

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2016

Patrons: Berna Wright, Gwen Wythes, Dorothy Balcomb, Audrey Farley, John Farley
President: Ross Cleary, Tel. 63443103, Mob. 0410 447 950, E: indigopark@live.com.au
Minute Secretary: Jan Harrison: 63640258, E: davidandjan@bigpond.com
Treasurer: Maryann Uren, Tel 0400 409 170, E: maryannuren@gmail.com
Publicity Officer: Dorothy Balcomb, Tel 63600618, E: tekoona@bigpond.com

History in the Club.

Friday 22 July, 2pm, “Centenary of the Battle of Fromelles”

\$5 donation. RSL Hall, Canowindra

A warm invitation is extended to all our members and friends to attend our next History in the Club event. The Battle of Fromelles has a special place in these centenary years of commemoration of WW1. It was the first battle on the Western Front in France which saw Australian troops in action, and has the sad distinction of being the occasion of the greatest loss of Australian lives on any single day in our history. How did this happen? What went wrong?

In recent years, the discovery of mass graves of Australian soldiers who died in this battle, has also had a profound impact on many Australians, not just the relatives of these hitherto missing soldiers. The story behind the story of this discovery is itself fascinating and instructive.

Our presentation will also include the stories of seven known local men who fought and/or died in this battle on 19 July 1916: Clarrie Nash, Keith (Barney) Davis, Harold Whitmee, Horace Balcomb and Jim Jones from the Cranbury district, Albert Williamson from Nyrang Creek and Peter Thompson from Billimari. Their letters from the front are poignant and moving, giving flesh to the bones of the official histories.

Please join us, and bring your friends, for what promises to be an informative presentation. Your Historical Society is very pleased to contribute meaningfully in these centenary years of commemoration of the great and terrible events of 1914 – 1918, which so much shaped the world we now know.

Lunch is available in the Services Club from 12 noon but as the Historical Society is not handling lunch bookings, you could make your own at the Club or phone: 63441397

What else has your Historical Society been doing?

- Continuing with researching local histories, in preparation for publishing :
 - History of Moorbel
 - Canowindra’s Railway history and the impact of the railway on the town’s development
 - Self-guided heritage walk of Gaskill Street
 - Andrew Purcell and “*Lucerne*”, and the later “*Lyndon House*”
- Working systematically through a Textiles Preservation Project, to conserve the Museum’s valuable textiles objects: wedding dresses and other dresses (some over 100 years old), other clothing items, historic hand-made rugs, and more. Some items of particular significance are being added to the Australian Dress Register, and will be available for inspection on-line.

- Working carefully with Architect, Dylan Gower, to refine the conceptual elements of a Masterplan for the future development of the Museum. Our aim is to have stage 1 of this development completed in time for the 50th anniversary of the Historical Society in 2017. Stage 1 will be further roofing so that all outside exhibits are covered and protected, and grouped into more coherent themes with clearer signage and interpretation. The funds for this project have been accumulated and invested for a number of years.
- Organising two successful fund raisers this year: the street stall (March) and the Fashion Parade (April). \$3200 raised. Our sincere and grateful thanks to the generous donations to raffles, and to everyone who worked to make these events such successes, and to all who supported them.

Did you know...?

- In 2016, your Historical Society has 84 members. Within this group, there is a smaller group of museum volunteers (“Museum Guides”), a fluid group of workers on specific projects (eg textiles project), a larger group of meeting attenders (“The Decision Makers”), and a majority group of CHS&M supporters (the “Support-our-Heritage” group). Thank you very much to all our members in whatever capacity you support CHS&M. Your support is very much appreciated.
- *The Canowindra Phoenix* is running a monthly “*Then and Now*” feature, as a service to the community. We hope you have been enjoying reading it. Thanks very much to Dorothy Balcomb for supplying the article and photos each month.
- The next History in the Club will be in early September when CHS&M will be very pleased to support Mim Loomes launch her self published book, “*A Glimpse of the Past, Nyrang Creek Revisited*”. This is a revised and enlarged version of an earlier booklet by Mim, and your Historical Society is delighted to support her in this venture. More details when the date is confirmed. Please keep an eye out for it and invite your friends, especially all you Nyrang Creek-ers!!
- Local Museums in Cabonne, Blayney and Orange have been invited to contribute to the opening exhibition for Orange Regional Museum. Canowindra has lent some of our materials relating to our railway history: a copy of the original map of the railway precinct drawn up by JC Bradfield (yes, that Bradfield, of Sydney Harbour Bridge fame), copies of historic photos, and the original Canowindra railway sign. Orange Regional Museum has a specific charter to tell the story of this region, not just Orange, and this builds on a successful partnership that has operated for some years now between Orange Council and the Museums of the three local Council areas. Regardless of the final shape of Council amalgamations or non-amalgamations, we will be endeavouring to maintain some form of partnership between our local Museums, and the benefits of shared access to specialist information and training in managing our collections, that this partnership enables.

Historical Society Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month in the Historical Museum. The next meeting will be at 10 am on Tuesday 2 August when we hope for a good roll up. The main agenda item will be decisions on the Masterplan, and your input will be much appreciated.

Ross Cleary
President