



YASS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

DECEMBER 2024

A fresh approach to history

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 80

President's Report

December 2024

So much has been achieved this year that looking back over 2024 is a tiring exercise in itself, particularly for those who worked so hard to get such great outcomes. But we can look back on 2024 and know we are in a better place at the end of the year than we were at its start.

Next year will undoubtedly bring its own set of challenges, but I would like all members to be involved in, and contribute to, our 2025 outcomes. Please don't hesitate to contact me on president.ydhs@gmail.com to share your thoughts for what you'd like to see happen with the Society in the coming year.

I wish all our members the very best for 2025. I hope your coming year is exactly as you'd like it to be and I look forward to working with you all in making it a successful year for the Society.

Tanya Cullen
President

*Happy
New Year* ★★

Diary dates

**Exhibition: Hamilton Hume
Going Places. OPEN:**
Sun 29 Dec 10am - 4pm
Sun 5 Jan 10am - 4pm
Yass Valley History Centre.

Archive: CLOSED
the Tuesdays & Thursdays
between 24 Dec to 2 Jan
2025.

Archives: RE-Opening
Tues 7 Jan 2025.

**No General Meeting in
January 2025.**

General Meeting:
Mon 3 Feb 2pm
Yass Valley History Centre.

**Yass Valley Volunteer &
Community Expo:**
Sun 23 Feb 10am - 2pm
Yass Railway Museum.

PATRON**Marion McCarthy****OFFICE BEARERS**

President:	Tanya Cullen
Vice President:	Cheryl Mongan
Secretary:	vacant
Treasurer:	Jason Harrop
Publicity Officer:	Sheree Bamforth
Committee Members	Rick Williams Susan Bell Jane Southwell
Public Officer:	Rosalie Bush



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

**Yass Valley History Centre
Archives and Exhibition Space**
247a Comur Street, Yass, NSW 2582

Opening hours

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays
10am - 4pm

Contact

Phone: 0493 264 524

General

inquiries: secretary.ydhs@gmail.com

Research

inquiries: yassarchives@gmail.com

Find us on the web at
www.yasshistory.org.au

ANOTHER YEAR AND A FEW DOLLARS MORE!!

The YDHS Fund raising committee which was formed early in 2024 has successfully raised around \$7000 this year. Monies go towards the day to day running costs of the Archives and History Centre- things such as stationery, ink cartridges, electricity, postage, water rates, insurance - as well as helping to pay for the recently completed Significance Assessment.

The committee, Corrine Chalmers, Sheree Bamford Maureen Collins and Judith Davidson come up with the ideas and then coordinate the delivery. We are very grateful for the enormous contribution of Corrine who took on the Yass Graveside Yarns project and made it a huge success. The Graveside Yarns have been both financially successful but have also helped to promote the work of the Society. Watch out for opportunities next year when Yass Graveside Yarns will again be on the YDHS schedule of events.

Thank you to the volunteers that have helped with the two raffle ticket selling projects – the wood raffle early in the year and the Christmas raffle. All told the raffles managed to make around \$5,500. The small team of volunteers did a fantastic job.

The Fund Raising Committee will be taking a rest in 2025. Anyone with energy and new ideas would be more than welcome to bring them up with the YDHS Committee. Your assistance is valued and much needed.



All the best for 2025.

THE LUCKY WINNERS OF THE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



The Christmas raffle was drawn by Wilma Tanswell on Sunday 22nd December, just in time for Christmas. The five lucky winners had the opportunity to choose their prize from any one of the three lovely Christmas cakes beautifully decorated and donated by Wilma, or the Monster truck or the train set. Owing to a slight damage to the fantastic monster truck, a second vehicle was added to this prize so the lucky winner has two fabulous remote-control vehicles.

1 st prize	ticket Yellow N 28	won by Peter who chose the monster truck
2 nd prize	ticket Blue D 29	won by Alex who chose the reindeer Christmas cake
3 rd prize	ticket Pink Q 53	won by Isabelle who has granddaughters who will enjoy the train set
4 th prize	ticket Grey B 25	won by Amanda who chose the platypus cake
5 th prize	ticket Yellow N 34	won by Ian who knows a lot of blokes who will enjoy a Christmas cake

Congratulations to all our lucky prize winners and thank you to all who supported the raffle. A very big thank you to Wilma Tanswell. Also grateful thanks to all of you who sold raffle tickets. It's a great way to meet people, spread the word about the work of the society and raise funds to support it.



Wilma drawing the raffle, Suzie from VIC scrutinising.



Raffle winners Peter and Alex.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

As reported last month our significance assessment started with the visit of Ms Christine Yeats during the last week of November. It would have been impossible for her to examine every one of the collections during her two-day visit so a short list of collections that were considered worthy of consideration was prepared. As expected, the Hume collection is of prime importance, as are collections that contain material, maps and images related to the construction of Burrinjuck Dam. Stanley Ablamowicz's records of his Pacific Boring Company is a unique collection that connects agriculture, hydrology, geology and rural properties across southern and western New South Wales and even the Lucas Heights Nuclear Reactor site. The records of the Red Cross and the Yass Boy's Comfort Fund are a contrast of WW1 community involvement at a national and local level. The schools' collection, the large collection of rates books and the map collections are unusual in small local history collections. The Coen, Thomson and Triggs collections were also examined. Ms Yeats was intrigued by the diversity of the collection, such as the town plans - which were compiled when the sewerage system was being installed in 1939 - and the Comur Street models. She has suggested that they be included in the assessment. Background notes to each of the collections examined have been provided to Ms Yeats and we expect to receive the report early in the new year. [Cheryl Mongan]

The Comur Street display is believed to be unique.



YASS HIGH SCHOOL

At the invitation of Councillor Alvaro Charry, I joined RSL President Steve Neuhaus, teaching staff of Yass High School and their Year 9 students at the Soldiers Memorial Hall on Wednesday 11 December. As part of their studies the students were investigating the role of the memorial hall. Armed with question sheets they inspected the honour rolls commemorating Yass Valley resident's military service and the cenotaph. The teaching staff have indicated that in the new year they would like to explore individual stories as a way of furthering the students' engagement in local history with the assistance of the society.

[Cheryl Mongan]

END OF YEAR GATHERING

It was a case of *veni, vidi, vici* when the forty members of the society gathered at the Yass Valley History Centre to celebrate the end of a tiring but very successful year. We have successfully refurbished most of our building and the all-important relocation of the archival collection to its permanent home has now been completed. It was an occasion for members to catch up over finger food and drinks before the silly season got into full swing. We were pleased that our patron Marion McCarthy could join us, as well as members of the Yass Antique Farm Machinery Club and Councillor Alvaro Charry, as they were all instrumental in the safe removal of the collection. Our air-conditioned archive comfortably accommodated the gathering, and just as well - there was a heavy downpour that would have caused a hasty change of plans. Thanks to all who assisted in the preparation and the clean up afterwards. [Cheryl Mongan]

Members and guests at our End of Year gathering.



Members helped themselves to a variety of finger food.





Deborah Power with Corrine and Wayde Chalmers

Judy Brooker, Nola Bindon and Colleen Carruthers.



Holiday Season Hours



Hamilton Hume: Going Places Exhibition & Gallery will be OPEN:

Sunday

29 December: 10am - 4pm

Sunday 5 January: 10am - 4pm

We will be closed all other times over the festive period while our wonderful Archives team take a short break.

From Tues 7 January 2025, we will resume our regular hours.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers, members and supporters this year. We wish you a safe, joyful, and very happy Christmas and holiday season.

Yass Christmas Past.



Image: F.W. Peterson & Sons
advertisement / Yass Courier / 20 Dec 1920
(NLA)



Image: Comur Street Yass,
outside Norris Garage
advertising "Peterson for
Xmas Shopping" c. 1930
(YDHS Collection)

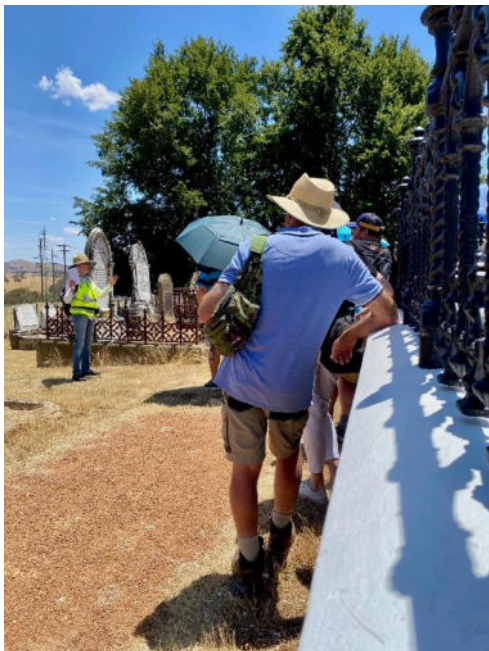


What a Day for Our Final Yass Graveside Yarns Tour of 2024 in November!

It was a scorcher, and even the magpies were looking for shade. A sea of umbrellas dotted the cemetery as visitors from near and far braved the heat, stayed hydrated, and joined us for another memorable storytelling session.



A special highlight was hearing from attendee Dee, a family member of one of our featured Indigenous pioneers, Margaret “Peggy” Goldspink (nee Reid) - a reminder of how connected we are to this place and to these histories.



Thank you to our amazing guides & researchers and to everyone who came along this year to support our



work preserving and sharing these important stories. Every ticket helps us maintain our archive collection and continue to uncover the past.

We'll see you next year for more Yass Graveside Yarns.

Text & Photos by Sheree Bamforth.

Membership Reminder

If your YDHS membership fees are still outstanding, please go to our website to see how easy it is to pay. Don't forget to put your name on your payment to ensure you are still on our lists for newsletters and notifications and all the other benefits of membership.

<https://yasshistory.org.au/>

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2024-2025

I/we enclose my/our subscription for the period 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025.

Joining fee per membership	\$20.00+
Single	\$35.00
Double	\$45.00
Concession single	\$25.00
Concession double	\$35.00
Student*	\$10.00
<i>Boongaroon</i> (hardcopy)	\$10.00
Donation	

New members on or after 1 July are regarded as being financial for the following year

* Research fees may apply for post-Secondary students.

It is important that you complete this form (please print) and return it by post with payment to The Hon Treasurer, Yass & District Historical Society Inc, P O Box 304, Yass NSW 2582 or email to secretary@yasshistory.org.au and deposit funds to our account at Westpac: Yass BSB 032 771 Account No 12 0621 noting your name on the deposit slip or direct credit.

Name/s:.....

Address.....

Phone:.....Email:.....

Please indicate your preferences for the following: -

I/we would prefer to receive *Boongaroon* as: a) printed booklet by post or b) by email as a pdf.