

NEWSLETTER

No. 4 August 2018

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

Editor Lionel Ahearn

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017/2018

We come to the end of another successful and busy year with a great deal being accomplished by the energetic band of dedicated members. Again we look forward to the continuation of the many Society activities and the filling of all positions.

Our hardest working member has to be our secretary Heather Meissner. She is constantly at work on the minutes, letters, dispatching newsletters, replying to emails, arranging functions, posting orders and so many more activities that keep our Society organised and active. Her hard work is the backbone of our Society.

Thanks once again to those rostered on each Saturday morning for turning up to help with research and the continued additions to our database records. Eve Ellis, Margaret Dolahenty and Helen Ellis continue to add to this work. While this will always be an ongoing project I think the members can be very proud of what has been accomplished. Special thanks to Garry Meissner for his research on many days other than Saturday mornings. Also thanks to Helen Ellis and Rob Tickle for their specialised knowledge. Our financial position remains strong with the sale of books, research enquiries, photocopying of material and sale of copies of photos all contributing to keeping our accounts in the black. Our thanks also to Mal Rothe for keeping the books and paying the bills.

History Week was celebrated on 9th September 2017 with the launch of two books 'Another Walk Through the Town' and 'Muswellbrook in Picture' by Bruce James. These were well received and resulted in numerous batches being printed. The Society now has over fifty publications for sale and most continue to sell. By printing our own books when needed, we have been able to reduce cost and avoid having funds tied up in excess copies.

In October 2017 members attended the Dedication of the Memorial to commemorate the Centenary of the Charge of the Light Horse at Beersheba. From this we have an extensive collection of photographs. I feel the Society's interest in the Brook Street steps and the fountain played a part in their retention and repair.

In March 2018, Heather and Garry Meissner and I travelled to New Lambton to give a talk and power point presentation on Muswellbrook to the Newcastle Historical Society. This was well received. Their difficulty in finding a suitable location since the earthquake some years ago brought home to us just how fortunate our Society is in the facilities we have.

Glenda Murray continues to arrange displays of our museum items in the Muswellbrook Library. She also continues to record, photograph and store correctly the clothing items in the museum collection. During Heritage Week Garry Meissner arranged a display of recently acquired items together with other items from the museum collection. Terry Gill as usual had a marvellous display of war memorabilia to help celebrate Anzac Day. While the Society no longer has a museum their hard work assures that the items are not forgotten. On behalf of all I offer sincere thanks for their continued effort.

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 at 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 12.30pm. 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

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>

We were fortunate earlier this year to receive a grant from the Muswellbrook District Workers Club which allowed us to purchase a new colour laser printer/copier. This was attached to one of our existing computers and has been invaluable. We offer once again our thanks to the Club for their generosity.

On 9th June the general public was invited to an Open Morning at the Society's room to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Society. The members again supplied a wonderful morning tea. The members also met for lunch at the Railway Hotel on the 16th June to also celebrate this occasion.

In the last few months arrangements were made with representatives of the local mines for Garry Meissner and me to photograph another four small cemeteries. These were the Keys Cemetery, Redrock (Hall) Cemetery, Bengalla Cemetery and the Bowman Cemetery at Yammanie. Shortly we hope to put out a book containing photos of all the graves together with the inscriptions from the headstones. Due to weathering and damage some dates still have to be verified.

The Society has gained a number of new members throughout the year. It has been pleasing to see two high school students take an interest in the Society. They have been granted Honorary Membership while still at school and their knowledge of computers and digital media has already been a help to the Society. Hopefully we will continue to see them as they balance attendance with study and sporting requirements.

Plans are already being finalised for an Open Day on the 8th September to launch another publication titled 'Standing the Test of Time' put together by Bill Spicer and myself from the large collection of photographs possessed by the Society. I am sure the members will again give their support to this function.

It is my belief that in the future we should look at arranging more historical outings, the continued digitising of our records for safe keeping, the updating of our electronic equipment on a constant basis to keep up with modern programs and anything that will bring us younger, active members who will carry on what I see as the invaluable work of the Society.

Once again thank you to everyone for your assistance. It has been greatly appreciated.

Lionel Ahearn President 2017/18

2017/2018

Election of New Officers:

President: - Lionel Ahearn

Vice President: - Helen Ellis

Secretary: - Heather Meissner

Treasurer: - Mal Rothe

Public Officer: - Mal Rothe.

Publicity Officer: - Helen Ellis

Research Committee Coordinator: - Garry Meissner

Assistant Researchers: - Eve Ellis, Mal Rothe, Margaret Dolahenty, Ted George & Rob Tickle on Pre 1900 research..

Heritage Officer Coordinator: - Garry Meissner with Rob Tickle as consultant

Newsletter Editor: - Lionel Ahearn.

Committee Members: Garry Meissner, Eve Ellis, Glenda Murray, Ted George, Rosemary Logue, & Margaret Dolahenty

Editor of Publications that are published by the Society. Rob Tickle

More on Muswellbrook Newspapers – 3rd part – from Cub Reporter

Merriwa and Cassilis News

In 1928 McClintock and Whitten established the paper.

To service Merriwa, Mr McClintock and Mr Whitton would travel to that town once week on Mr Whitton's motor bike.

Mr Whitton lost both his legs serving in the AIF in 1916. He drove his motor bike from the sidecar, the steering handles and controls were specially built to be operated from the side car, and Mr McClintock sat on the conventional driver's saddle, folded his arms and they jolted their way to Merriwa and back.¹



The last issue was published in July 1967. The Merriwa paper was incorporated in the Chronicle.

¹ *Muswellbrook Chronicle* Friday 3 July 1981

Robert Emanuel McClintock was born in Parramatta in 1888 and died at Muswellbrook in 1979.

At the time of his death "R.E." had, except for the past few months of his life, been editor of the *Muswellbrook Chronicle* for the previous 58 years.

Phillip McClintock

In August 1951 it was announced; Change – After 30 years the "Chronicle" has a new printer and publisher, Mr R E McClintock has handed over the duties to his son Mr P T McClintock.

Mr Phillip McClintock's passed away in October 1970. Following Mr Phillip McClintock's passing, the printing and publishing was undertaken by his brother Bernard Robert McClintock.

Bernard McClintock

Bernard McClintock lived in Muswellbrook for 85 years until 2008 when he moved to Salamander Bay with his wife Colleen. Mr McClintock retired in 1988. Mr McClintock passed away in 2012.

Mr Bernie McClintock joined his father in the newspaper trade in 1948, after serving in World War II in the bomber command in the Royal Australian Air Force with the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Bernie Budden

Mr Budden's association with the *Muswellbrook Chronicle* began in February 1942 and ended 48-and-a-half years later on July 6 1990. Mr Budden served as editor for 12 years. Mr Budden passed away in December 2015 aged 90 years.

Chronicles on Friday's only

In the early years of the *Muswellbrook Chronicle* the paper was published twice a week – on Wednesdays and Saturdays. At some time, publishing days were changed to Tuesdays and Fridays.

From March 1983 the *Muswellbrook Chronicle* has been a weekly newspaper published on Fridays. Mounting production costs and lack of advertising support has forced them to rely almost solely on subscriptions for income from the Tuesday 'Chronicle'.

A joint venture

Joint ventures in 1983 and 1985 saw the four upper hunter papers published under one ownership. In 2014 a further change was announced when Fairfax Media *unveiled a plan to transform its regional and rural publications into a powerful network that will deliver an even better news and advertising service to Australian communities. The changes will affect more than 150 newspapers and websites across every state and territory over the next 18 months.*

A further announcement was made in July 2018 on the proposed merger of Nine Entertainment and Fairfax Media. The details of the effect of the merger on rural newspapers has yet to be disclosed.

New Offices

In January 1994 after 66 years in the Bridge Street premises, the *Chronicle* moved to offices in Brook Street, located in an existing office building next to the Department of Housing.

In August 1998 the *Chronicle* moved to new offices in Market Lane. No reason for the decision to re-locate offices could be found. The *Chronicle* still operates from these premises today.

Rod Thompson

The current *Chronicle* editor Rod Thompson commenced in July 2012. In August 2014 Mr Thompson transferred to the position of editor *Singleton Argus*.

In January 2015 the *Chronicle* listed various staff including Group Editor Rod Thompson as the editor of the *Singleton Argus*, *Muswellbrook Chronicle*, *Scone Advocate* and the *Hunter Valley News*.

Chronicle goes colour

The *Chronicle* announced on 8 October 1976 it was to be produced featuring spot colour. Prior to colour photographs, the papers used spot colour to highlight articles and advertisements for many years.

The Muswellbrook Chronicle's front page was not printed in full colour until 1998². Issues for February and March 1998 displayed coloured photographs on the front and back pages. Today full colour is used on many pages throughout the paper. It has not been ascertained when this system was introduced.

Newspapers on internet

Information from the Chronicle office indicates the *Muswellbrook Chronicle* was published on the Internet in October 2008. Approximately six to eight stories are posted each week to co-incide with the paper issue on a Friday morning. Stories from The *Hunter Valley News* are published on a different website weekly.

In an editorial in the *Muswellbrook Chronicle* on Friday 11 March 2016, Rod Thompson wrote;

As a valued reader of the Muswellbrook Chronicle you may have noticed your local newspaper is today sporting a fresh new look.... we also want to invite you to see how we are stepping up our position as your trusted source of local news in a digital-first world.

You'll find us posting even more news on-line, while you will be able to engage with us like never before through our social media platforms.... The print product remains strong but now, the Chronicle has more strings to its bow. Its website and Facebook figures continue to increase on a daily basis.

We're just now moving with the times in an ever-changing world....

Sincere Sympathy

The members of the Society wish to express their condolences to Mrs Pam Mitchelhill and family on the sudden passing of her husband, Bruce Mitchelhill.

Glen Fellows kindly agreed to take many of the large items to display and store when the Society moved from Weidmann Cottage and had nowhere to house them.



Society Excursion

On Saturday, 15th September Society Members are invited to meet at Glen Fellows property for a BBQ lunch at 12.30pm and then examine his vast collection of memorabilia.

Members, partners and friends are invited. Travel is by own car. See below for instructions.

Members are asked to provide a plate for afternoon tea.

Instructions on getting there.

From the Denman Road turn onto the Bengalla Road and travel for 15.3 km.

Turn onto Ridgeland Road and travel 8.1 km (Don't turn onto Yarraman Road)

Turn onto Dry Creek Road and travel 2.6 km to Fellows property 'Rocklea Homestead' (Big Rabbit out front)

² *Muswellbrook Chronicle* Friday 15 October 2004