

NEWSLETTER

No. 4 July 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

TERRY TAME

In our last Newsletter, No 3 May 2017, a photo of Balmoral by Terry Tame was featured. Terence Michael Tame passed away in November 2016.¹ Terry was a past member and also President of the Muswellbrook Local & Family History Society. He donated to the Society four folders of his studies of the local area.² Beside wonderful examples of his photographic works he also created excellent pen & ink & pencil sketches..

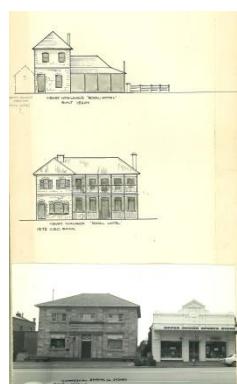
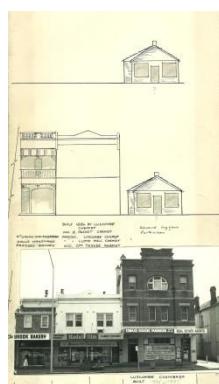
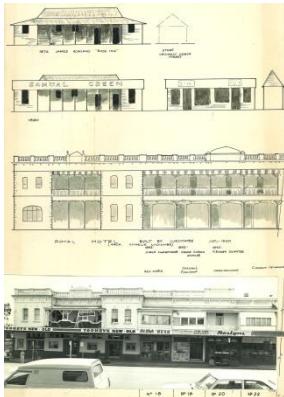


Old Muswellbrook Court House – Pen & ink drawing by T Tame 1976



Skellatar Stables – Pencil sketch by T Tame – Stables burnt down in 1979

Another of his donations was a photographic street scape of Bridge Street, Muswellbrook in which he included some more of his remarkable pen and ink drawings of the buildings that had previously stood on the site.



All his donated work forms an invaluable reference source for use by the Society.³

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 7.00 in the Society Room, to the rear of the Muswellbrook Library. All members and visitors are welcome to attend the meeting and stay for a cuppa, biscuit & 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 1.00pm. The Research Centre may be opened at other times by appointment. Bus & 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 thanks to Darrin Khan and Lionel Ahearn at <http://www.mbkhistorical.org> and a research site at <http://research.mbkhistorical.org>

¹ Death notice 22nd Nov. 2016 at Bethania, Qld formerly of Muswellbrook & Sydney Morning Herald 26 Nov. 2016

² Homesteads, Upper Hunter Homesteads, Muswellbrook Buildings, Hunter Valley Buildings & Aboriginal Archaeology

³ Streetscape – Bridge Street 1973

BLUE HEELER COUNTRY



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During 2001 a plinth was erected on Bridge Street on the north side of Hill Street (opposite Loxton House) to accommodate a large statue of a blue heeler cattle dog. The statue soon became a landmark in the town and a tourist attraction.



Caption on plinth



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As time went on the original statue began to deteriorate and in June 2016 it was removed.

It was replaced in December of that year with a bronze statue of a blue heeler.

This was the work of Dubbo artist Brett "Mon" Garling who created the new-look \$60 000, two metre high ... statue.⁵



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In June this year another statue of a Blue Heeler was erected in Bridge Street outside the newly renovated Campbells Corner.

The latest addition to the blue heeler connection to Muswellbrook is a statue by Newcastle based artist Tanya Bartlett. At the moment it is positioned outside Campbells Corner on the Bridge Street footpath. It was originally submitted as a replacement for the statue on the plinth opposite Loxton House. (See above)⁸

⁴ Internet – Images of Muswellbrook

⁵ Muswellbrook Chronicle, 16th December 2016

⁶ Photo - Hunter Valley New, 21st June 2016

⁷ Photo by Bill Spicer

⁸ Photo and information from Muswellbrook Shire Council website

Further research by Bill Spicer provides more interesting history on Sydney Street, Muswellbrook

In the previous newsletter, reference was made to businesses carried on in Sydney Street. This item refers to the store referred to as leased by M Campbell when he commenced his business in 1862

A description of the area states: 'This building was located in Sydney Street on Allotment 2 Section 1. John Ferguson purchased this block from the Forbes family on 20 December 1842, paying £30. John Ferguson died 27 May 1862 and appointed his brother David Ferguson executor of his estate. David had been in partnership with his brother. Malcolm Campbell purchased the business, but the Ferguson family retained ownership of the property until 1912 when it was sold to Mary Jane Clark ux John Thomas Clark, storekeeper for £900.'⁹

J T Clark

Reference is made to Clark in the obituary for the late Mr Malcolm Campbell published in *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* on Wednesday 23 August 1905; (referring to Campbell) '...in 1862 he purchased the stock and good will of a store in Sydney Street Muswellbrook, from the late John Ferguson – the premises being those now occupied by Mr J T Clark.'

Around 1910 Mr Clark opened a second store immediately opposite (on the northern side of Sydney Street) featuring millinery and drapery.

In October 1912, tenders were invited for the erection and completion of shop fronts and colonnade to Mr J T Clark's shop in Sydney Street. Plan etc. available from Mr Jas Hicks, Architect Muswellbrook.

Mr Clark invested in a motor car in December 1912 'so as to cope with his rapidly expanding business and allow him to ensure quick delivery of orders.'

On 23 August 1913 Clark advertised as 'Clarks Coupon Store – Sydney Street.' Mr Clark had operated a coupon store for many years 'whereby thrifty housewives gained.'

An advertisement appeared in *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* on Saturday 12 September 1914:

Assigned Estate Sale

Messrs Diamond Brothers announce that they have purchased the assigned estate of J T Clark and will hold a clearing out sale of the stock to begin on Monday next.

Diamond Brothers described themselves as 'The well-known Stock Buyers.'

In November 1914, an advertisement was placed in *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* by N Michael:

Further reductions in the assigned estate of J T Clark. Mr Michael, the new manager, has decided that the stock must be cleared regardless of cost. Nicholas Michael – Sydney Street

On 2 December 1914 Auctioneer R C Sawkins conducted an auction sale at the store Sydney Street for the assigned estate of J T Clark. A 'Great Auction Sale' was advertised on Saturday 4 September 1915 by R C Sawkins 'Late J T Clarks store.'

On Wednesday 20 October 1915 a public notice was placed in *The Muswellbrook Chronicle*:

J T Clark desires to inform the public generally that he has commenced business as General Carrier with Motor Lorry and is prepared to undertake all kinds of carrying. Cook Street Muswellbrook.

In June 1916 Mr J T Clark was *Ranger* appointed as Common Ranger, Poundkeeper etc.

Mr Michaels continued in business until 1916. He advertised on 12 January 1916:

Expiration of Lease – Must vacate premises. N Michael thanks generous support over the past 18 months. Everything must be removed by 21 January.

Again, Mr R C Sawkins conducted an auction sale on 21 January 1916.

Authors note.

Due to the lack of detail contained in newspaper reports, at this stage of the research project it is not possible to confirm which of Mr Clark's stores was referred to.

7 – 9 Sydney Street

This store was in Sydney Street Muswellbrook. It was west of the building referred to in the Muswellbrook Heritage Town Walk as 'The Former Barber Shop'.

In an article published in *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* on Saturday 9 December 1911 and attributed to Edwin Howell, B.A. etc a description of the building is recorded:

'With the energy and determination that all who know Mr Clark credit him with, very soon "a change came over the spirit of the dream," for ironmongery and tinware stocks were added to the humdrum grocery and a system of coupons whereby the thrifty housewife gains were established. Of a very enterprising disposition, our subject soon commenced to blend a tea which he sold at 1/5 per lb. adding an artistic cup and saucer to every packet of the tea.'



Cropped from MSL&FHS photo 0071.11

With growing popularity, two years ago he opened a drapery and millinery business on premises¹⁰ opposite the old established grocery shop which is one of the landmarks of Muswellbrook. These shops occupy a frontage of 40feet to Sydney street and possess two large show windows of plate glass, the left hand one being decked with millinery trimmed hats, silk blousing and summer skirtings which must engender a feeling of covetousness in those seeing them are not in a position to annex what appeals to their fancy. The other window is dressed with men's, women's, and children's clothing and requisites. The upper floor of the shop is devoted to a generous display of women's hats trimmed in all conceivable manners and fashions and so marked and ticketed that no intending purchaser need go empty handed away. One other of the rooms is stocked with crockery of all descriptions, qualities and prices, and the remaining room is given over to the tailoring department.

The building was located on land described as lot 1 section 2 measuring 42 ½ feet frontage to Sydney Street.

The building was one of two buildings housing the stores of J T Clark. The other store was situated on the southern side of Sydney Street, directly opposite, and was the store occupied by Mr Malcolm Campbell from 1862 to 1870. Mr Clark ceased to operate the stores in 1915.

Try my Cup Tea, at 1/5, with cup and saucer, 6lbs sugar, 1 tea cup and saucer ; the lot for 2 10.

THE ONLY STORE THAT GIVES COUPONS.

Bargains in all Departments.

JOHN T. CLARK.

SYDNEY STREET. MUSWELLBROOK

Advertisement *Muswellbrook Chronicle*

¹⁰ Building on lot 1, section 2 measuring 42 ½ feet.