

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



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May 2014

***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: Game of Vigoro, 1920s, image from the Sydney Smith collection.

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Location: 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

Meetings are held at the Society's rooms, 3 Cathedral Street Maitland

Membership fees : \$15 (single) and \$20 (double / family)

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 Presidents : Peter Smith, Keith Cockburn

Treasurer : Kevin Short

Secretary : Tom Skelding

Bulletin Editor : Judy Nicholson

Consultant Editor : Ruth Trappel

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

maitlandhistorical@gmail.com

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Committee 2014

President: Ruth Trappel

First Vice President: Peter Smith

Second Vice President: Keith Cockburn

Secretary: Tom Skelding

Treasurer: Kevin Short

Recorder: Judy Nicholson

Publicity Officer: Val Rudkin

Bulletin Editor: Judy Nicholson

Research: Judy Nicholson, Val Rudkin, Ziggy Szyda

Committee: Adele Cockburn, Elizabeth Martin

Other appointments

Public Officer: Dennis Martin

Auditor: Jennifer O'Neil

Technical Officer: *this position has not been filled – nominations welcome!*



(L to R) Kevin Short, Keith Cockburn, Ruth Trappel, Tom Skelding, Peter Smith

2014 Committee enthused for another busy year ☺

Vigoro – the game for girls!



A number of photographs from the camera of Sydney Smith taken in the Maitland area in the 1920s and 1930s depict a sport that no longer has a high profile – Vigoro.

The game is described as being somewhat similar to outdoor cricket, incorporating some of the pace of baseball. Vigoro is played on a cricket pitch, slightly shorter in length, the balls are much lighter, and the bat has a totally different shape with a long handle resembling the shape of a paddle. There are two teams of 12 players which will bat and field two innings each.

Vigoro first appears in the Maitland Mercury of **8 November 1902**, being reported by the Telegraph newspaper's correspondent in London. The article includes the proposal that Vigoro could be a replacement for cricket:

CRICKET.

Lord Hawke, whose New Zealand cricket team has been completed by the inclusion of Mr. A. D. Whatman, who went out to the West Indies as wicket-keeper for his lordship's team in 1897, will (writes the Telegraph's London correspondent) introduce to the notice of Maorilanders a newly invented game called 'Vigoro,' which, it appears, is a combination of cricket and tennis. The game is to be played before the M.C.C. committee at Lords next month, and several well-known country cricketers will take part in the opening game. The chief advantage of the game seems to be that it can be played all the year round; also, the ball being of soft indiarubber, there is no element of danger. The rate of scoring appears to be about three, times as fast as at cricket; but in spite of this, one would like to see more of 'Vigoro' before definitely abandoning cricket in its favour.

There are no further reports about Vigoro in the Mercury until **26 December 1922**, when the Newcastle reporter writes:

A keenly contested Vigoro match was played on Wallsend Park on Saturday between a team representing the metropolitan branch of the New South Wales Association and one selected from clubs connected with the Northern District Association. The visitors were defeated by 60 runs ... The proceeds were in aid of the newly-formed local association for the promotion of Vigoro.

From **January 1923**, Vigoro matches and new teams are reported in the Maitland Mercury on a regular basis.

Local teams included: Kurri Kurri Gems, Weston Magpies, Heddon Greta Robins, Pelaw-Main Old Golds, East Greta Pioneers, Stanford Merthyr Sunshine, South Maitland, Maitland Rovers, Morpeth Lilacs, West End Curlews, East Branxton Butterflies and Cessnock Magpies.

Popularity of the game gained momentum, as Maitland Mercury articles included the following:

One of the latest crazes in the district is the game of vigoro. The play is confined to the ladies, but the men have been interested and are keen supporters of the various clubs.

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An association has been formed to control the game and conduct competitions. There are fifteen clubs affiliated and competitions are expected to engage between 20 and 30 teams.

19 May 1923

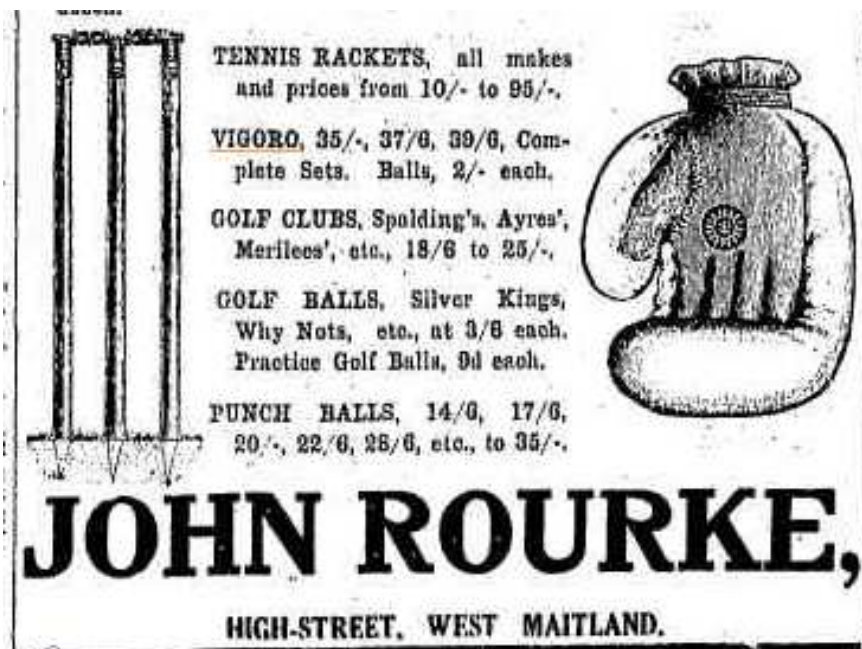
The game of vigoro, which is confined to the ladies, naturally attracts a large amount of male interest, and it has been said that many have become, so absorbed in the fortunes of the teams in which their wives or daughters or "little 'bunches of cuddles" take part, that they neglect the racecourse and former haunts of entertainment.

The competition for a cup, presented by Lyall's Ltd. has now been in progress for a month, and has attracted 21 teams...

The excitement at a replay match on Thursday afternoon reminded the spectators of a football final. The barracking was so loud and continuous, and many a "batter" lost her wicket through paying too much attention to the advice of those on the boundary.

Miss Kelly, the top scorer, was carried off the field by the players at the conclusion of the match.

7 July 1923



TENNIS RACKETS, all makes
and prices from 10/- to 95/-.

VIGORO, 35/-, 37/6, 39/6, Com-
plete Sets. Balls, 2/- each.

GOLF CLUBS, Spalding's, Ayres',
Marilees', etc., 18/6 to 25/-.

GOLF BALLS, Silver Kings,
Why Nots, etc., at 3/6 each.
Practice Golf Balls, 9d each.

PUNCH BALLS, 14/6, 17/6,
20/-, 22/6, 25/6, etc., to 35/-.

JOHN ROURKE,
HIGH-STREET, WEST MAITLAND.

Vigoro equipment was
available to purchase,
regularly advertised by
John Rourke's
establishment

MM 22 December 1923

But watch out male wicketkeepers, the vigoro girls have it covered, apparently?! ☺

S. A. writes: As an interested spectator on Saturday last for the first time I witnessed a game of vigoro on the Maitland Park. It has all the virtues that qualify it to become a very popular pastime. Included amongst the players were young girls and married women, and it was delightful to witness their enthusiasm.

The game itself, which is very similar to cricket, has a charm about it that creates a great deal of excitement, besides being a strong factor in the physical development of our girls.

I must pay tribute to the wicketkeepers, some of our own local men have very little on them.

MM 2 September 1924

Vigoro games are reported continuously in the Mercury, through to December 1934 and presumably beyond, however since the online version of the Maitland Mercury available via Trove terminates at 1939 further research would be required to follow through.

This team captured by Syd Smith's camera were the Reos.



One of the Vigoro Associations established was that of the Maitland District Ambulance competition. The Reos team first appears in the Maitland Mercury of **22 July 1931**, when they play against East Greta and won the match.

Fundraising in August took the form of a Grand Euchre Party and Dance at the Homeville Hall in aid of Reo Girls' Vigoro Club.

The Reos were declared as undefeated in December 1931, following a replay with the Excelsior's: "The replay ordered by the Ambulance Association between the Reos and the Excelsior's, a protest being lodged by the latter team, took place on Saturday. The Reos won by an innings and 11 runs."

MM 2 December 1931



VIGORO — THE GAME FOR GIRLS
DISTRICT PREMIERSHIP
REOS v. EXCELSIORS
Maitland Showground, Next Saturday, Jan. 16
COMMENCING AT 2.30 P.M.
SEE THE FASCINATING GAME OF VIGORO.
Not a dull moment during four innings.
Brilliant Batting, Bowling, Fielding, and Wicketkeeping.
Spend a pleasant afternoon on the Showground and assist the Maitland Ambulance Brigade. Admission: Adults 6d, Children 3d.
Umpires: Messrs. T. Shaw & J. Avery. J. B. HICKS, Secretary 8118

MM
14 Jan
1932

Reos Win Premiership

The Reos' Vigoro Club scored a complete victory over the Excelsiors, when they played the final of the Maitland District Ambulance Vigoro Association's competition for the premiership on Maitland Show Ground last Saturday afternoon. Reos were credited with an undefeated record during the season, and played their best vigoro in the final. Each member of the Reos team, will be awarded a cup and the special cup presented by a member of the Ambulance Committee.

MM 18 January 1932

Vigoro is still played in New South Wales and their website provides information and images.

<http://vigoro.com.au/>

If you have memories about vigoro in Maitland, send us an email to share your thoughts

maitlandhistorical@gmail.com

The faces of suicide



Many of us have passed the former Cohen's building innumerable times and have viewed the carved grotesqueries perched on the keystones, not knowing an interesting link in their origin.

The following article was written by Harry Boyle, published in the Maitland Mercury 29 July, 1999. Thanks to Val for spotting this item while she was in pursuit of an entirely different piece of information. Serendipity proves its worth yet again! ☺

A muffled shot, heard by nobody, in a room of the Unicorn Hotel, Sturt Street, Ballarat, ended the life of Benjamin Brain.

Mr. Brain has been dealing in mining scrip (shares) and had been financially successful.

On the Saturday night before his suicide on the Sunday afternoon in September 1877, he told his friends he was in a despondent frame of mind after lending some Black Horse scrip which he feared would not be returned.

He also told his troubles to Mr. Gundry, the hotel keeper, who gave him some advice on the matter and promised to help him get his scrip back. This appeared to help him get over his melancholy fit.

That evening before retiring to his room Mr. Brain asked Mr. Gundry to play a game of draughts with him but the hotel keeper declined owing to pressure of business.

Mr. Brain retired to his room, perfectly sober and apparently in a tranquil frame of mind.

At 9am the next day Mr. Gundry sent a housemaid to call Mr. Brain for breakfast but he said he wouldn't come down.

Mr. and Mrs. Gundry then went out walking and on their return, again sent the housemaid to call him for his lunch.

When she returned, saying she couldn't get an answer to her door knock, Mr. Gundry tried. When his knock wasn't answered he opened the door and a horrible spectacle presented itself.

Mr. Brain was lying partly on his left side with his right arm under him, his hand grasping a small pocket revolver, one barrel of which was loaded, the other discharged.

No servant had heard anything like the report of a firearm, perhaps because the revolver was such a small weapon. The police and Doctor Bunce were sent for.

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It was discovered Mr. Brain had fired the revolver in his mouth, causing instantaneous death. In his pockets were found 4 in notes, 12 shillings and threepence in silver, 10 Black Horse and 70 United Parker scrip together with a receipt and acknowledgement to return the other Black Horse scrip.

Mr. Brain was described as a short, stout man, 55 years old, a previous resident at Prahran and though to be a widower. He was well known in Melbourne, Prahran and Geelong.

Readers may be wondering why a suicide in Ballarat, Victoria, has to do with our area.

Benjamin Brain was a famous sculptor. He carved the statue of Science over the front entrance of the Geelong Mechanic's Institute and many well-known sculptures in New South Wales and Victoria.

The grotesqueries on the keystones of the Cohen's Building, High Street, Maitland, were also carved by Benjamin Brain.

Harry Boyle, July 1999.

Award to John Partridge of McDonalds Booksellers & Stationers

Members of the Historical Society gathered outside McDonald's Bookstore on 2 April 2014 to present the Maitland and District Historical Society's history award to Mr. John Partridge, in recognition for his efforts in promoting Maitland's history.

MDHS President Ruth Trappel's presentation:

John, on behalf of the Maitland and District Historical Society I would like to present you with our 2014 History Award. You are an icon of Maitland, having worked at McDonalds Book store for the last 52 years, which is a remarkable achievement. McDonald Bros. started on this site a hundred years ago this year and John you have ably carried on for over half of that time in a tradition of courtesy and kindness to all. Also John we would like to thank you for your wonderful commitment and support of the History of Maitland.

Ruth also read the following tribute to John by Cameron Archer, who was unable to attend the gathering:

John, through McDonalds Books you have been a cornerstone of the local history in the Hunter for decades. Your encouragement to authors, publishers and historical societies is second to none and your business is universally admired and loved by all. Your generosity in promoting books about the district has meant authors have had genuine outlets for their books. Your welcoming and friendly nature and that of your staff mean that a visit to McDonalds books is the highlight of many a person's day. I am sorry that I can't join with others in acknowledging your wonderful contribution to our valley.

Ruth Trappel presents John Partridge
with the MDHS History Award
2 April 2014



MESSRS.
NORMAN McDONALD and CO.,

Wish to inform the Public of Maitland and District that they
have purchased the Business of
MESSRS. FAIRLESS BROS.,
STATIONERS, BOOKSELLERS, ETC.,
Conducted by them at HIGH-STREET, WEST MAITLAND.

It is their intention to carry a Stock of STATIONERY in all
its branches, right Up-to-date. They are in touch with the best mar-
kets for these goods, and intend to offer the Best Possible Value
to win Public Confidence.

MR. NORMAN McDONALD is well known in the Station-
ery Trade by the Maitland Public, having for the past six years
been in charge of the Retail Department at Messrs. T. Dimmock,
Ltd., and with his knowledge of the business can claim to know
what is required by the Public in this district, and he intends to
supply those requirements.

A strong feature of the New Firm will be its Circulating
Library conducted on the Popular Deposit System
(you pay only for the books you require). The
firm has arranged to have all the Latest Books
sent to them immediately they are published. They are particu-
larly fortunate in having the services of MISS GOW, who will
take charge of the Library and Book Section. Miss Gow is an
expert in matters pertaining to books, and has had experience
in the principal cities of the States.

The General Stock will comprise—**STATIONERY, MUSIC,**
BIBLES, TECHNICAL BOOKS, PRIZE BOOKS, and all **SUN-**
DAY SCHOOL REQUISITES.

Country Orders will Receive Personal Attention.
Don't forget the Opening Day of the New Firm—
Wednesday, March 18th, 1914.

Norman McDonald & Co
HIGH-STREET, WEST MAITLAND.
(Between Elgin and Bulwer streets). 878

Maitland
Mercury,
Tuesday 17
March 1914,
p.1

McDonalds Booksellers & Stationers

The following articles from the Maitland Mercury provide a history of McDonald's business as well as an insight into the range of goods stocked by the store – more than just books and notepaper.

Stationers and Booksellers.

Messrs. Norman McDonald and Co., general stationers and booksellers, announce in this issue that Miss Gow has disposed of her share in the business to Mr. Dave McDonald, and that from July 1 the business will be conducted by Messrs. Norman and Dave McDonald under the name of McDonald Bros. The new firm, with several departmental additions, will continue business on the old lines.

MM Tuesday 22 June 1915, p. 4

McDonald Bros.

Since last year Mr. Norman McDonald has been joined in the bookselling and stationery business, taken over from Messrs. Fairless Bros., by his brother, Mr. Dave McDonald, and they are now carrying on under the name of McDonald Bros. Both have had considerable experience in the trade, and accordingly are in a position to provide for its widest needs. Their aim is to keep the stock thoroughly up-to-date, and meet the fullest requirements of the public. That they are doing so is evident from the various and comprehensive nature of the stock, which an inspection will reveal.

There is a large stock of Bibles and prayer books, in morocco and all other bindings, and the prices range from a few pence to a few pounds. Anything in the way of Sunday school requisites may be obtained here, whilst a feature is also made of books required for day schools. 'The Boys' Own Annual,' 'The Girls' Own Annual,' other established publications or any books suited for prizes can be supplied.

Christmas booklets are dainty goods. They contain quotations from the best known authors, and are got up in paper, cloth, and velvet calf bindings, and would make a nice present. Then there are biographies of the leading novelists and composers, but a prominent line is that of the poets. The works of each may be obtained, the bindings being from paste grain to calf and in all qualities of paper up to the finest India paper. These are splendid goods.

In other books Messrs. McDonald Bros, carry a large and varied stock. They have a fine assortment of stationery and Christmas cards, fancy cabinets being specialised. In other goods there are suit cases of various sizes, and in leather, kit bags of the best quality, school bags, music rolls, etc. A fine selection of gents' wallets, tobacco pouches, ladies' bags, ladies' dressing cases, tourist cases, military brushes, inkstands, hand mirrors, shaving mirrors, and Ebony-backed brushes, is on view, and in aluminium, antimony, Japanese and silverware there are numerous and attractive articles suitable for presents such as glove, handkerchief, trinket, jewel, and stud boxes, photo frames, serviette rings, manicure sets, brush sets, ladies' companions, sovereign cases, etc. Fountain pens are also a specialty with the firm, their makes including the Swan, Waterman, and Onoto calendars, neat and dainty, are in large supply. Other leading lines are linen transfers, account books, and an up-to-date lot of music.

An important part of the firm's transactions is the circulating library, in which there are 3000 of the latest and best works.

MM Tuesday 14 December 1915, p. 2

DON'T WAKE UP
DISAPPOINTED ON XMAS MORNING BECAUSE YOU FAILED TO PURCHASE THAT
TALKING MACHINE.

Come in and make sure of one and enjoy THE WORLD'S BEST
MUSIO during the Holidays.

McDONALD BROS

Can Supply all Your Needs.
AND YOU CAN BE CERTAIN OF GETTING IT FOR XMAS.

INSTRUMENTS from 45/- to £77/10/-
RECORDS from 3/- to 21/- Each
NEEDLES of all Grades from 6d Pkt

A WONDERFUL RANGE OF

 **GOODS SUITABLE FOR
XMAS PRESENTS**

—AND—
GENUINE GREEN COUPONS
—AT—

McDONALD Bros.,
THE BIG BOOK AND STATIONERY SUPPLY HOUSE,
PHONE 118 HIGH STREET, WEST MAITLAND.



MM Monday 25 December 1925, p. 8

McDONALD BROS.

—♦—

Remodelled Premises

—♦—

MODERN DISPLAY

This article from the Maitland Mercury of 12 February 1938 provides a brief commercial history of some Maitland businesses in addition to reporting on McDonald's renovations:

The renovation of McDonald Bros.' premises in the old Exchange Buildings, brings back to memory some of the stirring history of this old town of Maitland. Situated as they are in the very heart of the town, the surroundings present a very different appearance now to what they did in the old days, when Messrs. Wolfe and Gorrick, in these same buildings, were the universal suppliers of all classes

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of goods to the Maitland district, and the Far North. In those days the mode of transit was by horse or bullock team, and coach; and the cellars below contained the Government stores of wines and spirits.

The cellars are still there but the contents have long since disappeared. Many and humorous are the stories told by the old hands about these bonded stores. The exciting aroma of broached kegs of spirits has ever been a source of temptation to adventurous men. The firm of Wolfe and Gorrick was a training ground for men who afterwards played a prominent part in the affairs of the country in other spheres. Some of those who served with the old firm were Mr. Savidge and Mr. Little, afterwards Messrs. Savidge and Little, who carried on a drapery business for many years in Maitland. Mr. J. W. Birkenhead, Mr. Prentice, Mr. Bob Watson, Mr. Jake Furniss, who is still hale and hearty, Mr. Lawrence McInerney, Mr. Harry Wolfe, and others, who, when the old firm was taken over by Wolfe and Prentice, took up business in other parts.

Wolfe and Prentice was taken over by A. E. Whittet and Co., and afterwards became Chant and Co., who later built new premises further up the street.

The property was sold about this time to various buyers, and the old drapery shop was taken over by Fairless Bros., as a book and stationery shop in 1911.

In 1914 the business was sold to Messrs. Norman McDonald and Co., and in 1915 became McDonald Bros., so that the present firm has an unbroken record of 23 years.

The time came when something had to be done with the old building.

New shop front

Mr. Roy Pilgrim, architect, was approached with a view to arranging for a new front. Mr. George Pilgrim was the successful tenderer. The old awning was demolished, old wooden girders taken out, and the whole of the front windows and fittings removed. The building was then braced, and the old plate glass which had been the largest in town, replaced with two modern windows, 6ft. by 6, and a new cantilever awning erected. The facings are done in black English tiles. The sign writing was put in the hands of Mr. Raisbeck. McDonald Bros. express themselves as well pleased with the appearance of the new front, which now ranks as one of the most up-to-date in town. Changes are being made in the arrangement of the interior of the shop which, when completed, will not only be pleasing to the eye, but, will make it more convenient to attend to customers.

McDonald Bros.

Bookseller, Stationers & Radio Dealers

In compiling 'Who's Who in Maitland,' special mention must be made of the old-established firm of McDonald Bros, in High Street, who, during their many years of business activity, have become widely known and highly respected throughout Maitland and district.

Though the business has changed hands on more than one occasion, it was sold to Messrs. Norman McDonald and Co. in 1914, and a year later became known as McDonald Bros. It has been due to the initiative of Messrs. David and Norman McDonald that the business has prospered and developed, for, during their 25 years of establishment, they have maintained a progressive policy and have endeavoured to cope with expanding business conditions.

Their enterprise has been well rewarded for they have gained the patronage of a large clientele, and their modern and attractive shop, with its excellent window displays, reflects credit on the principals. Stationery has always been a specialty, the stock including everything from a drawing pin

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to all office requisites, and the famous Sheaffer Fountain Pens and Pencils, which carry a life guarantee. Supplies of Sheaffer Skrip Ink are available, and McDonald Bros. are also agents for the famous Parker Deaifold Pens.

Amongst the varied stock can be found the latest publications, books suitable for church and school prizes, Bibles and Prayer Books. School children are catered for with a large range of exercise and text books, and a special feature of McDonald Bros. is the assortment of floral and crepe decorations. They have just received stocks of cake decorations, which are obtainable in exquisite designs.

This enterprising firm carries stocks of Royal, Empire and Tradition type writers, and are also agents for Beale Pianos and Radios. Another feature is 'His Master's Voice' gramophones and a large selection of the latest records. Perhaps the secret behind the success of this old-established business is the sincerity and the courteous attention which exists between the staff and patrons, for, during its many years of establishment McDonald Bros, have enjoyed the confidence of a large clientele.

MM Monday 26 June 1939, p.9

From our collection



These impressive silver jugs were presented by the Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Association, to H. Vercoe in the 1880s. They comprise a large silver-plate water jug and a large silver- plate hot water jug with a ceramic lining.

Are there any other similar items still located somewhere in Maitland? Can anyone tell us more about these types of jugs? Have you or your family been the recipient of a similar prize from the Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Association?

Send an email with any comments maitlandhistorical@gmail.com

In the news

Maitland's old buildings hold secrets

By REBECCA BERRY April 9, 2014, 10 p.m.



FOUR YEARS OF RESEARCH: Val Rudkin has launched two booklets that look at the history of buildings in High Street, Maitland.

From the Maitland Mercury report:

All the old buildings in Maitland have stories to tell.

So writes Maitland Historical Society member Val Rudkin in her booklets *Take A Look Back At High Street Maitland* – Part 1 and Part 2.

Between the fascinating pages of Mrs Rudkin's booklet lies the stories about some of Maitland's iconic buildings, commercial activities and the people who established them, including the Cohen building, Commerce House, B Griffiths and Son, Robert Hyndes, Ann Gould and the Exchange Hotel.

Booklet two covers EP Capper and Sons, the Volunteer Hotel, John Lee and Company and AS Mehan and Co and Mrs Rudkin plans to continue her research for an ongoing series.

Full article available at Maitland Mercury, 9 April 2014.

<http://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/story/2209360/maitlands-old-buildings-hold-secrets/>

The booklets *Take A Look Back At High Street Maitland* and Peter Bogan's *1893 Flood* are available for sale at Maitland & District Historical Society Inc.

President's Annual Report 2014

March 2013- March 2014

We have had a very busy, interesting and rewarding year.

I sincerely thank all of the Committee for their dedication and help in moving the Maitland Historical Society forward.

I would like to thank the very dedicated group who work tirelessly to progress the Society and encourage all the members to become more active and supportive of our functions and endeavors.

Firstly I must thank all of the Members who willing give of their time and effort to keep the Society functioning and growing, especially to Keith and Adele Cockburn who have been at the rooms every Wednesday and Saturday from 10am to 3pm for over two years continuously.

The inventory of our collection of books, research, photos, items etc are being entered onto the Mosiac software for easy accessibility at a faster pace this last year than in previous years. The team working on this project is to be congratulated for their effort.

Our thanks to Judy Nicholson who produces our quarterly bulletin with article input from members, we thank her for this contribution to the Society as it is on our web page and is being accessed by people near and far and the feedback that we are receiving is encouraging for the Society.

Our monthly Guest Speaker evenings are well attended and we have covered many topics, with many interesting people.

We have visited the Mineral Resources Department in High Street, Pinehurst at Pitnacree and The Hermitage in Maitland

- Activities –
conducted walks and talks with two school groups in the last year
- support the "Look Who's Talking" Local History programme for the Maitland City Library
- participated in Council Activities - Australia Day - Steamfest -Taste Festival
- participated with Friends of Grossman House in their activities as well as supporting other cultural and arts activities within the area
- a large gathering for the opening of the Milton Morris collection

"Early Maitland on Display" was an initiative of Adele and Keith Cockburn which was a "walk down memory lane" held over 2 days in September in St John's Hall and was such a success that something similar will possibly happen again this year.

The Society holds membership with Museum and Galleries Hunter Chapter and Royal Australian Historical Society and attend their meetings and conferences.

The Historical Society has representatives on the Committee for a "Maitland Regional Museum" as well as having members in the MCC Heritage Committee.

We are purchased a special scanner to start the digitising of the Maitland Historical Society's photo collection, which we have been able to do from a very generous donation from one of our members.

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Another member has generously given us money to help cover the rent on the rooms. We are extremely grateful to both these ladies.

To commemorate the 170th anniversary of the Maitland Mercury we presented a framed memorial from the Historical Society, which now hangs on a wall in the Mercury Office. The Mercury is the longest surviving country newspaper and was first printed in 1843. Their detailing of all the local events makes our research ever so rewarding.

A presentation plaque was given to Liz Tickner on her retirement. We acknowledged her commitment to the preservation and recording of Maitland's History as her role of the Editor of the Maitland Mercury.

We have been in this building for 4 years in September and we will need to work with the church to identify how we proceed, with a new lease.

There are several important dates coming up in the next 4 years that we have acted on with regards to commemorating.

February 2015 will be the 60th anniversary of the 55 Flood. Many groups will be involved with this memorial.

We are proposing a re-enactment of the opening of the Maitland Court House, in History Week 2015. We have been to see Rachel at the Council to have her input and have it penciled into the events diary. The full account of the opening is recorded in the Mercury, with speeches and processions. Many groups have indicated that they would like to be part of, and involved in this community event.

2016 will be the 60th Anniversary of the last St Patrick's Day March held in Maitland. These marches had up to 10,000 people in attendance. We have started collecting memorabilia and photos and stories to produce an exhibition of this important event.

WW1 will be commemorated in many ways, starting in 2015 with the Anzac Services. The Maitland and District Genealogy Society are producing a book on men from Maitland who were involved with Anzac. The Power House Museum is producing a travelling exhibition starting in Murrurundi and working its way down the Valley. The Maitland Exhibition will be at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery in 2016.

The Maitland Historical Society has instigated the following as its contribution to the WW1 commemoration: The 12th October 2017 is the Centenary of the Battle of Paschendale, when the 34th Battalion "Maitland's Own" fighting as part of the 9th Brigade of the 3rd Division, took horrific casualties. Besides our own display there will be an exhibition at the MRAG, Library, Maitland Mercury, plus others.

As you can see we have a very committed group who enjoy the Historical Society and I am most grateful for their continued support, we are always glad to see new and old members. This year has been very full and successful we are looking to the future for more of the same.

Kind regards

Ruth Trappel

Diary Dates 2014

May

- 2nd to 4th Tocal Field Days
- Sat 3rd Rooms Open 10am to 3pm
- Tue 6th Guest Speaker evening at the rooms. 5.30 Gold coin donation. Guest speaker will be Julianne Tilse, who is part of the Coal River Working Party
- Wed 7th Rooms open 10am to 3pm
- Thu 8th Maitland MCC Heritage Meeting
- Sat 10th Rooms open 10am to 3pm
- Tues 20th Monthly General Meeting. 5.30 at the rooms
- Wed 21st Rooms open 10am to 3pm
- Sat 24th Bunnings BBQ This is a Historical Society fund raiser. Are you able to spare some time as a helper, we ideally need 5 people per shift and we have 3 shifts 7-10, 10-1, 1-4 if you are able to help please ring Kevin 49324292
- Sat 24th Rooms open 10am to 3pm
- Wed 28th Rooms open 10am to 3pm

June

- Tues 3rd Guest Speaker evening 5.30 at the rooms Gold Coin Donation
- Wed 4th Rooms Open 10am to 3pm
- Thu 5th Maitland MCC Heritage Meeting
- Sat 7th Rooms open 10am to 3pm
- Sat 7th Museums and Galleries Hunter Chapter meeting Oral History workshop at the Newcastle Regional Museum 9.30 start cost \$25 Bookings essential. If you are interested in going please let Ruth know
- Wed 11th Rooms Open 10am to 3pm
- Sat 14th Rooms open 10am to 3pm
- Tues 17th Monthly General Meeting 5.30 at the rooms

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

Wed 18th Rooms Open 10am to 3pm

Sat 19th Rooms open 10am to 3pm

Sunday 22nd Wandering about “Look who’s Talking – Local History” Central Maitland walking tour with the Twentieth Century Heritage Society. 11 am to 12.30 pm walk. 1pm presentation. . No cost

Wed 25th Rooms Open 10am to 3pm

July

Tues 1st Guest Speaker evening Gold coin admission 5.30 at the rooms

Wed 2nd Rooms Open 10am to 3pm

Thu 3rd Maitland MCC Heritage Meeting

Sat 5th Rooms Open 10am to 3pm

Wed 9th Rooms Open 10am to 3pm

Sat 12th Rooms Open 10am to 3pm

Tues 15th Monthly General Meeting 5.30 at the rooms

Wed 16th Rooms Open 10am to 3pm

Sat 19th Rooms open 10am to 3pm

Wed 23rd Rooms open 10am to 3pm

Sat 26th Rooms Open 10am to 3pm

Wed 30th Rooms open 10an to 3pm



Victoria Bridge

Spanning Wallis Creek, Maitland
Linking East and West Maitland
(1852-1896)