

Bulletin of Maitland and District Historical Society Inc

(established March 1977)

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society and
Museum and Galleries Hunter Chapter



Vittoria (also known as Victoria) Bridge

Spanning Wallis Creek, Maitland

- Linking East and West Maitland (1852-1896)

Wood Engraving held in National Library of Australia J.R. Clarke 1857

Volume 18, Number 1

February 2011

***The Aims of the Society are to
Discover, Record, Preserve, Advise on and Teach the History of Maitland and the District***

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc

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Meetings are held at 3 Cathedral Street Maitland (opposite Bishop's House)
On the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm.

**The NEXT meeting will be the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held
TUESDAY March 1st, 2011 at 5:30pm**

Membership fees : \$15 (single) and \$20 (double / family),
payable at the beginning of each year.

Patron: The Hon. Milton Morris AO

NSW Member for Maitland 1956-1980

NSW Minister for Transport 1965 - 1975

NSW Minister for Lands and Forests 1974-1975

NSW Minister for Decentralisation 1976

Current Office Bearers :

President : Ruth Trappel **Vice President :** Tom Skelding

Secretary : Lloyd Bevan **Treasurer :** Kevin Short

Bulletin Editor : Chris Brown **Consultant Editor :** Ruth Trappel

Front Cover :

Alexander McLeod built a toll bridge over the Wallis Creek in 1827 known as the Family Bridge. Bullock drays could now travel directly between Wallis Plains and the wharf at Morpeth . Until then Wallis Creek was deep and dangerous to cross, with steep banks, people usually crossed in a boat with the horses swimming behind. Wheeled vehicles were sent by boat from Morpeth to Wallis Plains.

The tolls on the bridge were steep and many people refused to pay. Some crossed via a nearby fallen tree until McLeod removed it. After years of tension and court cases when people refused to pay the tolls, the bridge was taken over by the government and opened to free traffic in 1834.

The Family Bridge over Wallis creek spelt the virtual end of travel by river from Morpeth to Wallis Plains as this was the shallow stretch of river which meandered excessively, making this stage of the trip long and tedious.

The Bridge was replaced in 1852 by the first laminated or over trussed bowstring bridge built in the colony (cover picture). At its opening on June 21, 1852 it was named the Victoria Bridge (some dispute this saying the Vittoria Bridge). In 1895 the present bridge was erected some 150m downstream from the original site.
[Courtesy : Maitland on the Hunter by Brian Walsh and Cameron Archer]

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc

PRESIDENTS REPORT AND OVERVIEW

Annual Presidents Report – 2009 -2010

The last 12 months has seen the Historical Society re-activated after lying dormant for the past seven plus years. Our membership has increased from 5 to over 40 and we have a very enthusiastic group of members who are involved in research, walking tours and best of all are interactive both with the Maitland Council and the general public.

We have had a stall at the Aroma Festival, in the Heritage Mall, and we had a display and information stall at the Australia Day celebration at Maitland Park. Our Christmas gathering was at Walka Water works and those who attended enjoyed the social outing.

Our collection (mostly in crates) which was kindly allowed to be stored at Morpeth Museum 7 years ago for what was thought to be 3 months, has mostly been moved out and will be installed at our new premises in the near future, at 17 Lindsay St, East Maitland, the old Police Barracks. The area will be known as the Maitland Heritage Precinct, and was fortunate in obtaining a grant of \$60,000 to renovate and paint it etc. We are hoping to hold this meeting there, but we are waiting for the Heritage Council to give approval to install security fencing and out in a disabled ramp at the rear of the building. We will be sharing the premises with the Maitland Family History Circle. For the first time in our history we will now be paying rent to enable us to hold meetings, do our research and to store and display our collection.

Therefore we need to raise money to enable us to function to the level we all envisage for the Society. We have catered for a Supper at the Town Hall, we will be having 2 BBQ days at Bunning's this year, we have had 2 raffles and are willing to do whatever it takes to make it happen. We will be manning stalls at three festivals in the Heritage Mall in the coming year, as well as a stall at Steamfest weekend. We have been successful with two volunteer grants that we applied for. This has enabled us to purchase electrical equipment to help towards our goals.

We are most grateful to Lodge Wallis Plain for letting us use their Supper Room in Grant Street for our monthly meetings. This short term arrangement is nearly 12 months old and we do thank them sincerely.

We have had donated to us a Photocopier from TO Technology and a collapsible name banner from the Sign Shop and we are most grateful for their generous support. We have had two generous cash donations for which we are grateful. Our appreciation is also extended to the two organisations who have donated office furniture for our new building.

Publicity wise we have had several articles in the Maitland Mercury, we have a monthly column in the Imag magazine, we are on the Council website and the Maitland Visitors information website. We have our own website, as well as our own telephone (mobile) and email address. We are affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society and the Museum and Galleries Hunter chapter.

The Maitland City Council has given us \$2000 to update the Maitland heritage Walk, brochure and history. This is currently underway.

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc

PRESIDENTS REPORT AND OVERVIEW - continued

Our project to photograph, research and collate all of the properties and owners in High Street from Wallis Creek to the Long Bridge, will be an extensive and ongoing project.

Tom Skelding has researched and has to proof stage, a booklet on Steamfest which is holding their 25th gathering in April. The Society will have a stall which will sell these booklets, sell and promote our Heritage Walks which we will conduct on both days, do historical talks in the Newcastle Tram (on the Sunday) and present two papers – one on Trams in Maitland and on one Maitland's history. We are endeavouring to highlight the presence of the Historical Society in as many activities as is possible and we heavily rely in our enthusiastic members for their support on these occasions.

Our Glass Slides collection has been photographed and we are now able to display these, many thanks to David Sciffer.

We are currently negotiating with the Council to produce a mural of the Tram that was used to run up the High Street, in the Heritage Mall. One of our members has generously offered to pay for this to happen.

The year ahead is going to be very busy, firstly moving to our new premises, unpacking the collection and putting all the information onto a database. Then, our official grand opening of the Heritage Precinct. The date for this is yet to be decided. We will hold seminars and training sessions and have a guest speaker at each meeting. The BBQ at Bunning's and the 'Taste festival' in the Heritage Mall are on three consecutive days at the end of March. April is Steamfest and Heritage Month and there is so much more to follow these events.

The members are to be congratulated in their achievements in the last 12 months, when I look back to where we were and what we had in March 2009 I am truly amazed at where we are now, the amount of research being done, by so many people on so many diverse subjects is very rewarding. To our newest members who wish to research the Maitland and district history we have been able to add a wealth of extra material in the last year, to complement our existing collection.

We are working closely in association the Council and Maitland City Library; their Local Studies Strategy will be so helpful to us when it is up and running. The local history section is also very beneficial to our research, as are their 'Look who's Talking' lectures. We are supporting the Friends of Grossman House in their Heritage Walks, and the CMCA on the Flood Walks, plus the Maitland Regional Art Gallery and many other groups.

To the committee I owe a special vote of thanks for their trust in me, to progress the Society from where we were when we started 12 months ago.

I thank you for your support in the last year, as a group we can only get stronger with the enthusiasm, camaraderie and commitment within the group.

Many thanks

Ruth Trappel

March 3rd 2010.

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc

OUR NEW PREMISES AT 3 CATHEDRAL STREET, MAITLAND

Prior to 1959 Maitland Marist Brothers High had been working under great difficulty through lack of adequate classrooms for Physics and Chemistry classes, and when Brother Justinian (then Principal) asked the Old Boys Union (then led by President Vince Bourke) for help the challenge was accepted.

It was decided to have a fete in 1956, the four stalls to be divided up between ladies (mothers of students and friends) from Campbells Hill / Rutherford /Telarah, Maitland, East Maitland and Morpeth, each area to run its own raffles, barbeques, house parties, street days etc.

The rivalry between the ladies on these four stalls had to be seen to be believed ! The first years fete bought in £2000 and the total after running three fetes was £8000 (\$16,000).

Work was started on the two laboratories in a new two storey building opposite the Bishops House in 1958 and was finished for the start of the school year in 1959 (all done without government assistance !)

The Bishop claimed the bottom of the building for garages form himself and priests and for a Parish Office.

[Courtesy – ‘On the shoulders of Giants’ by Brother Gerard Williams in article by Andy Burg on History of Old Boys Union]

In 1971 new laboratories were built and the building was utilised for Drama groups, and the bottom floor still used for the Parish Office and garages for priests.

In later years the school relinquished the building and the top storey was used as a Diocesan Library.

The Parish Office was recently moved to the Bishop’s House opposite and the building became available for lease. Our Society has leased the building for a two year period (with the proviso that we become the custodians of the Diocesan Library)

We commenced occupying the building in October 2010, and after many hours of cleaning, painting and re-organising ably led by our president Ruth and a willing band of members/ volunteers our new premises will be opened by His Worship, the Mayor of Maitland, Mr Peter Blakemore on Saturday 5th February, 2011 at 2pm.

The bottom floor will be called the ‘**Chic Cooper Collection Room**’, to honour our benevolent member Mrs Chic Cooper.

The eastern top storey room will be called the ‘**Milton Morris Meeting Room**’, in honour of our venerable Patron, Mr Milton Morris.

The western top storey room will be called the ‘**Harry Boyle Research Room**’ in honour and memory of our late esteemed member, Mr Harry Boyle OAM.

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HISTORICAL ITEM - DESTRUCTIVE AND FATAL STORM

[The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW : 1843 -1893), Tue Jan 8, 1861, pg2]

The thunder and hailstorm of Friday evening, mentioned briefly in our issue of Saturday, was, as we then feared, much more destructive than it seemed to be in parts of West Maitland, near our office. The most melancholy result of it was the death of Mr. William James Mannell, a baker, who had recently gone to Dunmore to commence business, and was previously well known in Maitland was driving Mr M'Duff's cart. He was killed by lightning, at Dunmore, as will be seen from a report elsewhere given.

At Campbells 'Hill, West Maitland, a considerable amount of damage was done to the gardens, by the hail stones, which are said to have fallen as large as pullets eggs. The fruit trees, which were well laden with fruit, were fearfully cut up, the fruit scattered in all directions, and the vines, melons, and cabbages were all more or less destroyed. At Mr Brown's public-house the whole of the windows looking to the south-west were broken. At Mr. J Eckford's the glass broken at the old and new inns numbered 160 panes. The Hospital, besides having a garden destroyed, had 80 panes of glass broken. The rain also entered through the roof, and ran down the stairs in bucket-full's. A portion of the ceiling in the upstairs room fell. At the Northumberland 50, at the Alma Hotel 60, and at the Sportsman's Arms about 70 panes of glass were broken – not a window facing the storm in these houses escaped uninjured.

The gardens and farms on the Oakhampton road suffered to a frightful extent. Mr Scobie had upwards of four acres of vines destroyed, all the fruit trees were injured, and the fruit knocked off. He estimates his loss at between £500 and £600. Mr John Cann had several acres of growing maize, pumpkins, and melons cut down, the same as if the reaping machine had

been at work; the damage done is at least, estimated at £100. Mr Logan is also a great sufferer, and considers that £300 will not cover the damage his garden sustained. At the Court-house the ridge capping was taken off by the wind, and landed in Sempill Street. A piece of stone, apparently off some corner, was picked up in the cell, which a prisoner confined there said had hit him on the leg; the stone was flat, and the face appeared as if it had been struck with a hammer.

A horse on Campbell's Hill was struck with a hail stone in the head, which seemed to stun the animal for a few moments. Mr Smith, butcher, residing at the Long Bridge, had two pigs killed by the hail stones. At Mrs. Murphy's residence, also near the bridge, the hail stones forced their way through the shingles, which were rather rotten, and the inmates had to take shelter under their bedsteads.

After leaving Burn's mill, and proceeding easterly, very little damage seems to have been done in the town, with the exception of a few panes of glass here and there, until reaching the Royal Hotel, below which the storm appears to have burst with considerable fury. St John's church, Freechurch, and the high school had a few windows broken; also Mrs Cohen and Co. (Mr Wade had between 60 and 70 panes broken. Mr Levien had the whole of the windows in the upper part of the house broken, but was fortunate enough to get the shop shutters up in time to save those below; not so the Bank coffee rooms, the whole of the windows, numbering 103 panes having been broken. The windows of St. Paul's church fortunately nearly escaped, while the Parsonage had above 40 panes of glass broken. The windows of the houses in the back streets facing the storm where all more or less injured.

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At Fishery Creek some damage was sustained to the recently erected National School in that locality. At Louth Park and its neighbourhood a vast amount of damage was done both in the corn crops and gardens, the extensive garden belonging to Mrs Saunders being rendered a complete wreck; the green house a number of valuable plants were completely destroyed, as were also the fruit and vegetables. The damage is estimated between £400 and £500. At Mr Neyle's a large willow tree was shattered with the lightning, which is considered to have saved the house from destruction; the crops and gardens .

The damage , as will have been seen, though comparatively light in the central portion of West Maitland, grew heavier toward the eastern extremity of the town. In East Maitland itself, however, it was very severe generally. A large number of panes of glass in Mr Clift's residence, and in Wallis House, near the Victoria Bridge, were broken; the lucerne crop in the paddocks both sides of the road were battered down as if an army with flails had passed through it; the gardens suffered greatly, and many young fruit trees were destroyed. In his various properties at Eats Maitland Mr Clift had lost upwards of 500 panes of glass. Passing on from the bridge, the Prince Albert Inn is the next house that shows the effect of the storm. The shutters were fortunately closed at Mr Griffith's shop, or otherwise the whole front would probably have been destroyed, as appears from the condition of the unprotected windows. A large proportion of the panes in Mr Farthing's residence suffered; but in Messrs. Dodds and Co's office the bear framework of the window remains. The shops of Mr Stewart and Mr Godfrey had their windows broken at an almost extent. On the other side of the road the buildings escaped damage in front, but suffered severely behind. Many of the mill windows were broken, and a portion of the zinc roof was carried away by the force of the wind, and deposited in the yard of the Union Store –

a distance probably, but little less than 150 yards. At the Metropolitan Hotel (late the Golden Fleece), and the stores of Mr Ogg, the back windows lost, and a rough guess, some 250 panes; and the range of stores erected by Mr Cooper suffered proportionately in the rear. The Bank of Australasia had a few panes broken on its westerly side. But the Wesleyan Chapel in Newcastle Street, the violence of the storm was perhaps, most strikingly shown. Some parts of the large window at the end were broken; but scarcely one of the small diamond shaped panes of the windows looking westerly escaped. And not only as the glass driven in – the leaden settings were cut and the iron framework was in some parts bent. The windows of the Church of England , (protected, we believe by wirework) received but slight injury, but the Catholic Church windows, on the sides exposed in the storm, were greatly damaged. Mr Borthwick, who had about 300 panes broken in his various houses in the town, he suffered severe loss in his garden, where everything that was growing was cut to pieces. Some corn and lucerne of Mr Day's have also, it is said, been destroyed. The building in Banks Street have suffered in the westerly gables, and at the rear. Mr Nainby's house, and MR Whittaker's Inn may be mentioned as instances. The Mechanic's Institute has lost all, or nearly all, the glass on the westerly side of the building. At Mr Finch's Inn opposite the old Court House, some 250 panes were smashed. The windows of the old Court House were riddled throughout. The Hunter River Hotel suffered considerably in its exposed windows. Mr Gooch lost about 175 panes. The house of Mr Joshua Smith had been recently plastered, and the stucco was indented by the hail, so as to appear as a feeble imitation of rustic masonry. Mr Cobcroft's large stores had the greater part of their windows on the sides not exposed to the fury of the storm; but some 90 panes were broken in the back windows.

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At the Union Store the front windows were protected; but the exposed windows of the dwelling house suffered to the extent of upwards of 100 panes. Nearly all the glass on one side of St Stephen's Church was broken and Mr Geoffrey's garden in the neighbourhood, containing a number of dahlias and choice flowers in bloom, was completely destroyed. Mrs Muir's house on the hill did not escape injury, and at Mr Cobcroft's new residence in course of erection in the immediate vicinity the back windows, which had been glazed – some of them with stained glass – were entirely broken. It is stated that the blast was dashed in with such force that some of the fragments were driven into the plaster of the walls of the rooms. Mr Cobcroft's garden, which gave promise of an abundant crop of fruit and grapes, is described as a wreck. Mr Garvin whose residence is on the hill at some distance to the rear, has lost windows, and had a very fine crop of potatoes entirely cut up.

Along the Morpeth Road the trees and fields show signs of the violence of the storm in that direction. Morpeth itself suffered considerably in its windows. A number of panes in the upper windows of the Commercial Bank, in Mr Cantwell's and Mr Lloyd's Inns, and, in fact, in the windows of almost every building on that side of the street yielded to the force of the hailstones. The church windows were much damaged on the exposed side. The New Steam Navigation Company's premises escaped with the breakage of comparatively few panes of glass. But the greatest loss will be borne by the settlers in the vicinity, whose corn crops are reported as cut up in a disastrous manner. The stems of the maize are so much battered that the plants which have not been broken down must wither in the sun. It is no uncommon thing to see the bark stripped off the trees, as if by the blow of a stick. At the cottage of the settler named Blundell, it is said, the wind rushed with such force through the broken windows, as to lift the roof.

At other places in the neighbourhood of Morpeth a great amount of injury had been done to the fruit and other crops. The Churches at Hinton had been damaged much in their windows; and at Bowthorne a horse is reported to have an eye knocked out by the hail.

We hear that the hail was felt at the Wollombi, but not at Black Creek. Although felt so severely on the Oakhampton Road, some parts of Mr Bollard's land at Oakhampton escaped it. No hail fell at Brookes Flat; but the rain was heavy. In that direction the hail extended about a mile and a half to two miles from East Maitland.

Excepting some rather apocryphal accounts of enormous lumps of ice having been picked up, and been found to weigh – not ounces nearly, but pounds – the hailstones are generally described in the three towns as varying in size from that of a pea to that of a hen's egg, and as being extremely irregular in shape, with sharp angles. In some places at East Maitland, where there were drifted by the wind against the walls of buildings, they accumulated in heaps from two to three feet high, and remained unmelted through the greater part of the night. It is possible that the large pieces of ice above referred to consisted of a number of hailstones united by congelation.

Did you know ? ? ?

Campbell's Hill is named after Lieutenant Patrick Campbell – an officer in the 21st Royal North British Fusiliers, a Regiment that spent most of its Australian Service in Tasmania.

Whilst still a very junior Ensign, Campbell served as a Magistrate at Maitland Court House.

He later worked as an Assistant Surveyor under Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell in the construction of the Great Northern Road

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2011 DIARY DATES

January 2011

Tues 4th General Meeting - 5.30 at the rooms

Thur 13th January to 30th June

Australian Museum of Clothing and Textiles

What did your grandmother and grandfather wear in their summer

Leisure time. Maitland Gaol. \$3 admission.

Tues 18th Committee Meeting 5.30 at the rooms

Wed 26th Australia Day in Maitland Park

We will be manning a stall - member-volunteers are required

Sat 29th 7am Garage Sale for the Historical Society

At the rooms – donations would be gratefully received

February 2011

Tues 1st General Meeting - 5.30 at the rooms

Sat 5th Official Opening of the Historical Society's Rooms.

3 Cathedral Street Maitland - 2pm with afternoon tea

Tues 15th Committee meeting - 5.30 at the rooms

Fri/Sat/Sun 18th- 19th- 20th Maitland Show - 150th Anniversary

Thurs 24th "Look Who's Talking" Washed Away 55 flood

Peter Bogan, Chas Keys

Sunday 27th 5th Flood walk CMA and Peter Bogan.. 7am Start

Morning Tea - For bookings, cost and meeting place please ring
Amanda 49384958

March 2011

Tues 1st Annual and general meeting 5.30 at the rooms

12 & 13 – The Maitland Collection is part of a series of artworks by

18, 19 & 20 Maitland artist Holly McNamee, who draws on her relationship

25, 26 & 27 with many of the unique buildings of historic Maitland

At Brough House. Church Street, Maitland

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March 2011 - cont

- Tues 15th** **Committee meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms
- Sun 20th** **Maitland Heritage Walk – Eastern Precinct**- Friends of Grossman-
In conjunction with the “Maitland Collection” exhibition
2pm Meet at the Council Car Park. Afternoon tea at the
conclusion of the walk.
Cost \$20, \$15 for Nation Trust Members, Bookings 49344314,
49336452
- Mon 21st** **Maitland Seniors Week Expo at Maitland Town Hall.**
We are participating in this event, with a stall
- Fri 25th** **Bunnings BBQ**

April 2011

- Heritage Festival**
- Sat/Sun 2nd & 3rd** **The Maitland Taste Festival.**
Maitland Heritage Mall - Displays and Walks
- Tue 5th** **General meeting**- 5.30 at the rooms
- Sat & Sun 9th & 10th** **Steamfest** Maitland 9am -5pm
We will be participating in this event, as the information centre.
Talks around the Station and postcards to sell, with “Before and
After” photos.
- Sat 9th** **Davidson Clan Gathering** – Bus Historical Tour and Talk 9am -12.
- Tues 19th** **Committee meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

May 2011

- Tues 3rd** **General meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms
- 9 to 15th** **National Volunteers Week**
- Tues 17th** **Committee meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms
- Sun 29th** **Bunnings BBQ**

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June 2011

- ? **Look Who's Talking – What ever happened to?**
Tues 7th **General meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms
Tues 21st **Committee meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

July 2011

- Tues 5th **General meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms
Tues 19th **Committee meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

August 2011

- Tues 2nd **General meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms
Sat/Sun 13th & 14th **Aroma Festival – Maitland Heritage Mall –**
Displays and Walks
Tues 16th **Committee meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

September 2011

- ? **"Look Who's Talking"- Sex in the City - Gianni De Gravio**
3rd – 11th **History Week** "Eat History" is the Theme
Tues 6th **General meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms
Tues 20th **Committee meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

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October 2011

Tues 4th **General meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

Sat/Sun 15th & 16th **Maitland Muster and Rodeo.** Maitland Heritage Mall

Tues 18th **Committee meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

Thu 27th -Fri 28th 2 days pre conference activities

Sat 29th - Sun 30th **Royal Australian Historical Society Annual Conference**

Maitland

November 2011

Tues 1st **General meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

Tues 15th **Committee meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

December 2011

? **"Look Who's Talking" Great Escapes from Maitland**

Gordon Sauber

Tuesday 6th **General meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

Tuesday 20th **committee meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

Christmas gathering

For those of us who dare to dream (daydream or otherwise)

... The late Robert Kennedy often quoted from George Bernard Shaw :

" ...You see things and you say why ?

But I dream things that never were,

And I say, why not ? .."

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PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The Society has the following publications for sale :

- Cedars and Bricks **\$10**
- Grossman House – Maitland **\$10**
- Centenary 1909-2009 **\$15**
University of Sydney Geology Camp at Gosforth – Led by Prof Edgeworth David
- Horseshoe bend – Maitland **\$22**
Cynthia Hunter
- Haybarns and Dairy Buildings of Maitland **\$13-75**
- Hunters River **\$20**
Cecily Mitchell
- Hunter Valley Steamfest – the 1st 25 years **\$10**
- Maitland Architecture – 19 Decades of Residential Design **\$25**
- Maitland Jewish Cemetery **\$25**
- Out of the Closet – Maitland Water Stories **\$30**
- The Louth Park Mob – Collection of Stories **\$25**
- The Louth Park Mob – Memories come flooding back **\$25**
- The Louth Park Mob – Blood and Bandages – St Ethel’s School **\$25**
- Selection of photos - Maitland scenes, buildings and floods **\$3 each**

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc

- We are seeking contributions, hopefully historical, but any contributions considered, for future editions of this Bulletin
- It is anticipated that the next Bulletin will be published and distributed early May 2011
- Many thanks to Beverley Bailey for her excellent computer skills to collate, create and publish this Bulletin
- Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the information in this Bulletin is correct, Maitland and District Historical Society Inc., and its Editors do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

A final note to ponder ...

The Census of New South Wales reported that in 1861....

the total population of East and West Maitland and Morpeth was 8703 people,

... compared to Newcastle's population of 3722 how times change