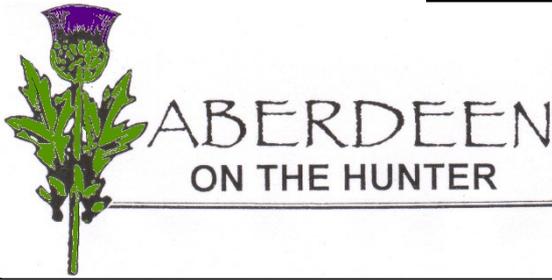


PLEASE PRINT ME OUT TO READ



UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM OF RURAL LIFE Inc.  
**NEWSLETTER**  
May, 2014

## It's May Already and We've Started to Light Our Fire!

### WHOSE DOG IS IT ANYWAY?

In 1840 Thomas Hall of Dartbrook, Aberdeen, saw the need for a special type of dog to assist in the management of stock, particularly cattle on the huge pastoral holdings throughout the Upper Hunter Region, where stock roamed wild and free on the large, unfenced stations being mustered only once or twice a year and imported two smooth-haired Northumberland Blue Merle Scottish Collies.

They were satisfactory cattle dogs, but had the undesirable traits of barking and heading. Thomas Hall bred their progeny with the Dingo, and produced dogs known as Hall's Heelers. These dogs were able to travel great distances, endure extremes of temperatures and handle wild cattle.



Hall continued his experimental breeding until 1870.

It is not known how many back crosses were made. They were either red in colour, or blue merle. They inherited the useful Dingo trait of creeping silently from behind, and biting or "heeling".

Immediately the dog nipped, it would flatten itself against the ground to avoid being kicked. It is recorded how Hall's Heelers were a marvel at working wild cattle. From the Dingo they inherited their stocky powerful body, the quick brown eyes, the insulation of a double coat of hair, the wedge shaped head with powerful snapping jaws, the heavy footpads, the potential to work long hours in extreme conditions, and the instinct to silently dart in from the rear to sharply nip the heels of stubborn beasts. From the Northumberland Drover's Dog came the intelligence and obedience needed for control, further heeling ability, plus the well recognised competence of that dog to faithfully guard its master's possessions.

Over time other Collie Dingo crosses were tried, however the Blue Heelers of Thomas Hall continue to dominate.

In 1997 Aberdeen Neighbourhood Watch approached the (then) Scone Shire Council with a suggestion that Aberdeen entry signs be changed to proclaim "Home of the Blue Heeler". The Council voted to defer consideration of the matter until the existing signs need to be repainted in up to 12 months time. Muswellbrook has now identified itself as "Blue Heeler Country" and has incorporated it in a logo on their letterhead.

### CHEERIO

*We would like to send a cheerio to Doug and Charlene Liddell who are experiencing some health issues at present. We miss you from our Movie Days and wish you all the best.*

*A balanced diet is a biscuit in each hand.*

President – Dianne Walmsley 6543 6269, Secretary – Jan Wild 6542 5168, Vice President – Carol Ray 6545 2761  
Treasurer – Jan Sumner 6543 7150,  
Newsletter Editor – 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)

## NEXT MOVIE

Our next movie and luncheon is on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2014. Doors open at the Aberdeen Sports and Recreation Club (formerly the Aberdeen Bowling Club) at 11.30am. A donation of \$10 is requested. Please book with Jan – 6543 7150 or Jan – 6542 5168.



The movie is 'Wherever She Goes'. It is a 1951 Australian feature film that tells the story of the early part of the life story of pianist Eileen Joyce. She was born in a tent in Tasmania in 1908 to a Spanish mother and an Irish father, and her parents moved the family to the Kalgoorlie goldfields. When she was 14 years old Percy Grainger heard her playing piano and called her 'the most transcendently gifted child' he had heard.

After 30 years of intensive concert schedules she retired from the concert stage in 1962; but her popularity led her to make one more appearance at the Royal Albert Hall in London in 1967. Eileen died in 1991 in England.



This movie is written, produced and directed by Michael Gordon, an English documentary maker. It stars Suzanne Parrett as young Eileen Joyce, Muriel Steinbeck as Mrs. Joyce, Nigel Lovell as Will Joyce and the last screen performance of Aberdeen's comedian George Wallace, who plays a stage manager. It was shot at Pagewood Studios in Sydney with some location filming in Kalgoorlie and the Huon Valley.

There are some scenes flashing forward to a grown up Eileen playing herself in a concert.

## LAST MONTH'S MOVIE

We apologise for the problems with last month's movie. We had tested this movie, and it worked, but the second time around it broke down, as you were aware. We hire the movies from the National Film and Sound Archives and have limited access as they are all aging. There will come a time when they won't even be available to us. Some of the old movies have been

re-recorded onto DVD, hence we sometimes have to resort to these. We do our best to hire the movies you like and hope to keep you entertained for a long time to come.

## NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the UHMRL will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 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.

## RAFFLE PRIZES

We really appreciate all the donations of raffle prizes you bring. It adds to the fun of our movie day.

## NEWSLETTERS

If you, or anyone you know, would like a Newsletter to be emailed to you each month, just send our editor an email (see bottom of front page) with the request – and it shall be done!

## 'ABERDEEN REMEMBERS' IN FACEBOOK

Have you found 'Aberdeen Remembers' yet in Facebook? It is a relatively new Facebook group and has taken off with lots

of interesting posts. If you are having trouble finding it, just have patience. You just type in 'Aberdeen Remembers' at the top of the Facebook page. Lots of entries will come up, so you just have to scroll down until you find it. I think that once you have found the appropriate page, it should come up automatically next time you ask!