



Newsletter
of the
Scone & Upper Hunter Historical Society

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Jack and Millie Davies wedding photo 1908

Committee Elected in February 2022

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|-----------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| 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.

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. Prior notice may help us prepare something for you. 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 is \$25.00 which includes up to 20 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 Box339 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 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.

Or you can pay by cheque or cash.

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

Welcome to New Members

Paid since June

Nadine Clifford

Amy Gooch

Sharon Corbett

Thank you for your support

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 ACTIVITIES

The year is quickly gathering pace and some of the projects that have been in the pipeline are about to come to fruition. I'm delighted to report that the concrete slab for the new storage shed has now been laid and that the materials for the shed build have started to arrive. We are hoping that we will have a new shed by the end of October. Once it is handed over we will be able to transfer the heritage items from the old existing shed into the new one and organise the demolition of the old shed. We will also be able to move some items currently stored in the Museum cells into the new shed. This will enable us to set up one of the cells as a prison.



We were successful in getting a micro grant through Arts Upper Hunter for some new signage in the Museum. This will include adding more information to our prickly pear display which is set up in the exercise yard, and also some signage at the front door of the Museum.

We were very pleased to host a visit from Year 1 students from the Scone Grammar School on Wednesday, 18th September. Our curator Margaret was assisted by Judy McMahon, one of our volunteers, to set up some displays of olden days toys and games as well as show them through the Museum. The verdict was that they needed more time which suggests that the students showed a keen interest in items from the past.

We now have a date for Sophie Cox's Museum Activation Project to commence. This Project was referred to in our last Newsletter. Sophie will be liaising with Anna Towse, a teacher at the Scone Grammar School, and working with some students from the school to develop some textile based items based on rubbings of the two old cedar desks that came from St Luke's Grammar School (as Scone Grammar School was called in its early days). The dates for this workshop are the 22nd and 23rd October. The work will then be installed at the Museum and we plan to have a launching ceremony on Friday 25th October.

The date for the lodgement of Year 9 student work for Bishop's Essay/History Award was also due this month. That sets in train the marking of the students' work by the Society. Earlier in the term we had visits from the Scone Grammar Year 9 History classes, and some individual students, to use our resources for their research on various items of local history. Mr Tony and Mrs Anne Bishop continue to support this Award, which was established by Mr Bishop's father, Bill Bishop, in 1972. The Awards ceremony will be held at the Old Scone Court House Theatre on Wednesday 23rd October starting at 4pm, followed by afternoon tea on the Museum verandah.

We are also hosting some group visits between now and the end of the year. On Sunday 13th October a group of members from a Sydney Bowling Club, on their way to Tamworth, are calling in for a tour and afternoon tea. In the next month we have a Car Club who are staying in Scone for the weekend 2nd and 3rd November paying us a visit on the Saturday afternoon.

Carol has organised a new display for the Scone Library which is about Scone and district in days gone by. Also, after nearly eighteen months we have set up a new display in the Campbell's Corner window which is about the Red Cross in Scone and District. We had not done anything about putting up a new display before this because for many months the street was being done up and there was very little foot traffic. Carolyn Carter, President.

THE RED CROSS IN SCONE AND DISTRICT

The Red Cross started in Australia days after the outbreak of World War I when the wife of the Governor General, Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, established the first branch (as part of the British Red Cross Society) in Australia on 13th August, 1914. She also encouraged the wives of the State Governors to assist in establishing branches in their State. So, in August this year the Australian Red Cross Society celebrated its 110th Anniversary.

The Scone branch of Red Cross was formed in 1914, the first President being Mrs Scott who was the wife of Dr C H Scott (brother of Dr H J H Scott for whom the Scone Scott Memorial Hospital was named). The Secretary was Mrs G Stevenson, wife of the Clerk of Petty Sessions, and Treasurer was Mrs A J H White, wife of the manager of the Bank of NSW.

A group of Red Cross workers gathered during World War I to provide support to the war effort. Membership had reached 157 in 1917 including 59 from the Bunnan Sewing Circle. In 1917 it is recorded that 1000 pieces of linen, 200 lbs of jam, as well as fruit, tobacco, books and stationery were sent to Moree Convalescent Hospital and Rutherford Camp Hospital.

Funds were raised by organising a roster to run a tea room in Kelly Street near where Farram's Store is now located. Eventually they moved to 'Penshurst' which had been built in 1901 by Miss Annie Asser for her private school. Here they served morning and afternoon teas and luncheons on special fund raising days.

When World War I ended most of the members agreed that the branch should be closed. It was briefly re-formed in 1919 to assist at the old Smith Street Hospital where patients suffering from the influenza (Spanish Flu) pandemic were being treated. The branch disbanded again when the old hospital was cleared of the 'flu patients at the end of the pandemic.

The Australian Red Cross headquarters continued after War and into the 1920s, and worked towards motivating former branches to renew their activities. **The Scone Branch of the Australian Red Cross was re-formed at a meeting on 19th October, 1926.** Mrs C H Scott and her daughter Marion temporarily took on the roles of President and Secretary until elections could be held. There were 20 foundation members and meetings were held every three months. The first office bearers elected were: President, Mrs J R C (Millie) Davies; Secretary, Mrs A White; Treasurer, Mrs W N Munro. Membership grew throughout the next twelve years: 1928, 47; 1929, 75 members; mid 1931, 200 members (which made Scone the

biggest NSW branch); 1932, 260 members; 1935 (when **Scone became the Scone and District Red Cross**), 369 members; 1938, 410 members.

Branches were also formed in the Scone district, in *The Scone Advocate* Special Feature 'Celebrating 50 Years of Red Cross in Scone', Wednesday, December 21, 1977, it is reported that the following information about district branches was provided by Red Cross Headquarters:

"GUNDY: first formed 1915, disbanded in 1922. It was re-formed in 1936 and after 1942 joined Scone and District; BELLTREES: first formed in 1914, disbanded 1928. Money was sent to HQ in 1930, 1936, 1939 and 1951. Joined Scone and District in 1948; MOONAN FLAT: formed 1914, disbanded 1923. Members belonged to Scone and District before forming a branch in 1941, disbanded 1959; MOONAN BROOK: members belonged to Scone and District before forming a branch in 1941, disbanded 1960; ELLERSTON: first formed in 1915, closed in 1919, re-formed in 1939 and continued it's own branch; WINGEN: was formed 1914, disbanded 1919 and now part of Scone and District; BUNNAN: formed 1915, closed 1919, now part of Scone and District; ROUCHEL: from 1926 to 1936 was part of Scone and District, in 1936 it became a separate branch; KARS SPRINGS: have always been part of Scone and District."

Things have changed since 1977 and not all of these branches have survived. For example, the Society holds the minute books and other archives of the Rouchel Red Cross branch which merged with Aberdeen to become the Aberdeen-Rouchel Red Cross in 1998.

Finding a meeting place between the Wars. When the Scone Red Cross was re-formed in 1926, they went back to meeting at 'Penshurst' in one of the rooms rented by the Scone & District CWA. They had to move from there in 1928 and meetings were held monthly upstairs in C J Surman's Rooms until 1938. Mr Surman returned the 9 pence charged for the rent as a donation. The branch held fund raising activities in aid of the hospital and provided afternoon teas for visiting dignitaries.

When Jim Fuller bought Surman's Rooms property from C J Surman he needed the use of the upstairs area and the Red Cross had to move, eventually, to the Drill Hall at what was then the School of Arts in Kingdon Street (now Victoria Hall). Here they stayed until 1941.

When World War II broke out in September, 1939, the local members of Red Cross swung into action. *The Scone Advocate* Special Feature referred to above records that "Sewing and knitting circles were formed at Wingen, Parkville, Middlebrook, Kars Springs, Bunnan and Gundy, Segenhoe and Brushy Hill combined forces, Dangarfield had its own group, and the workers of Owen's Gap and Moobi joined with Scone..."

"...Three women were in charge of buying the material, cutting out and distributing garments [to be sewn]. The cutting out alone was a colossal task, as military hospitals were in need of thousands of pairs of pyjamas. Many people made hospital dressings as well."

The need of a depot to store and sort clothing and other items was now needed. Mr Mort Anderson, who owned the Scone Newsagency [then in the building now used by 'Vinnies'], offered them the use of the front of the building next door rent free for the duration of the war. He arranged to have it painted and have a Red Cross sign fixed to the window.

After the War Mr Anderson continued to allow the branch to use the depot at a low rent until 1955. With the help of Red Cross HQ the Scone & District Red Cross purchased a building at the northern end of Kelly Street in 1955-56. At the first meeting of the branch in 1956 Mr and Mrs Anderson were invited as guests of honour and made life members of the Scone & District branch recognising the help that they had given from 1941 to 1955. The Scone & District Red Cross HQ have remained at this location ever since. However the original building was replaced by the current building in 1992. The photo below is of the original Scone Red Cross HQ.



Red Cross Activities.

Volunteer Aid Detachments (VADs): The International Red Cross was established in Geneva in 1863 followed by the first Geneva Convention in 1864. A Swiss businessman, Henri Dunant, was motivated to establish a neutral organisation, whose volunteers would tend to sick and wounded soldiers in time of war, after seeing the aftermath of the Battle of Solferino 1859 which took place in Lombardy, in what is now Italy. The Austrians lost 14,000 soldiers killed and wounded and 8,000 missing; the other side, France and Sardinia-Piedmont, lost 15,000 killed and wounded and over 2,000 missing. The army medical services were completely inadequate to deal with so many casualties.

Volunteer Aids Detachments were formed by the British Red Cross and the Australian Red Cross followed this model. Volunteer Aids were trained in first aid and home nursing to carry out unpaid domestic and quasi nursing duties in hospitals and convalescent homes, and lend assistance "should the need arise in plague, epidemic, fire or flood, as well as war.". The Scone branch did not take any action on this program until 1930 on the urging of Mrs M B Miller. Mrs Marks, the wife of the Ambulance Officer Percy Marks, was made the Commandant. Dr O Barton was asked to conduct a training course in first aid. Eighteen

members enrolled and by the end of 1930 half had qualified, but because they had little to do apart from assisting at afternoon teas they slowly disbanded.

Throughout the 1930s several groups were formed and trained as VAs. Members included Misses E and M Dennewald; M Seaward; S Bell; G Turnbull; D Frost; I Aisbett; J Harrison; M Dodd and P Drew. Trainers included Doctors O Barton, W O Pye and E Stuckey. Commandants included Mrs Will Cameron, Matron Lowrey, Mrs Shaddock, and Mrs V Noyce.

When World War II broke out in September 1939, training was intensified. One former VA recalls going to the Hospital at 6am to carry out ward duties and then leaving at 9am to her days work. Two VAs from Scone served overseas: Mrs Judy (Wallace) White and Mrs Marian Babbage. VAs continued to be trained and provide services long after World War II. Mrs Lyn Tout reports that she trained in the 1980s and that the uniform had not changed since the 1930s. Her VA activities included running the weekly trolley Service at the Hospital and presenting first aid and 'Caring for People at Home' Courses. The photo below shows the VAD in the 1936 Scone Anzac Day march.



The Scone Saleyards Red Cross Canteen. At the start of World War II, the Scone & District Branch was offered the right to sell refreshments at the Scone saleyards for three months. They accepted this offer and they began selling refreshments in October in a small tin shed that had previously been used for the drovers' saddles. Then in December 1941 the Town Clerk advised the Branch that they had been granted the right to sell refreshments at the saleyards, rent free, for the duration of the War and for 12 months afterwards.

In the late 1940s, the Branch, led by Mrs Millicent Davies, decided to acquire some land next to the saleyards and construct a proper building. HQ agreed for this idea to proceed, and the Branch bought Lot 15, Section 1 of Mrs Miller's Belmore Estate from W G Hayne. The new building opened October 13, 1953, free of cost with the help of all who used the saleyards.

When the Scone saleyards moved to its current site in 1973, a new building was provided by the Shire and the former building was sold. The Red Cross Canteen continued to operate until December 1999. The photo below shows Mary Croaker and Pat Eager taking down the sign from the Red Cross Canteen at the Scone saleyards December 1999.



HISTORY IN THE MUSEUM

Continuing with the topic of the Scone Red Cross, we are drawing attention to two items in our collection:

Amy Barwick's Badge Collection:

Amy Barwick, nee Davison, completed a St John's Ambulance Association First Aid course in October, 1932 and an Instruction in Home Nursing course in October 1931 to qualify as a Red Cross VA. Amongst her badges in the photo below are: in the middle, Red Cross 20 years Long Service medal, ribbon and bar, Laurel Wreath for 50 years service (Jan 1981) and Rosette for 60 years; top left Red Cross duty badge; bottom left St John's Ambulance medallion No. 374861, Army Division.




Jack and Millie Davies – World War I Display

This display in the Gray Room at the Museum was designed and developed by our Curator, Margaret MacDougall to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I and the contributions made by some of the soldiers and others who came from the Scone district. Jack and Millie Davies were living at 'Puen Buen' when war broke out in August 1914. Jack enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and was posted to Egypt where he was appointed as squadron commander with the 12th Light Horse Regiment. In 1915, aware of the need for medical aid he telegraphed for Millie to come to Egypt. Within seven days she embarked from Sydney with her three small children, a nurse and companion for Egypt. Millie joined the Red Cross in October 1915 and worked as VA visiting the officer's hospital that had been set up in the Heliopolis Palace. She was put in charge of stores and then later in the Red Cross Administration and liaison between the hospital Commanding Officer and the Red Cross Commissioner. She continued to work there until 8 months after the Armistice and she received an MBE in recognition of her work during the War. The photo bottom right shows Millie Davies in Egypt with one of the hospital orderlies and a soldier with a basket full of stores for the hospital patients. Millie was the President of the of the Scone & District Red Cross from 1926 – 1941 and from 1948 – 1954.

Jack & Millie Davies

MAJOR JACK DAVIES

Jack Davies was the youngest son of J.H. Davies who held extensive pastoral holdings through N.S.W. He was born at Redbank, Scone and married Mildred Lucy Traill of Langollan, Cassilis in 1908. They lived at Puen Buen for most of their married life until 1938, when Puen Buen was sold. They then lived at Yarrandi until they moved to the Uralla District. Jack was always interested in the army and was commissioned in C.M.F. at Duntroon in 1912. In 1914 he accepted a commission in the 12th Light Horse. After serving on the staff of General Chauvel in Egypt he rejoined the 12th Light Horse, and was promoted to Captain, and squadron leader, ranking as Major. He was awarded the M.C. at Beersheba by General Allenby. On his return to Australia he served as Commanding Officer of the 16th Light Horse Hunter River Lancers for a term of 5 years. During the second World War, he returned to active duty and was appointed Deputy-Director Recruiting A.I.F. and later served on transport duties in the Middle East. Jack Davies served as a shire councillor, and was secretary of the Scone Polo Club for 27 years.



MILICENT LUCY DAVIES

Millie Trail of Langollan, Cassilis married Jack Davies in 1908, and they had three children, John (Jay), Barbara and Lloyd when war broke out in 1914. Jack was given a commission in the C.M.F. in 1912, and in 1914, was a Lieutenant in the 6th Light Horse. He embarked for Egypt in early 1915, with the 12th Light Horse. He served on the staff of General Chauvel in 1916, then in the Palestine campaign, including Beersheba, Gaza, Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley. He was awarded the Military Cross at Beersheba. As Jack was an officer, Millie was able to go to Egypt, leaving in 1915 with three children. They lived at Heliopolis House hotel for nearly four years and Millie joined the Red Cross in October 1915, first visiting the officer's ward at No 1 Australian General hospital in the Heliopolis Palace across the road. She was then put in charge of stores then later in Red Cross Administration and the liaison between the hospital Commanding Officer and the Red Cross Commissioner. She continued until 8 months after the Armistice and received the M.B.E. for her work.

