

*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



Volume 20, Number 4

November 2013

*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:**

Pinehurst, 1 Elizabeth St. East Maitland. Image from <http://www.prdhunternvalley.com.au/>

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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](mailto:maitlandhistorical@gmail.com)

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## **From the President's Desk - December 2013**

2013 has been a very interesting and rewarding year.

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 all of this year. The inventory of our collection of books, research, photos, items etc are being entered onto the Mosiac software for easy accessibility, which has proceeded at a faster pace this year than in previous years.

Our quarterly Bulletin, which is available on our web site, is being accessed by people near and far and the feedback that we are receiving is encouraging for the Society.

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

We have acquired many important collections this year, two of which are the Tipper Collection and the Morris Cordial Factory collection with a restoration of an old oil painting of the Business premises.

We have had a visit to the Mineral Resources Department in High Street, and Pinehurst at Pitnacree.

### **Activities –**

- Our rooms in Cathedral Street are open every Wednesday and Saturday to the general public and members from 10-3.
- We support the Look Who's Talking Local History programme for the Maitland City Library
- We participated in Council Activities- Australia Day - Steamfest -Taste Festival – Aroma Festival in the Mall
- We participate with Friends of Grossman House in their activities as well as supporting other cultural and arts activities within the area
- We hold membership with Museum and Galleries and Royal Australian Historical Society and attend their meetings and conferences.
- 'Early Maitland on Display' was a two day walk down memory lane held in St John's Hall and was such a success that the event will be repeated in the future.
- We fund raise with BBQ's at Bunning and Masters
- The Historical Society have representatives on the Steering Committee for a "Museum for Maitland" which eventuated from a public Meeting in July.
- We had a large gathering for the opening of the Milton Morris collection
- We are in the process of purchasing a new computer and updating several more.
- We are purchasing 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.
- Another member has generously given us money to help cover the rent on the rooms.
- We are extremely grateful to both these ladies.
- We have been the recipient of several small grants this year

## *Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.*

- We had a presentation for the Mercury's 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Maitland Mercury started printing in 1843 and is the longest surviving country paper.
- A large framed Memorial is now hanging on the wall in the Mercury Office, and a plaque sits on the desk. We also presented Liz Tickner, the Editor of the Mercury, a plaque in acknowledgement of her commitment to the preservation and recording of Maitland's history and heritage, on her retirement.

On **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** we will be returning to Bill Sutherland's home at Lochinvar for our annual **Christmas gathering**, which brings many of the members and their families to this happy social outing. (*See page 15 for details*)



This year has been very full and successful we are looking to the future for more of the same.

May you all have very happy and safe Christmas.

Kind Regards

*Ruth Trappel*

### **Pinehurst**

Historical Society members visited the highly esteemed residence "*Pinehurst*" at Elizabeth Street, East Maitland, on Saturday 10 November 2013.

Thankyou to Robert and Debbie Ross for allowing us some special time at their exquisite property.

Robert and Debbie provided a very interesting and informative 'walk through and around their home' viewing. There was only one room that was 'out of bounds' as it was the nursery and the new grandchild was sleeping. This was the original dressing room.

On approaching this large house from the parking area, it looked like two houses abutting each other, as you would see in the city streets. The section that was designed for Dr. Edward Wright in 1881 by John Wiltshire Pender had very little structural change outside or on the inside. The original servants room and the scullery had been formed into one large area which is now a modern kitchen, the door leading outside from the scullery remained. The original kitchen still has the fireplace in working order, but the room is currently being used as a bedroom. The store and pantry has been remodeled into a bathroom. There was once a verandah off the kitchen, but this area was enclosed into two small rooms, one a bottling room and the other a utility room which is the laundry and extra bathroom.

The connecting door between the large bedroom and the dressing room has been removed, and the walls removed between the bedroom and dining room, so that now it is one very long room. The

decorative plaster cornice work now continues around this large room and mirror has been cleverly installed to hide the gap between the doors and the wall, leading into the hallways.

*Maitland Mercury, 24 June 1880*

TO PARTIES IN QUEST OF A SNUG AND  
DELIGHTFULLY SITUATED  
**Family Residence.**  
**THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS**  
KNOWN AS  
**GERALDINE,**  
NOW IN THE  
OCCUPATION OF JOS. CHAMBERS, Esq.,  
ONLY  
A FEW YARDS FROM THE EAST MAITLAND  
RAILWAY STATION.  
**TITLE PERFECT.**  
**B**RUNKER & WOLFE have received instructions  
to sell by auction, at Brown's (late Fullford's)  
Family Hotel, on an Early Day,  
All that VALUABLE and ELIGIBLY SITUATED  
BLOCK OF LAND, containing about 3 Acres,  
Upon which is Erected  
A COMFORTABLE FAMILY RESIDENCE, fur-  
nished with every convenience, and a nicely  
laid-out Garden.  
The Property is known as "GERALDINE,"  
formerly occupied by Mr. Fitzgerald, and is now  
leased to Joseph Chambers, Esq.  
Terms and further particulars will appear in a  
future advertisement. 4310

The front section of the house has taken on a new persona. The original part of this house which was previously known as "Geraldine" was retained in the 1881 additions. This area contained four rooms with central fireplaces to each room with a hall running the full length. The kitchen and servants rooms would have been separate buildings behind this portion of the original building and demolished to make way for the additions. A large verandah extended along the three sides of this section of the house.

In the 1891 renovation, the original J. W. Pender design appears to be intact. The long double gable roof over the former bedroom and dining room can still be seen, though one can be sure that the roofing has been replaced at some time. The older front section of the house which is believed to have been of timber construction was removed to allow for the construction of the brick two storey addition. The layout of the ground floor is similar to the existing house in the Pender plans, but appears to extend across the former

right side verandah. The staircase occupies the area of one of the rooms.

The shape of the roof is a little different but still has a gable at the front. Arthur Lee, the second architect involved with the building, managed to achieve a unified look with this house, even though it was constructed at different times.

A staircase providing access to the first floor was incorporated into one of the rooms on the ground floor. The upstairs rooms matched those on the ground floor, but it is not known if there was a hallway to the front balcony as well. Today there is a landing at the top of the stairs which leads into one bedroom and into a large sitting room, with another bedroom off this room. On the roof above these rooms is the cupola, which is large enough to stand in and has fixed glass windows from which to view the scenery surrounding the house and beyond. To access the cupola there is now one of those modern fold-away stairs, which has to be pulled down for the purpose. One imagines that perhaps the original staircase may have been a narrow steel spiral affair, going around a pole, more decorative than the one pictured.

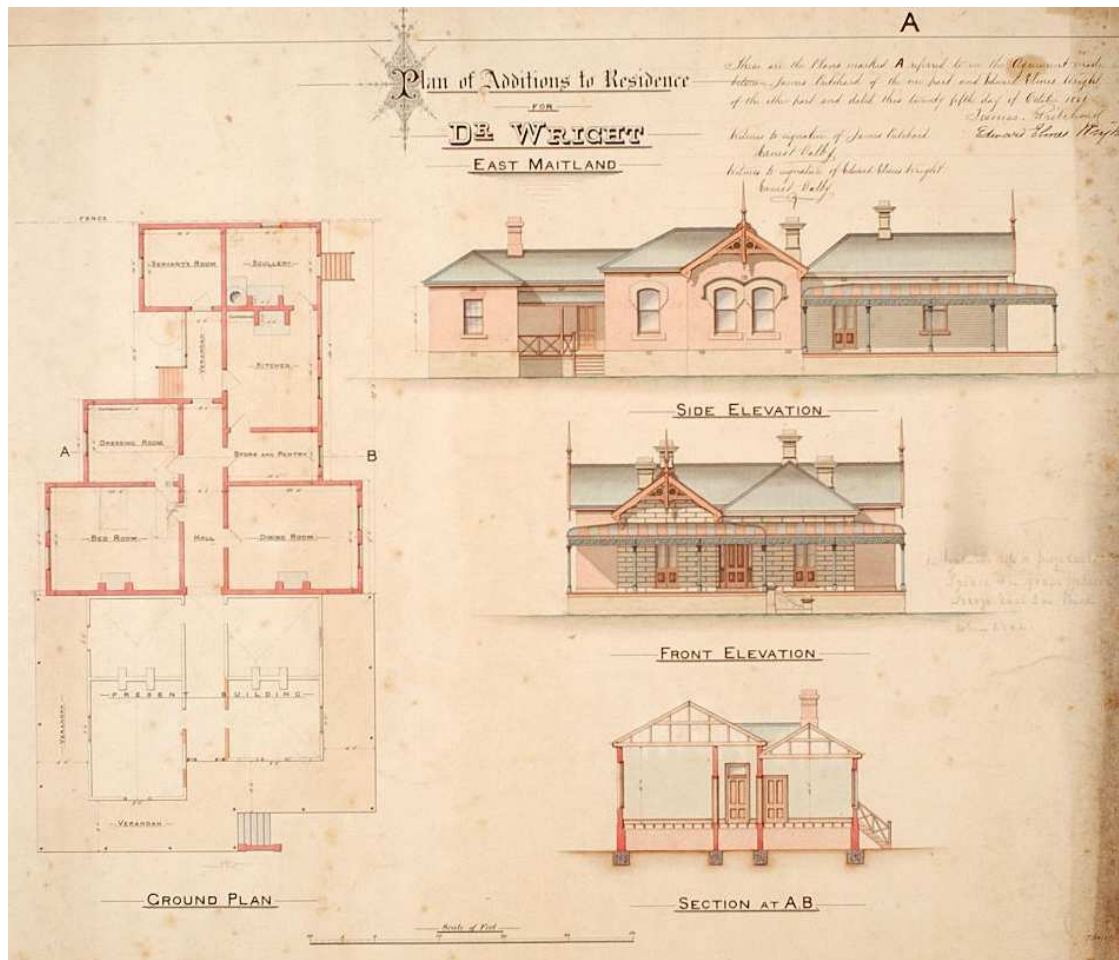


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The large balcony and verandah with its beautiful iron lacework that extends on two sides of the two storey section of the house adds to the charm and the old trees and layout of the garden takes you back to the time when ladies were ladies and the servants did the work.

Credit should be given to Dr. Edward E. Wright (1832-1915) for this house, he was responsible for "Pinehurst" as it stands today, and to the architects, John W. Pender and Arthur C. Lee for the design.

**Val Rudkin**



<http://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/pender>

*Plan of additions to residence for Dr Wright East Maitland [extensive additions to residence]*

*Drawing date: 7.10.81; Tender date: 11.10.81 p s; Contract date: 25.10.81; Completion: 1882?*

*Pinehurst (ex Geraldine), E. Maitland*

## **1893 Flood -- Research by Peter Bogan**

**The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser Thursday 16 March 1893. Page 6. Research by Peter Bogan, March 2013**

### **Part One**

*WEST MAITLAND AND ITS ENVIRONS.* In our last issue we related the story of the development of the flood, and we therefore cannot do better now than to tell what it did when it came. Commencing at the High Street crossing on the south side of the street, we find that, the inundation has resulted in a loss of about £50 to Mr. John Boyle, a storekeeper and dealer on a small scale. Everything of a perishable character in the shop has been destroyed, and bedding and other house hold requisites were ruined. In the bar of the Cross Keys Hotel the water attained a height of about 5ft. 10in. on Friday, and it may be imagined that it did not leave the place scatheless, for it broke glasses and bottles in profusion and damaged all the downstairs furniture greatly. Mr. Hamilton thinks that £80 will hardly recoup his losses. At Dr. Pentland's residence and surgery the flood created great havoc, for it covered all the furniture to a height of about four feet and the rear of the place looks in a great state of confusion. Mr. Brewer escaped damage at his saw mill to a great extent, but some of the machinery will of course be rusted. The proprietor wisely and thoughtfully locked his large gates and these kept the great piles of timber in the yard. Close by live two hard working sisters - Mrs. Mannall and Mrs. Lambert and they have been great sufferers. All their furniture and the most of their clothing was in the inundation, and has all been practically spoiled. In addition, two sewing machines were covered, and the stream took away twenty-five hives of bees; at this spot £150 would not cover the expenses.

At the rear of Mr. William Bruce's shop and residence the embankment has been carried away, and the bank has fallen in, leaving a large and dangerous gap. Inside the building much damage was wrought, for the flood here attained a height of about 7ft. Hundreds of books were lying about, torn and muddy, whilst the furniture was ruined so much that Mr. Bruce estimates his loss at £100, and he is well within bounds. At the rear of the Garrick's Head Hotel, adjoining, the bank has also tumbled in, but Mr. Coombs has not any idea of the extent of his loss. The embankment is simply in a terrible state, for the eastern end has been torn away from its foundations and thrown riverwards by the force of the backwater, whilst higher stones and trees were hauled all over the roadway, which was cracked and split in all directions.

Mixed up with the rubbish on Monday were the swollen carcasses of horses and cattle, at which the corporation labourers were tugging industriously and shoving through a gap in the embankment where they once more found the river and floated seawards. The destruction here has been enormous, and the breakage must be at once repaired by the Government, for in the event of a high fresh or another flood the water would soon be into the streets again. The embankment at the rear of Waller's has been destroyed whilst the small yard shows symptoms of subsidence; much damage has been done to the outbuildings and furniture, tools, etc., and the proprietor claims that £100

would not recoup him. The water was well into the ground floor of the City Bank and did about £100 worth of damage; at the rear the embankment has been washed away.

Cohen and Co's warehouse presented a wondrous busy but withal unusual spectacle, for the water had been all over the ground floor of the spacious departments and many hands were engaged in cleaning up and unpacking damaged stock after the visitation. On most floors the water had attained a height of 5 feet 6 inches and it can easily be surmised that with so much scope before it great damage was done. In fact, one who should know estimates that the firm has incurred a loss of fully £10,000, and as we looked round upon the great bales and heaps of wet drapery and mercery, the sheds full of wet sugar, the damp machinery and the thousand and one articles - which find a place in a great warehouse, we can well believe our informant. Mr. Neville Cohen, the managing partner, has had a most anxious time of it, and it is hardly necessary to say that he is now considerably exhausted, for he worked with quite as much energy as any of his employees. To his foresight and ingenuity is due the circumstance that much of the bank at the rear of the warehouse is saved. On Wednesday when the river had began to rise, a large piece of the surface bank slipped into the water, and then Mr. Cohen had iron bars placed in the river in primitive gridiron fashion. These in turn were interlaced with tea-tree, and this had the effect of staying the bottom. In the main yard the water rose to a height of 5ft., and the place remained flooded until about twelve o'clock on Friday night, when the water began to rapidly recede.

## **Part Two**

Mr. W. G. Lipscomb was in sore trouble, for the water had been 5ft 2in in his shop, a height never approached within the memory of Mr. Lipscomb, and that stretches over fifty years. Books and literature of all kinds, fancy goods, glassware, and chemicals were all in the flood, which gave no time for packing, and a sad looking heap of destroyed stuff of all kinds lay sweltering in front of the shop as a mute witness that Mr. Lipscomb had lost about £1,500. There did not appear to be much damage done at the old Northumberland Coach Factory, now used as a Technical College, but Mr. Mullen's office, at the end of the next row of buildings, was a spectacle to appall the stoutest heart. The tables, chairs, pigeon hole cases and Cabinets were lying higgledy-piggledy, and valuable papers and books were muddled and wet and utterly destroyed. Mr. Mullen is also a great loser otherwise, for his private residence in Devonshire Street was flooded up to the roof, and valuable furniture, clothing, &c, are hopelessly damaged. The loss cannot be made good under many hundred pounds. Mr. Solling's office, at the other end of the block, presented a similar spectacle of desolation. He had deeds and law books to the value of £300 destroyed, and at his private residence the flood ruined a piano and furniture to about a similar value. Messrs. Benjamin and Sons will be losers to the extent of £2000, and people should be sorry for it, too, as during the period when the flood was at its highest Mr. Alfred Benjamin distributed goods and meat by boat to all and sundry. At the rear of the establishment are sheds full of perishable stuff such as flour, salt, sugar, soda, etc., and this has all been in the water, whilst some furniture was all destroyed. Thence up to Charles Street but little injury has been effected, but an old shed in the thoroughfare named has been tumbled over.

People will doubtless be relieved to learn that although the flood was high enough to enter St. John's Cathedral it did but little damage and the embankments here stood very well. Geo. Smyth's machinery shows traces of mud and rust, whilst Mr. Sawyer's stock of leather has been somewhat damaged. Judicious packing relieved Messrs. Patterson and Hawkins of much loss, but the little fruit shop of Mrs. Schmidt came in for a "knocking about". The water only reached the front of the Post Office, but as it extended right to East Maitland in the contrary directions there was surely a wide



enough spread. The footpath in front of M. P. Maher's establishment is quite unsound, and so it is, too, in front of Cooper's butchers shop and other places in the vicinity, whilst there has been a slight subsidence near the foundation of the building in course of erection for Mr. Anthony. It is a matter of extreme thankfulness that the embankment at the rear of the fine line of stores in the vicinity held good, and as much of the face of the bank has been piled it is improbable that it will be washed away for many years. Near the Birmingham Hotel Mr. W. C. Markwell had his livery stable, and as the water got very high in it considerable injury was done to buggies and other vehicles, which were bumped about greatly.

Just here the water extended towards the West to the Long Bridge, over which it ran in a great stream. But little harm was done at Mr. Campbell's establishment, although the bank has fallen in at the rear of the premises and the breakage stretched towards Messrs. R. Blair and Sons' fine warehouse. Approaching the Courthouse traces of the destructive visitor are as thick as leaves in Vallambrosa, and much damage has been effected. The fence has been torn up and thrown down, whilst huge holes several yards in extent have been wondrously excavated in the yard, which presents a very dilapidated appearance. At the rear of the premises, and portion of which had been used by the unmarried police as barracks, another great hole has been torn in the earth, the foundations of the building are shown, iron pipes and rods have been bent, as if they were string, thus giving an idea of the terrible force of the current at this point. The fence at the rear was also knocked down by great trees, which now find a resting place in the yard; the sheds have been damaged, and altogether many thousands of pounds will have to be spent to get the place into shape again.

### Part Three

Further up the street a curious transference of property has been effected, or at least a somewhat mysterious change of sites. On the southern side of the thoroughfare once stood a spacious galvanised iron shed used as a workshop by Mr. Mark Winter, but lately in the occupation of Mr. William Taylor, builder, who used it as a store room. On Saturday morning the terrible waters seized this building in their embraces, lifted it off its pile foundations, carried it across the street and



dashed it bodily and intact against the Alma Hotel, against the end of which it half reclines, as it takes up a portion of the roadway. The building contained a large quantity of tools and some vehicles at the time it was swept away, and as these were almost totally destroyed the loss to Mr. Taylor must be close upon £1000. The paddock hereabouts is in a terrible state, for holes have been cut in it and rubbish lies

everywhere, the effluvium from which is anything but enjoyable. About Mr. John Enright's auction mart and private residence much injury has been done to outhouses, the fences and the garden, which now contains thousands of tons of wood, whilst some fifteen tons of hay and other produce has been spoilt. At the rear of Mr. George Maher's butcher shop, where the water was some four feet high some damage was done in the yard, where ten tons of salt had been stored, and this was

of course rendered unfit for use. Much injury has been done in places but after all we think the town extremely fortunate that things were not much worse.

It was at first feared that much property about the extensive premises of Messrs. E. P. Capper and Sons would be destroyed, but happily this has not been so, for although some in the shape of galvanised iron, nails, and ironmongery has been damaged it is impossible yet to estimate the extent to which their value has been depreciated. The small shop of Mrs. Justin received a thorough cleaning out, and the Singer Company's premises were well inundated and many sewing machines almost totally ruined. Riley Bros. are not heavy losers, for they had most of their drapery packed out of flood reach. However, the footpath has broken slightly in off the premises, and at the rear a large hole has been excavated in the embankment by the current. Mr. Edward Blair's stationery and fancy goods warehouse received considerable damage within, but the proprietor's chief loss was occasioned at his private residence, where all his household furniture and a piano were covered by water.

Enquiries of the business people in High-street reveal the fact that there has been an immense loss of stock. In most cases provision had been made for an ordinary flood, but the present one coming several feet over the record, and toppling over the goods as well as covering those not removed caused the damage. In addition to the loss of stock nearly every one suffers through damage to or destruction of furniture. Commencing at the railway crossing we find that the water was about 4 feet 10 inches in Mr. Feran's second-hand furniture shop, as well as in the large store where the most of the furniture was displayed. All the goods were floating about, and it is estimated that it will take from £300 to £400 to cover the loss. Mrs. Tulloch, fruiterer and confectioner, had about 6 feet of water in her premises/and lost a good deal, but would not give an estimate of the damage. At the drapery establishment of Messrs. Savidge and Little the watery fiend held high carnival, and they estimate their loss at £5000. The goods were packed up to a height of about 6 feet, but the water reached a height of about 7ft. 6in., and many of the goods toppled over. Mr. Little slept in the shop on the Thursday night, and had to escape through the skylight. At Mr. John O'Hearn's Currency Lass Hotel about £40 would cover the loss of liquors. He had a depth of 9ft. of water to contend against, and there were 35 people staying in the upper part of the house. The furniture below was swept out and lost.

## **Part Four**

Mr. Murray was away on a trip to New Zealand and the family had a narrow escape, being rescued on Friday morning in circumstances of great danger. Mr. H. Lee, butcher, of Abbott Street, will be a loser to the extent of about £50. Mr. E. Freeman, of the Queen's Arms, estimates that £40 will cover the loss of his stock. Mr. H. M. Shields had about £30 worth of tweeds, etc., destroyed in his shop, where there was some 7 feet of water. Mr. J. G. Rigney, saddler, will lose he estimates about £300. Though the goods were packed up, most of them were covered, and one large glass case toppled over on to the floor. At Mr. Filmer's seed store there was a depth of between 9 and 10 feet, and he estimates his loss to be fully £600. In his case the stock is totally destroyed, and was on Tuesday being emptied out into the street. Bags of seed after being three or four days in the water were bursting through the covering, the seeds having germinated, and the heat in the centre of the

mass being very great. Mr. Sheather at the Royal estimates that his loss will total about £600, principally in the way of furniture. Mr. Jas. Reid, fruiterer and confectioner, has lost pretty well everything in his shop in the way of stock, as well as household goods.

The Chinese storekeeper, Mr. J. O. Young Pun will suffer to the extent of some £200, there being no chance of removing the goods out of the reach of the enemy. About £60 Messrs. Tierney and McLeod estimate will cover their loss in necessities in the butchering trade.

Mrs. Banfield will be a great sufferer. She estimates that about £300 will be the extent of damage in stock of tobacconist's goods, etc., alone. There was about 5ft. 8in. of water in the shop, where it has always been kept out before. About £100 will cover Mr. E. A. Young's loss of tweeds, etc.

At Mr. Thos. Dimmock's printing establishment, great damage was caused. He has an extensive office, the water rose to some 7ft. 6in. in the centre of it, and all his plant of printing material was covered with some feet of water. One of his stores in the rear was full of paper, etc., and the water rising over the roof, the goods lifted the covering, and cards, etc., were floating all about. He estimates that it will take fully £1500 to replace the goods destroyed. Mr. Wayland, baker and confectioner, next door, is also a great sufferer, his confectionery, flour, etc., being almost entirely destroyed to the extent of about £200. Mr. C. Winchester estimates that it will take fully £100 to cover his loss of his tobacconist goods. Mr. O'Neill, boot-maker, is also a sufferer to the extent of about £30, most of his materials and goods being covered. Mr. Tuck, who has just opened a tobacconist business and hair-dressing saloon in High-street, will lose a considerable quantity of his stock. Mr. T. Callaghan has a stock that will not suffer much if the water is kept out of the bottles, and Messrs. Goulston are among the fortunate ones in being in a position to remove their goods to higher places and working well at it. Mr. W. H. Smith, watchmaker, is a great loser, but could make no estimate of the amount.

Mr. McGlinn was fortunate in removing his valuable guns upstairs, and those left in the shop had only part of the stock covered, so that they escaped. His tools were all covered with water, and require instant attention to remove rust. Mr. Geo. Moore estimates that it will take £400 to cover the loss in factory and shop. He also lost two horses and a cow. Mr. F. Marsh, painter and oil and colourman, considers he has suffered to the extent of between £600 and £700, in his shop and store. In the latter he had eight double cases of figured glass, which were apparently lifted forward, the glasses spilled out, and the cases afterwards dropping on it, smashed them. This is given as an instance of the wonderful lifting power of the water

## **Part Five**

Mrs. McLauchlin, baker, has suffered to the extent of from £150 to £200 in stock, principally flour, and will be unable to use her ovens for two or three days longer. Mr. M. Moss is also a great sufferer, including pianos, organs, and fancy goods, while in the photographic department the loss of negatives is almost incalculable to him. He estimates that it will take from £500 to £600 to cover his loss. We might here mention that people will be enabled to secure mementoes of the record flood, as we saw some admirable views of different parts of the town in flood at the establishment.

Mr. Smith, of the Berlin Wool Warehouse, and Mr. James Kerr, of Commerce House, were wise in their generation and removed their goods beyond reach of the foe, working throughout the night and in many cases deep in the water. Mr. W. T. Poulton is a great sufferer, having an immense stock on the floor or low down. It will take about £2500 to cover it. As proof of the adage that troubles never come singly, Mr. Poulton also had his shop entered and some £50 worth of the undamaged stock stolen, consisting of jewellery, silver watches, prayer books, ladies bags, & etc. There was a probability of some of the goods being recovered, and we understand arrests have been made. May the guilty parties receive the full deserts of their crime.

Messrs. Kerin and Stevens had their goods packed above flood reach, and £75 will put them straight. They had about £150 worth of cedar in their yard, and a rise of 9 inches more would have floated it over the fences and distributed it about the country. Mr. G Buxton is only a sufferer to the extent of £40 or £50, and Mr. Compton's losses are nil, through labour in the water in removing them. Messrs Lane Brothers had taken precautions to pack up, but the counters toppled over, and their loss is about £400 or £500. Messrs. W. R. Norman and Sons also packed up, but still some stock was damaged, and altogether they expect losing some £200. Mr. J. E. Lee, grocer, anticipates losing between £500 and £600 in stock alone, and Mr. H. G. Tuck will be a considerable loser in stock. The gasworks were some 15 hours under water, and it rose high enough to put out the retort fires. In the street at the entrance to the works the water was about 10 feet deep. The gas mains were full of water, and efforts were being made yesterday to drain them, so as to give the people some light as soon as possible. Mr. H. James lost a great deal; eight tanks of corned meat were under water and useless. The refrigerating chamber and the electric light machinery were under water. His total loss we were unable to ascertain.

Mr. T. Judge, livery stables, is a sufferer to the extent of about £200, independent of furniture. He succeeded in getting his horses away, but two of them came back and were drowned. In the Bank Arcade Mr. Johnston, bootmaker, Mr. W. R. Sullivan, draper, and Mr. Eastes, chemist, all escaped with no losses in stock, the result of hard work in the water. The last named had a handsome glass case destroyed, through being toppled over by the force of the water, and he estimates his loss at between £30 and £40 in the shape of fittings. Mr. Baker, boot merchant, opposite this office had a large amount of stock destroyed, between £500 and £600 worth. The water was only a few inches in Mr. T. Edmunds' saddler's shop, and having a kitchen in the rear he was able to supply more needy people with tea, & etc, notably the refugees in the Carrington Hotel, Mr. Moylan riding through the seething streams of water to carry the supplies to his house.



1893 flood photograph by Morris Moss

## Lecture Meetings

Our guest speaker for September was Cath Bowen, Maitland Mercury photographer

Cath has been at the Maitland Mercury for 30 years, a depth of experience that gave the audience an appreciation of news photography and the workings of the Mercury.

Cath displayed a range of photos covering 1963 to current day, including portraits as well as local scenes. One image included the Historical Society's lady President, Ruth Trappell, with Governor General Quentin Bryce at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Maitland Show in 2011.



When asked about the highlights of Mercury photography for her, Cath responded: those stories that change people's lives for the better and capturing the spirit and character of local people and events.

A big thankyou to Cath and the Maitland Mercury, for images that have captured so much of Maitland's history and heritage, and will continue to do so.

## Maitland Local Government Sesquicentenary, 1863-2013

Maitland Local Government sesquicentenary has passed without a single celebration or acknowledgement.

In 1963 the Centenary Celebrations were a three month affair running from August 18<sup>th</sup> to November 16<sup>th</sup>, with thousands of visitors coming to join in the celebrations.

Distinguished visitors included Sir Eric Woodward, the Governor of New South Wales, the New South Wales Minister of Local Government and Highways, Mr. P.D. Hills, the Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church in Australia and the Chief Commissioner of Girl Guides in Australia.

The Mayor, Alderman H. T. Skilton, urged all citizens to participate as every aspect of the celebrations where life in Maitland would be highlighted; its industries, agriculture, cultural, civic and sporting life. The Cultural exhibitions, youth displays, civic and sporting activities would vividly



## *Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.*

show Maitland's great wealth. There were agricultural machinery field days in October, an RSL Ball, an aero pageant and on the final day, there was a procession, sports, mardi gras and the Crowning of the Centenary Queen. The Committees supporting the three queen candidates, June Logan, Dawn Campbell and Dianne Burton, were raising funds to go towards a new Children's Library in Maitland.

This information is from the 56 page Mercury Supplement dated October 3, 1963. There are pages and pages of congratulation from people and businesses, churches, dignitaries, other local councils and government agencies

This supplement is a wonderful snapshot of life in Maitland in 1963. We have a copy in the Maitland Historical Society Collection.

### **'Ghost' signs**

Old buildings with faint or faded signs ('ghost' signs) can provide an insight to the businesses and products of Maitland's past.



The last episode of 'Ghost' signs in the May 2013 Bulletin was the 'Coles' sign above, being revealed for only a few days while renovations to the building were taking place.

Val kindly responded with the following information: The building was situated next to Hustler's and opposite the Post Office. I don't know the year the store opened but Woolworth's opened their store in the former Chant's building in 1934, so it probably wasn't that much later. I think it began as G. J. Coles Pty. Ltd., but known locally as Coles.

\*Thanks Val! If there was a big exciting prize it would definitely be awarded to you!

## Collectors Weekend

While a monetary profit was made as the successful Collectors Weekend in September, the promotional value to the Historical Society was just as important.

With a suitably vintage ambience in the hall, members of the public saw first-hand the variety and richness of Maitland's heritage.

There has been a proposal that this event be held again in the future and thankyou to the Society's members who helped on the weekend.

The Historical Society's appreciation for Adele and Keith Cockburn for their work in organising and facilitating the event cannot be over-stated. Thanks again to Adele! 😊

## Diary Dates

### December

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Doug Pyle will be our guest speaker and will share with us his service in the Pacific in WW11. 5.30 at the rooms. All welcome, gold coin donation.
- Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> Historical Society rooms open 10-3
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Historical Society rooms open 10-3
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Hunter Branch –Museum and Galleries – Christmas Meeting. To be held at Richmond Vale Railway Museum commencing at 10.30am. If you are interested in going please let Ruth know for catering purposes
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> BBQ at Masters. This is a fund raising day and volunteers are needed. Are you able to help? Please give Kevin a ring on 49324292.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting 5.30 at the rooms. Please bring a plate to share as there will have a 'cuppa' after the meeting.
- Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> Historical Society rooms open 10-3
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Historical Society rooms open 10-3
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Everyone is cordially invited to our **Christmas gathering** which will be held at Bill Sutherland's home 342 Old North Road Lochinvar at 4.30. This is a wonderful social gathering to meet fellow members and families who we do not normally get to meet. Tables and cloths provided please bring everything else that you need, food, chairs, drinks. Please note the change of time from last year. It was very hot last year so we have put the time back. For the members who have not been to Bill's before he has a restored railway carriage in his back yard which will be open for us to inspect.



## *Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.*

***We will be closing from 21<sup>st</sup> December for the Christmas break.***

***Re open on Saturday 4th January 2014***

### **January 2014**

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Historical Society Rooms open 10-3
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Guest Speaker Night 5.30 at the rooms
Wed. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Historical Society Rooms open 10-3
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Historical society Rooms open 10-3
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Committee meeting 5.30 at the rooms
Wed. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Historical Society Rooms open 10-3
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Historical society Rooms open 10-3
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Business Meeting at the rooms 5.30
Wed. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Historical Society Rooms open 10.3
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Historical Society rooms open 10-3
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Australia Day in Maitland Park
Wed. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Historical Society Rooms open 10-3



**Victoria Bridge  
Spanning Wallis Creek, Maitland**

**Linking East and West Maitland (1852-1896)**

**National Library of Australia, J.R. Clarke 1857**