



UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM OF RURAL LIFE Inc.

PO Box 140, Aberdeen, NSW 2336

NEWSLETTER - May, 2012

Background to the UHMRL

Late in 2005 an inspection of the Glenbawn Museum was made and we were disturbed by the state of the collection and the number of valuable items left to gather dust.

By 2006 a small committee of volunteers formed the Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Incorporated (UHMRL) with two major aims:

- Firstly to save and conserve the abandoned collection of artefacts and
- Secondly to relocate these items to a new Museum and Cultural Centre in Aberdeen.

We identified the old Campbell's Department Store as a most desirable location as it was a large heritage building with highway frontage, so over the years we have raised funds with various function to pay for a professional Business Plan to be written and have a Heritage Architect inspect the Campbell's Store and draw up a possible design concepts.

The items at Glenbawn were donated by local families with the knowledge that they would always be there for their descendants and we strongly believe that the entire collection should be kept together and not distributed to other museums outside the region. Once in Aberdeen the collection would again be on show to everyone - not only be a valuable educational resource but also an interesting tourist destination.

We have consulted with the Glenbawn and State authorities as well as the Shire Council in an attempt to gain the right to manage and relocate the collection.

Recently our hopes were raised when our local member, Mr George Souris, presented a submission on our behalf to the State Government to assist the UHMRL with the purchase of the Campbell's Store but unfortunately we have been unsuccessful.

We can only wait and hope that an amount of around one million dollars might fall into our lap from a generous supportive benefactor. ☺

Last year several members attended a TAFE Outreach Course to assist us to further our knowledge of a variety of aspects of Museum Management. For anyone interested, this course will continue later in the year.

At present we are leasing a storage facility where many items already donated to the UHMRL are housed, along with a large professional movie projector and screen for use in a future theatre and cultural centre.

I wish to remind everyone of the necessity to value the past and to think twice before discarding any items, maps, photographs or even clothing from "the olden days". Don't forget to name and date all photographs! Treasured family photographs can be copied and saved for future generations and any donations to the UHMRL will always be appreciated.

We wish to say a big "THANK YOU" to all who have supported us over the years and a special thank you to all our Members and new Associated Members.

New members & volunteers always welcome.

Next Luncheon & Movie

Tuesday, 12th June, 2012

"In The Good Old Summertime"

Starring Judy Garland & Van Johnson

Bookings - 65437150 or 65425168

President	- Dianne Walmsley
Vice President	- Carol Ray
Secretary	- Jan Wild
Treasurer	- Jan Sumner

<http://aberdeenmuseum.org.au>