

THE MUSE

Published by the Mudgee Historical Society Inc
PO Box 217, Mudgee, NSW, 2850

Website: www.mudgeemuseum.com

Email: enquiries@mudgeemuseum.com

President: John Broadley 02.6372 3365

Secretary: Pauline Bassingthwaite 02.6372 3078

Editor: Fay Wells

NUMBER 163

JUNE 2011

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Mudgee



St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Mortimer Street, Mudgee

Mudgee's streetscapes are greatly enhanced by the town's magnificent churches, all of which were preceded by smaller and plainer structures. Saint Paul's Presbyterian Church in Mortimer Street, completed in 1878, replaced an earlier church which was demolished in the early 1980's. Religious faith played a vital role in early community life in the Mudgee district, with the four principal churches – Anglican, Catholic, Wesleyan Methodist and Presbyterian – well-established by the 1850s. The first resident Presbyterian Minister, the much-respected Reverend Alexander McEwen, was ordained in Scotland in 1853 and in 1854 he was appointed to the Western Goldfields. With the exception of a brief ministry at Hinton in the Hunter Valley from

1861-1863, he played a prominent role in district life until his death in Mudgee in 1883. His wife, Catherine Busby of Bathurst, was a member of a pioneer family who played leading roles in the early pastoral, engineering and viticultural fields in New South Wales.



The first St Paul's Presbyterian Church (demolished)

A two acre site, comprising Allotments 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Section 18, fronting Mortimer Street, had been set aside for the use of the Presbyterian Church, and in September 1857 the foundation stone of a Presbyterian chapel was laid on Allotment 5. Work was completed by Mudgee builder Andrew McCauley at a cost of £1100. The building, in rubblestone in simple gothic style, was 50 feet by 25 feet, excluding a small projecting front porch, and was opened for worship on Sunday, 12 December 1858.

it became apparent that the chapel was insufficient to meet the needs of the congregation and in May 1876 a foundation stone was laid for a much larger church to the immediate east of the chapel. The architect, Thomas Rowe of Sydney, as one of the most prominent architects in the state during the second half of the nineteenth century. He built Tresco at Elizabeth Bay as his own residence, and designed numerous commercial premises in Sydney, as well as Newington School, Sydney Hospital and the Great Synagogue in Elizabeth Street. He also designed several churches in the Central West: the Methodist Church at Ilford, Saint Stephen's Presbyterian Church at Bathurst, Saint Thomas' Presbyterian Church at Hill End, the Wesleyan Chapel at Byng, and Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Orange. The cost of the new church, which opened for worship on 10 March 1878, was circa £4400 and the builder was John Webb.

In 1912, after extensive renovations, the old chapel was opened for use as a Sunday school and community hall. Later roughcast rendered, the building had deteriorated by the late 1980s and it was subsequently demolished.

The manse had been completed in 1865 on the western side of the chapel. The original plans and specifications of the manse, now in the Mitchell Library, show a standard four-roomed hipped structure with a hipped front verandah and a rear wing on the western side. A flanking wing on the eastern side was added by Reverend

McEwen. The verandah was replaced in 1954 and extensive renovations were carried out in 1985.

The Colonial Inn Museum has in its collection an interesting relic associated with St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Many years ago, when the church was re-roofed, eight metal gargoyles which were mounted on the guttering of the spire were removed. One that survived was given to the Museum and it is mounted on the wall above a door in the hallway on the ground floor. Gargoyles have been an important part of church architecture since time immemorial. Mostly in stone, they often featured grotesque faces and, while their prime function was to direct water away from the walls and foundation of the building through their gaping mouths, they were also symbolic – to scare people into coming to church and to indicate that all evil was kept outside of the church.



St Paul's metal gargoyle

NEWS AT THE MUSEUM

May was an exceptionally busy time at the Museum with numerous events at the Colonial Inn Museum.

CVMG AGM

The Mudgee Historical Society Inc. hosted the AGM of the Cudgegong Valley Museum Group on Sunday 1st May. Representatives from the six member museums attended: Gulgong Pioneers Museum, Henry Lawson Centre, Kandos Bicentennial Museum, Mudgee Historical Society, Rylstone and District Historical Society Inc. and the Turon Technology Museum. Each museum presented an update on happenings in their museums in the past year and it was considered timely to investigate the production of an enlarged and updated brochure. Thanks to Lucy White from the MRTI for addressing the meeting on the advantages of a combined approach in promoting heritage tourism in the Mudgee region.

CENTRAL WEST CHAPTER OF MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA

On Saturday 14th May the Mudgee Historical Society Inc. hosted the AGM of this organization. Representatives of museums across the Central West attended, starting with a morning tea and inspection of the Colonial Inn Museum, followed by a tour of St John's Anglican Church and St Mary's Catholic Church. The group then adjourned to the CWA rooms in Market Street for a Powerpoint presentation by John Broadley on the history of Mudgee which was followed by a delicious lunch prepared by the CWA ladies under the direction of Gwen Nicholson. The AGM was held after lunch and John Broadley of Mudgee is now Secretary of the organization.

SCHOOL EXCURSIONS

Local schools continue to use our museum as a valuable educational resource. On Monday 16th May a group of Year 11 students in a career module at Mudgee High School visited to look at what life and work was like in colonial Australia. On Tuesday 24th May two Year 1 classes from St Matthew's School in Mudgee visited. Full of questions, some of which were curly. President John was asked whether he had shot all the stuffed animals in the glass display cabinet!!!

PRESBYTERIAN COACH VISIT

On Tuesday 18th May a group of Presbyterians from all over NSW came for an inspection of the museum and for morning tea, before attending a service at St Paul's Presbyterian Church in Mudgee. President John gave a brief talk on the history of Mudgee and presented the group with a summary sheet on the history of the Presbyterian Church in Mudgee. He also pointed out that the museum has an interesting Presbyterian relic: a tin gargoyle, one of eight, which used to sit on the guttering around the spire of the church.

MUDGEE WALKS

Many years ago the Mudgee Historical Society Inc. compiled for sale a heritage walks brochure, the supplies of which are now exhausted. President John is currently in the process of updating and revamping the brochure.

MUSEUM OPENING HOURS

Due to staffing difficulties it has been decided to close the museum on Saturday afternoons during winter. Apologies for any inconveniences.

MUDGEE SMALL FARM FIELD DAYS 2011

The Mudgee Historical Society in will again be represented at the Field Days this year, manning a stand with a transport theme. On show will be the Society's restored Austin A40 ute and a display of transport-associated photographs.

SECURITY

Security is regrettably an increasing problem on site at the museum, with several acts of vandalism and intrusions. Mesh screens have been installed on several windows,

and we are currently investigating the installation of sensor-operated lights on key spots in the grounds. Our monitoring service provider is now locally based.

VOLUNTEERS GRANT

President John has submitted an application for a federal Volunteers Grant for a laptop computer and data projector which will hopefully be successful.

MEETING ROOM REVAMP

Our kitchen/meeting room is undergoing a refit courtesy of our handyman and carpenter Kevin Bassingthwaight. As this room is often a repository for sundry junk, Kevin is installing shelving which will allow for better use of space.

SWORDS FAMILY BOOK LAUNCH

On the afternoon of Saturday 28th May the Colonial Inn Museum was the venue for the launch of a recently-completed book on the Swords family in Australia: *Family. The First Century*. Compiled by brother and sister John and Julie Swords, the book documents the family's long presence in the Mudgee district. The occasion was the opportunity for a family reunion and it is pleasing to see another addition to our collection of family histories.



John and Julie Swords

Notes from Mudgee's "WESTERN POST" Newspaper.

Following are some more stories and advertisements taken from the "*WESTERN POST*", January 18th 1912.

NEWS STORIES

LINBURN POST OFFICE – It was announced that the lease has been transferred to Mr. Albert Baker.

MAYORAL ALLOWANCES – A discussion was held on the Mayoral allowances for the coming year. The sum of 60 Pounds was considered fair, "To help the Mayor maintain his important position of dignity". [*I think*

we have heard similar stories in recent years on mayoral allowances.]

CRICKET NEWS – Rylstone won over Mudgee, Independents lost to Frome Creek and Independents defeated Cullenbone.

MUDGEES HOSPITAL ANNUAL MEETING – Some of those present were Tuckerman, Rooney, Campbell, Walker, Evans, Percy Deane T. Hill, P. J. Griffin, J. C. Marks, W. Shaw [Sec.]. Money has been raised by Balls held in the Mechanics Institute, Star Pictures gave a night of films, a Social, and Concerts in the Town Hall. Buildings at the Hospital are in poor repair, septic tank needed and 1,000 pounds is coming from Chief Secretary for repairs etc. All local Doctors have been admitted as Honorary Medical Practitioners – this has apparently caused dispute in earlier years. Reference made to trains being a “nuisance” [the station is close by], but the President said the patients ‘rather like the sound of the trains’. Drs Sproule and Lester were happy with the Hospital and Staff. During 1911 there were 223 patients admitted to the hospital with 150 cured and 45 relieved [?] and 8 deaths [considered a low death rate in comparison with previous years].

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING – Parades will be held in Mudgee for Cadets, including drills at Roth’s Hall [*now Lewis Street Tyres*].

ST. PAULS BAZAAR – This was held in November and was very successful with a net return of 116 pounds being handed over to Reverend Curtis.

TRAVELLING TIME – The time it takes to travel by car from Mudgee to Bathurst is down to 3.5 hours. This

was achieved with a stoppage of 1.5 hours.

ALHAMBRA – There will be a screening of a fine Indian drama “A Chance Shot” at the Alhambra on Thursday evening.

THE MUDGEES COURSING CLUB – The annual meeting was held at Daly’s Clubhouse Hotel with Mr. J. Dykes presiding. A drive will be held along the Havilah Road with a much better class of dogs in action.

ALL MUDGEES STORES – All stores will be closed on Friday January 26th and they will remain open until 6.00pm on Saturday January 27th.

COUNCIL wants justice in regard to Fire Brigade Board which is asking an extra 17 pounds this year and only pays 5/- per man per month for maintenance when Dubbo gets twice that amount.

COUNCIL has a dispute with the Under-Secretary, Dept. of Lands regarding the leasing of a site for Electric Light Plant.

STAR PICTURE CO. – applies for the lease of the Town Hall for six months at the rent of 50 pounds for 2 nights per week.

THE INCREASE OF RABBITS – At the Mudgee Pastures Protection Board Meeting a petition was in hand from settlers of the Cooyal, Kemps Valley, Stoney Creek and Battle Abbey seeking a “receiver of scalps” at Cooyal. Mr. Kilburn was appointed to this position. A resolution was passed for compulsory dipping of sheep. Request from Mr. A. Baker and Mr. F. McGrath for 3 miles of wire netting [Presumably to keep the rabbits out.]

IN THE FLOWER GARDEN – An article on gardening mainly dealing with ‘Pansies’ – “The pen cannot describe their loveliness”.

ADVERTISING

THOS HILL AND SONS have a great summer sale in full swing – Bargains include gloves/hosiery/silks in Church St. Store.

BLUNDEN & MITCHELL along with **J.W. ROBINSON** will hold a special store stock sale at Ulan Yards. 600 cattle and a few horses.

BLUNDEN & MITCHELL have set up a temporary office as stock and station agent, horse sales, clearing sales next to the **IMPERIAL HOTEL**.

J. NIVEN the auctioneer, will hold a big stock sale at Spring Ridge Saleyards. Wed 29th January. 1500 cattle and 1500 sheep.

MARKS & CO. advertise Showroom Specials in white muslin, Ladies Costumes 12/6, Blouses 2/11 and skirts Ready to Wear. Their Millinery is fresh and up-to-date. Prices are reasonable.

WM. TAIT & CO. offer genuine bargains – Grand summer clearance, season’s smartest styles in Ladies and Gents apparel, also Crockery and Ironmongery.

E. J. PARSONS agent for Cycles, Market St. opposite the Town Hall.

SINGER MACHINE CO. offers free lessons in drawn thread work for Ladies at the Singer shop in Church St. next to Saunders Bros.

MR. H. SWORDS of Moolarben kills unwanted trees by poisoning with

Arsenic and Washing Soda – cheaper than ring-barking. He had killed off 300 acres of trees in this way.

WILLIAM GORDON offers Tailoring at his Church St. premises next to Mrs. Patemans.

F. SPIES is a Plumber/Gasfitter of Church St. Windmills & acetylene gas plants a specialty also Gal. iron tanks.

DAYDAWN SOAP – Pure soap made from best materials by **W. WILTON BROS** of Mudgee.

HOTEL LICENSEES

ORIENTAL HOTEL license held by William Ellis. Best brands of wine/spirits/ beer kept.

PARK VIEW HOTEL now run by **JOHN FITZSIMMINS** late of Cudgegong. Cnr Church/Denison.

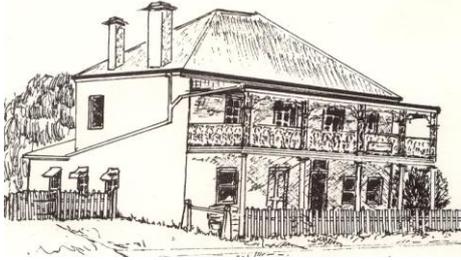
FEDERAL HOTEL licensee is now **H.W. FRANNEY**.

HOLYOAK HOTEL North Shore – **Geo PAULING**.

POST OFFICE HOTEL is now in the hands of **A.E. RUSSELL**, from Millett.

I hope you have all enjoyed reading about things passed. I have had a few pleasant hours putting this together.

Cheers from Liz Pratt



COLONIAL INN MUSEUM

126 Market Street, Mudgee
Headquarters of the
Mudgee Historical Society Inc

PO Box 217, Mudgee, NSW, 2850
Tel. 02.6372 7395

Opening Times

Mon to Fri: 10am to 3pm
Sat: 2pm to 5 pm
Sun: 10am to 5pm
Groups by appointment

Admission

Adults: \$5
Concession: \$4
Children: \$2

The Mudgee Historical Society meets on the **THIRD** Monday evening of every month, except December, at the Colonial Inn Museum at 7.30.pm (DST 8pm)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership of the Mudgee Historical Society Inc is due for renewal on the 1st July of each year.
Membership: \$10 Families \$20

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

TEL./EMAIL:

Return to: The Secretary, Mudgee Historical Society Inc, PO Box 217, Mudgee, NSW, 2850

