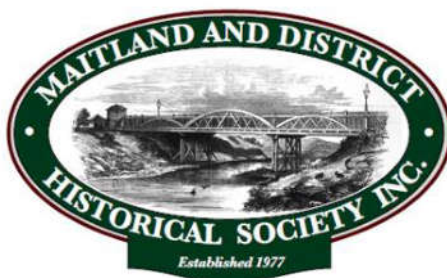


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Patron:

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COVID-19 **NEWSLETTER** N^o 57

30 November 2023

Christmas

It's snuck up on me a bit this year. Next Sunday is the beginning of Advent and I'm anything but ready



Irrespective of religious beliefs and affiliations, the adjacent Advent message offers the hope of **Christmas** to the world – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Sadly, for those that live in the land of Jesus, there is little love, no joy, no hope and certainly no peace.

When will humankind learn the lessons that history teaches? Hate spawns nothing but more hate.

This Christmas, spare a thought for those in Israel, and even more especially those in Palestine, as they struggle to come to terms with their circumstances ...

This photo recently came across my desk.

The joy and happiness on their faces is self-evident. Sadly, I understand the photo is a fake – what a shame.

Of course, the Middle East is not the only part of the world in turmoil. The Ukrainian/Russian conflict grinds on, the killing and destruction continues.

When will man learn?

Probably never ...



Back in Maitland

Christmas is of course also a time to reflect on the year almost past. For our Society, it has been generally successful. Our monthly lectures have been well received and generally well attended. The co-ordinator, Chas Keys is to be congratulated on the quality of the speakers he has gleaned. The programme has been varied and always interesting. Likewise, Jennifer Buffier (with willing assistants) is to be thanked for the catering she has provided for these most successful evenings, to say nothing of the frustration in trying to organise 'Zoom' connections for those unable to attend in person. Hopefully (fingers crossed), those are now problems past with our Rooms now connected to the NBN.

Our lecture evenings are not quite done yet, Tuesday next is the last for 2023. They will recommence in February 2024.

Janece McDonald to be Maitland Historical Society's guest speaker on 5 December.



*The Maitland and District Historical Society's next monthly talk will be given by Dr Janece McDonald on Tuesday, 5 December at 5.30pm in the Society's Rooms, 3 Cathedral St, Maitland. She will speak about **Tobacco farming and manufacturing in the Maitland area in the 1800s.***

Janece became interested in this topic when she found that her great, great grandfather, James Lawrie, had been a major tobacco grower and manufacturer on the Upper Allyn River. Maitland was a major centre of tobacco manufacturing from at least 1841, though growing and processing of tobacco was carried out much earlier in outlying districts.

Since her retirement from the University of Newcastle, where she taught and carried out research in earth sciences, Janece has concentrated on her interests in local and regional history. She has authored and co-authored several books on Maitland's history and is active in a number of heritage and community groups including chairing the Committee that has driven the development of a Maitland Regional Museum.

The talk is open to Historical Society members and to members of the public, who are most welcome to attend. There is no need to book a seat in advance. The

Society asks for a \$5 donation to cover the costs of refreshments (tea, coffee, sandwiches, savouries, biscuits and cake) after the talk.



The Bunnings BBQs are also not done yet. We have another this coming Sunday (3rd December). As has been said many times, these BBQs are essential to our financial survival. I would like to thank those who have given up their time to assist, especially Steve Bone who devotes an enormous amount of time and energy to this enterprise. Steve not only organises BBQs for us, he also helps several other organisations as well. Many thanks Steve.



Congratulations to Cameron Archer ..

Last night (30th November) I had the privilege and honour to accompany our Patron, Dr Cameron Archer AM and his wife Jean, to Wesley College at Sydney University where he was awarded a collegiate *Foundation Medal*.

The citation reads as follows:



Cameron Archer AM
responding at the awards
presentation.

The medal is for an Old Collegian or Foundation member who has made an extraordinary contribution to Wesley College or society in general through their academic, professional, philanthropic, sporting or cultural life.

What a wonderful acknowledgment of the contribution that Cameron has made and continues to make. Firstly, to agricultural science and education as the principal of *Tocal* for 28 years and secondly, to the history of the Paterson Valley through his continued authorship and as president of the Paterson Historical Society.

I can assure you his contribution extends way beyond even this. As recently as yesterday, on the morning of the presentation dinner, Cameron was a 'Key Note' speaker at the 2023 *Hunter River Forum* held in Singleton.

A simple '*congratulations*' hardly seems adequate ...

Book Launches ...

Two major books are set to hit the bookshop shelves.

The first is by Jack Paten from the South Coast who has penned a book titled ***Maitland Black Boy***.

You might recall there was considerable controversy recently on Council when it was proposed that '**Jocko**' be heritage listed with a plaque attached detailing his story.

Just maybe, Jack's book might provide Councillors with some material to help in their deliberations?



Maitland mayor Philip Penfold and historian Jack Paten with a transcript of the book. Picture by Peter Lorimer

Jack Paten has been fascinated by Maitland's Jocko Graves statue ever since he was a child.

The historian has written a book on the statue's long history, and visited Maitland this week to hand over a transcript to council as an historic record.

The book, titled *Maitland Black Boy*, is the result of years of research, trawling through newspaper clippings and interviewing people with knowledge of the statue.

The statue first arrived in Maitland as a gift to AD McDonald the tobacconist in 1892, and Mr Paten has spoken to Mr McDonald's great grandson as part of his research.

While Mr Paten lives on the south coast, he has deep roots in Maitland, his family being here for 160 years.

His fascination with the statue began with his grandmother, who collected research about it over the years. "I always was interested since I was a young kid," Mr Paten said.

"My grandmother the late Mary Lantry from Morpeth used to collect a lot of black boy memorabilia and clippings from newspapers, and it just grew from there."

The statue is of a 12-year-old African American boy named Jocko Graves.

It's a replica of the lawn jockey statues seen in the United States, and depicts a boy who, legend has it, froze to death holding tethered horses while George Washington's army crossed the Delaware River in 1776.

Mr Paten said something interesting he's found is confirmation that the current statue is not the original.

"It's original from perhaps 1953, there was an accident and the original seemed to have been knocked over when they did renovations to the shop, and because it was cast iron it smashed."

In July, Maitland councillors voted to make the statue a heritage item under the Maitland local environment plan, and to introduce signage alongside it, explaining its context.

Maitland mayor Philip Penfold said council will be glad to make a copy of the book available to anyone who wants to read it.

"Council is supportive of any efforts to promote and record the history of this important monument," he said.

"We'd be more than happy to produce it for anyone that would have an interest in a hard copy."

(Article courtesy of *The Maitland Mercury*)



The second major book release is by Peter F Smith (not to be confused with our Peter Smith) who has just published the first volume of a three-part trilogy. This is a major work and essential reading for anyone with an interest in Maitland and Maitland's history.

Our Society is presently negotiating with Peter that we might retail all three volumes through our various outlets.

Peter F. Smith

About the Author

PETER F. SMITH, M.A., is a versatile, veteran teacher and an experienced student of history. Smith has taught history and literature courses in Australia, the United Kingdom and in the USA for more than three decades. He is the author of a commemorative history of a leading Hunter Valley school and a contributor to an International Poetry Prize conducted by the University of Canberra. He has a Master's Degree in English from Indiana University. Smith lived in Maitland, where he restored a mid-Victorian heritage home and discovered his life-long passion for this unsung heritage city.

Book Launch

THE FOOTPRINTS OF MAITLANDS OLD HANDS trilogy

THE FOOTPRINTS OF MAITLAND'S OLD HANDS TRILOGY
AN UNTOLD HISTORY FOR A NEW GENERATION
BOOK ONE
MAITLAND'S RISE:
THE HILL, THE HIGH ROAD AND THE RIVER FLATS

Klibris

The 'Heritage Hub' – the Old Council Admin building?

No more news at this stage save we are reliably informed that the report from Council officers to Council will be 12th December.

Fingers crossed



Finally, don't forget our Christmas get together. Please, let Steve know if you're attending:

 **MAITLAND & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.**
Christmas Function

Fellow Members,

M&DHS will be holding its Christmas Function at
Clarence Town Courthouse Museum
115 Prince Street (Corner of Prince and Grey streets) Clarence Town
On:
Saturday 9th December 2023 commencing at 10.00am



The event will include tour of the Museum and a Morning Tea

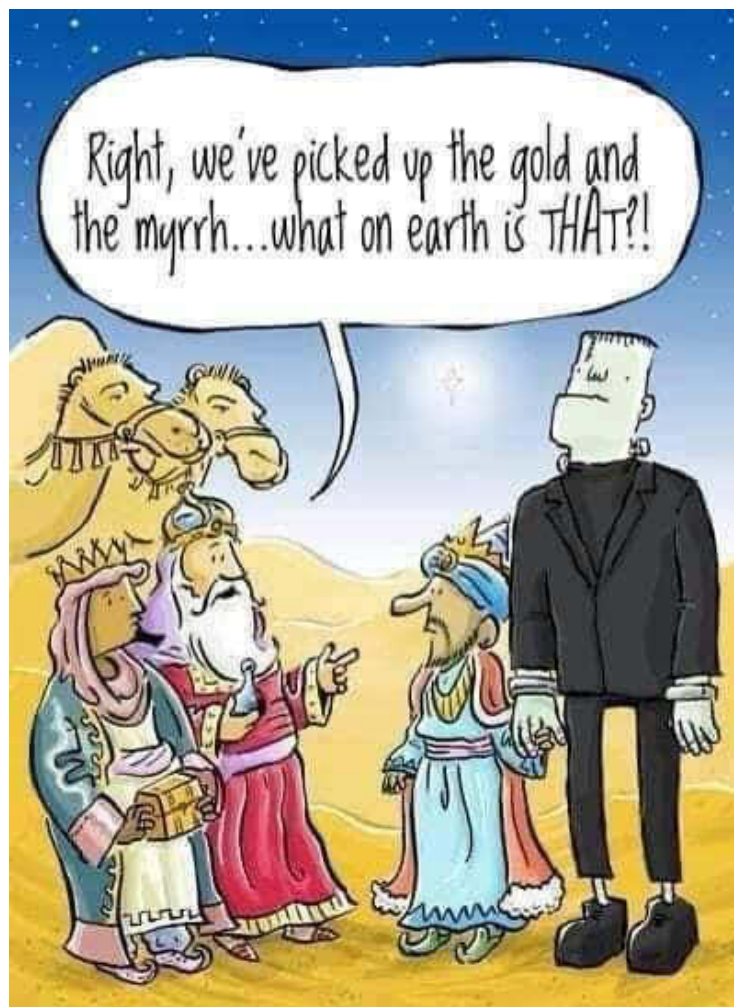


Cost is only \$5.00 per person

To assist with planning, we need to know how many persons would like to attend.
RSVP to maitlandhistorical@gmail.com or ring Steve on 0427 290 610
is requested by

Saturday 2 December 2023

I know I've already had my final say, but I couldn't resist this one ...



Have a happy and Holy Christmas and importantly, stay safe.

Kevin Short
President

Maitland and District Historical Society takes a look at how we cooked in the 1800s

By Lisa Thomas
October 2 2022



Polishing the stove was a much-loathed chore

For decades after Maitland was settled in the 1820s, householders cooked over open fires in their fireplaces.

In winter a hearth fire was a welcome source of heat but in summer it could make houses uncomfortably hot.

To lessen exposure to this heat, and to reduce the risk of house fires, wealthy Maitland homes had separate kitchen buildings.

In the mid-1800s a major advance in cooking technology arrived. The previously open fire was enclosed in an iron box.

This created the first true stove, designed to burn wood, but coal, which burns at a higher temperature, was adopted when it became generally available.

Early stoves were made from cast iron which could take repeated swings in temperature without cracking.

Basic cooking was done on the flat iron top, and before long stoves incorporated baking and roasting chambers.

Towards the end of the 1800s virtually every middle-class Maitland home had a cast iron wood or coal burning stove.

Unfortunately, wood and coal produce fumes which must be exhausted via a chimney. This restricted the stove's position in the kitchen. Both wood and coal also produce ash. Cleaning and polishing the stove became a loathed daily chore.

The next cooking development was the introduction of a new fuel - gas.

Town gas, produced from coal, created neither fumes nor ash and since a gas cooker needed no exhaust chimney it could be located anywhere in the kitchen.

A gas cooker did, however, require a gas source, and gas cookers could not replace solid fuel stoves until piped gas became available.

The Maitland Gas-Light Company was formed in 1860 to provide street lighting and undertook to gradually supply piped gas into city homes.

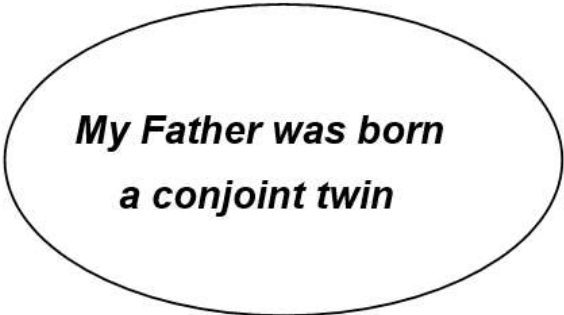
At the start of the 1900s several Australian companies manufactured wood and coal burning stoves and gas cookers.

The two largest and most locally popular companies were Metters and Gibson. In 1902 Fred Metters opened a foundry in Sydney. The Metters company shipped its 'Kooka' brand of stoves around New South Wales.

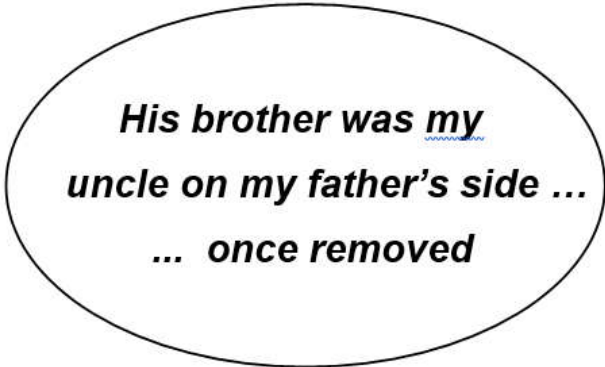
In the latter 1800s Scotsman Robert Gibson had opened a foundry in Newcastle which he called Gibson's British Iron Foundry. Gibson 'Simplex' stoves were a popular display at the 1907 Maitland Show. An advertisement proclaimed "Gibson's Famous Simplex Cooking Stoves. Burn wood or coal. Prices from £2 10s each."

After Maitland became 'electrified' in 1922, the new electric stove became an alternative, but were slow to be taken up.

With no flame, electricity was an unfamiliar cooking technology and the early heating elements had short lives and electric stoves were initially more expensive to operate. Neither piped gas nor electricity was available in some areas until the 1930s.



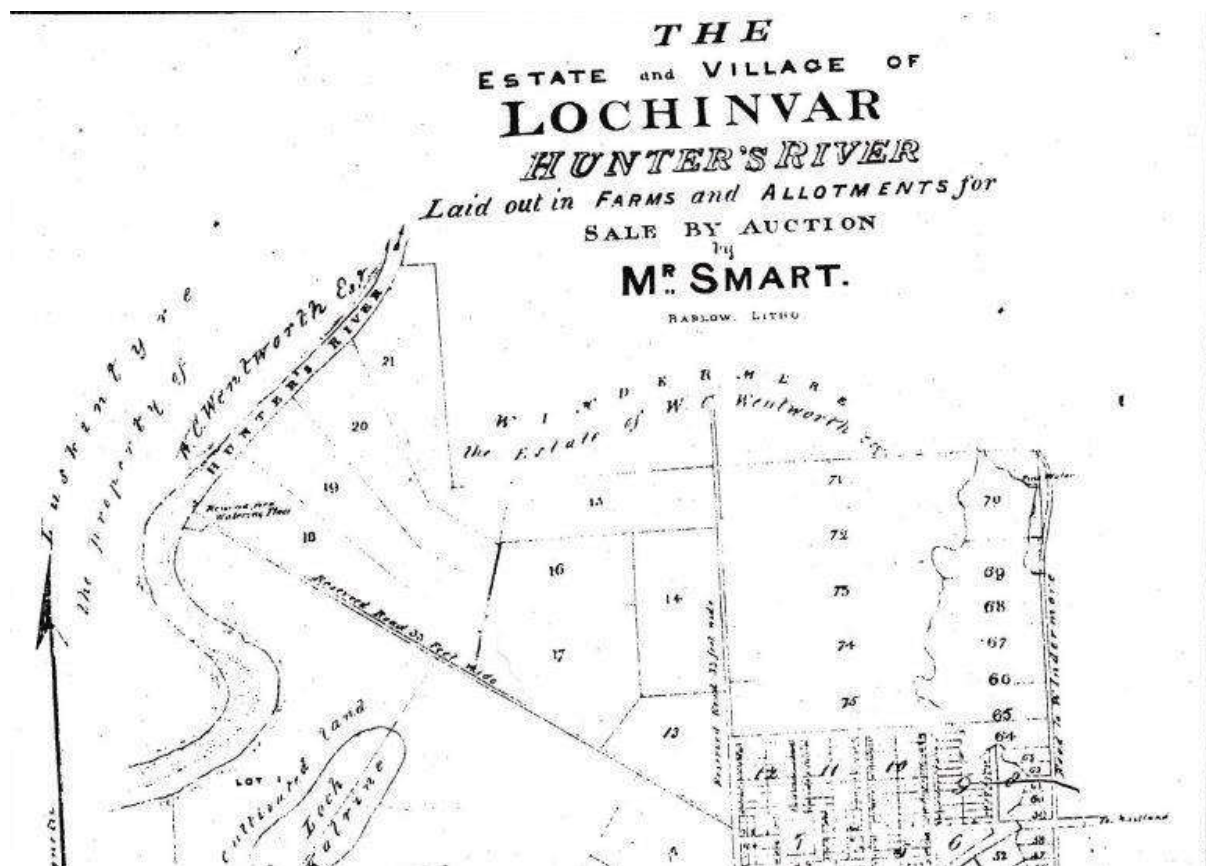
***My Father was born
a conjoint twin***



***His brother was my
uncle on my father's side ...
... once removed***

Leslie Duguid built 'Lochinvar House' on land overlooking a lagoon he named Loch Katrina

By Allan Thomas
October 9 2022



Leslie Duguid was Lochinvar's founding father

Leslie Duguid was the man behind the establishment of Lochinvar and gave the town its name. A Scot from Aberdeen, 20-year-old Duguid came to Australia in 1822 to make his fortune. Within a month he received a grant of 2000 acres in the Hunter, which included the area that would become Lochinvar.

Duguid's land grant was given on the proviso he would clear 150 acres and spend £600 on improvements. Convicts were assigned to work the land in return for him providing them food, clothing and housing. The 1828 NSW Census showed there were 19 workers on the Lochinvar estate, mostly assigned convicts.

In 1830 in Sydney Duguid married Anne Scargill, who was the orphan daughter of an English officer. Upon their marriage, which produced at least two children, Anne and Leslie asked for a further portion of land, which was granted as 1280 acres.

By 1834 Duguid had built 'Lochinvar House' on land overlooking a lagoon he named Loch Katrina. Lochinvar House had four rooms and outbuildings, including servants'

quarters. However, life in the Hunter was not always easy and Duguid preferred life in Sydney, becoming an absentee landlord.

Duguid acquainted himself with the banking industry while serving as a teller with the Bank of Australia in Sydney. In September 1834 he became the 'interim secretary' of a group of businessmen and landowners who founded the Commercial Banking Company (CBC) of Sydney with Duguid managing director.

From the late 1830s he was writing to people in Aberdeen to interest them in investing in the Australian colonies. His letters bore fruit. In October 1839 the North British Australasian Loan and Investment Company was formed in Aberdeen along with the Scottish Australian Investment Company.

In 1840 Duguid sold his Lochinvar grant. For the purposes of the sale, it was divided into 75 lots of different sizes. Lot 1 of 118 acres contained Duguid's four-room house, as well as its associated outbuildings, gardens and an orchard. The village of Lochinvar owes its existence to this sale. The Duguids lived a lavish lifestyle in their home in Bank Street, Sydney, and they continued to accumulate land throughout NSW.

Their lives changed dramatically when, in July 1847, an estimated £10,700 was found to be missing from the CBC. This significant shortfall was attributed to the actions of Duguid, who was dismissed from his position. He was successfully sued for insolvency at Cook's River and the properties he had owned sold off.

In later life Duguid lived at Braemar Cottage in Newtown where his wife Anne died in 1866 and he in 1870.

While he may have suffered disgrace, Duguid's role in the formation of Lochinvar can't be dismissed. Duguid had his flaws, but without him there would be no Lochinvar.

