

Geoff

MAITLAND AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. II/i

February, 1978

Patrons: The Mayor, Ald. Noel Unicom  
Ald. Ron Stewart  
Mr. Harry Kearsley  
Mr. Athol D'Ombraim

Committee: President  
Vice President - Graham Dunlop  
Vice President - Wendy Hure  
Secretary - Geoff Cannon  
Treasurer - Lyn Dolan  
Recorder - Val Hamson.

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 1978 will be held at East Maitland Public School on Monday, 6th March at 8p.m.

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This Bulletin was prepared to mark the end of our first year and the beginning of our new.

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Talks given by four of our members, Edith Pearce, Bert Hestelow, Audrey Tonkin and Ron Montague, show the amount of research already carried out by members of the Society. It is hoped other members will be willing to speak on their research.

Historical items and information collected and recorded by members and placed in Society Files.

Kath Macmillan	125 years of Bolwarra Public School
Judith Hawke	Tour of Historic Maitland Buildings
Roy & Val Hamson	Ratebook of West Maitland 1878
Jackie Youldon	Alphabetical list of occu- pants from 1878 Ratebook Alphabetical list of names on Columbrarium, St. Mary's Church, Maitland, at 1.2.1978.
Nancy Eckert & Son	Occupants & Owners of Business Premises from Ratebook 1878.
Bill Fitzpatrick	Scrapbook of Newspaper Clippings collected over many years and other clippings to be filed.
Judith Smith	Cur letter writer, has acquired valuable inform- ation on the Maitland Banks and District Post Offices.
Edith Pearce	Copy of her address given on 4/7/77 "East Maitland 1828-1850"

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Any suggestions? Extra money is required to enable the Society to purchase books for research and other items important to the history of the district. Little can be achieved without the full support of members and we look forward to hearing your ideas.

Nellie Bligh has suggested a second-hand book sale, and has experience in the value and sale of second-hand books. Put your ideas on paper and they can be discussed at a meeting in the near future.

3.

Can you help?

- Ron Montague      Researching - Military from 1788 - 1978.
- Malcolm Denton    Collecting - Soldiers and convicts record  
and equipment.
- Nellie Bligh      "      - Colonial pottery and its  
history.
- Edith Pearce      "      - Information on Women of  
early Maitland.
- Jackie Youldon    "      - Information on Maitland  
Churches and Hospitals.
- Roy Hamson        Would like the loan of early photographs  
of Maitland area, and information  
concerning same.
- Gillieston Public School at Gillieston Heights, would like  
information and photographs (on loan)  
for their Anniversary in April.
- Tooth and Company Have requested information on the  
breweries in Maitland. Any information  
accepted. Please give to Val Hamson.

An offer has been made to the Society for the temporary use  
of two small rooms on the first floor of the Antique Shop  
and Gallery, conducted by Mr. & Mrs. Allen Murphy in High  
Street, Maitland.

It is anticipated that items loaned to the Society for  
short periods, may be displayed for both the benefit of  
members and the general public. The rooms would also  
enable the Society to have a place of contact for visitors  
to our district who wish to obtain and give historical  
information.

## MAITLAND MERCURY FILES

H.R.A. and H. Association - Origin of the Annual Show

Early Ploughing Matches.

Good luck to the hoof and the horn,  
 Good luck to the flock and fleece,  
 Good luck to the growers of corn,  
 With pleasure, plenty and peace.

Regarded as the oldest provincial show in Australia, the annual exhibition organised by the Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Association has a long and varied history that speaks of the phenomenal success achieved by those citizens who have in the past worked so untiringly to demonstrate the amazing fertility of the Hunter River Valley.

The present Association was preceded by an organisation known as the Hunter River Society, which was established in 1842 "to develop resources of the Hunter River district and to promote the interest of the agriculturalist and grazier."

The first annual meeting of the Society was held in Mr. Cox's Union Hotel at the intersection of Newcastle and Melbourne Sts., East Maitland on October 6 of the same year. The meeting took place in the afternoon followed by a dinner in the evening at which no less than 18 toasts were honoured. Tickets for this dinner were sold for £1 each and a press advertisement invited members "to appear dressed in colonial cloth as far as is convenient."

Mr. G. Hobler presided at the meeting and the Rev. J. Jennings Smith of Paterson, delivered an address on "The Elements of Science."

Included in the attendance were Messrs. Henry Incedon Pilcher, father of the late Mr. H. Pilcher, K.C. of the New South Wales Bar; A. McDougall of Lorn; R. Windeyer of Tomago; C. M. Doyle, of Lochinvar; Bourne Russell of Farley; Dr. Andrew Liddell; Edward Denny Day, Police Magistrate; Rev. W. Stack of St. Mary's Church; Rev. C. P. W. Wilton, of Newcastle; Messrs.

## MAITLAND MERCURY FILES

C. Reynolds, of Tocal; C.E. Walthall, tobacco manufacturer; J. Hungerford; Andrew Lang of Dummore; William Lipscomb and W. Geddes.

At a meeting held at the Northumberland Hotel, West Maitland, on Thursday, January 4, 1844, the name of the Society was altered to the Hunter River Agricultural Society, Mr. P.J. Cohen urging the encouragement of science to assist agriculture.

The following motion was adopted: "That although this society be called an agricultural society, it be an instruction to the committee to devote their attention to the promotion of science and useful arts connected with agriculture and that encouragement should be given for essays on agriculture and other subjects tending to develop the latent resources of the colony."

At a meeting held in the Rose Inn, West Maitland, the following week, Mr. G. Wyndham was elected President but subsequently declined the position.

The Society's first competition was in the form of a ploughing match and was held in a paddock "at the back of Mr. Hannan's cottage, near the "Falls" on Tuesday, March 12, 1844.

Seven horse teams and six bullock teams competed under the following conditions: 1st Prize £2, for the best ploughman with a pair of horses and reins, 2nd Prize £1; 1st Prize £2 for the best ploughman with four or six oxen with a driver, 2nd Prize £1.

Francis Levis (Owner Mr. S. Clift), was first with the horse team and William Cooper (owner Mr. L. Boyne) 2nd. With the bullock teams, Colin Wills (for Mr. Dalzell) was 1st and Charles Wooton (for Mr. Reynolds) 2nd.

(to be continued)

MAITLAND MERCURY FILESCRICKET - PUERILE FOLLY?

In a letter to the Mercury, many, many years ago, Mr. David Buchanan, who in the 1860's lived at and represented Morpeth in Parliament, denounced the game of cricket played at Sydney against an English Eleven. "Twenty thousand people for four mortal days, neglecting their business and idling their time to look at it." This game he described as "A most melancholy exhibition of puerile folly."

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FOUNDATION STONE - EAST MAITLAND GAOL

The laying of the foundation stone by Mr. Edward Denny Day, assisted by Mr. M.W. Lewis, Colonial Architect. The stone was laid near the north west corner of the enclosure within the walls. Several coins of the reigns of George III, George IV, William IV and Queen Victoria, with an inscription were placed in a bottle which was sealed and deposited within the stone, the inscription was as follows:

"On the 16th day of February, in the Year of Our Lord, 1844, In the seventh year of the reign of her most gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, and in the sixth year of the administration of the Government of New South Wales by his Excellency Sir George Gipps, The First Stone of this Gaol Was Laid by Edward Denny Day, Esquire, Police Magistrate of Maitland: Mortimer William Lewis, Esquire, Colonial Architect."

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Did you notice?

The Maitland Mercury issued on February 6th, 1978 was actually dated January 6th.

Confusing to the historian, but more confusing would be the one dated 1868 instead of 1968. Imagine it!

CAROLINE CHISHOLM

A report taken from the 1788-1820  
Association Gazette.

On March, 26th 1877, a Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving was held in the Cathedral at Northampton for Caroline Chisholm who died there one hundred years ago. Bishop Grant of Northampton presided.

Mr. Brian Murray representing the High Commissioner of Australia laid a beautiful wreath on the grave - red carnations red gladioli and daffodils, the card read "On behalf of the Government and People of Australia" and the grave was surrounded by flowers, mostly daffodils. The gravestone had been refurbished, the words blacked in and the cross on the top was new.

The inscription reads:

'Of your charity pray for  
the repose of the souls  
of

CAROLINE CHISHOLM  
The Emigrant's friend  
who died 25th March, 1877  
aged 67 years.

and of  
ARCHIBALD CHISHOLM  
Major, 30th Madras  
Native Infantry  
who died 17th August, 1877

MEMBERS 1977

Allsop, N.J.  
Alsop, Barry  
Armstrong, Henry  
Baird, Bob  
Barr, Aub  
Barden, Geoff  
Bellamy, Lyn  
Bligh, Nellie  
Boyle, Harry  
Boyle, Elsie  
Brady, Jack  
Cannon, Geoff  
Cavanagh, Harry  
Clucas, Jeanette  
Connell, John  
Cribb, Mavis  
Denton, Malcolm  
Denton, E.  
Dolan, Lyn  
Dolan, Russell  
Dunlop, Graham  
Ekert, Nancy  
Evans, J.  
Evans, Edith  
Fitzpatrick, Bill  
Fry, E.  
Green, Joyce  
Hamson, Roy  
Hamson, Valerie  
Hamson, Catherine  
Hampson, Rev. C.E.  
Hawke, Judith  
Hestelow, Bert  
Hicks, Sandy  
Hure, Wendy  
Hure, Anthony  
Kearsley, Harry  
Kearsley, J.  
Keever, Ellen

Kilkelly, A.  
Jangworthy, Ethel  
Lightfoot, Barry  
Lightfoot, Margaret  
Lightfoot, Chris  
Long, Richard  
Longworth, Peg  
Macmillan, Kath  
Montague, Ron  
Morgan, Les  
Morgan, Robyn  
Neeley, S.A.  
Neeley, Mrs.  
Pandaurst, M.  
Parkes, W.S.  
Parkes, M.  
Pearce, Edith  
Sinkus, Kevin  
Sinkus, Marie  
Skelton, Marjory  
Smith, Judith  
Sumner, Mr.  
Sumner, Mrs.  
Swan, Mrs.  
Rowe, Dennis  
Torbin, Audrey  
Vile, Jim  
Vile, June  
Vile, Andrew  
Vile, Alex  
Vughts, Michael  
Vughts, Mrs.  
Waddell, K.  
Waddell, Jim  
Woolven, Ross  
Woolven, M.  
Youldon, Jackie  
Morpeth Progress Assoc.  
George Stanton Dec'd.