

# NEWSLETTER

No. 5 October 2018

of

**MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC** (Founded 11<sup>th</sup> June 1958)

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society

ABN 34611778680

PO Box 450 Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Editor Lionel Ahearn

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## History Week 2018



“THERE’S something in it for everyone” is how Prudence McTaggart summed up Standing the Test of Time as she officially launched the Muswellbrook Shire Local & Family History Society Inc’s latest book on Saturday.<sup>1</sup>



Bill Spicer and Lionel Ahearn outside the Muswellbrook Hotel, which features in their new book, Standing the Test of Time.<sup>2</sup>

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### 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 its room 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](mailto: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>

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<sup>1</sup> Muswellbrook Chronicle 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

<sup>2</sup> Muswellbrook Chronicle website

## Life Membership



Chronicle Photo. – Bruce James & Helen Ellis with their Life Membership Certificates outside the Society's Room.

After the launch of 'Standing the Test of Time' the Society bestowed Life Membership on two of our long serving and dedicated members, Helen Ellis and Bruce James

Both had served terms as President and are still involved with the Society and contribute to its activities.

It is wonderful to see them taking part in outings with the Society also and hope that we may enjoy their company and extensive knowledge well into the future.

## More on Muswellbrook Newspapers – 4<sup>th</sup> and final part – from Cub Reporter Hunter Valley News

The *Hunter Valley News* was founded by Wayne Logue in 1973. Volume 1 No 1 was issued on 16 May 1973. In June, 1974, Upper Hunter Newspapers took over the *Hunter Valley News*.<sup>3</sup>



'The Hunter Valley News has moved shop'...was the caption in an advertisement in the 'News' on Wednesday 2 January 1974. 'Don't look for us in the Central Arcade.... our offices are now situated in a converted house at 89 Bridge Street Muswellbrook. That's next to the Plaza Motel....'

The masthead of the *Hunter Valley News* on Wednesday 19 February 2014 includes 'proudly serving the Upper Hunter since 1972'. The paper is home delivered free, has a circulation of 18,170 and published weekly. It is delivered in Muswellbrook on Wednesdays.

In February 2014 the *Hunter Valley News* proudly claimed they were 'More than just a newspaper' and celebrated 'supporting the Upper Hunter community for more than 40 years.' In March 2017 the 'News' was also available, free, at various business and visitor outlets in Muswellbrook, Denman and Scone.

## Scone Advocate to Valley Advocate and return

The history of *The Scone Advocate* is recorded on the website Wikipedia<sup>4</sup>:

*The 'Advocate' began publication on 7 October 1887 as a weekly broadsheet newspaper, under the ownership of founder Arthur "Advocate" Smith. In 1974, the newspaper was purchased by Western Newspapers Ltd., a subsidiary of Consolidated Press Group, controlled by the Packer family. The next year, Mike Pritchard was appointed as editor, and continued in that role until 1990. In 1976, the newspaper changed to a weekly publication, released Wednesdays.*

*In 1982, a move to develop the paper into a regional newspaper called 'The Valley Advocate' with a wider-circulation proved unsuccessful. The paper was given away free outside of Scone, but local residents were still required to pay twenty five cents to buy a copy. In 1984, the 'Scone Advocate' banner was restored, with a new publication date of Thursday (which is still the case today. Also in that year, the Packer-controlled Regional Publishers Pty. Ltd. was merged with 'Upper Hunter Newspapers', owned by the McClintock family of Muswellbrook, to form Upper Hunter Publishers Pty. Ltd. This led to the paper being published off-site in Muswellbrook, with its commercial printing division sold to a private company in 1986.*

The final issue of the 'Valley Advocate' was printed on 14 March 1984.

Various publications were produced and circulated to the public over the years. Whilst they may not be classified as 'newspapers' they certainly had many attributes of a newspaper. Some of these publications were;

<sup>3</sup> From Muscle Brook to Muswellbrook

<sup>4</sup> Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Scone\\_Advocate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Scone_Advocate) accessed 28/02/2017

## Wilder's Advertising News

This issue of Wilder's Advertising News is dated Tuesday 16 July 1929. The 'paper' was free and issued twice a week. The paper advertised many Muswellbrook businesses including Rixon, Hastie and Baker, C Morris Grocer, Campion Bros, Coroneo Bros. The paper also printed various news items.

It is not known how long the paper was published.

A similar 'free newspaper' titled Fleming's Murrurundi Advertiser was published in 1931.



## The Valley Compass

This magazine's first issue is dated 22 November 1997. The Compass was published by Robert McClintock. Robert McClintock (son of Bernie McClintock). The first issue states;

*The Valley Compass is a magazine, definitely not a newspaper, although some news items will regularly appear. Body of the journal will contain a miscellany of features and news items from various smaller clubs and organisations. After 3 issues, the Compass announced they were moving from a Bridge Street address to Unit C & D, The Commercial Centre 4 Market Lane Muswellbrook.*

It is understood the Compass was issued for a few months



## The Entertainer

The Entertainer is a high-quality magazine distributed weekly to hotels, motels, tourist outlets and various shops.

The issue on 3 April 2014 states 'serving the Hunter for over 20 years with a readership of over 4,000 weekly.'

The magazine contains the weekly television programs, entertainment advertisements and stories, arts and craft exhibitions etc.

The Hunter Valley Printing Company produces the magazine. It is also available on the internet.

This concludes the summary of 'locally produced' newspapers which circulated in the Muswellbrook Shire. Thanks to Society members who assisted with information. Cub reporter



## Visit to Fellows Museum

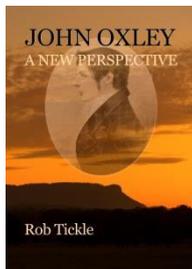
On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 the members of the Society visited the Fellow's Museum on Dry Creek Road where they enjoyed a BBQ lunch cooked by some of the members. We were then entertained by Glen and Pam as they described their many exhibits. This is another great collection of early memorabilia and includes many large items, some of which are on long term loan from the Society collection, which could not otherwise be displayed.



Rosemary & Denny Logue's grandchildren in electric car Photos courtesy Margaret Dolahenty



Glen Fellows demonstrates part of his vast collection



## John Oxley – A New Perspective

One of our long term life members, Rob Tickle who recently moved to the Wauchope area, has launched his latest book which commemorates the 1818 Oxley expedition. The book contains many new photos and information. The book also provides an insight into forces impacting on early settlement. Please see the attached flyer for full information.

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### New Members

At the October meeting the Society was delighted to welcome two new members – Ian and Val Ellis. Ian was a Foundation Member who moved away from the district for many years but has since returned to the district. We wish you both many years of enjoyment with the club.

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### Next Outing by the Society

After the success of our visit to Glen & Pam Fellows Museum the Society voted at the October meeting to visit Geoff Wolfgang's property for another BBQ and inspection of Geoff's many treasures. Geoff is always a font of knowledge and it should make for an interesting visit. Arrangement will be as for the previous outing with members arranging their own transport. Members and friends welcome.

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2018

Time: 12.00 for 12.30pm. The Society will close slightly earlier on that Saturday.

Members are asked to bring a plate for afternoon tea. Tea and coffee and cordial will be provided

Directions: From Muswellbrook Post Office travel 9.2 km on Denman Road and turn down Edderton Rd. Travel 14.3km and then turn right onto Golden Highway. Travel 6.6km to gate to Mayland property. Gravel road to shed.

Or

From Muswellbrook P O travel 21.1km towards Denman and turn left onto Golden Highway. Travel 8.2km to Mayland gate on right. Distances are almost identical in both directions.

To help with catering please notify our Secretary, Heather Meissner of how many will be coming.

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### Christmas Dinner

Members voted to hold our Christmas Dinner this year at the Segenhoe Inn at Aberdeen. Some preliminary information is as follows:

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018

Cost: \$30 per person

Time: 12.00 for 12.30pm

Further information will be provided on a flyer at a later date.

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### Thank You

Letters of appreciation have been received from both Helen Ellis and Bruce James for the receipt of their Life Membership Award Certificates. We look forward to many more years of their company.

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### An interesting result from a research request

'An underground tank, a relic of the convict days in Muswellbrook, was discovered during drilling at the site of the new \$1.5m. Court House in Bridge Street.

On Monday the firm drilling the hole for 85 piers, which are being used in the foundations for the new building, broke through what at first appeared to be an underground well.

The two men climbed into the large cavity and discovered the structure resembled an old tank. The hand made bricks were claimed to be up to 100 years old and had apparently been made by convicts.

The circular shaped tank measured 12ft in diameter and up to 18ft in height.'<sup>5</sup>

Many thanks to Garry Meissner for his painstaking research.



Bob Markham emerges from the drill hole into the underground tank, watched by workmate Alan Thompson.

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<sup>5</sup> Muswellbrook Chronicle, Friday, May 18, 1979.