

PLEASE PRINT ME OUT TO READ

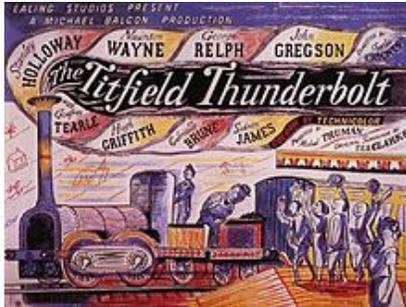


UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM OF RURAL LIFE Inc.  
**NEWSLETTER**

February, 2013

**Welcome to 2013**

*The Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life (UHMRL) committee is planning to continue our monthly Golden Oldies for Golden Oldies movies and lunches.*



Our next movie and lunch is due on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am. The movie will be "THE TITFIELD THUNDERBOLT" – a 1953 British comedy starring

Stanley Holloway, Sid James and others. It should be good fun.

Donation of \$10 for 3 course luncheon and movie. Doors open at 11.30am.

The following week, 19<sup>th</sup> March, is Senior Citizen's Week, and we are planning to show a movie preceded by morning tea. The movie is 'NEWSFRONT' a 1978 Australian drama starring Bill Hunter, Wendy Hughes, Bryan Brown and Gerard Kennedy and has scenes from the 1955 Maitland floods.

The donation will be \$5.00 and doors open at 9.30am.



Please phone Jan on 6543 7150 or Jan on 6542 5168 to book for either or both movies.

**The wheels of bureaucracy move VERY slowly!!**

In a report commissioned by the UHMRL, Heritage Architect, Trevor Jamison, described the abandoned Glenbawn Museum collection as one of the best in the state and has the potential to attract tourists as well as being of great value to the local and regional community. We have been working towards getting this collection into Aberdeen so it can become part of our town, and be appreciated by all.

**Campbell's/McKenzie's Building**

If we are to be successful in obtaining possession of this collection we will need premises in which to store and exhibit it. The Campbell's/McKenzies store building in Aberdeen has been assessed as being ideal for such a

purpose because of its structure and location.

This grand old building was built in 1896 by Murdo McKenzie. In 1914 it was bought by M. Campbell and Co. of Muswellbrook who doubled its size by building a mirror image of the existing building to the northern side. The older part of the building is triple brick (hence its suitability for storing delicate artefacts).

We understand that it could be possible to purchase it for \$500,000 so we would need a benefactor to buy it, as an investment. If you know of anyone who would like to contribute to our community by owning the building for our use, would you please contact us (see below). There are other similar enterprises in NSW which are financially viable.

**Curator Assessing Collection**

You may have seen in the local paper that a curator was assessing the collection at the Glenbawn Museum. This was disturbing news for us as we have been working towards taking possession of this abandoned collection for many years. We have been informed by the Council that this gentleman is a curator with the Qld National Museum and was at the park on holidays and took the opportunity to have a look, and offered to check the collection.

**HELP!**

We are still looking for a Treasurer, and help with procuring and setting up our movies each month. Jan Sumner, phone 6543 7150, would love to hear from you if you can help.

## IN OUR COLLECTION



A big "Thank You" to Ron Vaughan for donating an original "butter box" from the Aberdeen Butter Factory. Ron tells us that his Uncle Doug Vaughan won a competition to draw the "Thistle" logo for the butter.

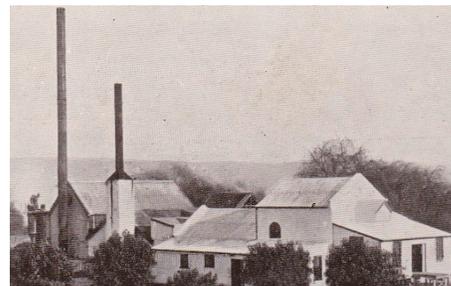
This pine box held 56 lbs Nett of "Thistle Brand Pure Creamery Butter – Pasteurised." This butter would have been in 1lb and ½ lb wrapped blocks. The export butter was in a 56 lb block in three-ply boxes set up with wire ties to tie down the lid. When the box was filled, a roller was used to imprint a raised design into the butter with overall small diamond shapes and the word 'AUSTRALIA' across the centre.

The butter factory was a successful enterprise of the A. & F. Company (The Aberdeen Meatworks) set up to keep a

regular income source because the meatworks was a seasonal operation. It was built in McAdam Street, Aberdeen, just past 'Honeymoon Lane' and commenced operations on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 1898. The Hill family were producing their own butter and selling it to local customers prior to the factory opening and was one of the few who supplied the factory from its inception to the last day of production, 64 years later. The whole plant was run on its own power source, a 40 horsepower diesel engine. The separated milk by-product was pumped over the hill for feed in the piggery. The butter was sold on both the domestic and export markets. They produced three grades of butter: BEREDENA for Second Grade Butter; THISTLEDOWN for First Grade Butter and THISTLE BRAND for Choicest Butter.

The factory produced between 25 and 30 tons of butter weekly.

During the peak years of production there were 50,000 dairy farmers in Australia, by 2011 there were just below 7,000.



Kevin Taylor remembers working at the Butter Factory on Saturdays as a schoolboy. Kevin's brother, Harry, worked there for many years and finished up as Manager.

Fred Day remembers that during the war, when petrol was unavailable, the Butter Factory sold 4 gallon tins of the lubricating oil, Shellite – which was mixed 50/50 with kerosene for use.

You can still see the remnants of the factory about 800 metres along McAdam Street from the New England Highway. You might like to follow the Historical Aberdeen Walk brochure available from the Aberdeen Information Centre.

*(If you have any further information, or corrections, please let me know.)*



**Do you recognise these people?**

**They all received Volunteer Certificates of Appreciation from our Mayor last year.**

**Many thanks to all of you.**

### AngloAmerican Support

Thanks, again, for the continuing help and support offered by Matt Frodsham from AngloAmerican Dartbrook Mine.

### TAFE Course

The TAFE Museum Practice course will continue this year. If

you are interested in joining the course, please contact us.

### Successful Grant Application

The \$3,059 Volunteers Grant, mentioned in the last Newsletter, is now safely in our bank account – and will be put to good use.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc. will be on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 5.00pm.** in the Aberdeen Library. We would love you to come to support us in our endeavours. Please phone the Secretary to confirm date and time.