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ABERDEEN  
ON THE HUNTER

UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM OF RURAL LIFE Inc.

NEWSLETTER

April, 2014

## It's April again and we remember our Service Men and Women

### THEN ...

1914

"The pupils of the Aberdeen public school have up to the present contributed £7 towards the patriotic fund. A send-off was tendered to Corporal Jim Flynn prior to his departure for the front. Two more local lads have volunteered, viz., Messrs. Horrie Matthews and Tom Blaydon [*sic*]"

*From the Maitland Weekly Mercury, Saturday December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1914.*

1917

"Mr. J. Timmins, teacher of the Public School, Aberdeen, is informed that his son, Lieutenant P. Timmins had been awarded the military cross for conspicuous bravery. The parents of the valiant young soldier, as well as himself, are to be congratulated upon his distinguished achievement."

*From the Maitland Daily Mercury, Saturday July 28, 1917.*



Lieutenant P.  
Timmins

*Photo Courtesy Scone and Upper Hunter Historical Society. Historical information researched by Denise Bell. Thank you, Denise.*

### ... and NOW

#### Soldiers Care Packages from Aberdeen

"The Care Package Cadets are an amazing young group of boys, now all turning 12 and still as keen as ever as we continue our work.

For the year 2013 we sent **232** care packages to Afghanistan and to South Sudan. There are still **400 Aussie troops in Afghanistan** so we will continue to send there.

The Aberdeen community has been wonderful to us with their generous donations of goods to send and also with financial help. At times the boys and I wonder where the money will come from for another batch, God provides and the most unexpected people pull me up and give us some money to buy what we need to add to our boxes.

This year we have sent 32, most of these to South Sudan. Through a thank you letter from a soldier we have learnt that some are based in the newest city

in the world, Juda. The rest of the troops are in an isolated very unfriendly place, food hard to come by and the heat an unbearable 50 to 56 degrees! These troops had special boxes made up, we included powdered drinks full of electrolytes as the water is awful, also nutritious fruit bars and tinned foods that they could ring pull and access easily. We do not expect any news from this area but we were told the boxes arrived there, the 8 men in this area received 2 boxes each, one full of food the other full of personal hygiene goods.

My passion and purpose was to be able to send 20 or 30 a year and then I asked Brayden Rowland my little neighbour if he would like to help and then Riley, Nathan and Jonah joined us. We are a great team, and although the boys can't help all the time, Brayden has only been absent for 30 of the total

of the boxes we have sent. I call him the Care Package Cadets Captain.

Through this the boys are learning about caring for others, Community and respect for those young Australians giving their lives for us and our country, that giving some time to something worthwhile has rewards and that the reward is that you have done a good thing not for financial reward or words of praise, but for feeling good in your heart. What better reward can there be, not just for the boys but for me."

**Carole Johnston**



Brayden, Riley and Nathan.

**ABERDEEN CARE PACKAGES are sent by Carole Johnston, phone 6543 7134 after 3pm.**

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: [fleetwoode@westnet.com.au](mailto:fleetwoode@westnet.com.au)  
PO Box 140, Aberdeen. NSW. 2336, Web: [aberdeenmuseum.org.au](http://aberdeenmuseum.org.au)

## ABERDEEN LOCAL STUDIES COLLECTION



Jan Sumner is proceeding with setting up our Local Studies Collection. We will be requesting help from all our friends for documents, photos, etc. to be copied when we have Council's blessing for this venture and we have acquired all the necessary equipment and storage facility. The collection will be stored, hopefully, in our Library, with access to the information by the public, schools, etc.

**You don't stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop laughing.**

### Facebook

Our current President, Dianne Walmsley, recently opened a Facebook page called 'Aberdeen Remembers'. If you are 'Facebook' literate you will enjoy what you will find on the page. All you have to do is type 'Aberdeen

Remembers' into Facebook to find the page.

Dianne says "This group is for anyone who wants to remember Aberdeen NSW. If you live there, worked there, went to school there, would like to visit or you would like

to learn about Aberdeen and its unique history then this is the group for you. Please feel free to add photos, comments and any special memories of the good old days. The 'good old days' are what you remember."

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the UHMRL will be held on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 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.

### MAY MOVIE AND LUNCHEON

Our next movie and 3-course luncheon will be held on **Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2014**. Doors open at 11.30am, and a donation of \$10 is requested. The movie is "An American in Paris" - a whimsical and colourful musical from 1951. The story was written by Alan Jay Lerner, and directed by Vincente Minelli.



Gerry (Gene Kelly) is an American expatriate painter in post-WWII Paris. Struggling to find success in both art and love, his life is turned upside down when he meets and falls in love with Lise (Leslie Caron). This lavish musical won the Best Picture Oscar in 1951 with its straightforward story, gorgeous dance sequences, and beautiful, frequently melancholic Gershwin score.

### Alex McKinnon

*Many of us had been following the stellar career of locally born and oriented rugby league player, Alex McKinnon. We had noticed that he was used more frequently as a spokesman for the Knights. He was obviously well respected by the Knights. Alex took an active part in encouraging young Aberdeen players. Our football field*

*was named after his Grandfather, Mal. Despite his successful NRL career, Alex McKinnon always made it a priority to return to his home town of Aberdeen and support our young players.*

*We were devastated when we learned of his horrific on-field incident which left him with two broken vertebrae in*

*Round 3 of the 2014 NRL season. Our best wishes go out to Alex for as much recovery as his fit and healthy body can manage.*

*We are also thinking of all his family and friends who must be suffering because of this awful tragedy.*