



Newsletter
of the
Scone & Upper Hunter Historical Society

Founded March 1956

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Spinning Wheel was owned by Christy-Ann Saunders

Committee Elected in February 2024

President:	Carolyn Carter	Treasurer:	Ann Bailey
Vice President:	Margaret MacDougall	Committee	Jayne Webster
Secretary:	Dianne Walmsley	Committee:	Val Ray
Committee	Carol Ray	Committee:	Don MacDougall
Committee:	Melissa MacDougall		

Membership of the Society – is open to everyone who is interested in Local or Family History. Subscriptions are \$20.00 for singles and \$35.00 joint membership (same address) per calendar year (January to December). Financial member's names are listed in the newsletter following the receipt of their payment. Your continuing subscription is important to us. If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email and in colour just let us know.

The Historical Museum – is open every Wednesday from 9.30am to 2.30pm and every Sunday between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. There is always interesting historical display on view with many items connected to Scone's history. The Museum is housed in the original Police Station and Lock-up. The displays are regularly changed. Entry fees – Adults \$5.00 and Children \$1.

The Sergeant's Residence Research Centre

Adjacent to the Museum, the Research Centre is open every Wednesday from 9.30am to 2.30pm. We have extensive resources available and there will be someone to assist you during your visit. You do not have to make an appointment to do your research. Research fees are \$20.00 for Non-member's and \$5.00 for Member; plus photocopying costs at 25cents per sheet if you are researching in person.

Research Requests

Research will also be undertaken by correspondence the fee will be \$25.00 which includes up to 10 pages of photocopying and standard postage.

Please email the society at sconehistorical@yahoo.com.au

For these requests, clearly outline what it is you want researched. Our researcher will check our files and advise if we can help you and let you know then commence the research when the research fee is paid.

Our mailing address is PO Box 339 Scone NSW 2337. Please mark all enquires to "Attention Researcher" or 'Attention Secretary.'.

Our Webpage can be found at: SconeHistorical.org.au

Scone Historical Society banking details are –

All payments either for Membership or Research can be paid by cash or by direct deposit into our Bank Account –

Scone & Upper Hunter Historical Society

BSB: 932 000 Account: 787562

Please put your name and initials and "M'ship" or "Research" as a reference.

New Members are always most welcome. Forms to become a member are available on our webpage or from the Secretary upon request.

Publication

The Society has published numerous historical books pertaining to Scone and the district. A list of titles is available on our webpage or contact the Secretary for a full list of titles and prices.

Sense of Place Case

The Historical Society has a small interesting display of historical items pertaining to the Scone area at the Scone Library. Please take time to have a look when you are next at or near the library. It is changed regularly.

Life Members:

Miss E Davies, Mrs A Entwistle, Mrs A Miles, Mrs M MacDougall.

Membership paid for 2024 Thank you for your support

Ariel, Mr H	Kennedy, Mr P & Gordon, Ms M
Bailey, Mr N & Mrs A	Lonsdale, Mrs D
Bell, Mrs D	MacCallum, Mr I
Bishop, Mr A & Mrs A	MacDougall, Mr D & Mrs M
Brayshaw, Mrs H	McRae, Mr N
Burton, Mr K	Morris, G
Carter, Ms C	Morrison, Mrs P
Cox, Ms A	Norris, Mr R
Dangarfield, Mr P	Paradice, Dr W
Fleming, Mr P	Price, Ms L
Garland, Mr D	Pring, Mr R
Garland, Mr R & Mrs Z	Ray, Mrs C
George, Mr E	Ray, Mrs V
Graham, Mrs S	Scholz, Mr J
Hancock, Mrs J	Spencer, Mr D
Harman, Mrs K	Walmsley, Mr M & Mrs D
Harrison, Mr G	Webster, Ms J
Holmes, M/Thompson, L	West, Mr J & Mrs H
Howey, Mr W P & Mrs S	Wilson, Mr B
Johnstone, Mr O	Worrad, Mrs P
Kennedy, Mr D & Mrs M	McMahon, Mrs J (new)

Donations – The Scone and Upper Hunter Historical Society would like to thank everyone who has made a donation of any kind, whether cash or items to be used in the Museum or Research Centre.

We are always grateful for any donations; no matter how small.

Tell us your story

We know that there are many members who have some very interesting local history stories to tell and we invite you share them with others through our Newsletter.

SOCIETY ACTIVITY AND NEWS

This is our first Newsletter for 2024 and although it's now well into the New Year, best wishes to you all for 2024. We held our AGM on Wednesday 28th February, a week later than advertised mainly through me getting my wires crossed somewhere along the way. Many thanks to Bill Howey for chairing the election of office bearers. Nothing has changed in that regard as you can see from the names listed on our Committee. However, we did vote to change the cost of membership which will now be \$25 for single membership and \$35 for a double membership (two people at the same address). Please note that **these changes will not apply until February 2025.**

A big welcome to Judy McMahon who has joined our Society and our volunteer team and has thrown herself into helping on number of projects already.

The workshop on collections management, run by Margot Jolly, which we held on 18th January was successful. As well as most of our volunteers, we also had participating members from the Murrurundi and Muswellbrook Historical Societies and two members from Aberdeen. It gave us the opportunity to review our own policy and garner some ideas from Margot and the other participants. When we did a check of our Collections policy we discovered that we in fact had four different ones, possibly because as each one was replaced by the other the originals were not disposed of. As a result two of our volunteers are reviewing the policies and producing new one which will be made official with date attached.

We also held a workshop for the Committee to review our Strategic Plan which ran from 2021 to end of 2023. From this review we have developed our next Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2026. Apart from helping to guide our activities at the Museum and the Research Centre, most of the organisations that offer grants require us to include a Strategic Plan in their application forms.

Speaking of grants, we have had a few successes since the end of last year. We were successful in being chosen as one of three museums to participate in a Museum Activation Pilot Project by Arts Upper Hunter. The other museums are Tocal and Dungog. This grant requires us to work with an artist to “activate a space, an object, or tell a story.” Currently, expressions of interest from artists have been called for. We also, have been awarded a grant from Bengalla Mine to go towards the purchase of a display case for the display of the Parbary dress uniform which is currently having some conservation work done on it by Heights Heritage. This grant together with the Anzac Grant means that the display case is now fully funded.

Don MacDougall, under the guidance of his mother, Margaret, and supported by Judy McMahon, has been working to clear out the left hand cell as much as possible to give visitors a bit more of an idea about what being locked in the cell would have been like. Many of the items moved have been placed in the Old Kitchen which has recently had insulation installed in the ceiling. Don has also constructed a frame for storing the saddles stored in the left hand cell and applied dressing to the leather.

At the moment we don't have any specific activities planned for the near future, but sometimes things do crop up and we have also included some ideas in our Strategic Plan which hopefully we will bring to fruition over the next three years.

Carolyn Carter - Editor

HOW THE SITE OF 40 – 42 GUERNSEY STREET SCONE TRANSFORMED OVER THE LAST 150 YEARS

By Sam Lambley

Part Two

(Please refer to our December 2023, Newsletter for Part One – Sam’s essay won first prize in the 2023 Bishop’s History Award).

In May 1979, M Campbell & Co sold the 40-42 Guernsey Street site and the hardware section of the business to Gould Brothers Building Supplies, owned by the Woodcock family, a Singleton based business who had previously supplied M Campbell & Co with hardware supplies and saw this opportunity to expand their business into the Upper Hunter. Mr Ian Logan remembers closing for the last time as M Campbell & Co on the Saturday and reopening as the site manager on Monday for Gould Brothers Building Supplies, Scone.

The front shed remained as the main section of the store still selling hardware supplies to the public, with it changing in its exterior colour over the following years.

Over the next few years, the success of the business on this site enabled the Woodstock family to purchase a Muswellbrook hardware business.

Mr Ian Logan retired from managing the Scone site in 1995, with Mr Ross Tout taking on the new manager role at 40-42 Guernsey Street from 1996-2002. Mr Ross Tout was manager when Gould’s celebrated 125 years of trading in the Upper Hunter. Mr Peter Penfold, took over this role from 2003-2004. Mr Bazil Wilcher was store manager from 2005-2008 and was also managing the Muswellbrook store during this time.

From 2008-20011, Mr Brad Moran became the new manager of the Scone store, with Mr Andrew Sheriff taking over this role from June 2011 to July 2012.

At this point, Gould Brothers Building Supplies businesses were thriving with the acquisition and operation of six hardware and building suppliers throughout the Hunter Valley and Newcastle.

A long standing employee, Mrs Trudi Houlahan, daughter of Mr Ian Logan, worked on this site from age 17 years old starting in 1981 as an employee of Gould Brothers Building Supplies, and continuing to work with Lavis Home Timber and Hardware and now Scone Mitre 10. Mrs Houlahan recalls customers being able to access the front main store via St Aubin’s Street and driving right through this shed to collect hardware supplies before exiting on the southern side of the shed. At this time the other shed, the Bulk Store, was mainly used for storage for things such as cement.

The photo below shows Mr Peter Ollerton, transporting 8000 bags of cement from the Bulk Store to Ellerston around the time of 1984.



Mrs Houlahan recalls that after the introduction of machinery, such as forklifts, the flooring in the Bulk Store gained significant damage due to not handling the weight. Therefore, this space was unsuitable for storing supplies, and the majority of the stock was stored underneath the outside awnings on the southern side of the shed.

In 2007, the 40-42 Guernsey Street site was impacted by a large windstorm in Scone which damaged the Bulk Store to the point where engineers deemed it irreparable and it was demolished. See photo below.



Some of the building materials from the dismantled Bulk Store were resold to residents around the area who repurposed these items. Mr Ray Garland purchased some of the Bulk Store sheeting for 10 cents a sheet to clad a shed he built on his property near the village of Moonan Flat.

This then prompted Gould Brothers Building Supplies to seek out a site redesign to meet modern hardware standards and be able to safely store a greater amount of stock to meet customer expectations with other larger competitive hardware chains being established down the valley. While the new building was being constructed Gould's was still trading out the front of the building, in the old Army Shed, which was located where the carpark is now. The photo below is of the plaque recording the official opening of the new building. The old building was then demolished, allowing for the front carpark to be constructed.



A major accident occurred during the site rebuild. The manager, Mr Brad Moran, had a fall from a substantial height causing injury and an investigation by NSW Workcover. This ultimately led to a substantial fine being imposed on Gould Brothers Building Supplies Company and the builder of the new shed, Mr John Cooper, for not providing a safe site during this build.

This fine on the business had a devastating impact on Gould Brother's cash reserves. After five years of trying to be competitive in a very aggressive, changing market the eventual closure of the Gould Brother's businesses occurred, going into liquidation and employees gaining redundancies. The Woodcock family were able to clear out any debts owing and remain as the owners of 40-42 Guernsey Street to this day.

In 2012, a new hardware business opened on this site by the Lavis family, introducing a major franchise, Home Timber and Hardware. The Lavis family, from Braxton, saw this opportunity to continue to provide Scone and the surrounding area with a hardware store. The Lavis family appointed Mr Basil Wilcher as Manager, for a short period, however, after one year, he left to pursue his own business venture.

In May 2022, the Lavis family sold the Home Timber and Hardware business to Mr Kulwant Singh, an owner of various retail businesses over the Hunter Valley and New England areas. He retained all existing staff in this takeover.

In 2023, the signature turquoise Home Timber and Hardware shed was rebranded as Mitre10 and the entire shed on the site was painted the signature Mitre 10 blue over a period of 4 weeks.

40-42 Guernsey Street is a historic site in Scone's retail sector, transforming over time as a main supplier of hardware and building supplies to the Scone and Upper Hunter community, from its beginning as a timber mill and Bulk Store receiving supplies by rail. As a result, a considerable amount of the Upper Hunter infrastructure was built using materials that passed through this location. The site has maintained its significance over the years contributing to the economy of Scone with the sale of an incredible amount of stock being sold. In addition, the employment of many workers on this site over the years since the 1890s to the current day has a special significance to Scone's history and its community.

HISTORY IN THE MUSEUM

Recently, we were very fortunate to have a spinning wheel donated to our collection by Margaret Haddon and her cousins. The following tells the story of the spinning wheel and the lady it belonged to as told by Margaret (nee Crump) granddaughter of Christy-Ann Saunders: "...on behalf of myself...and my cousins, I would like to gift our grandmother's spinning wheel in remembrance of our grandparents, two incredible people. Their names were William Frederick Saunders and Christy-Ann Saunders (nee Gillies). See below

"They met in Townsville, Queensland and were married in the Presbyterian Church, Townsville on the 15th December, 1915. Da, as he was known to his family, was a shearer working in Queensland when he met our grandmother. What a woman our grandmother was, known as Chrissie to all who knew her. She sailed on a ship to Australia on her own when she was in her early 20s.

"She came from Scotland, from a place called Kylerona on the Island of Raasay, a small island between mainland Scotland and the Isle of Skye. Da grew up in Kars Springs in the Upper Dartbrook, 40 kilometres west of Scone. After they married, they returned to Kars Springs and settled on a property they called 'Kylerona.' They raised five children on their land, being great pioneers and perpetually resilient. Their children were: Alister, who married Lindsay (nee Morris); Gabrielle, who married Joseph Crump from Wollombi; Gerald, who married Daphne (nee Simpson); and twin girls, Heather (known as 'Bill') who married Don Clydsdale, and Ailsa, who married James Frost.

"Da and Grandma had 19 grandchildren. School holidays at 'Kylerona' were very busy. My brothers and I would travel from Wollombi to Scone with our parents where we would meet up with our aunts, uncles and cousins. Da and Grandma would drive into town and as many



grandchildren that could fit into their maroon Chevrolet car would travel back to Kars Springs.

“What wonderful memories of swimming and playing in the clear water creeks we shared. We would pick and eat fresh strawberries, carrots and anything we could from Da’s vegetable garden. We drank fresh milk from the cows that were milked daily. We ate turkey, chicken and meat that was cured in the meat house near the main house. My goodness, when I think about it now, Grandma must have been exhausted every school holidays although there was never a complaint, just more love dished out. I remember Grandma made a whistle from whittling a branch from a willow tree. We thought it was something special.

“To have experienced such generosity, care and love from our grandparents created wonderful memories. Da would shear the sheep and Grandma would spin and dye the wool for the garments she would knit.

“Grandma died in 1973, and the spinning wheel needed repair by then. It was cared for by my cousin Meralyn Budden (nee Clydsdale), and her husband, Neville, repaired and restored the spinning wheel to the beautiful working machine it is today.

“The Saunders, Crump, Clydsdale and Frost families would be very grateful to the Scone Museum to take over the care and display of the spinning wheel that belonged to our Grandmother, Christy-Ann Saunders.”

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