

## COALFIELDS LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to Tumblebee, the official newsletter of the Coalfields Local History Association Inc.

## **Aims and Objectives**

To discover, record, print, preserve and teach the History and Heritage of the specified district. The specified district being all the land situated in the Cessnock Local Government Area. Primarily known as the Hunter Valley in general

The Coalfields Local History Association Manages the Edgeworth David Museum, Manages and maintains the Jim Comerford Collection and offers assistance with Family History Research and inquiries.

## **Office Bearers**

President	Kim WELLER	
Vice President	John MURPHY	
Secretary	Lexie MATTHEWS	0409452555
Treasurer	Peter ALLEN	

## **Committee Members**

Rose DOBIE  
Graham SMITH  
Darrell MATTHEWS

## **PATRONS**

Catherine PARSONS  
Meryl SWANSON MP  
Clayton BARR MP

Newsletter Editor	Lynette Hamer
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## **LIFE MEMBERS OF EDGEWORTH DAVID MUSEUM**

Brian ANDREWS OAM (Deceased)  
Lexie MATTHEWS  
Cheryle SHOESMITH

Association Address	Coalfields Local History Association Secretary P O Box 10 Kurri Kurri NSW 2327
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Web Address	<a href="http://coalfieldshistory.org">coalfieldshistory.org</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:coalfieldshistory@gmail.com">coalfieldshistory@gmail.com</a>

**The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by the management committee, which includes the office bearers of the Association. Members of the association are welcome to attend and observe at any meeting and may take part at the discretion of the chairperson**

# THE OPENING OF THE TIME CAPSULE

In 1974 a committee was formed with the view of organising and establishing a Time Capsule. It was decided that the Time Capsule would be opened in 2024 after 50 years. The foundation stone was laid by the President of the committee, Bruce AYLING in March and the sealed capsule encased in a concrete shell was placed in Rotary Park during Civic Week 1974.

The committee was established to oversee the whole process and as thus set down the conditions to be followed with regard to the construction of the capsule and shell, where it would be placed for the next 50 years and to organise contributions to be sealed in the capsule. The committee set down it's wishes with regard to what would happen to the contents of the capsule once it was opened.

The committee stipulated that all the remaining items were to be lodged with the Sir Edgeworth David Memorial Museum. Where they were recorded and are currently stored.

The square capsule was constructed from stainless steel. The capsule would hold the contributions and would be encased in a concrete shell designed by Cessnock City Council. Tanner Stainless, a local company constructed the capsule and it was stainless steel welded closed. A plaque was then placed on the outside of the shell to indicate what the structure was.

Delma WHITE was the Publicity Officer at the time and she was responsible for advertising the project and calling for contributions from the schools, businesses, clubs, service organisations, sporting clubs, council, hospital and industries. It is believed that there were some late contributions, unfortunately the capsule itself had been sealed so these articles were only placed inside the concrete shell.

Fifty years passed, so in 2024 it was time to consider opening the Time Capsule. This turned out to be a long, difficult and contentious operation. Public opinion and feelings were running high. Questions arose regarding how the capsule would be opened, where it would be opened, how the shell would be breached, would the public be allowed to attend the opening and most important of all what would the contents be like after 50 years?

Firstly, the concrete shell was breached and it was discovered that the shell contained a significant amount of water. On removal of the shell itself it was found that a colony of ants had taken up residence inside. This indicated that any items not actually contained in the capsule would have been destroyed.

The capsule itself was actually opened in November 2024. The capsule was loaded onto a truck in the early hours of the morning and delivered to the Sir Edgeworth David Memorial Museum at Abermain, where the it was opened. There was no secrecy about the procedure. It was carried out under strict Work Heath and Safety practices which meant that for their own safety no members of the public could be present.

The contents of the capsule were removed. Those handling the items were required to wear masks and gloves to eliminate exposure to any mould or other organisms that may have developed over the fifty years. The contents were found to be in excellent condition.



Now the real work began. Contributed items were in envelopes. The envelopes were sorted into three different colours. The items in the envelopes were numbered and recorded and then scanned so that a digital copy of each item was produced. The digital copies were stored in computer files for future reference.



There was extreme interest shown in the Time Capsule and its opening and it was decided that items from the capsule would be placed on display so that the general Public could view the contents. Australia Day 2025 was the date chosen to hold the exhibition. The venue was the Anglican Church hall at Kurri Kurri. The organisers were overwhelmed by the number of visitors that attended the three day exhibition and the intense interest shown in the display. The event was telecast on the NBN local news. After the display the items were returned to their envelopes and taken back to the museum.

The next step in the process will be deciding how these items will be permanently stored. The originals will only be made available on request; however the digitised copies will be available for viewing on the museum computers. This will minimise handling of the original items.



The plaque placed on the time Capsule when it was installed



## PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF TIME CAPSULE ITEMS

Since it was logistically impossible to hold the actual opening of the Time Capsule in public an exhibition was arranged for Australia Day 2025. The museum volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure that the items contained in the capsule were recorded before this date. It was ensured that the items were mould free and safe. Items of most interest to the public were selected and either mounted onto display boards or displayed on tables. It was imperative that the items were not physically handled. The display was set up on Friday 24 January 2025 at the Anglican church hall. The display ran from Saturday 25 to Monday 27 of January. All three days were very busy and the attendance beat all expectations.

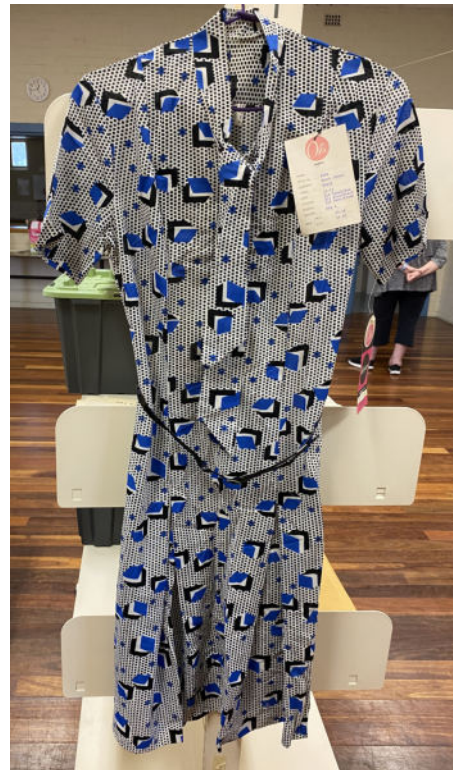
Local councillors were in attendance and the son of the president of the Time Capsule committee at the time Mr AYLING came from Goulburn to attend the event. Also present was Delma WHITE who was publicity officer and is the last surviving member of the committee. Delma was extremely happy with the event and felt that the wishes of the original committee were satisfactorily carried out.

The items contributed in 1974 were representative and varied. There were letters and photos from the local schools, samples of articles produced by the Osti factory, documents from the Cessnock City Council, photos and information from various local sporting clubs as well as documentation from the Worker's Club and the RSL club.

The historical significance of the contents can not be underestimated and the life of 1974 is clearly depicted and preserved in the contents of the Time Capsule. It was pleasing to see that the local Television station took an interest in the proceedings.



**Delma White & Lynette Hamer at the exhibition**



**One of the Osti garments**

# STEFAN KAMASZ

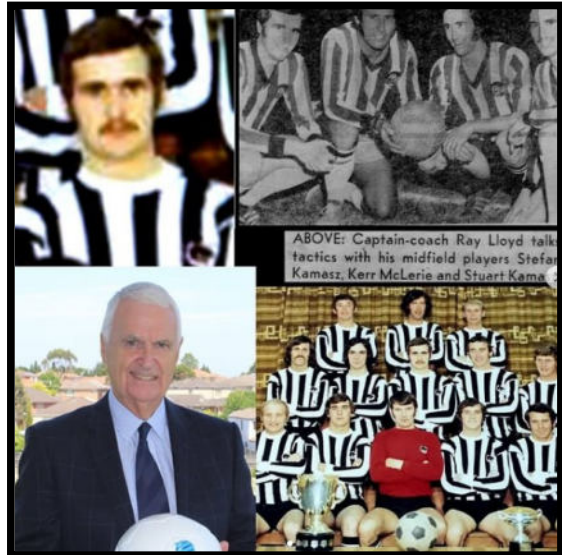
## Soccer Legend

**1949 – 2025**

Stefan KAMASZ was born in England in 1949. He began his soccer career playing with Farsley Celtic in the Yorkshire League.

He migrated from England in 1969 with brothers Stuart and David and joined the Weston Bears Soccer Club at the age of 19. His talent for and passion for the game of soccer was evident even at this stage. He went on to be part of the Major and minor premiers with Weston in 1971, 1972 and 1973. Stefan married his wife Terri-anne PILGRIM in Cessnock in 1971. They had three children Stephanie, Anne and Joanne.

At the end of an active and illustrious career he moved into the area of administration where he would consolidate his passion for soccer by holding numerous administrative positions and being instrumental in ensuring the future of the game of soccer.



He served as Treasurer and President of the Northern NSW Soccer Federation from 1978 to 1982 during which time he oversaw the creation of the Northern State League.

Other positions he held include; Director of the Australian Soccer Federation.

Team Manager of the Socceroos during their victorious Merlion Cup champagne in Singapore.

General Manager of the National Soccer League from 1982 to 1988 and then again from 1996 to 2004.

In addition to his work with the National Soccer League he served as CEO of Soccer Australia, CEO of A-League club Sydney FC, General Manager of Sydney Olympic FC (1990 -1992), Head of competitions for Football NSW (2005 – 2006), CEO of the Johnny Warren Football Foundation, Served on the Board of Football Australia (2020 – 2022).

He was an active member of the Football Australia Referees committee and Football development committee.

He played a key role in the development of the A-League as a member of the implementation panel responsible for the KEMENY report.

Stefan Kamasz was inducted into the Football Australia hall of fame in 2014.

Apart from the formal role he played in all aspects of the game of soccer Stefan Kamasz will always be remembered for his mentorship, kindness and ability to inspire those around him.



Stefan Kamasz was awarded the Joe MARSTON medal for the Grand Final's best player and the Johnny WARREN medal for the Leagues most outstanding player.

Sadly Stefan KAMASZ passed away on the 7 January 2025 at the age of 76. He will be sorely missed by not only his family and friends but also soccer fans and players.

**R.I.P**

### **JOE MARSTON MEDAL**

The Joe Marston medal is an A-League award given to the player of the match in the A-League Grand Final each year. Introduced in 1990 the medal was previously awarded to the best player in the National Soccer League Grand final



### **JOHNNY WARREN MEDAL**

The Johnny Warren medal is awarded to the best player each season of the domestic top-tier men's competition. Like the Joe Marston medal it was introduced in 1990 but was previously awarded to the best player of the season in the National Soccer League. Johnny Warren MBE, OAM was a legendary Soccer and Australian Football figure, making 42 appearances in the Green and gold across a prominent career.

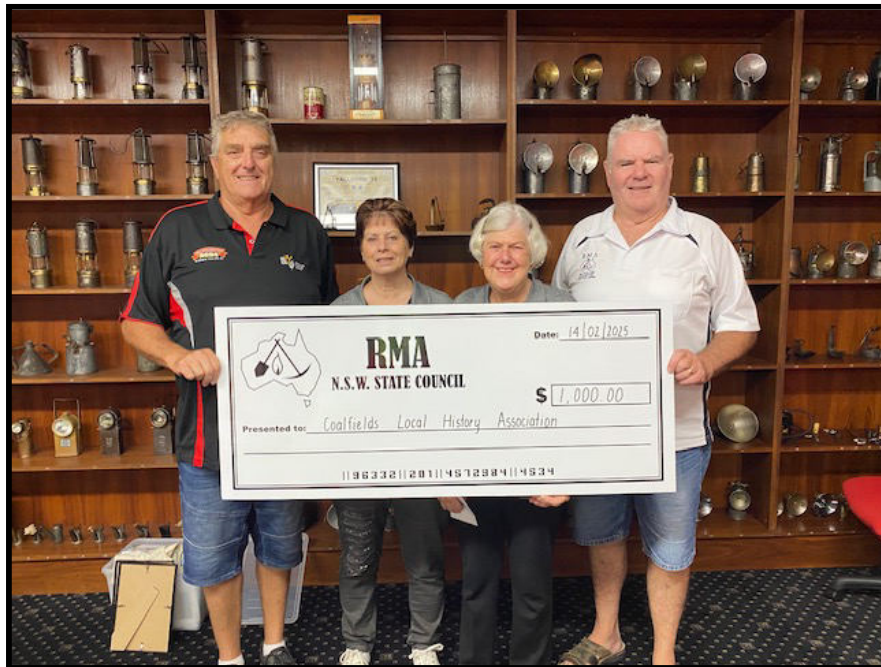


## MUSEUM REPORT

Several of the museum volunteers have been engaged in the Time Capsule project. This involved opening the capsule, sorting, recording and digitising the items over a period of four months. Apart from deciding on the best way to permanently store the items the project has been satisfactorily completed.

Our fundraising appeal has been successful in regard to our ability to purchase glass cabinets to adequately protect our precious items. Our volunteers have been actively fundraising and generous substantial donations have been received from Meryl SWANSON, Clayton BARR (who launched our fundraising appeal), Bernard GRIFFIN, Brad BROWN and the Coal Face magazine. The Northern District of the Retired Mineworkers Association contributed \$1000 to our fundraising appeal. We are now able to order the cabinets and the first room to have them installed will be the Mining room. Our sincere thanks go to all those contributors. We are most grateful for the support we have been given in this endeavour, without their support our museum would be unable to function as it does.

## THANK YOU ALL



**Cheque being presented to Coalfields Local History members by President of the Retired Mineworkers Darren WATSON and Secretary Daryl HAILE**

The museum held two open days in conjunction with the 2025 Senior's Festival, Thursday 6 March and Sunday 16 March. The museum was open to the public as usual on these days and volunteers were on hand to show visitors around and assist with information. A sausage sizzle and tea and coffee was available on both days. Historical power point presentations will be on hand for groups or individuals who may be interested.

Two of our members attended the Seniors Forum held in the Cessnock Uniting church.

During the Senior's Festival 2024 the Cessnock City Council initiated a project whereby twelve senior citizens from the local LGA volunteered to take part in photo shoots and interviews to highlight the contributions that seniors can and do make to their communities.



The project was finalised in 2025. The participants came from varied backgrounds. The one thing that they all had in common was their ability to continue to contribute usefully to their communities. The portraits and copies of the interviews were on display when Seniors Festival Patron Delma WHITE launch the 2025 Senior's Festival at the Art Gallery in the Cessnock Performing Arts building.



**Some of the portraits on display**



**Delma WHITE (Patron)& Lynette HAMER (participant)**

The Coalfields Local History Association successfully hosted the March meeting of the Hunter Chapter.

The Newcastle Family History Society held a zoom meeting, the focus of which was aimed at journal editors. Our journal editor participated in this session and came away with some helpful information to improve our journal

soldiers are housed in the museum.

The team at the museum are more than happy to help anyone with family history information and research.



## SOME OF THE MUSEUM'S GENEALOGY RESOURCES

## A PRAYER FOR GENEALOGISTS

Lord, help me dig into the past  
And shift the sands of time  
That I might find the roots that made  
This family tree of mine;

Lord, help me trace the ancient roads  
On which my fathers trod  
And led through so many lands  
To find our present sod.

Lord, help me find an ancient book  
Or dusty manuscript  
That 's safely hidden now away  
In some forgotten crypt;

Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts  
My soul when I can't find  
The missing link between some name  
That ends the same as mine.

**Curtis WOODS**

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**MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE**  
**1 JANUARY 2025**  
**\$30.00**

### Methods of Payment:

#### POST

The Secretary  
Coalfields Local History Association  
P.O. Box 10  
Kurri Kurri NSW 2327

#### IN PERSON

Sir Edgeworth David Musuem  
Abermain School of Arts  
209 Cessnock Rd  
Abermain NSW

#### ELECTRONIC PAYMENT

Name	Coalfields Local History Association
A/c No	540011202
BSB	650000
Description	Name & Fees

## MEETING TIMES

General meetings will be held at the Sir Edgeworth David Memorial museum  
Cessnock Rad Abermain on the third Tuesday of every second month at 2.30 pm

Tuesday 20 May 2025

Tuesday 15 July 2025

Tuesday 16 September 2025

Tuesday 18 November 2025

## MUSEUM OPENING TIMES

The Museum is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Other times by appointment.

The Museum is located in the Abermain School of Arts Building 209 Cessnock Road  
Abermain.

Parking available at rear of building

## Association's Area Interest

The specified district of the Coalfields Local History Association Inc's area of interest is all that land situated in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA), primarily, as well as the Hunter Valley in general

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