



Newsletter of the **Scone & Upper Hunter Historical Society**

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Roses of the Heart bonnet

Committee Elected in February 2022

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		

The busy volunteers of the Research Centre and Museum are having a break over Christmas, and we will return, refreshed, on 22nd January, 2025. Research and other enquiries can still be sent to our email address: sconehistorical@yahoo.com.au

Membership of the Society – is open to everyone who is interested in Local or Family History. Forms to become a member are available on our webpage or from the Secretary upon request. Subscriptions are \$25.00 for singles and \$40.00 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. Arrangements to open at other times for groups can be made on request. There is always interesting historical display on view with many items connected to Scone's history. The Museum is housed in the original Police Residence 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 visit for research but advance notice can allow us to do a search on the Wednesday before your visit. Research fees are \$20.00 for Non-member's and \$5.00 for Member; plus photocopying costs at 25 cents per sheet.

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 after the research fee is paid.

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

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.

Our Webpage can be found at:

SconeHistorical.org.au

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

Joined since September

Richard Bell

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 ACTIVIES AND NEWS

This will be our last Newsletter for 2024 so it includes some important dates. Our Research Centre will be closing at 2.30pm Wednesday 4th December. The last day our Museum will be open for 2024 is Sunday 8th December, 2.30 – 4.30pm. They will both re-open on Wednesday 22nd January at 9.30am. All members are invited to our 2025 AGM which will be held on Wednesday 26th February at 1.30pm at the Research Centre.

Annual membership fees will be due by Wednesday 1st February, 2025. At our 2024 AGM we increased the membership fee to \$25 for individuals, and \$40 for two people living at the same address. For those members who wish to pay by direct debit please find our bank details which are published in this Newsletter. Those paying by cheque can either send it to our post office box or come to the Research Centre in person. Cash can be paid at the Research Centre. **Please find a renewal of membership form with this Newsletter.**

We have had a very busy time the last few months. As mentioned in our last Newsletter we were chosen to be one of the Museums to participate in the Museum Activation Pilot being run by Arts Upper Hunter. Artist Sophie Cox's *Desks of Fabric* was chosen as the best application that was pitched for our Museum. Sophie was an Artist in Residence with us from Friday, 18th October through to Friday 25th October. In that time she did charcoal rubbings onto fabric of the two six foot long cedar desks from the old St Luke's Grammar School. These desks had been very deeply carved all over by the students attending the School in the first few years of the 1900s.



Desks of fabric display at the launch

Sophie then ran two one day workshops with some Year 9 and 10 students from the Scone Grammar School. This involved the students learning various needlework stitches and applying them to the outline of the carved initials that had been rubbed onto the fabric. Our Museum Curator, Margaret MacDougall assisted by also showing the students how to do the stitches. Sophie's work was launched at a ceremony we held in the Museum courtyard on Friday 25th October attended by our volunteers, Sophie's family and some community members.



Sunday 13th October had us hosting a bus load of 43 bowlers from Pennant Hills who were travelling through to Tamworth for a fortnight of bowls and touring. We provided them with a light lunch, a short history of the Society and a tour of the Museum. Most of the visitors showed an enthusiastic interest in our Museum collection and were very grateful for us providing the opportunity to have a break from their journey and to be fed and entertained.



The Old Scone Court House Theatre was once again the venue for the presentation of the Bishop's History Prize awards on Wednesday 23rd October at 4pm. First prize was awarded to Madelaine Bridge who wrote a very well researched essay on Col Pay. Second prize went to Isla Adams who wrote a very informative history of the life of Betty Shepherd focusing on her being the first woman in NSW to gain a Horse Trainer's licence. Highly Commended prizes were awarded to: Adelaide Hobson who wrote on the Court House of Scone; Emity Croft who wrote her essay on Melissa Jane Croft; Sebastian Comerford who designed a powerpoint presentation on Allan Cunningham; Nate Brayley presented a powerpoint presentation on the building of Glenbawn Dam; and, Miles Fuentes gave a powerpoint presentation on the 2017 – 2020 Drought. After the presentation of the prizes we served

afternoon tea on the Museum verandah. We are very grateful for the support of Mr and Mrs Tony and Anne Bishop. The Bishop's Essay Prize was started by Mr Bill Bishop, Tony's father, in 1972 with the aim of encouraging Year 9 students to have an interest in local history. It is through Tony and Anne's continued assistance that the Prize is still going strong.

The new storage shed is slowly taking shape. Last Newsletter the concrete slab had been laid, and last week the frame, the side walls and the back wall were erected. We are not sure when the final bits will be added, but hopefully before Christmas.



On behalf of the Scone & Upper Hunter Historical Society I wish all of you best wished for happy and safe Festive Season and hope that everyone sees in the New Year in good health.
Carolyn Carter, Editor

REFLECTIONS ON SCONE RESIDENCY

By Sophie Cox

Towards the middle of 2024 I was selected as an Artist in Residence for the **This Here Then Now Project** through Arts Upper Hunter. I was matched with Scone and Upper Hunter Museum and Historical Society, in the beautiful town of Scone. In October of that year, I took the train up to Scone. It was my first visit to the town, and I was fortunate to be staying with a local and President of the Scone and Upper Hunter Museum and Historical Society, Carolyn Carter and her cattle dog, Rella.

That first afternoon I visited the museum in the old lock-up on Kingdon St. It was full of treasures, some of which I saw that afternoon. I was interested to see the Charcoal Safe, for keeping food cool before the advent of the refrigerator, as I was working with charcoal for this project. I also enjoyed the handicraft exhibit, full of haberdashery items.

Then I saw the desks I would be working with. I was enamoured with the long strips of cedar almost completely covered in carved initials and names. It was not until the following day that I would start to work with the desks. That morning, I arrived at the museum with the fabric collected from people in the local area. I laid the material over the desks and began to rub over them carefully with a stick of charcoal. Then letters began to appear, ghostly against the dark charcoal marks. It was enthralling to feel the connection with the students who had made these carved marks so many years ago.

Alongside the Curator of the Museum, Margaret MacDougall, I began to research the desks further. I learnt the reason why the desks would have been so easy to carve into is that cedar is a relatively soft timber, as the government report of 1998 states, the “major defect is its softness - it dents very easily.”¹



Sophie speaking at the launch.

I began to look at some of the names on the desks and see if any matched with student names Margaret had found. We discovered an O. Hardcastle, L. Cox, A. Doyle and a J. McDonald. Later, in the Historical Archives we found A. Doyle’s document for his school fees from 1900, signed by Principal Allanby. Allanby was an important figure in the desk’s history, as she was Principal at the time of William S. Walker being Headmaster. Walker has a chequered history at the school, as he was dismissed for allowing the students to carve into the desks, throw ink and generally run amok. At the wrongful dismissal trial in 1906, Walker was asked to spell algebra, and to solve a simple mathematical problem. When he could not, and upon other evidence given, the case went in favour of Principal Allanby.

The following day, after setting the charcoal with a fixative spray, I went to the graves of some of the important figures in the school desks’ history at St Luke’s Churchyard. There were two former Headmaster’s graves that I saw there, Thomas Creamer and Thomas Ledger. Both had died relatively young, and their wives had continued as Headmistress. Ledger’s wife, Lydia Ann had been particularly loved, with her former pupils inscribing her name on her husband’s headstone upon her death in England in 1916. Later I did a rubbing on an old sheet, recording the gravestone of Ledger, which gave me a strong sense of connection with the Ledger’s.

The Tuesday and Wednesday morning saw the students from Scone Grammar school visit for a sewing workshop. I showed them works in charcoal and explained the project before the students began to sew. Each student chose a few letters on the fabric to embroider. It was a real pleasure to

¹ Anne Bickford, Helen Brayshaw and Helen Proudfoot. 1998. Thematic Forest History and Heritage Assessment (non-Indigenous) UNE/LNE CRA Regions A report undertaken for the NSW CRA/RFA Steering Committee https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/rfa/regions/nsw-north-east/cultural-heriatage/nsw_ne_na29eh.pdf

work with the students, and to teach them sewing. Margaret also assisted, showing the students different embroidery stitches, and her own sampler from her childhood.

After the workshops, I explored the textile collection. I was particularly interested in the World War One textiles. These were souvenirs brought back from the Middle East, in the form of handkerchief-sized pieces of embroidery and printed work.



Sophie at work

On the Wednesday afternoon, the Bishop's Essay Ceremony was held. This was a history essay prize for school students organised by a local family, the Bishops. I learnt about stories of Scone's history and met some local families over scones in the front yard of the museum.

That evening, at the Lion's Club District Governor's Dinner at the local RSL, I learnt the motto for the Governor of Lions that year was 'Make Your Mark', a fitting motto for the work I had been doing in Scone.

Whilst walking around Scone, I was photographing other marks- the engraved names of people written in wet cement. These, I felt, were the modern equivalent of the desk markings. I began to draw the desks, and these modern cement markings in charcoal on some paper I bought at the local craft shop. On another walk, I met local Bill Howey, a former equine vet turned amateur historian. He told me many stories of the town, including the buildings constructed by Matthew Miller in the late 19th century, including Bill Howey's own home. It turned out St Luke's School, where the desks came from, was a Matthew Miller construction. In the churchyard of St Luke's, I found Miller's grave, alongside fellow school builder, Samuel Dunbar. The pair had come from Ireland together in 1840.

Around town, I also bought some air-drying clay and which I pressed into the engravings in the desks, to make three pieces with the letters, 'D' 'M' 'C', the name of the threads that had been used on the project.

It was a wonderful week exploring the town of Scone. I would like to particularly thank Arts Upper Hunter for the opportunity- Suzannah, Sandra and John. Carolyn, for her incredible hospitality, Margaret for her hard work, and all the volunteers at the museum for welcoming me so beautifully. I would also like to thank the students and teachers at Scone Grammar for their beautiful contribution to the project. Also, everyone that I met in Scone, for their kindness and friendly welcome.

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'ROSES FROM THE HEART' MEMORIALS FOR SCONE MUSEUM

'Roses from the Heart' is a unique memorial to the 25,566 female convicts transported to Australia from Britain and Ireland from 1788 to 1853. The concept was developed by Dr Christine Henri, PhD, using a colonial bonnet to commemorate convict women – the same type of bonnet worn by convict women. Her idea is to remind us of the existence of those women. Each bonnet contains the persons name, year they arrived and the ship on which they were transported (see photo below).

Our curator, Margaret MacDougall has a pattern of the bonnet that is used for the 'Roses of the Heart' project, and **we are keen to make contact with the descendants of any female convicts who came to live in the Upper Hunter. We will then discuss with you the possibility of us organising to have a bonnet made for your female convict ancestor and have it on display at our Museum.**

Examples of some of the ships that transported female convicts who spent time in the Hunter Valley are: 'Minerva' 1839; 'Minstel' 1812; 'Morley' 1820; 'Neptune' 1790; 'Numa' 1834; 'Palambam' 1831; 'Planter 1839; 'Princess Charlotte' 1827; 'Princess Royal' 1829; 'Pyramus' 1832 and 1836.

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We wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope to

See you in the New Year.