

PLEASE PRINT ME OUT TO READ



UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM OF RURAL LIFE Inc.  
NEWSLETTER  
March, 2013

## ***It is autumn and isn't Aberdeen looking pretty!***

*Doesn't Aberdeen look lovely and fresh these days with the parks on the highway inviting to travellers. Wouldn't it be great if the Campbell's building were being used for our Museum and Cultural Centre including a coffee/tea shop? We could serve cucumber sandwiches with pots of tea – or pumpkin scones – or Devonshire Teas. You could join us in our endeavours to make this happen by joining the UHMRL. Just contact us for details (see below) and come to our next meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm in the Aberdeen Library. (Please confirm date and time.) New members and volunteers are encouraged. We would love you to support us and help us in our endeavours to take possession of the neglected Glenbawn Museum collection to display it in Aberdeen. We also have some extra exhibits which have been donated to us and are in storage. There are yet others awaiting our having a place to display them.*

### **John Scriven**

February's Movie was fun and the meal was delicious. John's secret recipe tomato and spinach soup was the highlight for me. I understand he entrusted this recipe to one of the cooks before he died. Thanks, John.

I am reminded of John all the time when I drive through Aberdeen. The street trees are growing well, and the railway station looks good. I believe that John lobbied the powers that be long and hard to finally get the station upgraded. John also lobbied to get some improvements at the Aberdeen cemetery. He got a lot done, as he had a way of 'encouraging'

others to do most of the hackwork for his 'big picture' ideas. John fulfilled many of his dreams, but he left this one (the Rural Life Museum) for us to work on due to his untimely death from cancer almost two years ago.

I would urge you to go to our website [www.aberdeenmuseum.org.au](http://www.aberdeenmuseum.org.au) to read more about our John, and our reason for being.

Thanks, too, must go to the dedicated band of helpers who planted and looked after the street trees against great odds.

### **Doug and Charlene**

We celebrated Doug and Charlene Liddell's 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 12<sup>th</sup> February. Congratulations to you both. I admire anyone who can live successfully with someone for that long! We'd also like to thank you for the music you supply at our lunches and all the other Aberdeen events you work at. It is always appropriate and at a comfortable volume.



### **Post Script from last month.**

***This is the roller stamp for the export Aberdeen Butter Factory Thistle Brand butter referred to in the last Newsletter and is in the Glenbawn Museum collection, of which we are endeavouring to take possession. It was used for the export butter which was in a 56lb solid block in three-ply boxes set up with wire ties to tie down the lid. When the box was filled, this roller was used to imprint a raised design into the butter with the word 'AUSTRALIA' across it.***

## 1955 Hunter Flood

The movie we will see next 'NEWSFRONT' shows scenes around Maitland during the 1955 flood. **Aberdeen**, also, suffered from the same flood.



This is a view from behind the  
**Commercial Hotel**  
looking over the golf course.

*Ron Vaughan remembers watching an incident outside the gates of the Bowling Club. Jackie Lee was driving a 'Fergie' tractor, which was towing a trailer, along the flooded highway, heading home to his market garden which is now owned by Lee Fong. Ron watched in horror as the tractor was being washed off the road. He thought that Jackie 'was gone'. However, Jackie turned the steering wheel and it recovered and returned to the road. Maybe the remains of that tractor is still on Lee Fong's property.*

## Glenbawn dam

According to the State Water website, Glenbawn Dam was completed in 1958. It was intended for agriculture, industry and the surrounding townships, and to mitigate flooding. It had an original capacity of 300,000 ML until it was enlarged in 1987 to a capacity of 750,000 ML, with an additional reserve capacity of 120,000

ML flood storage to minimise flood impacts on the river downstream.

It was when the enlargement was completed that the visitor areas were moved from below the dam wall, to above it and the Rural Life Museum was then neglected. I guess that no one took responsibility for it until John started to investigate. Our group

has been working for several years to take possession of this neglected valuable collection and house it in Aberdeen in suitable surroundings. It is envisaged that it be incorporated into a cultural centre where we could make it a hub for cultural and social activities in the town.

**DON'T MISS** our next Luncheon and Movie on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2013. It is 'THE PIRATE' – a romantic musical comedy starring Judy Garland & Gene Kelly with songs by Col Porter.

Doors open at 11.30am. Enjoy a 3-course luncheon. Donation \$10. Please 'phone Jan 6543 7150 or Jan 6542 5168 to book.

Would you like to learn how to use our projector? We can arrange it. Just contact us (see below).

We are still looking for helpers to assist with preparation for our movie days.



## Wisdom from Winnie-the-Pooh

"What I like *doing* best, says Winnie-the-Pooh, is Nothing. It's when people call out at you just as you're going off to do it, 'What are you going to do?' and you say 'Oh, Nothing,' and then you go and do it.

Doing Nothing means just going along, listening to all the things you can't hear, and not bothering."

*If you have any corrections or additions to the information provided in our Newsletters, please let us know.*