



President's Report

Greetings,

We have embarked on what could best be described as the most important and exciting phase that our society has undertaken since it was formed in 1961.

With confirmation that space at the courthouse and extension of our tenancy at the former ambulance station are not possible and the August meeting's decision to move the archives to the museum this will bring all our functions under one roof. Reduced overheads in maintaining two premises are financially important but equally there will be a benefit to all our volunteers with greater interaction between archive and museum volunteers and both operations being available to the public several days each week.

Suggestions on how we might change aspects of the society have been noted and they will be considered as we draft a new constitution and restructured committee for consideration at the AGM in December. These changes and an increased online presence bring opportunities for all our members to participate in. We are in the best possible position to reinvent the role of the society not just within our local community but further afield.

We have evaluated the various quotes from tradesmen, drawn up a budget, participated in two online information sessions on the Premier's Department grants scheme and submitted our application for the \$60,000 grant promised during the March election campaign. We hope to know the outcome within the next month. There will also be refurbishment expenses involved in relocating the collection (including a removalist) and it was suggested that the committee approach Yass Rotary. A proposal has been sent for the club's consideration.

Other grants that we are awaiting to hear the outcome of are the Community Heritage Grant for the significance assessment of the archival collection and an expression of Interest for a Volunteers Grant for office furniture and equipment at the invitation of Federal Member Kristy McBain.

Our local member Wendy Tuckerman visited us on Wednesday 9 August to catch up on the latest developments and progress that we have made in relocating the archival collection. Her comments on utilising our own building were encouraging and she will keep us informed of any funding opportunities that may assist us.

A number of members attended the Centenary of Legacy commemoration at the Soldiers Memorial Hall last Friday. While it was founded in 1923 to assist the widows and children of deceased service personnel of the Great War it is continuing to play a vital role in the lives of those affected by loss.

On behalf of the committee I thank all members who have made donations to the society. It is greatly appreciated as it will assist us in financing what must be done in the coming months.

I hope to see you at our **next meeting—Monday 9 October at 2pm**

Cheryl Mongan
President

Stall @ Cliftonwood

Can Assist are holding a fundraising event at *Cliftonwood* on Saturday 30 September—yes it is the long weekend!

It has been suggested that the society have a stall—to sell books—new and pre-loved, provide a photographic display, to seek new members and raise the profile of the society. The Antique Farm Machinery Club are very much part of the day and are currently assisting us at the museum. It would be beneficial to support the club as well as Can Assist.

The event runs from 9am to 3pm and we need volunteers to do two or three hour shifts throughout the day. It will be appreciated if you could assist. Please send an email to info@yasshistory.org.au or phone Cheryl on 0413 312 081 before 10 September.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◆ **Saturday 30 September**
YDHS stall @ Cliftonwood
- ◆ **Monday 9 October**
Monthly Meeting
Uniting Church Hall 2pm
Speaker Dr Cameron
Archer on Cavan area.
- ◆ **Monday 6 November**
Monthly meeting
Uniting Church Hall 2pm
Speaker to be advised
- ◆ **Monday 4 December**
Annual General 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.

Annual General Meeting



THE WOOL PRESS WILL BE LOANED TO THE ANTIQUE FARM MACHINERY CLUB UNTIL IT IS REQUIRED FOR DISPLAY PURPOSES.
[TONY MACQUILLAN]

With so many things on the boil, the Committee believes that the Annual General meeting should be moved to December this year, rather than its usual time of October. A number of reasons were considered in relation to moving the meeting date:

Individual Committee members are currently and will be absent right up to the meeting date. As such, the existing Committee is not best-placed to report on the past year and hand over to a new Committee.

Key actions in relation to the move (such as finalising the State Government grant, a sale of de-accessioned museum items, and starting building works at the Museum) are scheduled or are likely to take place in October and November.

The upheaval of this year has also meant that relevant role descriptions are not yet complete, although work on them has started.

A revised Constitution and committee structure are required to both take into account members' recent feedback and to bring the Society into line with the relevant Incorporations law from 2022 is not yet complete or had member input.

The Committee feels that an additional period of time would enable many of these factors to be significantly progressed or resolved (with member input as relevant), such that a new Committee would not be 'thrown' into the position of having to inherit key decisions without the necessary detailed background.

The relevant NSW Regulation requires an AGM to be held within six months of the end of the Association's financial year, which is 31 August for the Society. A move of the meeting to December is consistent with this requirement. The new date for the AGM is therefore to be **Monday 4 December** with formal notice to be given in due course.

Tanya Cullen

Collections Policy

Members will recall that a draft of our revised Collections policy was circulated earlier in the year. Members' input has been considered and incorporated into a new version of the policy which is being circulated with this Newsletter. The Committee has not formally considered the revised policy, but is intending to list it for discussion and consideration at the Annual General Meeting in December.

Constitution, structure & name

The Society's current constitution was adopted in 2016. Changes to the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* and *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2022* mean that the Society's existing Constitution does not fully comply with regulatory standards in areas such as the Committee size and structure, for example, while recent changes in the Society's circumstances have prompted questions on other matters such as the custody of the collection being passed to the Yass Valley Council should the Society fail.

Recent feedback from members on the current Collections Policy, accommodation options and future focus has reinforced issues raised in the Society's 2021 Strategic Plan.

A more modern, less 'conservative' and more 'professional' approach, along with community collaboration and optimising our members' skills and interests would also be issues to highlight in a revised constitution.

The combining of the archives and a smaller, more focussed museum function in one space will also enable some positive changes in our work that could be better reflected in the 'Vision' or 'Objectives' of the Society as currently set out in the Constitution.

A change in name of the Society may also be worth considering, to better reflect a revised focus and to promote the research value of the Society's holding, for example.

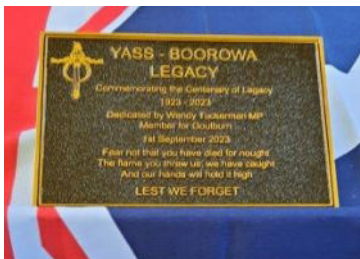
A copy of the current Constitution is being reviewed for its compliance with the regulatory standards, input received from members to date and our change in circumstances and will be circulated to members for input in the near future.

Tanya Cullen

Membership Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions were due on 1 September. There has been a modest increase of \$5.00 across the membership categories—not even the price of a cup of coffee these days!

Please note the following. Members will be communicated with wherever possible by email and receive digital copies of newsletters and *Boongaroon*. If you require a hard copy of *Boongaroon* mailed twice yearly please add a further \$10 to your subscription. We have also added a space for donations if you wish to bolster our bank balance—even small amounts help to cover our overheads.



PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF LEGACY WILL BE PLACED ON A PILLAR IN FRONT OF THE SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL
[CHERYL MONGAN]



WREATHS PLACED DURING THE LEGACY COMMEMORATION LAST FRIDAY.
[CHERYL MONGAN]

Museum

How will we achieve what must be completed at the museum by 30 June 2024? It is a bit like the old question "how do you eat an elephant?" Of course the answer is "one bite at a time" and that is how we have approached the planning for our move.

You could say that there are other stakeholders in our plans as we will be working collaboratively with the Antique Farm Machinery Club, the Railway Museum and the National Trust as well as local tradesmen. Loans of certain objects will be made to these organisations thus alleviating our storage issues and raising our profile within the community. This is also a financial saving in not having to pay for storage.

A good start has been made with most of the displayed objects related to the wool industry loaned to the Antique Farm Machinery Club. This allows the society to retain ownership of the objects without having to house them but we will be able to have them return for future exhibitions. Members of the club will also dismantle the display areas in the museum to enable the new work to proceed which is a huge help to us. The Railway Museum are delighted that they will be able to display the spade that was used to turn the first sod for the tramway station and the National Trust are pleased to have the pair of demi-lune tables to add to the other Hume furniture owned by the society that is on display at *Cooma Cottage*.

Archives

Visitors to the archives this month included researchers from New Zealand. Work continues on our archival collection with the Olive Clifton and Walmsley collections receiving some overdue attention. Volunteers have been revisiting various collections, rehousing and preparing a description of the contents which will be needed once our catalogue is available online. A welcome addition to the Wales Collection was the donation of a bible given to a member of the family by Rose Paterson, mother of 'Banjo', before her death in February 1893. Outdated computers are being de-commissioned as we make way for improved models, networking and storage of data that will be increasingly important in the future. Following the success of our open day in April we will again open our doors to invite the community behind the scenes. This is likely to occur in October when the weather is a little warmer.

August Meeting

While there were only a modest number of written responses regarding the discussion paper that was distributed in early July they were also part of the lively discussion on the focus of the society, its future and how the Premier's Grant will be used. Comments on how certain aspects of the society can be improved will specifically addressed in the re-drafting of the new Constitution, duty statements etc. See p2. Overall feedback from members indicated a preference to focus on the archival collection which is unique to Yass but there is still interest in retaining the museum albeit in a much reduced form.

There were suggestions of continuing to follow up space at the courthouse, selling the museum to build a new archives and museum, buy an existing historic building or rent premises until the present library space might become available when the new Crago Mill precinct is completed. All of these options had been considered by the Committee over the past six months. These suggestions were problematic in that none could be achieved in the ten months before we must relocate the archives and all would commit the society to long term financial commitments that it cannot afford. Committee members had also inspected the Masonic lodge building which may become available in the future. A comparison of the various aspects of the building - location, heritage constraints, accessibility, size, condition and unknown financial implications demonstrated the benefits of retaining and improving our own building.

As mentioned in our last newsletter the committee had gone to some trouble to ascertain the financial implications of improvements to the museum before the meeting, should members decide to spend the promised funding to improve the building. Member Susan Bell moved a motion to that effect with an almost unanimous positive response. As time is of the essence the committee have moved the project along with planning, submission of grant applications and numerous other aspects of the project.

New members

We are very pleased to extend a warm welcome to two new members Susan and John Bell who joined us this month. We hope that they will enjoy their association with the Society.



THE SHEARING SHED AS IT HAS BEEN SINCE THE MUSEUM OPENED IN 1988.

[TONY MACQUILLAN]



THE SHEARING SHED EQUIPMENT BEING DISMANTLED FOR LOAN TO THE ANTIQUE FARM MACHINERY CLUB.

[CHERYL MONGAN]



DEVOID OF EQUIPMENT THE REMAINING REMNANTS OF THE SHEARING SHED WILL BE REMOVED SHORTLY TO ENABLE THE SPACE TO BE COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED.

[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)
 E-mail: info@yasshistory.org.au

Find us on the web

www.yasshistory.org.au

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. During August we had donations from Diana MacQuillan and Tanya Cullen. 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

Do you have Huguenot ancestry? Diary Dates

Been stumped on your family research in Britain and Ireland?

Checking the origins of your surname may give a clue to an earlier version of your name and the family's occupation. Your family may have Huguenot origins on the other side of the English Channel—France. The Huguenots were French Protestants from the sixteenth and seventeenth century who fled from the French Catholic government fearing persecution and violence. They settled in England, Ireland, throughout Europe, Africa and America and over time many French surnames were anglicised.

Although no Huguenot refugees ever came directly to Australia, many of the descendants of these people have and contributed much to the country's development. They came principally from England and Ireland, and were here from the beginning of European settlement. In later years Huguenot descendants have arrived from many countries, including France, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the Channel Islands, South Africa, and even from more unexpected places like Jamaica, India and Sri Lanka.

An estimated one in six people are believed to be of Huguenot origin. Local families that may have early French origins include Arabin, Barber, Baker, Besnard, Boucher, Poignand, Roche and Wood.

Robert Nash one of the founder members in 2001, of the Huguenot Society of Australia will give a presentation **"The Huguenots - the Almost Forgotten People"** examining - who they were - what happened to them - which countries they moved to (as they were now refugees) - what they did to survive, at the **Family History ACT Meeting at 7.00pm Tuesday 5 September, 2023, 41 Templeton St, Cook ACT.**

Robert edited and partly wrote the society's two books on Australian Huguenot descendants, *The Hidden Thread* and *A New Tapestry*. He also helped produce the CD-ROM name index to the Quarto Series of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland. He is descended from Huguenot silk weavers who left Sedan in the Ardennes, France and settled in Spitalfields in London's East End in the early eighteenth century. He has written many articles and has extensive knowledge of the Huguenots, both in Australia and internationally.

September 2023

Mon 4	Meeting cancelled
Tues 5	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 12	Archives 2—5pm
Tues 19	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 26	Archives 2-5pm
Sat 30	Can Assist Cliftonwood 9am-3pm

October 2023

Tues 3	Archives 2-5pm
Mon 9	Monthly Meeting 2pm
Tues 10	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 17	Archives 2—5pm
Tues 24	Archives 2-5pm
Sat 28	Garage & Auction Sales 10am-4pm
Tues 31	Archives 2-5pm

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 February but if you have a work in progress please contact Cheryl Mongan 0413 312 081 email

Sydney Huguenot Conference

A one day conference: **Huguenot Heritage Past and Present**, marking the twentieth anniversary of the Huguenot Society of Australia will be held on **Saturday 21 October, 2023 at Club York, 95-99 York St, Sydney**. The keynote speaker is Dr Tessa Murdoch FSA, who was educated at the University of London and has worked as a museum curator since 1981. She has published widely on historic house collections, clocks, furniture, jewellery, sculpture and silver. Registrations are now open and more details can be found at: <https://huguenotsaustralia.org.au/2023-conference/>