

## In July We Are Reminded of Our Scottish Heritage

*In September, 1837 Thomas Potter Macqueen of Segenhoe wrote to the Crown Solicitor of NSW "Pray get Aberdeen gazetted as a township" and Aberdeen was born. By 1892 the first cargo of sheep and lambs was shipped to the Australia Chilling and Freezing Co. It operated, with the exception of some shutdowns due to drought, and with various owners, until its closure in April 1999 when 400 people unceremoniously lost their jobs. This was a shock and a devastating blow to a small country town. One of the activities devised to help the town heal was an annual Highland Games event.*



*When it was decided to inaugurate a local Highland Games, "A Celtic experience in the Scottish Tradition," to celebrate National Tartan Day (1<sup>st</sup> July), Aberdeen was chosen for several reasons. One being its obvious Scottish ties and another being to assist the community recover from the devastating blow of losing the meatworks which had sustained the town for over one hundred of its 162 year history.*

*The local games are run with the aim, not of competition, but participation and enjoyment. Activities include Pipes and Drums; Highland and Country Dancing; Tartan Warriors; Tug-o-war; Novelty Events; Scottish Displays and Best Dressed Laddie, Lassie, Bairn and Pet competition. The day is preceded by a Robbie Burns Supper, a Tartan Golf Day, A Ceilidh band, a Trivia Night and followed by a traditional Ceilidh and a Kirkin' Of The Tartan at St. Mark's Church. It has now presented its 14th games. This year's successful event was held last Saturday on a beautiful sunny day.*

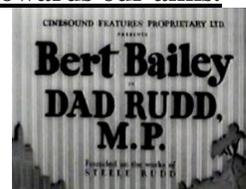
### **BEER STRIKE**

*Did you know that Aberdeen had a beer strike in 1940? The Government introduced a special war tax which increased the price of beer by 9d (ninepence) per gallon. The union workers at the Aberdeen Meat Works refused to pay it and boycotted the three local hotels for more than 10 weeks!*

### **August movie**

**Our next movie and luncheon will be on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August at 11.30 am. If you would like to attend, please contact Jan on 65437150, or Jan on 65425168. A donation of \$10 will help towards our aims.**

Dad Rudd, M.P. is a 1940 comedy that was the last of four Dad and Dave films made by Ken G. Hall starring Bert Bailey as Dad Rudd and Fred MacDonald as Dave Rudd. Dad Rudd wants the size of a local dam increased for the benefit of local farmers but faces opposition from a wealthy grazier, Henry Webster. When the local Member of Parliament dies, Webster runs for his seat, and Rudd decides to oppose him.



### **Aims of the Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc.**

**Our aims include "To establish the Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life with a collection of exhibits that will increase knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of our past by providing an interesting and educational facility for both the Upper Hunter residents and the wider public."**

## June Luncheon History Exhibit



This Photo Courtesy of  
The Scone Advocate



Readers who were lucky enough to attend our June luncheon and movie were treated to a history display of two beautiful formal evening capes, a selection of lacy embroidered undergarments (including very exotic crutch-less knickers) and an apron. Also various other things including a wooden spinning wheel; a washboard; a flat iron and a cabinet with numerous smaller items including early "glass" and "tin" photographs; post cards; jewellery; silver; lace; a beaded milk jug cover; a button hook; curling tongs; an old crystal inkwell and assorted bottles.

Amongst the collection were some treasured items on loan from Val Ray. Val will donate these items to us

when our Museum is ready so we can all enjoy them. Val told me that the undergarments and apron were made and worn by two spinster sisters in Scone – Misses Annie and Nell Collins. Miss Nell was a dressmaker. Val's mother was given the garments by these ladies when Scone celebrated its school centenary in 1963. Miss Nell made Val's mother's dresses, and charged 30/- (thirty shillings – about \$3). Val can remember that as a small child she would go with her mother for a dress fitting and Miss Collins appeared to have a mouthful of pins as she kept taking them from her lips.

### Textiles Workshop

There is still time to book in for the Textiles Workshop to be held at Murrurundi on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August**. Please 'phone one of our committee (see below) for details and booking.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the UHMRL will be held on **Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August** at 5.00pm in the Aberdeen Library. We would love you to come to support us in our endeavours. Please phone our

Secretary to confirm date and time.

### AngloAmerican

We appreciate the continuing support offered by Matt Frodsham from AngloAmerican Dartbrook Mine.

### Apology

In our May Newsletter we misspelt the Roach family name in the article referring to St. Mark's Church Anniversary.

### Growing Collection

Our collection is growing week by week.

If you have any photos (which we could copy and return) or items of interest, we would love to add them to our collection – especially if you have a story to go with them. We are able to store them safely.

\*We now have a threshing machine in storage.

### Comments

If you have any alterations or additions to any statement in this Newsletter, please contact the Editor.

### Out of the Archives

In May 2009 The Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc. committee commissioned a Business Plan for a Cultural Centre. This was done by the Australia Street Company, and jointly sponsored by the Upper Hunter Shire Council, The Department of State and Regional Development and The Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc.

President – Dianne Walmsley 6543 6269, Secretary – Jan Wild 6542 5168, Vice President – Carol Ray 6545 2761

Treasurer – Jan Sumner 6543 7150,

Newsletter – Anneta Vaughan 6543 7127 Email: fleetwood@reset.net.au

PO Box 140, Aberdeen. NSW. 2336, www.aberdeenmuseum.org.au