



UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM OF RURAL LIFE Inc.

NEWSLETTER

June, 2013

Welcome

John Scriven's Zoo in Aberdeen



DAMA WALLABIES AT "ORANA"

Do you know that John established The Orana Zoologic Gardens about 1971? Orana is an Aboriginal word for welcome which originates from the Wiradjuri Aboriginal tribe from the Mudgee district. The Zoo was owned by John and conducted by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Scriven who cared for it while he worked in Sydney. It was at his parent's property – in

town next to the Catholic Church (who now own it) – and set in a bush garden. The magnificent gardens had widespread acclaim throughout the State and won numerous garden awards, being placed among the State's finest. There were about 30 tons of petrified wood from trees over 200 million years old. There were native orchids, a fernery, a cactus garden and a heated glasshouse with orchids and exotic plants. Several people told me that Mrs. Scriven made beautiful arrangements with these flowers for weddings and special occasions.

There were eagles and peacocks, kangaroos, wombats, brush tail possums and other Australian marsupials. Also Tasmanian Devils, donkeys, squirrels,

guinea pigs, hares, tortoises and a few Australian lizards.

John had a large bird collection including an ostrich, emus and rare species of water birds such as the South African Ruddy Shelducks, Egyptian Nile geese and a British Cockatiel. The cockatoos and other Australian parrots provided entertainment for the children

John was still looking for food for his eagles up until he became too ill to care for them.

Several people have told me they remember happy times visiting and taking their children to the Zoo. A friend of mine told me that she bought a beautiful screen printed skirt from the Zoo.

** We think the illustration above was drawn by John. Painting was one of his many skills.*

Textiles

One of John's many interests was textiles. Not long before he died, he told Catherine Clifford (who gave the eulogy at his funeral): "More than anything, I want Aberdeen to have its own museum where we can display the textiles of our heritage and all the other great historical pieces that define who we are, where we've come from and where we are going." A few of us will be attending a **Textiles Workshop**, working with staff from the Regional Services of the Powerhouse Museum, on **Wednesday 14th August at Murrurundi**. This workshop will cover identification, conservation and display techniques. If you would like to join us, please contact us (see below).

The display of Victorian/Edwardian items appropriate to today's movie is curtesy of 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

JULY MOVIE AND LUNCHEON

Tuesday 9th July, 2013

Our next movie is "Local Hero" starring Burt Lancaster and Peter Riegert with music by Dire Straits' Mark Knopfler featuring the instrumental hit "Going Home."

This is a 1983 British comedy-drama about an American oil company representative who is sent to the fictional village of Ferness on the west coast of Scotland to purchase the town and surrounding property for his company. It is the story of an ordinary man in an extraordinary place.

Some of the village scenes were filmed at Pennan, Aberdeenshire, Scotland – see photo.

Doors open at 11.30am. Please book with Jan 6543 7150 or Jan 6542 5168.



Out of the mouths of babes!!

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him "How do you expect to get into Heaven? The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says "For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!"

Setting up the room for our movie day



Would you like to join us? We'd love to have your help.

We also need someone to learn how to use the projector as a backup for the movies we can get on reels.

Help!

If you would like to help us with our movies or offer raffle prizes, please contact us (see below).

We are still looking for a Treasurer for the UHMRL Inc.

Next Meeting

Next meeting of the Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life will be held on **Wednesday, 3rd July** 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.

Thank you

We thank AngloAmerican Coal for their very generous grant to help us with our activities and functions. We appreciate the personal interest of Matt Frodsham who also attends our meetings when he's available.

Aberdeen History

We are in the process of putting Aberdeen history on a series of Story Boards around the town.

Newsletter

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

If you would like a copy of our Newsletters emailed to you, just send an email to the editor, and we can arrange it.

Aberdeen Men's Shed

You may have read that Aberdeen now has a 'Men's Shed'. Here are some of the participants. They are holding a weekly meeting for friendship, and have already taken on some local activities to help the community. For further information, you could 'phone Frank Heap on 6543 7390.



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