

UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM OF RURAL LIFE Inc.

NEWSLETTER

September, 2013

Welcome to Spring, Wattle and hope you had a Happy Father's Day

You don't have to venture far out of town into the bush to see beautiful wattle trees in flower at this time of the year. The furry balls of yellow invoke the scent of spring and bring me joy.

*The golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha* Benth.) is Australia's national floral emblem which was unofficially accepted as such to mark Federation in 1901 and was proclaimed by Sir Ninian Stephen (then Governor-General) on 19 August, 1988. Wattle day was introduced in 1913 and formally recognised on 23 June, 1992.*



There are over 760 species of wattle in Australia.

Golden wattle is native to the eastern states of Australia and

introduced to South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia

Australians representing their country in international sporting events usually wear the national colours, green and gold, said to be based on wattle foliage and flowers.

TEXTILES WORKSHOP

We attended the long-awaited Textiles Workshop presented by Registrar Sarah Pointon and Conservator Kate Chidlow from the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. as well as Justine Malinowski from the Australian Museum of Clothing and Textiles.



We learnt about the Australian National Dress Register which was set up in 2011. This is an **online** project about Australian dress pre-1975. It includes men's, women's and children's clothing ranging from the special occasion to the everyday. Museums and private collectors are encouraged to share the stories and photographs while the information is still available and within living memory. You maintain possession of the garment – it is shared by placing photographs and stories relating to it on the website. This provides access to a world wide audience while keeping your garment in its relevant location.



We had demonstrations of how to store, display and photograph garments for museums and received a book which tells you how to recover items which have been rescued from disaster situations. It provides quick, basic instructions on salvaging

materials damaged by water, fire or impact. Materials covered include books, paper, framed works, photographs, electronic materials, furniture, musical instruments, ceramics, metal and stone, organic materials, plastics and textiles.

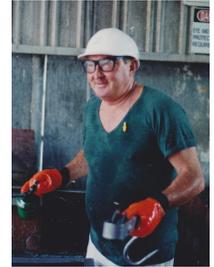
Our **TAFE Outreach** course to teach us how to create a historic walk for Aberdeen, with storyboards pointing out historic buildings and telling our story, began last Tuesday and continues until the end of the academic year.

TREVOR HENRY RISBY
Affectionately known as "FERRET"

It is with much sadness that we note the passing of one of Aberdeen's most colourful characters who will remain in local folklore for many years to come. Ferret was an unsung hero, and left an impression on everyone he met. More than 270 people attended the simple graveside funeral on a very windy day – indicating the respect with which he was held by the Aberdeen community. The local R.S.L. was shoulder to shoulder for hours for the following 'wake'.



Trevor worked at the Aberdeen Meatworks from 1975 to 1995. His workmates would say the word 'worked' was an exaggeration as he spent much of his time telling stories and entertaining his workmates! He retired from the meatworks (due to ill health) and approached Allan & Daphne Morrison to assist with the washing of the work clothes from the Aberdeen Tannery which he did for 17 years.



He would sign his greeting cards: *T.R. the Star* ☆

He was known as 'a funny man' and 'a real character'. He was always telling jokes/yarns (usually politically incorrect, racist or sexist) but you couldn't take offence because of the way he told them; and you found yourself listening as each time he started, you thought this one was a genuine story.

He spent a lot of his time quietly helping people in need – taking them to doctor's appointments or shopping for them. He also took his turn with Meals on Wheels. In recent years, he drove the Courtesy bus for the R.S.L. Aberdeen Community Caring placed one of their 'Aberdeen Treasures' street seats in recognition of Ferret outside Willow Grove Village. He was also recognised as Aberdeen Citizen of the Year.

Trevor had a cancerous lung removed over 20 years ago, and I suspect was always in pain, but you would not know it from his demeanour. He brightened up the day for all around him with his constant whistling.

He didn't see the need to accumulate wealth. He bought himself a house in Aberdeen, but sold it after a few years, so he had some cash for gambling.

Ferret had a passion for taking photos, but didn't bother keeping them. At one point he joined the Muswellbrook Camera Club. Some years ago he helped Kevin Taylor create a video about the meatworks, where they both worked. The video has now been transferred to a C.D. and is available at the Aberdeen Library. Kevin still has the master copy.

Ferret spent most of his free time betting on horses. He only made small bets. He didn't have any time for a certain high profile female trainer, and wouldn't bet on her horses. He always bet on a long shot – never a favourite – and he was broke again – that's when he was happiest. He always borrowed money from his friends, but none of them worried about it as he always paid – even if it was months later.

He had a passion for Country Music but wouldn't listen to Smoky Dawson who, he insisted, couldn't sing!

Rest in Peace, Ferret

We miss you

Next Movie and Luncheon

We now know what's happened to KEVIN RUDD, M.P., but we are still waiting to find out about DAD RUDD, M.P.!! Last month, due to an untimely cut in power to half of Aberdeen for several hours, we only saw the opening scenes of our movie. This will be repeated next month – on Tuesday, 8th October. Unfortunately, it won't have the same resonance as it would have had last month! A donation of \$10 is requested, and bookings should be made to Jan on 6543 7150 or Jan on 65425168.

Next Meeting

Next meeting of the UHMRL will be held on Wednesday 18th September 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

A big **THANK YOU** to Michael for being an understudy to Tom Holder and generally helping out with our luncheons. We appreciate the dedication of Tom and everyone who helps out at our regular movie days. If you would like to contribute, either by physical help, or providing an occasional raffle prize, please contact one of our executive.

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