

## Happy 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Aberdeen

In the August Newsletter we gave you some history leading to our first Council Meeting. Here is a time-line leading to our town being gazetted as the Village of Aberdeen:

### 1823

**Thomas Potter Macqueen**, British MP, reads the Brigg's Reports on the state of the colony of NSW and was attracted by the prospects of rural settlement in the colony of NSW. Macqueen obtains a promise for a land grant of an initial 10,000 acres.

Macqueen appointed **Peter McIntyre** as his agent-in-charge and entrusts him to select the land for his grant.

### 1824

**Henry Dangar**, explorer and surveyor, begins the first exploration of the Hunter River area north-west of Singleton. On his return he reports his discovery of arable lands, available timber, good water and grazing land.

### 1825

McIntyre is escorted through the Upper Hunter by Dangar and selects land on the Hunter River near the junction of the Pages

River. The property is named "Segenhoe", the place of Macqueen's birth in Bradfordshire, England.

With the assistance of convict labourers, the estate is soon established as the land is cleared and cultivated. Huts, fences, farm buildings and even a hospital are soon erected and Segenhoe Estate operates like a small village.

### 1827

Work was begun on construction of a horse-powered mill and is now producing flour from local grain.

### 1834

When Macqueen arrived in the colony he at last saw his Segenhoe Estate - the prosperous agricultural property that he had envisaged many years before. Macqueen recognized the potential of the region and requested the laying out of a village, adjacent to his estate and near the ford at the Hunter River.

### 1838

Assistant Surveyor **Rusden** prepared a plan for the layout of the streets of the Village of Aberdeen. On Macqueen's

suggestion, Aberdeen was named to honour George Hamilton Gordon, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Aberdeen, Knight of the Garter, a distinguished British Statesman and scholar.

**The Governor approved the new town plans and the Village of Aberdeen was officially gazetted on October 9th.**

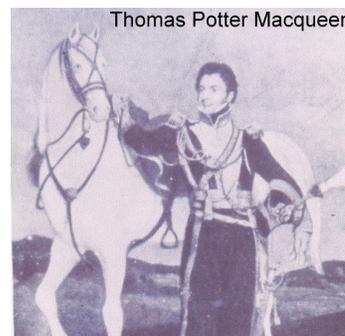
**That was 175 years ago!**

### 1894

The Municipality of Aberdeen was gazetted on December 18th.

### 1895

The first Council meeting was held on March 12<sup>th</sup> with 6 Aldermen.



Thomas Potter Macqueen

Image from The Newcastle University Cultural Collection.

Our next movie and luncheon is on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Doors open at 11.30am. A donation of \$10.00 is requested. Please make bookings to Jan on 6543 7150 or Jan on 6542 5168.



The movie is "Crackerjack", starring Mick Malloy, Bill Hunter, Frank Wilson and Judith Lucy. When an enterprising scammer joins a bowling club just to secure free inner city parking, little does he know he may be the key to the future of the club that has a shady developer breathing down their neck.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the UHMRL Inc. will be held on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 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.

We were pleased to welcome Lynn Collins, Museums Advisor to Upper Hunter Shire, and Annabelle McLoughlin, who coordinated our TAFE course, to our September meeting.

### Linen Service

Would you like help with your laundry? Ourcare Services Ltd in Singleton (Phone: 6571 2300) offer a pick-up and delivery service to launder their provided bedding, towels and waterproof sheets and chair pads to hospital standards at a small cost. We receive this service fortnightly to Aberdeen, but it could become weekly if more people used the service.

We were introduced to this service by the Occupational Therapist Dr. Ali sent to us for assessment. You could either ring them direct for information, or see Dr. Ali if you think this could also help you. It has certainly helped us. A.V.

### Thank-you's

- We would like to thank all those who help each month to set up our Movie and luncheon. It takes a lot of hard work, and they do it happily.
- Many thanks to Jan Sumner who provides the 'History Table' displays and photos at our luncheons. Jan also provides a lot of the historic information used in this Newsletter.

- Our friend, Lee Fong always brings some of his lovely fresh vegetables or fruit for our raffle.

### Campbell's Building

As we have told you in the past, a Heritage Architect's Report on the Campbell's Store Building in February, 2009 indicated that parts of this building are eminently suitable for storing/displaying vintage artefacts. The building itself is also noteworthy. This building has recently been sold, but the buyer is still 'a secret' so we haven't given up on the possibility of our making use of it for our Museum.

### Do Not Call Register

This is an Australian Government register which is a secure database where you can list your telephone numbers to opt out of receiving most telemarketing calls. It is a free service, valid for five years and you can re-register or remove your numbers at any time. There are two ways to register: (1) Log on to [www.donotcall.gov.au](http://www.donotcall.gov.au) or (2) Phone 1300 792 958. It may take up to 30 days to come into effect, and you can make a complaint on these same numbers.

### Help Wanted

- ✓ If you would like to help us, we could use someone to help with putting up the curtains and tables; setting tables; buying the food and raffle prizes; choosing the movies.
- ✓ We are looking for a Treasurer for the Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc. committee.
- ✓ Donations for raffle prizes are always welcome.

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## HISTORY OF OUR MOVIES.

John Scriven, our founder, had a passion for old movies, and when he retired back to his family home in Aberdeen (The Old Orana Zoo) he set up his yard to accommodate a large outdoor screen and showed movies, sometimes with dinner, to raise money for his favourite local charities.

Early in 2008 he began showing movies to a luncheon audience at the Aberdeen Bowling Club with the showing of "Pal Joey", starring Frank Sinatra, as a Senior's Week function. This was followed by the ever popular "Shiralee" in 2009.

When he initiated our Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc. John used this passion to raise money for us. His idea of Golden Oldies for Golden Oldies fitted his

theme of showing vintage films from the golden age of movies.

We started our luncheons and movies in June 2009 as a fundraiser, with the aims of saving the collection at Glenbawn and relocating it to a museum in Aberdeen, John chose the all time favourite "Singing in the Rain".



Since then monthly luncheons have been held, showing a variety of vintage films. Some of the most

popular films have included "The African Queen", "High Noon", "Gentlemen Prefer Blonds", "Casablanca", "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers", "Some Like It Hot", "Man from Snowy River I & II", "Jedda" and Elvis Presley in "Love Me Tender".

We have also shown our locally born comedian, George Wallace in "His Royal Highness" and "Gone to the Dogs". One evening we even tried a silent film, the original 1925 "Ben Hur".

For more than four years "Golden Oldies for Golden Oldies" has been the theme. We wish to thank all our regular supporters and hope that we can continue to entertain you for many years to come.