

*Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.*

# **Bulletin of Maitland and District Historical Society Inc**

(established March 1977)

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



The Bishop's House, Cathedral Street, Maitland

Volume 18, Number 3

August 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.*

### **Cover:**

Plan of the Bishop's House, 1882, J.W. Pender. From The Pender Archive, Cultural Collections, University of Newcastle. <http://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/pender>

Photograph of the Bishop's House, 2010.

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**Website :** <http://www.maitlandhistorical.org>

Meetings are held at 3 Cathedral Street Maitland (opposite Bishop's House)

**Lecture meeting** is held on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm as a forum for lectures, talks and presentations

**Business meeting** is held on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm

Membership fees : \$15 (single) and \$20 (double / family), payable 1<sup>st</sup> March of each year.

**Patron:** The Hon. Milton Morris AO

NSW Member for Maitland 1956-1980

NSW Minister for Transport 1965 - 1975

### **Current Office Bearers :**

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

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

**Bulletin Editor :** Judy Nicholson **Consultant Editor :** Ruth Trappel

**Bulletin contributions** are being sought. Please contact the Society via email

[maitlandhistorical@bigpond.com](mailto:maitlandhistorical@bigpond.com)

While every care is taken in the compilation and editing of the information contained in this bulletin, Maitland and District Historical Society Inc. and its editors do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

## Historical Society Activities



The **Mosaic** software for creating a database of the Society's resources is ready for the input of data. After training in July, Society members Judy, Janis, Dennis and Graham are forming the Mosaic team to get things moving. The training involved

three full days in Sydney with the Mosaic developers, covering data entry and querying, data retrieval, reporting and exporting, administration and configuration.

Offices at the Willoughby City Council provided the venue and **Willoughby District Historical Society** were our local hosts and liaison. We were fortunate on our first day to be able to visit the Willoughby Historical Society's museum in Chatswood, *Boronia*, a Federation style brick cottage built in 1912. The displays cover Mashman pottery, tanneries, tradesmen's hand-tools and domestic activities, including a 1930s kitchen. Very professionally exhibited and not only were we impressed by the displays, they also provided a fabulous lunch, definitely ideal hosts – thanks Willoughby!

Their web page has more information: <http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Whats-On/Museum/>

## Galton's

Historical Society member **Frank Buckman**, our Galton's department store expert, featured in the Weekend Magazine section of the **Maitland Mercury** on July 1, 2011. "Galton's was famous at one time for its billy goat races along High Street as reported in the Galton Way, the staff newsletter, in 1941. It was described as a way of beating petrol rationing during World War II and there was also a piece about how to build an air raid shelter."

Refer to page 9 for Galton's advice on "What to do in an air raid" as well as instructions for building your own Anderson type shelter!

Frank has spoken to some former staff members but is always keen to speak to anyone who worked at Galton's at any time for their personal input. Contact Frank via the Historical Society's details on page 2.

## Lecture Meetings

The Society's lecture meetings in May and July focused on local churches - St. Peters Anglican Church, East Maitland in May, then St. John's and the Bishop's House in July.

The June lecture evening was presented by Brian Andrews, who gave us as insight into the life and contribution of Alexander Dodds, a prominent East Maitland citizen in the 1800s.

## **St. Peter's Anglican Church, East Maitland**



Historical Society members and interested visitors attended an evening at St. Peter's Anglican Church, East Maitland, on 3 May 2011.

Thanks to Society member **Kevin Short** for an informative tour of St. Peter's. Thanks also to **Kathleen Waddell**, St. Peter's organist, for demonstrating the magnificent Willis organ.

Kevin provided the group with an interesting history of the Church, its origins, architecture and background of the Anglican community in early Maitland.

### **More about the features of St. Peter's:**

The style of architecture of the Church can be described as Decorated Gothic. The original architect was Edmund Blacket in 1875, with the design being completed by Cyril Blacket in 1885 and the foundation stone having been laid by Bishop Barry on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1884.

The walls are of white sandstone, quarried 2 miles south east of the church site. The roof is of slate supported on a frame of imported New Zealand softwoods. The floor is tiled mosaic and the columns are of granite with column caps of Melbourne bluestone basalt. The design and erection of the Church are a tribute to all the skill and dedication of the craftspeople involved. Archdeacon Lovick Tyrrell conceived and brought into being this magnificent Church during his long incumbency of forty years, beginning in 1863.

### **The Organ**

Built in 1876 by the London firm Henry Willis & Sons by what is known as the Sandringham Model. Of some ten instruments by Henry Willis sent to Australia, this is one of five remaining substantially complete. Although of modest size, it is of outstanding quality and is an example of Willis's impeccable design, construction and finish. The instrument was, for a period of time, in what is now known as The Parish Hall, and was placed in the chamber designed for it opposite the vestry and within the Chancel.

### **The Eagle Lectern**

The beautiful brass lectern, one of the largest to be found in any church, was presented in 1897 as a memorial to William Eckford, a church warden of the first St. Peter's, and his wife Elizabeth. The eagle stands on a ball which represents the world, while the Bible on the bird's back symbolizes the Gospel being carried on wings to the corners of the earth.

## *Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.*

### **The Pulpit**

Dedicated by Bishop Stanton on 9 July 1893 and given by Miss Jane Eckford in memory of her parents. The marble and alabaster pulpit comes from the studio of Rhodes, Birmingham. There are five panels around the body of the pulpit. The centre panel represents the Good Shepherd, and the other subjects are Moses and the Commandments; Elijah fed by ravens; St Peter with the keys; St Paul with the sword of the Spirit.

### **Stained Glass Windows**

In the Sanctuary, Aisles and Narthex were supplied by Messrs Lavers and Westlake, London. In the South and North Aisle all depict scenes from the life of St Peter. Each side of the church has five sets of windows each comprising three panels of beautiful stained glass. Many of the windows were given by the Clifts, a prominent pioneer family of East Maitland.

(Source: St. Peter's web site, <http://www.stpeterseastmaitland.com.au/>)



**St. Peter's** is listed on the **State Heritage Inventory**, with the following information:

**Historic:** Anglican Church established at site from 1835, historic fabric associated with 160 years of use and development. Association with Canon Lovick Tyrrell 1863-1903, Blacket Bros. Architects.

**Social:** Continuity of use as religious and social venue.

**Aesthetic:** Exceptional example of Victorian Gothic stone church in region. Fine interiors. Highly significant landmark and townscape element.

[http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07\\_subnav\\_04\\_2.cfm?itemid=2000054](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_04_2.cfm?itemid=2000054)



Proposed design for St. Peter's Church.

Cyril Blacket, architect.

Blacket Plans, Mitchell Library PXD 202-204

Copied from: *A History of St. Peter's Church* by James Waddell, 1996.

## St. John's and the Bishop's House

The Maitland and District Historical Society's premises at 3 Cathedral Street (officially opened by the Society as their 'headquarters' in February 2011) are the property of the Catholic Church.

The rooms had previously been used as classrooms and more recently as the Parish Office and Diocesan Library. The Parish Office was moved some months ago to the Bishop's House across the road, adjacent to St. John's cathedral.

When Father Matthew Muller offered to escort the Society on a tour of St. John's and the Bishop's house, a great deal of interest was generated.

More details about these buildings below:

### The Bishop's House, 1883

The Bishop's house has undergone a number of alterations and additions over the years, although the front of the building appears to remain largely in its original condition. The cover of this *Bulletin* features a plan of the Bishop's House, 1882, J.W. Pender. Copied from The Pender Archive, Cultural Collections, University of Newcastle. <http://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/pender>

The photograph of the Bishop's House was taken in 2010.

In 1878 J.W. Pender was engaged to prepare plans for a residence for the Right Reverend Dr. Murray in Charles (later Cathedral) Street West Maitland, adjoining the former St. John's Roman Catholic Cathedral. By 1882 the tender of James Prichard was accepted and work commenced. Prichard built the kitchen wing the following year and another contractor, Dilley and Irwin, built the stabling, outbuildings and erected the fencing in 1884. (Source: *Maitland architecture: 19 decades of residential design – hearths and homes*, by Cynthia Hunter, Maitland City Council, 2008.)



**The Bishop's house** is listed on the **State Heritage Inventory**, with the following information:

**Historic:** Seat of Roman Catholic Bishop for Maitland archdiocese.

**Social:** Continuing association with role and function of church in community.

**Aesthetic:** Relatively rare example of Victorian Italianate large residence in Central Maitland - significant contribution to townscape.

**Style:** Victorian Italianate.

**Exterior:** Brick & Stucco. Large two storey residence, slate roof, brick with stucco quoins and two storey asymmetrically placed bay windows, cast iron verandahs look like reconstructions.

[http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07\\_subnav\\_04\\_2.cfm?itemid=2000236](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_04_2.cfm?itemid=2000236)

## St. John's

Father John Lynch began to build St. John's in 1844. The foundation stone of the church was laid by Bishop Polding on October 8, 1840, on Campbell's Hill, where the hospital now stands. Work on the building was delayed and the foundation stone was ultimately moved to its present site (Cathedral Street). The new structure took two years to complete, opening in 1846. The tower was added to the church about 1860, becoming a Maitland landmark.

When Maitland became a cathedral city in 1864, Bishop James Murray made St. John's his cathedral. For 67 years, from 1866 until Bishop Gleeson put it out of commission in 1933, it was the cathedral for the diocese. In the 1950s, under Bishop Gleeson and Father Withnel, the building was completely renovated and the second storey added to provide a primary school.

*(Source: Maitland 1863-1963, Council of the City of Maitland, 1963.)*

This view of St. John's (reproduced from the Parish of St. John the Baptist web site) shows the edge of the premises of the Maitland Historical Society on the right hand side.

<http://www.cathchurch.net/nsw/parish/Maitland.htm>



**Saint John's** is listed on the **State Heritage Inventory**,

with the following information:

**Style:** Gothic.

**Exterior:** Stone.

**Interior:** Modified. Restrained gothic style church with shallow buttresses and square tower marked by carved finials.

**Modifications:** Roof raised to form large clerestory both sides of nave, windows replaced, base rendered, interior adapted for school use.

[http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07\\_subnav\\_01\\_2.cfm?itemid=2000235](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_01_2.cfm?itemid=2000235)



### **Maitland Mercury, 16 November 1886**



On Sunday the twenty-first anniversary of his Lordship's consecration was commemorated by special services in St. John's Cathedral, West Maitland. The proceedings began with High Mass at eleven o'clock. Bishop Murray, splendidly robed in embroidered cope and jewelled mitre, was attended by the Rev. P. Corcoran and the Rev. Father McAuliffe. The ceremonies were under the direction of Father P.V. Dwyer and Father E. P. Sheehy.



## Alexander Dodds

The lecture meeting held on 7 June 2011 was addressed by **Brian Andrews** of the Coalfields Heritage Group, covering the life and contributions of Alexander Dodds, former East Maitland Mayor and MP. The **Maitland Mercury** article of 8 June 2011 sums up the information, reproduced below:

**mercury**



# History lesson

**BRIONY SNEDDEN**

Few people would recognise the name Alexander Dodds in modern Maitland.

But historian and Coalfields Heritage Group secretary Brian Andrews resurrected the memory of one of East Maitland's most important early citizens during an address to Maitland and District Historical Society last night.

As the group's inaugural guest speaker, Mr Andrews used former East Maitland mayor and MP Alexander Dodds to demonstrate the gaps in local historical information.

He said while Mr Dodds was one of Maitland's leading citizens in the 1800s, today he was all but forgotten.

Without a memorial or monument to the Scotsman, who arrived in Australia in 1834, Alexander Dodds' only remaining footprints are in the East Maitland Mechanics Institute, or the Literary Institute, on Banks Street, East Maitland.

Mr Dodds established an auctioneering business in East Maitland, which he ran for 35 years, shortly after his arrival in the colony.

But he made a name for himself as a politician, starting his career as one of the first aldermen on the East Maitland Municipal Council, which met at the East Maitland Mechanics Institute.

And it was at the Banks Street building that he launched his campaign to represent East Maitland in the Legislative Assembly, where 400 people gathered to hear him speak.

"He started very, very low down in the world – low in the pocket that was – but was determined, with God's will, his own perseverance and energy, to better his circumstances – and in this he had succeeded," Mr Andrews said.

Alexander Dodds died at his Sydney home on February 6, 1892.

**FOOTPRINT:** The Literary Institute in East Maitland as we know it today (top) and as the Mechanics Institute (below).



The Chief Warden of West Maitland (Mr. C. A. Box), gratefully acknowledges the action of Messrs. George Galton Pty., Limited, in making available the greater portion of this issue of "The Galton Way" for N.E.S. purposes.

# The GALTON WAY

Vol. 3.

WEST MAITLAND, N.S.W., MARCH 1941.

No. 39

Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney, for transmission by post as a periodical.

## PERSONAL PROTECTION AWAY FROM HOME

- (1) On the sounding of the Air Raid Warning or of gun fire or bursting bombs, immediately take cover; do not look out for aircraft. There is danger from splinters from our own anti-aircraft guns as well as from bombs.
- (2) If you are near a shelter go there. At night time be sure to take sufficient clothing to keep you warm.
- (3) If you are in the city and there is no shelter nearby, enter a modern building and follow the instructions of the Warden in charge of the building.
- (4) When bombs are actually falling and you are in the open, lie down on the ground but keep the chest, stomach and lower part of your body raised from the surface by resting on one arm. Keep your mouth open to reduce the effect of the blast. If you have a coat throw it over your head and face. Do not have direct bodily contact with upright surface such as walls or pillars. More protection is offered by lying in a gutter rather than on the surface of a street or road.
- (5) During a raid there will be Wardens and Police to guide you. Follow their instructions.
- (6) Do not telephone during the raid or immediately following the "all clear" signal, as the military and Civilian Defence Services will have urgent need for telephonic communications.

## TALKIE PICTURES

The Management of the Maitland Theatres Pty. Ltd. has made arrangements for a big night of talking pictures in aid of the N.E.S. funds, to be screened in the Palace Theatre on Thursday, 19th March. Tickets will be sold by the personnel of the N.E.S. organisation and the prices will be 2/- and 1/6. Buy your tickets early and save disappointment.

## WHAT TO DO IN AN AIR RAID

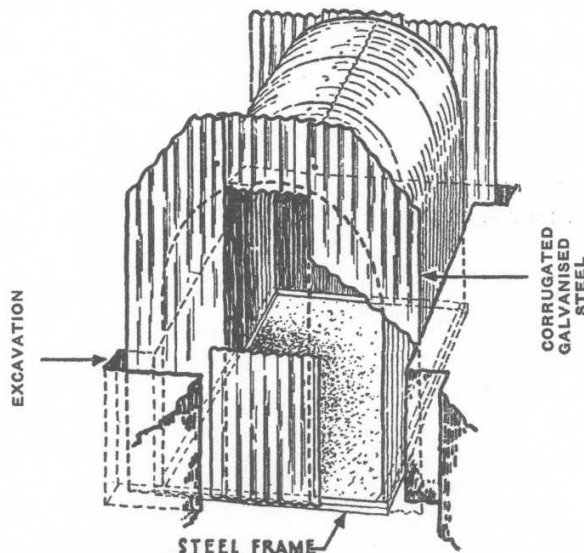
The following hints are issued for the guidance of householders and persons living at home or in flats. They should be carefully read and kept for reference when official warning is issued to prepare for possible attack from the air.

The Air Raid Warning Signal will be given by means of sirens. Sirens will not be used for any other purpose except the AIR RAID WARNING.

When you hear an Air Raid Warning Signal:—

1. Cut off the gas at the meter.
2. See that water receptacles, such as baths, tubs, sinks, etc., are filled.
3. See that your food supplies, etc., are in your Gas-proof Room.
4. Go immediately to your protection and remain there until the "All Clear" Signal is sounded.
5. Do not look out to see the enemy planes.

## THE ANDERSON TYPE SHELTER



This type of shelter has been used extensively in England, and has proved satisfactory. It is sunk partially into the ground, and it is constructed of a steel frame and heavy corrugated galvanised iron, and should be covered with earth.

Particulars can be supplied by the various supply firms.

## Trove Search Hints

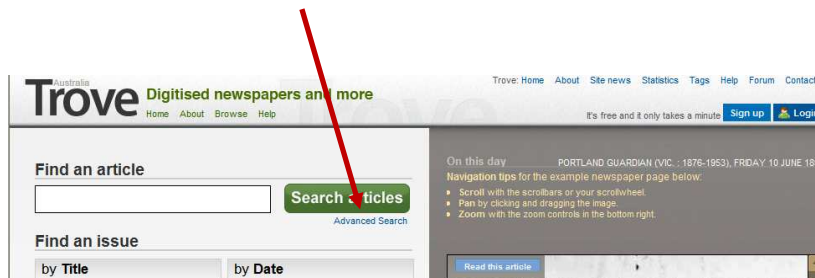
### Newspapers online at Trove

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>

*Search tip:*

to limit your search to **only** the ***Maitland Mercury*** (Jan. 7, 1843 - Dec. 30, 1893)

1. Select **Advanced search**



#### Advanced Search - Digitised Newspapers and more

**Keywords**

All of these words

The phrase

Any of these words

Without these words

☒ Search anywhere in article (including tags and comments)

☐ Search headings only

☐ Search headings, author or 1st 4 lines (news articles only)

☐ Search captions only

**Publication date**

**Newspaper Title & Location**

To search all newspapers, do not make a selection.

<input type="checkbox"/>	The Australian Abo Call (National : 1938)
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Australian Children's Newspaper (NSW : 1899 - 1900)
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Colonist (Sydney, NSW : 1835-1840)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW : 1843-1893)
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Monitor (Sydney, NSW : 1826-1828)
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Sun-Herald (Sydney, NSW : 1953-1954)
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Sunday Herald (Sydney, NSW : 1949-1953)
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW : 1803-1842)
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Sydney Herald (NSW : 1831-1842)

2. Type your search words into the search fields

3. Scroll down, then select the check box to limit the search to the *Maitland Mercury* only

4. Click the **Search** button

## **Royal Australian Historical Society Conference**

### **HERE IN MAITLAND!! 29-30 October 2011**

The next RAHS Conference will be held on the weekend of 29-30 October 2011 at East Maitland Bowling Club, Maitland, NSW.

The theme will be: ***Of Droughts and Flooding Rains - Australian Disasters: Research, Recording, Recovery***

Papers on the main conference topic, as well as papers on the Hunter Valley, heritage, and practical matters will be presented.

The Annual State History Conference brings together local historical societies from across the state to share their publications and projects and learn new skills.

The conference is open to anyone interested in local history, heritage and Australian history.

More details will be provided as they are made available from RAHS. The RAHS website will also be updated. <http://www.rahs.org.au/>

## **2011 Diary Dates**

### **August 2011**

**Tues 2<sup>nd</sup>**      **Lecture meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

**Sat/Sun 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>**      **Aroma Festival – Maitland Heritage Mall –**

*Displays and Walks*

**Tues 16<sup>th</sup>**      **Business meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

### **September 2011**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>**      **History Week**  
*Theme: "E.A.T. History"*

*Afternoon tea at the Society's rooms, Cathedral St.*

**Tues 6<sup>th</sup>**      **Lecture meeting** - 5.30 at the rooms

**Thurs 8<sup>th</sup>**      **Look Who's Talking , Local History**  
*Whatever happened to?*

## *Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.*

**Tues 20<sup>th</sup>      Business meeting - 5.30 at the rooms**

### **October 2011**

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup>      Lecture meeting - 5.30 at the rooms**

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

**Tues 18<sup>th</sup>      Business meeting - 5.30 at the rooms**

**Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> -Fri 28<sup>th</sup> 2 days pre conference activities**

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup> - Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Royal Australian Historical Society Annual Conference**  
*at Maitland*

### **November 2011**

**Tues 1<sup>st</sup>      Lecture meeting - 5.30 at the rooms**

**Tues 15<sup>th</sup>      Business meeting - 5.30 at the rooms**

### **December 2011**

**Thurs 1<sup>st</sup>      Look Who's Talking , Local History**  
*Sex in the city*

**Tues 6<sup>th</sup>      Lecture meeting - 5.30 at the rooms**

**Tues 20<sup>th</sup>      Business meeting -    5.30 at the rooms**  
**Christmas gathering**



**Victoria Bridge**  
**Spanning Wallis Creek, Maitland**