



THE MUSE

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

MUDGEE'S MOTORING HISTORY

The following article appeared in Sydney's *Evening News* on Monday, 25th September 1905:

A very satisfactory motor car run was made from Mudgee to Sydney by Dr. Charles E. Lester, "Forgandenny", Mudgee, and Dr. A. O. Wilson of Bathurst, on Friday.

The two medicos, who were accompanied by Mr. A Spies (engineer), left Mudgee on Friday morning, at 7 o'clock, and arrived in this city shortly after 6 p.m., having traversed a distance of about 190 miles in eleven hours. The party, however, was actually travelling 8¾ hours, the other 2¼ hours having been spent in resting and feasting, and admiring the scenery.

The pace averaged about 22 miles an hour. The motor used was a "Darracq". The roads for miles across the mountains were very rough.)

It is interesting to note that the grandsons of these two men, David Lester and Warwick Spies, are members of the Mudgee Historical Society!

VALE BETTY JACKSON



Long-term Mudgee Historical Society member Betty Jackson recently passed away in Mudgee on 23rd November 2013 at the age of 94. Betty was a resident of Mudgee since 1986, and from her arrival in the town became an active member of the Society. She was a great lover of Australian history and for many years was the editor of this newsletter in which she loved to insert curious snippets of how Australians used to live in days of yore. Betty was also Society treasurer for several years, borrowing from her experience in many different organizational roles with the Bahai community in Australia and Fiji. I was pleased, as President in 2007, to award Betty an honorary life membership of the Mudgee Historical Society, an honour of which she was immensely proud. She greatly enjoyed attending our weekly Tuesday morning working bees for many years, enjoying the friendship of other Society members. Our condolences to Betty's son, Michael, and his family.

VALE MARY LESTER

Life-long Mudgee resident Mary Lester, nee Grant, passed away unexpectedly on 13th August 2013 in Mudgee. Mary was captain of Mudgee High School and took a great interest in the ex-Students Association of the school, an organization which has just been wound up. Wife of David and mother

of three daughters, Mary was very much involved in many aspects of Mudgee's community: the Presbyterian church, Mudgee Hospital and Kanandah Hostel just to mention a few. A great lover of the history of her family and husband David's family, Mary also took a great interest in the Lester family's historic homestead on Binnawee at Cullenbone. Our condolences to Mary's husband David and daughters Elizabeth, Anne and Robyn and their families.

SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to two special grand ladies and long-time supporters and members of the Mudgee Historical Society who recently attained significant birthdays: Jo Williams (100) and Molly Saville (103). Our very best wishes to you both.

EURUNDEREE SCHOOL



It is pleasing to see the Eurunderee School site undergoing a renaissance. The site, on the corner of Strike's Lane and Henry Lawson Lawson Drive, had been neglected for some time, but an enthusiastic and representative management committee has taken charge and has been working hard at conserving the site. The school is a short distance to the north of the site of Henry Lawson's childhood home, although the current building is not the school building which the young Henry attended. The current building, the third school building on site, was re-located in the mid 1920s from Canadian Lead, south-east of Gulgong. The first building was a bark hut, while the second building was of slabs. Henry Lawson's mother, Louisa, was a prime mover in having the school established in the mid 1870s.

The school was recently open for an informal Christmas lunch which was attended by Lyndsay Pyne, a former pupil in the 1930s.

The Eurunderee Provisional School Inc has a website which is well worth perusing: www.eurundereeschool.org.au

OUR COLLECTION:

Recently the Society was given two albums of cigarette cards which contain a fascinating array of colourful subject matter. The photograph shown on the following page includes some famous personages and assorted birds. Cigarette cards were introduced in the United States in the late 1800s and were initially included in packets of cigarettes to stiffen the soft packaging and also as a form of advertising. Sets of cards on various themes soon became highly collectable: celebrity beauties, sportsmen, nature, city scenes, notable historic buildings, military heroes etc. Sets typically consisted of 25 or 50, and some rare full sets have become extremely valuable. Collecting cigarette cards was extremely popular in Australia where there were many brands of cigarettes which have disappeared. My father assembled an extensive collection in the 1920s and 1930s by badgering anyone who smoked, but unfortunately his passion for collecting encouraged him to take up smoking.



Many dining customs popular in Victorian times and the early twentieth century have disappeared. Table decoration was once much more elaborate and hectic, whether for entertaining or even just for the standard daily meal: starched tablecloths, good cutlery, bread and butter plates, serviette rings, water glasses and jugs. A variety of condiments were also prevalent: salt and pepper sets, sometimes in exotic forms, cruets with olive oil and vinegar, and numerous sauces and mustards, depending on what meat was being served; however, it was absolutely essential that all these savoury condiments be removed from the table before dessert was served.

One unusual item in our museum collection is the silver-plated quail egg cruet pictured above right. Manufactured in England by Hardy Brothers, it stands 10cm high. Once considered a delicacy, quail eggs would have been commonly served at a Victorian or Edwardian banquet where there were numerous exotic courses that would have required a retinue of servants to prepare and serve. A glance through *Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management* reveals staggeringly complex dishes that must have been difficult to prepare and store in days prior to adequate refrigeration, such as jellies and ice creams.

MUDGEE RED CROSS BRANCH

Mudgee, like many Australian country towns, has been very reliant on volunteer service organizations throughout its history: Rotary, Lions, Meals on Wheels, Country Women's Association etc. Sadly, many have fallen by the wayside: Quota, Apex, and the Red Cross to mention a few. This article will pay tribute to the latter.

The Red Cross organization has its origins in Switzerland in the early 1860s, after a Swiss businessman, Henri Dunant, was appalled at the loss of life and suffering he saw at the battle of Solferino in Italy during the Austrian-Sardinian war in 1859. The organization, undoubtedly the world's most expansive with tens of millions of volunteers, members and staff, was founded "to protect human life and health, to ensure respect for all human beings, and to prevent and alleviate human suffering". The Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society was formed in 1914 at the outbreak of WWI and in 2014 its centenary will be celebrated.

The Mudgee Branch of the Red Cross was formed in 1934, with Mrs John Edward (Edith) Loneragan serving as the first President. The initial focus of the branch was to raise funds to provide blankets and clothing for returned service people from WWI. Fund raising was particularly intense during WWII through a variety of activities: street stalls, housie nights, garden fetes, picnic, tennis and race days. Much clothing was also sewn and knitted.



From 1945 the Mudgee branch leased premises initially to operate an Opportunity Shop before acquiring a two-storeyed building in Lovejoy Street, to the east of the Mudgee Club, in late 1955 (see painting above left, now in the Colonial Inn Museum). This building, which had previously been used as stock and station agency premises by Crossing and Cox and Stewart and Smith, served as branch headquarters and shop premises until it was sold in 1972. The building was a restaurant in the late 1970s, The Bijou, but unfortunately it was destroyed by a fire in November 1981.

The branch continued to meet in a variety of venues and continued its fundraising, often through catering for functions, while a successful cook book was published in 1984. For many years branch members were involved with Meals on Wheels and until 2012 with Telecross, telephoning elderly people living alone.



The Mudgee branch celebrated its 75th anniversary with a dinner in 2009, but unfortunately it was reluctantly closed in August 2010, due to a lack of members.

Many items associated with the Red Cross were donated to the Colonial Inn Museum over time: scrapbooks of newspapers, uniforms, hats, badges, plaques, certificates and booklets; these items are on display in the community services room upstairs. Mudgee Historical Society member Mary Mills was presented with a 50 years service award for her membership of the Mudgee branch of the Red Cross in 2008.

RYLSTONE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 50TH



On the afternoon of Saturday 12th October 2013 Rylstone and District Historical Society celebrated its 50th anniversary with a series of speeches by current President Helen Marsonet, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker, and yours truly. A fabulous scale-model in icing of the Society's Bridge View Inn, placed atop the anniversary cake, was unveiled during the festivities and delighted all the audience. Congratulations to the local ladies who toiled on this work of art. The official part of the celebrations was followed up with a fascinating presentation on the Bridgeview View Inn's mural, the restoration of which has been the focus of the Society for the last few years. The presentation looked at the artist to whom the Bridge View Inn's mural is attributed, Gus Pearce, who seems to have been a very colourful character indeed.

The early to mid 1960s saw the formation of the Gulgong Historical Society in 1962, Rylstone Historical Society in 1963 and Mudgee Historical Society in 1964, and ultimately the establishment and expansion of their museum sites. Congratulations to Rylstone on its 50th, and we look forward to celebrating our own 50th in 2014.

MUDGEE SPORTING HISTORY

Mudgee is currently experiencing a lengthy dry spell and I recently came across this article which appeared in *The Land* on Friday 24th June 1949 which relates to a wash-out series of polo matches in 1949. Although not wishing for such an inundation, some rain would be most welcome. Polo was a very popular sport with a great following in Mudgee in the late 1800s and well into the 1900s. It is a part of Mudgee's sporting history which is vastly under-documented.

Many readers will still recognize the people mentioned, and some words have taken on a different meaning in more recent times.

MUDGEE POLO CARNIVAL IN THE RAIN

STEADY rain failed to dampen the spirits of polo enthusiasts who flocked to Mudgee last week for the first of the Western Polo Carnivals.

Play was abandoned at dark on Thursday, and only the most ardent supporters of both teams drove out to Menah on Friday to watch the final four minutes of the Goulburn Mudgee match, which Goulburn won by one half goal. After completion of this match the ground was declared unfit for play, and the Tournament abandoned for the year,

Spectators on the Thursday defied the weather, and wore their brightest, warmest winter, suits as they watched matches from the sidelines. Many of the younger girls wore jodhpurs for extra warmth, and took turns as line umpires during matches.

Raincoats and gum boots were the order of the day for the few who braved the rain to watch Friday's match before returning to town to laze in casual clothes until the floods abated and they could return home.

Many Stranded in Town

Among the many stranded in town were Irwin and Jim Maple-Brown, of Goulburn team; Jim's wife, Pamela, and his sister, Diana; and the Kellys, of "Corringle," Boorowa, four of whom make up their own polo team, Both teams hope to be able to float their ponies straight across to Maitland should the Hunter Valley fields be fit for tournament play next week. In the meantime they are remaining in Mudgee, hoping.

Others unable to return home included many local members of the club who had been cut off from their homes by flooded creeks. Among these were Margaret and Bill Jamison, of "Glen Alice," Capertee Valley, and their guest, Jane England; Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson, of Bylong; the Vin Suttors, of Triamble, and players David and John Loneragan, whose sister, Pat, was stranded at their home, "Woodlands," Pyramul. The only road out of Mudgee at the weekend was the Wellington Road, and as soon as the rain ceased many visitors returned to Sydney, via Wellington.

Indoor Parties Were Gay

Although the Polo was abandoned, indoor festivities arranged by the Club and by local hostesses were held and guests were kept busy each evening attending a round of parties in their honor. Mesdames G. E. Cox, Robin Carter, Ted Coombes and Gordon Brownhill were again joint hostesses for 200 guests at the annual dinner party at Mrs. Cox's home, "Burrundulla," before the ball on Thursday night. While, on the same night, Mesdames Bob, Tim, Peter and Bernard Loneragan entertained 50 guests at a buffet meal at "Heaton Lodge." Mrs. Graham Todman, of Wallingah (sic), gave, a dinner party for players and their wives on the Friday night, and on the Saturday the Ladies' Committee of the Mudgee and District Polo Club, entertained all guests of the Club at a buffet tea on the Showground.

At the Buffet Tea on Saturday night the Club Trophies were again presented to last year's winners, who will hold them until next year.

CURRENT MUSEUM PROJECTS

The Colonial Inn Museum site has been gradually evolving since the Mudgee Historical Society acquired the land in 1966. In that year the site only contained the two-storeyed former West End Hotel building at the front. Subsequently, an adjoining site to the west was acquired, and storage sheds were constructed along the western boundary. The big shed, the slab hut and the meeting room/kitchen/amenities block followed, while the church was imported to the site in 1996. A northern skillion addition to the big shed allowed for greater storage for carriages, wagons, sulkies and drays. More recent constructions include a curator's storage shed and a blacksmith's shop.

A development application has been approved for an extension of shedding along the western boundary and a small wagon shed adjacent to the curator's storage shed. Construction can only commence on these items as funds permit, as there are more urgent maintenance issues to attend to first. Work has been completed on drainage works for the church which were urgently overdue and next our attention will be directed to eaves and guttering on the main museum building.

To prioritise the Society's activities and objectives on an annual basis, the committee has supported the implementation of an Annual Plan.

CHANGING MUDGEE STREETSCAPE

I have studied the evolution of many sites within the town of Mudgee which has changed significantly since the town's establishment in 1838. Miraculously, there are still numerous extant buildings from the 1850s and 1860s, although most have undergone some modification. Numerous sites in Mudgee have housed several successive buildings, especially in some parts of the CBD which are more prone to development. One site which has seen considerable changes is the south-western corner of Market and Church Streets.



The top photograph, dating from the late 1860s, shows a series of rustic shops and workshops on the corner site. By the 1880s a two-storeyed commercial building was present and the site was known as Exchange Corner (middle). In 1913 the Australian Bank of Commerce demolished the corner section of the existing building and constructed an ornate two-storeyed bank building on the corner site (bottom). This bank was merged within the Bank of New South Wales during the Great Depression and ultimately the Bank of New South Wales took over the building which eventually became Westpac. Sadly, the exterior polychrome brickwork was rendered, while the bank later extended into the adjoining Market Street premises. Dentists were based upstairs in the bank premises for many years.