

## President's Report

Greetings,

It seems spring is finally here and making it more conducive to getting out and about.

We have been absolutely amazed by the efforts of the Yass Antique Farm Machinery Club members who have come to our assistance in the past couple of weeks. Their generosity, hard work and good humour achieved incredible results in just a few hours. They disassembled the shearing shed and all the other dividing partitions and the good thing is that the building materials will be reused in their projects with the timber slabs having a third life or maybe even a fourth. Items related to shearing, including the Koerstz wool press have been loaned to the club and some of our larger domestic objects have been loaned to Tony & Sue Wade for display at *Cliftonwood*.

We are still engaged in a waiting game regarding funding that will allow us to move forward with our plans. I had hoped that we would have had some good news to share concerning grants and other funding that we have been pursuing but unfortunately we are still in limbo. We were advised that the processing and approval of the promised \$60,000 grant would be handled expeditiously but it is now six weeks since we submitted our application and no indication of an outcome. Enquiries for funding have been made to Yass Rotary, Yass Soldiers Club and the Coppabella Wind Farm Community Sponsorship program have not yet been acknowledged.

Notification as to whether our application for funding a significance assessment for the archival collection has been successful is also due and we are awaiting a response from Federal Member Kristy McBain's office on the Expression of Interest for a Volunteers Grant that we have submitted.

It was disappointing that we did not have sufficient members volunteers to staff a stall at the Can Assist event at *Cliftonwood* last Saturday. However society members Nola Bindon, Rosalie Bush,

Judith Davidson, Sheree Bamforth and myself volunteered to guide visitors through *Cliftonwood* homestead. It was a brilliant day, with an incredible effort put in by many volunteers. It was good to see our wool press featured in the display assembled by the Yass Antique Farm Machinery Club.

We are grateful for further donations that have been made this past month and I thank the donors for their generosity—it is appreciated.

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

*Cheryl Mongan*  
President

## Auction Sat 28 October

You are all well aware that our impending removal of the archival collection to the museum by 30 June next year has necessitated the de-accessioning and clearance of objects from the museum collection.

Over the years many objects were 'donated' simply by being left on the doorstep or handed over with instructions to dispose of it if the society did not want it. The reality is that these objects have accumulated, occupying precious storage space which has to be put to better use. With no background to the objects, their origins, previous owners and significance - in other words provenance, the items have little value. There are also multiple examples of various objects. Our Collection Policy has provisions for the disposal of such items including sale by auction.

Items will be available for viewing in the museum on Friday 27 October from 11am to 2pm and on Saturday 28 October from 10am. The auction will commence at 1.30pm. Bidders are encouraged to register well before the auction begins. Full details along with a catalogue will be sent to all members and available on our website.

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◆ **Monday 9 October**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**Uniting Church Hall 2pm**  
**Speaker Dr Cameron Archer on Cavan area.**
- ◆ **Saturday 28 October**  
**De-accessioned objects**  
**Auction 1.30pm.**
- ◆ **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.

## Governance



SOCIETY MEMBERS CAMERON ARCHER AM, WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING.  
[CAMERON ARCHER]

Since the society was incorporated in 2000, times, the community and our organisation had changed significantly. Re-engaging with the local community and attracting newer audiences via online activities and the younger generation, is imperative to the growth of the society. As foreshadowed in Tanya Cullen's articles in our August newsletter the Committee has worked and continues to do so on proposed changes to our Constitution, Collections Policy and related issues. Draft copies will be forwarded to members prior to the Annual General Meeting.

## What's in a name?

So many changes are currently in progress for the YDHS. As has been discussed with members, the necessary move to a single building has reinforced the need to run a 'tighter', more focussed and streamlined organisation. Some member feedback in that process also noted the 'conservative' nature and offering of the Society that arguably makes it less appealing to locals and tourists. Others noted that we need to modernise the way we operate, use more technology and interact more with the community to ensure our ongoing relevance. With all that in mind, it may be timely to consider a change of name for the Society. Any name change should clearly keep a few things in mind: our location (Yass Valley); our focus (history); and the regulations around what an incorporated association can be called (see the Department of Fair Trading guidance here: <https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/associations-and-co-operatives/associations/starting-an-association/naming-your-incorporated-association>).

A simpler version of our existing name may be something like 'Yass Valley History'.

What do members think? Is a name change warranted to reflect the changes we're undergoing? If so, what are your suggestions for a new name?

Let us know what you think by emailing [secretary.ydhs@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.ydhs@gmail.com) by 5pm **Monday 6 October, 2023**. This will enable consideration of comments and some options to be developed for discussion at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 4 December 2023.

## October Meeting

Our guest presentation *About Cavan and Beyond* at our meeting at 2pm on Monday 9 October will have a rural theme.

Cameron Archer AM, grew up on *Brooklyn*, Sawyers Gully Road near *Cavan*. Both of his father's parents and grandparents had a long association with *Cavan* dating from the 1850s. His career has been as an agriculturist mostly at Tocal Agricultural College in the Hunter Valley where he was Principal for 28 years

Cameron is a long-time member and President of the Paterson Historical Society and has been active in the conservation of buildings in Paterson, Tocal and *Belgenny Farm* at Camden. He has written a number of books and presentations on environmental, agricultural and local history. His current research and book are about the *Cavan/Narrangullen/The Mullion* localities building on research of previous authors and researchers.

His presentation will be about his forthcoming book focussing on the life and times of those in this area until the 1950s. It will be about the families of the area past and present, their trials and tribulations with an enduring theme of resilience.

Members and guests people are welcome. Our guest speaker will give his presentation at 2pm followed by afternoon tea. Members are requested to stay on for our monthly meeting when we will be discussing several important issues including changes to the society's constitution and collections policy. See you at the Uniting Church Hall, Cliff Street at 2pm. Ample parking is available within the church grounds.

## Subs—have you forgotten?

Thank you to all members who have renewed their subscriptions—it is appreciated.

Subscriptions were due on 1 September with a very 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*.

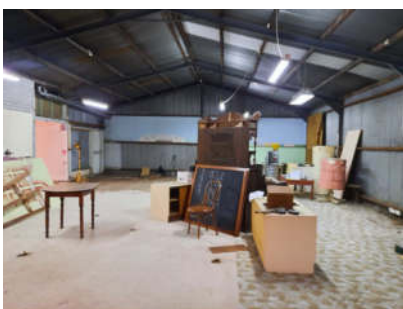
If you require a hard copy of *Boongaroon* mailed twice yearly please add a further \$10 to your subscription. We have also added a space for donations if you wish to bolster our bank balance—even small amounts help to cover our increasing overheads.



TREASURER TANYA CULLEN JOINED IN THE DISMANTLING OF THE DISPLAY PARTITIONS.  
[CHERYL MONGAN]



THE SHEARING SHED FLAT PACKED AND READY TO HAVE A NEW LIFE WITH THE YASS ANTIQUE FARM MACHINERY CLUB.  
[CHERYL MONGAN]



VIEW FROM THE NORTHERN END OF THE NEW ARCHIVE SPACE  
[CHERYL MONGAN]



## Museum

As mentioned in the President's Report members of the Yass Antique Farm Machinery Club have been busy working for us. They were joined by members Peter Shannon and Ian McLean, Tanya Cullen and Cheryl Mongan to get the job done in half a day—a fantastic effort. Now with all the internal partitions removed we can actually appreciate the space that will house our archival collection and for volunteers to work and interact with researchers. This is the first time that we will have an open space to work with and what a welcome change that will be.

Our thanks go to Tanya Cullen and Luke McAlary for removing the worst half of the aged carpet from the cleared space. The remaining floorcovering will be removed after the auction on 28 October. Further thanks go to member Jeff Collins for his regular removal of rubbish to the tip which has helped to keep the exterior of the museum reasonably tidy during the process of disposing of unwanted.

Last Wednesday was another almighty effort as members worked on clearing, cleaning the store room shelves and rehousing objects as they have been assessed and cleaned. Members who assisted on the day were Corinne and Wayde Chalmers, Tanya Cullen, Vivian Bugden, Wilma Tanswell, Susan O'Leary and Cheryl Mongan. Maureen Collins has also assisted with information of the objects in the collection.

## Archives

Research enquiries, accessioning, indexing and a myriad of other tasks keep our volunteers busy. Recent discoveries include a previously unknown image of workers at Burinjuck enjoying their leisure hours—playing tennis on the dam wall and the fish that did not get away—including a 50lb cod. Keep an eye on our *Facebook* page for further details of these and other interesting images. A recent gift from History Goulburn were nineteen bound copies of the Yass Tribune 2004-2014. We turn up gems of information in our collection every week. Indexing of school registers reveal valuable information for family historians - the child's name, age in years and months (which gives a fairly accurate birth date), parent (usually the father) or guardian's name, address, occupation, how long the child attends the school and the school achieved. Sometimes whole families can be traced through the registers.

## Home Movies?

The recent discovery of some movie footage in our collection raises the question of just how much of our past has been captured by keen amateur filmmakers.

Community celebrations such as Woollenwealth, sporting matches, visiting dignitaries, the annual show, the truckies' blockade and much more were captured on film by many photographers and then enjoyed by family and friends with a home movie night. Do you remember these occasions?

These films are an important record of local events that most likely do not exist elsewhere and as such are valuable to our local history. Many films have most likely not been shown for years due to availability of aging equipment and rapidly changing technology.

Digitizing the films will allow them to be shown on a dvd player, computer or projected for larger audiences.

If you have films that feature community events and you would like to share it with the society it could be worthwhile for us to apply for a grant to digitize the footage. In return we can supply you with a copy when this has been done.

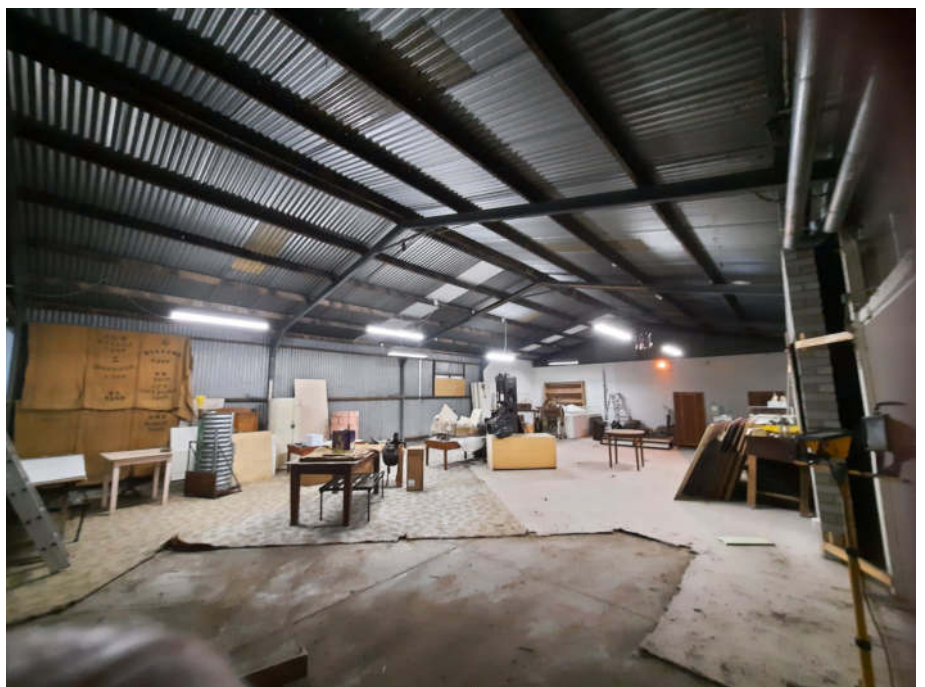
The end result could be an enjoyable and profitable movie night for the society and a digital copy of your film for you.



GUIDES AT CLIFTONWOOD INSPECTING 'MARY ANN 'GRANNY' DAVIS' BED ON LOAN FROM THE SOCIETY. [SHEREE BAMFORTH]



MEMBERS OF THE YASS ANTIQUE FARM MACHINERY CLUB ENJOYING A WELL EARNED LUNCH AFTER REMOVING THE INTERNAL DISPLAY PARTITIONS AT THE MUSEUM. [CHERYL MONGAN]



WITH THE DISPLAY PARTITIONS REMOVED WE ARE ABLE TO APPRECIATE THE SPACE THAT WILL HOUSE THE ARCHIVAL COLLECTION AND HOUSE OUR VOLUNTEERS. SINCE THIS IMAGE WAS TAKEN VOLUNTEERS HAVE REMOVED THE CARPET SEEN ON THE LEFT. THE SPACE IS NOW BEING SET UP SO THAT WE CAN HOLD THE AUCTION ON SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER. [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

*Seen this view of Yass?*



YASS FROM LAIDLAW'S HILL, WALLAMBALLOOLA, SEP 13, 62, WATERCOLOUR SKETCH, H GRANT LLOYD, VOLUME 2: SKETCHES OF N. S. [NEW SOUTH] WALES, 1857-1888. [STATE LIBRARY NSW DL PX 43]

**Find us on the web**

[www.yasshistory.org.au](http://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

*New member*

We are very pleased to extend a warm welcome to our new member Pamela Tarrant who joined us this month. We hope that she will enjoy her association with the Society.

*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 [boongaroon@yasshistory.org.au](mailto:boongaroon@yasshistory.org.au)

*Diary Dates*

**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	Auction Sale 10am-4pm
Tues 31	Archives 2-5pm

**November 2023**

Mon 6	Monthly Meeting 2pm
Tues 7	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 14	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 21	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 28	Archives 2-5pm

*Christmas Markets*

The annual Christmas Street Parade, Markets and late night shopping will take place on Thursday 14 December.

Last year we held a very successful book stall selling new and donated pre-loved books. We are building up a good collection of history and family history publications and are happy to receive your books should you no longer have need of them.

We will be needing volunteers to help set up and sell our wares. If you are able to assist from 3pm to 8pm (or part thereof) please contact Cheryl at info@yasshistory.org.au.