



President's Report

Season's Greetings,

With the auction over and done with, we were anticipating a tapering off of activities after the End of Year Gathering in Lovat Chapel on 6 December. But it was not to be—and we are really grateful.

The long awaited news of the approval of our grant funding of \$60,000 promised in February during the electoral campaign leading up to the NSW elections was received. However it was embargoed until the public announcement was made by the Hon Bob Nanva MLC, Government Whip in the Legislative Council on Wednesday 13 December. A history buff, Mr Nanva had the opportunity to view material in the archival collection that will be safeguarded in the soon to be refurbished museum building before the official announcement at an informal lunch in the museum.

It was a welcome way to end our year like no other the society had ever experienced. It was a year of disappointments, frustrations, negotiations, uncertainty, planning and waiting but it also brought support from local Member Wendy Tuckerman, Labor candidate Michael Pilbrow, Mayor Allan McGrath and the members of Yass Antique Farm Machinery Club. Our members have supported the society with donations of equipment and extraordinary financial donations. Time and expertise in a broad range of skills by members and the general public have also contributed to our efforts to achieve a workable outcome. Overall it is not a bad result considering the position we were in ten months ago.

Now it is not just a matter of getting on with the work as tradesman take their leave during January and it is almost 6

months since the original quotes for various aspects of the refurbishment were obtained but we are hopeful of starting work at the end of January.

Our AGM on 4 December saw a new committee elected. I would like to express my thanks to Vice Presidents Judith Davidson and Nola Bindon and Archives Co-ordinator Maureen Collins for their assistance over the past year. Vice President Tanya Cullen and myself were the only returning committee members and we welcome Secretary Corrine Chalmers, Publicity Officer Sheree Bamforth and committee members Rick Williams and Susan Bell. The significant omission is the election of a Treasurer who is a vital member of the committee. It is vital that this position be filled very soon to enable the committee to function efficiently. Marion McCarthy has graciously agreed to continue as Patron of the Society.

This is my 70th and last newsletter as I will be handing the compilation of *Yandoo* over to our Publicity Officer Sheree Bamforth who will be keeping you informed of our news and activities. Thank you to all who have worked hard to help the society over the past year. Please know that it has been appreciated. I wish all of you a safe and happy festive season as we look forward to forging a new path for the Society

Cheryl Mongan
President

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Monday 5 February

General Meeting

Uniting Church Hall 2pm

Speaker to be advised

Wanted A Treasurer

If you can spare just a few hours a month to assist with our finances please contact us.

info@yasshistory.org.au

ARCHIVES

We will not be re-opening the archives until Tuesday 9 January to give our volunteers a well deserved break.

THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS ALLOCATION GRANT AT THE MUSEUM ON WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER. (L TO R) CORRINE CHALMERS (SECRETARY), RICK WILLIAMS (COMMITTEE MEMBERS) ALLAN MCGRATH (MAYOR, YASS VALLEY COUNCIL), HON BOB NANVA MLC, (GOVERNMENT WHIP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL), CHERYL MONGAN (PRESIDENT), MICHAEL PILBROW (YASS VALLEY LABOR) TANYA CULLEN (VICE PRESIDENT), SUSAN BELL (COMMITTEE MEMBER) AND SHEREE BAMFORTH, (PUBLICITY OFFICER).

[SHEREE BAMFORTH]





HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR TIM MAWE SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON IN LOVAT CHAPEL [SHEREE BAMFORTH]



VISITING FROM DUBLIN WAS DIRECTOR OF IRISH ABROAD, MR AIDAN CRONIN. [SHEREE BAMFORTH]



MEMBERS AND GUESTS AT THE LUNCHEON IN LOVAT CHAPEL [SHEREE BAMFORTH]

MEMBERS TURNED OUT IN FORCE TO TAKE PART IN THE CHRISTMAS STREET PARADE LAST WEEK. IT WAS A NOD TO THE 1960S THE DECADE WHEN THE SOCIETY WAS FORMED. HIPPIES, BEATLES, DECIMAL CURRENCY AND EVEN AN ASTRONAUT MADE AN APPEARANCE. [SHEREE BAMFORTH]

End of Year Gathering

Fostering international relationships through historical ties are particularly beneficial for smaller communities and the Yass and District Historical Society was honoured to host distinguished Irish visitors at its End of Year Gathering, a luncheon 'Celebrating our Irish Beginnings' on Wednesday 6 December.

Yass has a strong early history of Irish settlement and ongoing cultural ties celebrated in various ways. One thing we could not deliver was Irish weather which would have been a welcome change from the extremely hot conditions that day. Guests were greeted by foot tapping traditional music as they entered Lovat Chapel, a building which owes its very existence to the early Irish settlers of the district.

Official guests His Excellency Tim Mawe, Irish Ambassador to Australia and his wife Ms Patricia McCarthy were accompanied by Mr Aidan Cronin, Director of the Irish Abroad Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs, Dublin and Ms Celleena Connolly-Moynihan, Second Secretary at the Embassy on their visit to Yass.

They had earlier commenced their day at St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre, Galong where they toured the property settled by Irish convict Edward 'Ned' Ryan c1826 and the museum which portrays the long and multi-layered history of the site.

It was disappointing that Minister Sean Fleming TD who has responsibility for International Development and Diaspora in the Irish Parliament, was unavoidably detained in Dublin due to the recalling of Parliament. He is now expected to visit in the new year.

Mayor Allan McGrath proposed the toast to Ireland with the response give by Ambassador Mawe.

Other guests were Dr Mathew Trinca, Director of the National Museum, Dr Conor McCarthy, Director of Philanthropy at the National Library of Australia and representatives of several historical and family history societies as well as committee members of the local Irish and Celtic Music Festival.

The luncheon was followed by three historical presentations given by Society President Cheryl Mongan, Dr Jeff Brownrigg of the Australian Studies Unit, Australian National University and Dr Richard Reid, a Life Member of the society and President of the Canberra and District Historical Society. Mr Cronin then delivered an address on the ways in which the Irish Government supports the Irish community living abroad as well as those of Irish heritage no matter how many generations since their families emigrated from Ireland and those who identify with Irish culture.

Music for the occasion was provided by Kevin Bradley and Mary Marshall of Canberra accompanied by local musician Bridget Breen Guiney. The luncheon was catered for by Thyme to Taste with assistance from Can Assist volunteers.

A selection of Irish related items from the society's collections were on display, highlighting the role played by the Irish in immigration, education, commerce, governance, the military, manufacturing and much more.



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)
 0408 915 373 (Secretary)
 E-mail: info@yasshistory.org.au
 yassarchives@gmail.com

Find us on the web

www.yasshistory.org.au

PATRON
 Marion McCarthy

ELECTED OFFICE BEARERS

President: Cheryl Mongan
 Vice President: Tanya Cullen
 Secretary: Corrine Chalmers
 Treasurer: Vacant
 Publicity Officer: Sheree Bamforth
 Committee Members: Rick Williams
 Susan Bell
 Public Officer: Rosalie Bush



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

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.

OUR SOCIETY VALUES THE SUPPORT OF

**Museums
& Galleries
of NSW**



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

Our members—as you have never seen them before!



MARVELLOUS WHAT MEMBERS WILL GET UP TO , TO PROMOTE THE SOCIETY. [SHEREE BAMFORTH]

Vale

We were saddened to hear of the recent deaths of two members of the Society, Susan Knudson and Estelle Russell, a former secretary of the society. Both had been unwell for sometime. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

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

Diary Dates

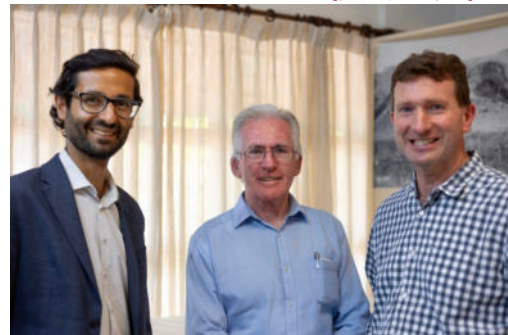
January 2024

Tues 9	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 16	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 23	Archives 2-5pm
Tues 30	Archives 2-5pm



TONY MACQUILLAN, JUDY BROOKER, RICK WILLIAMS AND DIANA MACQUILLAN AT THE LUNCH IN THE MUSEUM.

[SHEREE BAMFORTH]



HON BOB NANVA MLC, MAYOR ALLAN MCGRATH AND MICHAEL PILBROW, YASS VALLEY LABOR AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR SUCCESSFUL FUNDING APPLICATION.

[SHEREE BAMFORTH]