

NEWSLETTER No.3 May 2017

of
MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC (Founded 11th June 1958)
Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society
ABN 34611778680
PO Box 450 Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Heritage Week Celebration 2017 Visit to Balmoral Homestead



Photo D0723 MSL&FHS Inc¹

To celebrate Heritage Week in 2017 the Society arranged to visit the historic homestead on Saturday, 29 April.

Balmoral was built c 1857. The architect was Reuss & Brown and the builder Bringeman & Dewer. The two storey homestead contains eight rooms, four upstairs and four downstairs with extensive cellars under the main house and the two storied servants' wing at the rear. The main building is constructed from externally rendered red brick and originally had a slate roof (imported from Wales as ships ballast), with cedar joinery, all supported on footing of 'a couple of feet of sand' (Personal comment F Blake "Rosebrook"). The only structural alteration to the building was the addition of a sunroom to the rear in 1963.²

DETAILS ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Objectives:

- To collect, preserve and promote the social, cultural and physical history of Muswellbrook Shire, its environs and its people for future generations.
- to promote public access to our collections and research facilities, and
- to provide information, advice and assistance to individuals, community groups, organizations and businesses.

Meetings

The Society meets on the third Tuesday of each month starting at 7.30 in the Function Room, Muswellbrook Library, at the rear of the building. All members and visitors are welcome to attend the meeting and stay for a cuppa, biscuit and a chat after.

Premises

The Society maintains its records in a section of Muswellbrook Library. You will find us at the rear of the Library. The Research Centre is open every Saturday from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The Research Centre may be opened at other times by appointment. Bus and tour groups are most welcome.

Annual Fees

Single \$25 Double \$35 Pensioner Single \$15 Pensioner Double \$25 (There is a one off joining fee of \$5)

The Hon Secretary may be contacted via the post office box or email mei2@bigpond.com The Society also has a web presence developed by Darrin Khan and Lionel Ahearn at <http://www.mbkhistorical.org> and a research site at <http://research.mbkhistorical.org>

¹ From Terry Tame's album on Homesteads of the District 1985 donated to the Society

² Text supplied from Terry Tame's folder Homestead s of the District

Balmoral Homestead visit

Thanks to the generosity of Judy Latimore and Maria Simpson, members of the Muswellbrook Shire Local & Family History Society Inc, their partners and interested members of the community spent a wonderful afternoon exploring the homestead, its gardens and cellar. At 1.30 pm Judy introduced herself and Maria and explained a little about the house and their intentions for the future. They hope to gradually restore as much as possible of the house and gardens and provide a venue for high teas, weddings, photographs, conferences, etc.

Through much hard work and loving care the house and gardens are a credit to their dedication and foresight. The comments from the almost fifty visitors were extremely positive, and with members providing their usual refreshments, the afternoon proved a huge success. A large number of visitors suggested that there should be many more such outings arranged.

Below are a few photos taken during the afternoon.



The Homestead as it stands today with grounds carefully tended.³



Welcome by Judy Latimore & Maria Simpson⁴



Refreshments taken in the dining room with marble fireplaces



Cellar showing the need for some urgent restoration work

Heritage Application for the restoration of the St Albans Bell Tower

Special Development Application	
The below development application is on public exhibition at Council's Administration Centre, Muswellbrook during normal working hours until 26 April 2017 .	
App. No.	106/2013/2
Applicant	Reverend S Dulley St Albans Anglican Church PO Box 125 Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Proposed Site	Lot 18, Sec 6, DP 758740 20 Brook Street Muswellbrook
Proposed Development	Section 96(1a) Modification: Complete Deconstruction and Rebuilding of New Replica Bell Tower. Delete Conditions 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

From Hunter Valley News 5/4/2017 p11



MSL&FHS photo D0490



From 'St Albans-Has it a Future?' p 10

The Society received a request for any photos which showed the original bell tower so that the architect could draw plans to have it restored to its original condition. Some members believed that originally the bottom of the tower was also covered with shingles. We have Garry Meissner to thank for his persistence as he finally unearthed a drawing of the bell tower in the 1960s which showed this to be correct.

³ Photo by Lionel Ahearn

⁴ Photos by Margaret Dolahenty

Some business houses which operated in Sydney Street South Muswellbrook

The following snippets have been contributed by Bill Spicer. They form part of on-going research of Businesses and people who occupied land in Sydney Street.

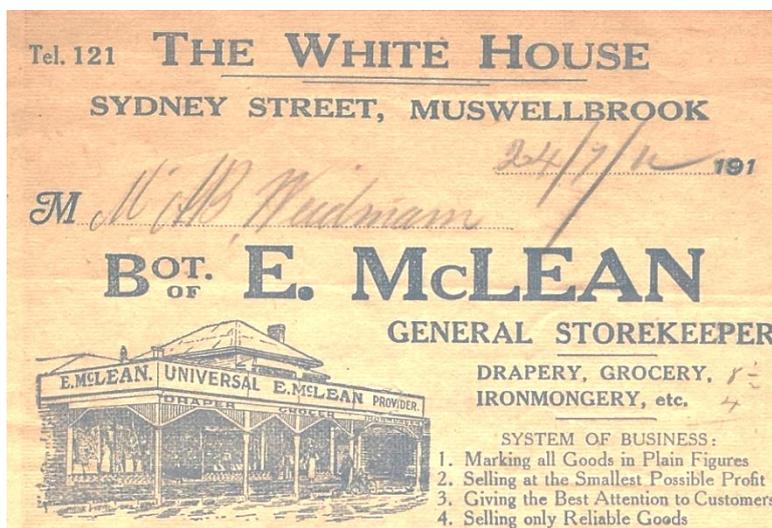
The White House

The United States of America has its White House and, not to be outdone, Muswellbrook had its own 'White House'.

Mr E McLean commenced business in August 1916. The business was located in the same building used by Malcolm Campbell when he commenced business in Muswellbrook in 1862.

Mr McLean advertised extensively in the Muswellbrook Chronicle.

Mr McLean died in September 1919. His widow continued in the business until July 1921 when she sold the business to the Universal Stores Ltd.



The Universal Stores Ltd

The Universal Stores Ltd purchased the business in July 1921. The business appears to have operated successfully for the next 10 years.

M Campbell and Co.

It was reported in *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* on Friday 30 October 1931:

Business change-Campbell and Co. Extended-Back to Foundation Store

Messrs. M Campbell and Co. Ltd announce in this issue that they have purchased the stock and goodwill of the Universal Stores Ltd. The change takes effect on Monday next.

A Coincidence

It is interesting to recall that the firm will on and from Monday next carry on business in the premises where the firm of M Campbell and Co., Ltd., had its beginning. It was there that the late Malcolm Campbell opened up business 70 years ago, and where three years afterwards the late Mr J W Humphries joined the staff as a boy, ultimately becoming the head of a great business which holds a prominent place in the commercial life of every town in the Upper Hunter.

The present staff at the Universal Stores Ltd. will be retained.

On Tuesday 3 November 1931, the following report appeared in *The Muswellbrook Chronicle*:

Among many callers on Monday to Messrs. M Campbell and Co's South Muswellbrook branch was Mr J M Campbell, a director of the company. The firm's new business had a personal interest for Mr Campbell, for it was in that building where he was born, and where his father, the late Mr. Malcolm Campbell, started business 70 years ago...

Eight months later, in May 1932 Mr J M Campbell passed away. A notice advising of the probate of his estate was published in *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* on 7 June 1932.

The advertisement, at right, printed in *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* on 29 July 1932 signifies the imminent closure of the South Muswellbrook branch.

This happened at the time shortly following the death of Mr J M Campbell. It was also in the midst of the great depression.

An advertisement appeared in *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* on 21 July 1933:

To let or for sale - Premises in Sydney Street previously occupied by Universal Stores.

Several short-term occupations of the store occurred over the next few years.

To be continued

CLEARANCE SALE

For One Week only,
commencing on
Tuesday Next,
August 2nd.,
We are offering the
whole of the
Drapery, Mercery &
Millinery stocks
From our South Muswell-
brook Branch for right-out
clearance.

Prices are cut to bare cost on all
lines for Cash Only.

BE EARLY

M. Campbell and Co., Ltd.,
Muswellbrook.

Another Coincidence

Recently Garry Meissner and Lionel Ahearn were permitted to borrow copies of *The Hunter Valley News* from the Chronicle Office that the Society did not hold. One of the first of these to be scanned contained the article below.

NEW POT HOUSE TO OPEN SOON

After five years operation Muswellbrook Ceramic Group will open its first permanent headquarters in February.

Muswellbrook Municipal Council agreed to the choice of the old Tennis Clubhouse in Lions Park but stipulated that the building would have to be shifted to the corner of the park.

From the Hunter Valley News 19-12-1973

At the same time the Society also received the following photo which will be added to our collection.



From Pot House Photo Album

New Members The Society welcomed the following new members:

Ian Spencer, Lorraine Skinner, Susanna (Sue) Aird, Jenny Wall, Bruce & Pam Mitchelhill

Important Notice

At the monthly meeting on Tuesday 16th May the members voted to move the starting time for meetings back to 7.00pm. As a result the meetings will be held in the Society's Room where there is ample room and seating. It is hoped that this time will be more convenient and that it may lead to increased attendance.

It was also agreed that the Society's Room be opened at 2.00pm on the third Tuesday of each month to provide instruction for members and guests in what research material is available. Instruction will also be provided in the use of the computers and the databases available.