



UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM of RURAL LIFE Inc
P.O. Box 140. Aberdeen, NSW, 2336.

NEWSLETTER

August, 2015

Gunnedah Bus Trip

The Upper Hunter Museums Network, Upper Hunter Shire Council & Arts Upper Hunter recently organised a trip to visit the Cumbo Gunerah Gallery and the Red Chief Museum where a significant collection of stone artefacts, carved trees, weapons and utensils are held.

[*Cumbo Gunerah* was a legendary warrior & wise leader of the *Gunn-e-dah* people of the *Gomerioi* (Kamilaroi) tribes in the late 1700's.]

Members of the UHMRL, Carol, Jan, Robert, Val and Dianne, joined the bus trip which also included a visit to the Gunnedah Rural Museum. A very interesting day was enjoyed by all.

Aberdeen Golden Oldies Luncheon & Movie

Tuesday, 8th September

~ **COSI** ~



Ben Mendelson

Toni Collette

Barry Otto

Rachel Griffiths

(DVD, colour, 98 minutes, [M])

Enjoy a 3 course meal - Doors open at 11.30 am

Bookings: **65437150 or 65425168**

FREE Oral History Workshop



Voices of the Hunter

Wednesday 26 August
9:30am - 1:30pm
Muswellbrook Library

Morning tea will be provided.

Contact Muswellbrook Library
(02) 6543 1913
by August 12th to register.
Places are limited.

Conducted by the
University of Newcastle Library,
with support from the Upper Hunter
Regional Library and in partnership
with the Coalfields Heritage Group,
and Coal & Allied.



Next meeting UHMRL -
Wednesday, 26th August at 4 pm
Aberdeen Library - All Welcome.

Next scanning afternoon for the
Aberdeen Local Study Group -
Friday, 28th August
2pm - 4.30pm at the Aberdeen Library.

To all our guests who last month missed out on seeing the advertised movie, "Cocoon", please accept my apologies. I wish to inform you that "Cocoon" has been rescheduled for showing at the luncheon on the 10th November.

*Thank you to all those who support our functions and generously
donate
to our monthly raffle.
Hope you all enjoy today's function.*

Story Board No. 2 – Thomas Potter Macqueen

Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc. raising funds to establish a Museum and Cultural Centre in Aberdeen.

www.aberdeenmuseum.org.au

Email: uhmrl@skymesh.com.au

Proudly supported by



THOMAS POTTER MACQUEEN

- A Man of Vision -

In 1823 Thomas Potter Macqueen, M.P. for Bedfordshire in England, obtained a promise for an initial grant of 10,000 acres of land in the colony of New South Wales.

Macqueen evolved an idea to develop the colony and advocated planned emigration as a solution to poverty of the labouring classes resulting from unemployment in Britain. He chartered two ships – the first emigrant ships to sail to the Australian colonies and on board was all that was needed to establish his new venture.

In April, 1825, Macqueen's ships arrived in the colony with Peter McIntyre as his Agent-In- Charge.

McIntyre was entrusted with the responsibility of selecting the land and establishing the property for Macqueen. McIntyre travelled through the Upper Hunter Valley with the Government Surveyor, Henry Dangar and selected 20,000 acres at the junction of the Pages and Hunter Rivers. The property was named Segenhoe after Macqueen's ancestral home near Bedford, England.

With the assistance of convict labour the land was cleared, buildings erected and the estate was soon established. Segenhoe Estate was like a small village and by 1827 flour was being produced from local grain at the horse-powered mill.

When Macqueen arrived in New South Wales in 1834 he saw his Segenhoe Estate, the prosperous agricultural property that he had envisaged many years before.

Known for his extravagances, it is said that when Macqueen arrived in the colony he brought with him a carved Italian marble bath. Over the years many have retold the



*Thomas Potter Macqueen Esq -
Cultural Collections, University of Newcastle.*

tale of his eccentric mistress and of her habit of bathing in warm cow's milk. It is also said that when she had finished with her bath the milk was distributed to the convict labourers on the property.

As Segenhoe had now become one of the most important centres of rural activity in the colony, Macqueen saw the advantage of having a village on its borders. He petitioned the Governor to lay out a village at the Segenhoe ford and adjacent to where his new sandstone building was under construction.

Macqueen recommended that the village be called Aberdeen in honour of his friend George Gordon, 4th Earl of Aberdeen and in 1838 the Village of Aberdeen was gazetted.

