. Details of his parents and their early lives provided a background to Hume's early life and how they perhaps influenced him. His exploration was not confined to the 1824 expedition with a number of successful journeys in company with other explorers.

Rosalie has agreed to allow us to print her paper in the October issue of *Boongaroon* so that is something to look forward to.

Anzac Day

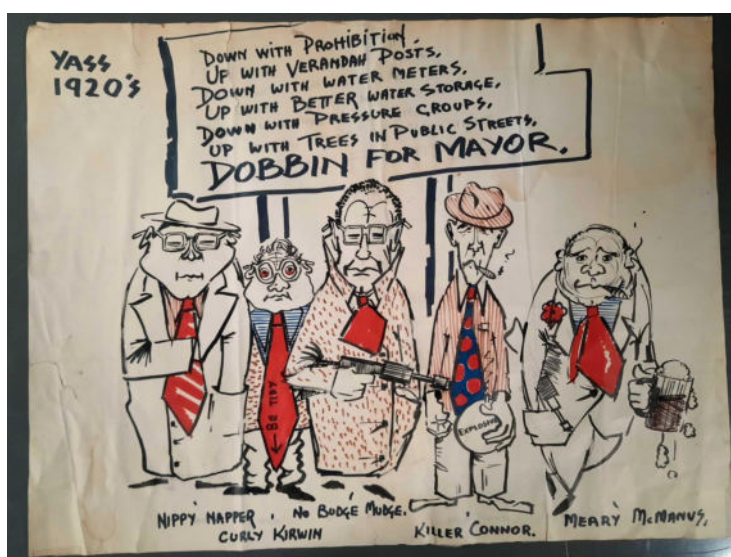
The mid-morning service took place in glorious autumn sunshine with a very large crowd in attendance at the Soldiers Memorial Hall. The society members paid their respects by laying an arrangement of flowers to commemorate those who served and lost their lives during times of war.



VISITORS AT THE ARCHIVES OPEN DAY BEING SHOWN A DOCUMENT IN OUR COLLECTION. [JUDITH DAVIDSON]



MEMBER SUSAN O'LEARY AND ARCHIVES CO-ORDINATOR MAUREEN COLLINS AT OUR ARCHIVES OPEN DAY. [JUDITH DAVIDSON]



A TREASURE FROM THE ARCHIVES—PUBLIC FIGURES FREQUENTLY COME IN FOR CHARACTERIZATION AS ROGUES. HERE IT WAS THE TURN OF LOCAL COUNCILLORS PORTRAYED AS 1920S GANGSTERS. [CHERYL MONGAN]

Mail: P O Box 304, Yass NSW 2582
 Museum: 247A Comur Street, Yass
 GPS -34.846457, 148.914576
 Archives: former Ambulance Station,
 88 Meehan Street, Yass

Phone: 0413 312 081 (President)
 0450 338 379 (Vice Pres)
 6226 2132 (Vice Pres)
 (Secretary)
 0421 915 006 (Treasurer)
 E-mail: info@yasshistory.org.au

Find us on the web

www.yasshistory.org.au

read about our activities online at
<http://www.yasshistory.org.au/activities.htm>

Benefits of Membership

Benefits of membership include informative speakers at our meetings, digital copies of our journal *Boongaroon* and newsletters, talks, trips, access to archival information and museum entrance plus reduced rates for selected activities such as seminars, our conferences, trips and events.

We are still need books!

Further donations of pre-loved family and local history are always welcome. The sale of these books generate much needed income for the society. Bring your books to meetings or call Cheryl Mongan 0413 312 081 to arrange for collection.

PATRON

Marion McCarthy

ELECTED OFFICE BEARERS

President: Cheryl Mongan
 Vice President: Judith Davidson
 Nola Bindon
 Secretary: Vacant
 Treasurer: Tanya Cullen
 Publicity Officer: Vacant



Museum Coordinator: Vacant
 Archives Coordinator: Maureen Collins
 Public Officer: Rosalie Bush



Yass & District Historical Society Inc is affiliated with the Museums Australia & Royal Australian Historical Society

Museum Roster

For further information on the roster please contact Adrian Cameron on 0418 288 056 or 6226 2115

AM is 10.00 to 1.00pm; PM is 1.00 to 4.00pm

Apr 30 AM Adrian Cameron/ Aedeon Cremin
 PM Adrian Cameron /Susan O'Leary

May 7 AM tba
 PM tba

May 14 AM Susan O'Leary /Vivian Bugden
 PM Susan O'Leary /Vivian Bugden

May 21 AM Maureen Collins/ Kay Perceval
 PM Maureen Collins/ Kay Perceval

May 28 AM Judith Davidson/Aedeon Cremin
 AM Judith Davidson/Aedeon Cremin

June 4 AM Tanya Cullen/ Adrian Cameron
 PM Tanya Cullen/Aedeon Cremin

June 11 AM Vivian Bugden/ Corrine Chalmers
 PM Vivian Bugden/Corrine Chalmers

June 12 AM Vivian Bugden/Maureen Collins
 PM Vivian Bugden/Maureen Collins

Boongaroon

Compiling an interesting edition of our journal is almost always a challenge. While our focus is on local history we must not lose sight of the fact that it does tie into the bigger picture of national and even global history. Immigration, punishment, wars, pandemics, natural disasters, politics, depressions, adverse weather conditions and a host of other factors occurring elsewhere can have significant impacts on our local history.

If you have a story to tell we would like to hear from you.

We welcome stories, articles, book reviews and other items of interest (up to 2,500 words) for publication. Longer articles will be considered but may be published in two parts. *Boongaroon* is posted or a digital copy emailed to all members according to their preference. Articles for the next issue are required by the end of August but if you have a work in progress please contact Cheryl Mongan 0413 312 081 email boongaroon@yasshistory.org.au

Cancellation

The Can Assist day at *Cliftonwood* on Saturday 29 April has been cancelled due to predicted weather conditions. Further details will be advised when known.

Diary Dates

May 2023

Mon 1	Monthly Meeting 2pm
Tues 2	Members Archives Visit 11am-12 noon
	Archives 2-5pm
Sun 7	Museum 10am-4pm
Tues 9	Archives 2-5pm
Sun 14	Museum 10am-4pm
Tues 16	Archives 2-5pm
Sun 21	Museum 10am-4pm
Tues 23	Archives 2-5pm
Sun 28	Museum 10am-4pm
	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 30	
Sun 21	Museum 10am-4pm
Tues 23	Archives 2-5pm
Sun 28	Museum 10am-4pm
Tues 30	Archives 2-5pm

June 2023

June 4	Museum 10am-4pm
June 5	Monthly Meeting 2pm
Tues 6	Archives 2-5pm
Sun 11	Museum 10am-4pm
Tues 13	Archives 2-5pm
June 12	Museum 10am-4pm
	Museum closes for winter
Tues 13	Archives 2-5pm



OUR ANZAC DAY TRIBUTE.

[CHERYL MONGAN]

A HUGE THANK YOU

Thanks to all who assisted with the archives open day, the raffle ticket sales, the working bees and the fossil tours.

BUT WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP! with secretarial and publicity tasks as well a range of projects at the museum and archives.
 Can you help?