



President's Report

Greetings,

Firstly, my personal thanks to Adrian Cameron and his band of volunteers who have kept the museum open over the past eight months. It is very much appreciated.

As you already know our local member Wendy Tuckerman continues to work on our behalf making a representation to the Attorney General the Hon Michael Daley MP, for the use of space in the local court house which unfortunately was refused. At present this leaves us with little choice but to move the archives to the museum. See overleaf.

Having failed to secure funding through the *Stronger Communities* and Transgrid grants to fund new computers we have had to bite the bullet and have purchased three laptops with donations made by two members. Their generosity will enable us to get on with up to date equipment and increased productivity with several more volunteers at the archives.

The \$60k grant promised to the society by the Minns' government is still in the pipeline and we hope to have clarification as to its availability fairly soon following representations by Wendy Tuckerman. Michael Pilbrow and our members.

Braidwood and District Historical Society committee will visit the museum and archives on Saturday 1 July. It will be a chance for an exchange of ideas and information. They have, after a long battle and many ups and downs, secured significant funding of over \$3.5m through the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund to completely redevelop their existing museum. It will become a self-sustaining complex to house the museum, collections, research centre, artisan workshops, gallery, a collage of rare and lost crafts, shop, café and accommodation. We can only wish!

The draft Collections Policy is undergoing further refinement following comments from members. Starting next month our newsletter *Yandoo* will be available on our website

I hope to see you at Monday's meeting.

Cheryl Mongan

July Meeting

From the beginnings of time, people have described having experiences they cannot easily explain or understand after they have encountered what is often called 'the paranormal'. Mysterious visions and unexpected voices that seem to appear from nowhere can be both perplexing and baffling.

Casting his historian's eye over past experiences, Jeff Brownrigg will recount some of the experiences he, and other people he has known whose word he trusts, have had, experiences that raise many tantalizing, difficult questions in his talk titled *History and Hauntings: Spirits of Old Canberra and Beyond*.

As a child on his Irish-Australian grandmother's knee in Melbourne listening to her tales of growing up in the "House of Blazes" in Footscray, to the streets of York (UK) where the Roman legions still marched in the 1970s, to nights in the imposing public buildings of Canberra in the 1980s and beyond, Jeff will recount stories of occurrences he has lived through or heard about from truthful, candid friends. He even has few tales from Galong and Yass.

Please join us at 2pm on Monday 3 July at the Uniting Church Hall for a brief meeting, Jeff's talk and a cuppa. Members and guests are welcome.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

◆ **Monday 3 July**
Monthly meeting
Uniting Church Hall 2pm
Dr Jeff Brownrigg
History and hauntings:
Spirits of Old Canberra
and beyond.

◆ **Monday 7 August**
Monthly meeting
Uniting Church Hall 2pm
Speaker to be advised

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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.



HARD DECISIONS CONCERNING THE MUSEUM BUILDING WILL HAVE TO BE MADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.



PART OF THE ARCHIVAL COLLECTION TO BE REHOUSED BY JUNE 2024.
[CHERYL MONGAN]



THE FRESHLY REPAINTED MECHANICS' INSTITUTE WAS BUILT IN 1869. [MAUREEN COLLINS]



THE STATE BANK CEASED OPERATION PRIOR TO THE SALE OF THE BUILDING IN 1988.
[MAUREEN COLLINS]

YANDOO

Pros and Cons

With no prospect of alternative premises for our archives by June next year this leaves us with no choice but to make the best of what we already have and own—the museum building. The committee has been putting together a discussion paper which will be circulated to all members very soon.

There are a plethora of issues to consider before we, as a society, can make an informed decision on how we proceed. The possibility of moving the archives to the present library space after the completion of the new library in the Crago development is uncertain in terms of the construction time (several years) and the occupancy conditions in relation to longevity and financial considerations for the society. With just a year, which will fly by, we have to formulate a plan and execute it so that the archival collection can be safely housed by that time.

The discussion paper will detail the known pros and cons for relocating the archival collection to the museum building and no doubt there will be other issues and concerns that members can and will raise in that discussion.

It will involve decisions on the long term viability of the premises, the constraints that housing both archival and museums collections will place upon the space and what members are realistically able to contribute in terms of time and fundraising to achieve a workable outcome for the society.

Do we want to operate both a museum and an archive? Do we want to have a greater focus on one collection? Will digital collections play a major role in our future? Which collection is more beneficial to the society? Which is more financially viable?

After the paper has been circulated along with a new draft collections policy, strategic plan and constitution we will arrange a special discussion session before the options are circulated to members for their comments.

We have a hardworking committee that keeps the interests of the society foremost at all times however this is difficult when positions on the committee have not been filled. It is incumbent upon all members ((including those who usually do not or are unable to attend meetings)) to fully engage in the decision making process concerning the use of the museum building as it will affect how we operate in the future.

Please give this matter due consideration when you receive the documents.

New member

We are very pleased to have new member Ian Bluett join us. We hope that he will enjoy his association with the Society.

Kudos

With Comur Street suffering the loss of the Commercial Hotel in a recent fire it is heartening to see two other historic buildings get some tlc. The Mechanics' Institute erected in 1869 and now occupied by the Linton Medical Practice has been freshly repainted. One important detail is yet to be reinstated—the name of the building needs to be repainted on the façade. Its neighbouring business premises Axonn Chartered Accountants also received a new coat of paint. This building was erected by the Bank of New South Wales in 1886 and from 1934 owned by the Rural Bank. In 1981 the bank had a change of name to the State Bank. It ceased to function as bank before it was sold in early 1988.

Museum

Our thanks go to all members who have volunteered to spend their Sundays and public holidays in welcoming visitors to the museum from October to June when we closed for the winter break on Monday 12 June. On Saturday of the long weekend Adrian Cameron who has managed the roster, at times under difficult circumstances, hosted a coffee morning for volunteers at Trader and Co. It was a pleasant 'break up' party with a chance to chat to other volunteers and share thoughts on various matters.

Those of you who have offered to assist with tasks to be tackled at the museum will be contacted as soon as members decide on a way forward.

Library Week

Yass Public Library will be running a series of events to celebrate Library Week from 31 July through to 6 August and has invited the society to take part in the program.

We will conduct a session on using libraries for family and local research combined with that valuable online resource *Trove* and how that research can be complemented by delving into local archives to provide a fuller picture of a forebear's life.

Keep an eye out for the timing of the sessions which should be announced soon.

June Meeting

We had planned to visit the storage area of our archives but the incredibly cold weather and access for more than our usual number of volunteers caused us to revert to our usual meeting place at the Uniting Church hall. The obvious move was to bring a selection of interesting items from our archival collection to the meeting. We went 'down the rabbit hole' as we delved into the stories behind the items on display.

The 1939 sewerage maps of Yass town give us a snapshot of the built environment at that time with the locations of buildings, their construction materials, the locations of wells, tanks, natural watercourses and topographical information.

The research papers of Fr Brian Maher detail early Catholic families in the area and Ellen Thompson's diaries illustrate the depth and breadth of community involvement in the care and commemoration of local servicemen and women between 1914 and 1944 as well as providing a record of the local weather and events.

Land records play a large part in local archives and we hold a considerable number of original conveyancing documents as well as copies that we have acquired from landowners and others. These along with subdivision plans and posters such as the Euralie Subdivision poster reveal valuable information annotated on the plans. The majority of the local parish maps have been indexed and provide a quick way to locate land on the maps.

The Rubber Control Board cards that date from July 1944 to December 1946 are a surprising resources for family as well as social history. At that time the Japanese occupation of the majority of rubber producing islands made it extremely difficult to secure the materials used in manufacturing vehicle tyres. Money did not necessarily buy you a new tyre. You had to have a very good reason and permission to buy a new tyre, a recap or retread. Predominately recording farming families these cards reveal tales of hardship, ill health, numbers of children in a family, difficulties in running businesses; and vehicle makes, models and registration numbers all recorded on typed cards.

The Court of Requests register revealed who was suing who between 1864 and 1888 while a naïve watercolour led us on a voyage from Co Limerick, Ireland to Hard's Flat at Yass where Whiteboy Tim Killeen created a new life after his transportation. Just another fascinating tale from the archives.

Murrumbateman school register (1880-1924) records the attendance of local children and provides further information on their families. Including occupations and religion.

We even 'went down the rabbit hole' with records from the Pastures Protection Board and the eradication of the bunnies. Among their records are reports of farms visited, details of stock, if rabbits were present and how they were to be eradicated.

The most pleasing aspect of the meeting was that we gained several new volunteers to assist in caring for the collection.

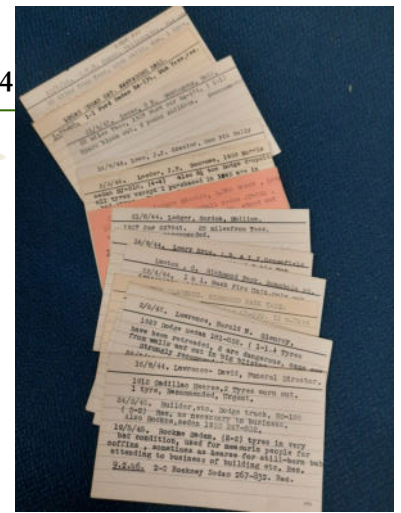
Archives

Four months have flown by since we moved to our temporary accommodation. The inconvenience of the move, holidays and numerous illnesses experienced by our volunteers have temporarily delayed us but not reduced our enthusiasm for getting on with the work.

Due to the generosity of two members we have been able to purchase three laptops to replace our aged and senile desktops that cannot cope with our needs. These new additions will be greatly appreciated by our volunteers.

Progress continues on the commissioned history of the Yass Soldiers Club with Sheree Bamforth joining Vivian Bugden and Cheryl Mongan on the project. If members have images of the club and its activities we will be very pleased to see them as they are proving hard to fund. Rosalie Bush is doing a sterling job on indexing the *Yass Valley Times* with Wilma Tanswell assisting Archives Co-ordinator Maureen Collins with research enquiries. The identification of images of local people and events is a task recently taken on by Maureen Grieves and Shirley Petty.

It is planned to work at the archives on Thursdays as well as our usual Tuesday and we will start a further two volunteers on projects next week.



THE RUBBER CONTROL BOARD CARDS PROVIDE A UNIQUE GLIMPSE INTO THE LIVES OF LOCAL FARMERS IN THE LATER YEARS OF WW2. [CHERYL MONGAN]



A SIMPLE WATERCOLOUR OF A MODEST RURAL DWELLING REVEALS A STORY OF RELOCATION AND HARD RURAL LIFE. [CHERYL MONGAN]



A RECENT ADDITION TO THE COEN COLLECTION IS A WOVEN SILK BOOKMARK FEATURING BLARNEY CASTLE BROUGHT HOME BY MICHAEL 'KING' COEN AFTER HIS HONEYMOON IN 1902. [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
 GPS -34.84183, 148.91211
 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



ANOTHER PART OF THE ARCHIVAL COLLECTION TO BE REHOUSED BY JUNE 2024 AND STILL MORE TO COME!
 [CHERYL MONGAN]

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 March but if you have a work in progress please contact Cheryl Mongan 0413 312 081 email boongaroon@yasshistory.org.au

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
To assist the committee and spread the administrative work of the society we still need a secretary and publicity officer.
Can you help?

Diary Dates

July 2023

Mon 3	Monthly Meeting 2pm
Tues 4	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 11	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 18	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 25	Archives 2-5pm

August 2023

Tues 1	Archives 2-5pm
Mon 7	Monthly Meeting 2pm
Tues 8	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 15	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 22	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 29	Archives 2-5pm

NAIDOC Week



Sunday, 2 July 2023 - In celebration of NAIDOC week, the Ngunnawal community invites you to a screening of 'Top End Wedding' this will be screening at 4pm at the Yass Community Centre. All are welcome.

Monday, 3 July 2023 - A NAIDOC Community flag raising ceremony will be held at the Memorial Hall at 9.30am followed by morning tea in the Memorial Hall at 10.30am. All are welcome.

Logo courtesy of National NAIDOC Week

Articles for Yass Valley Times

We know that there are a number of teachers and history buffs out there who might consider writing an article or two. The articles need not be long 400-500 words are ideal and suitable images for most topics are held in our archives.

If you can assist we would appreciate an email to yassarchives@gmail.com.