



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

NEWSLETTER December, 2015

The UHMRL Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, 25th November, at the Aberdeen Library. All positions were declared vacant and Carol Ray was re-elected to the position of President, Dianne Walmsley is the Vice-President and Jan Wild will continue in the position of Secretary for the coming year. Congratulation to All. The position of Treasurer and Public Officer remain unfilled and it hoped that this will soon be rectified. The group is also looking for someone who might be interested in the "job" of selecting, booking and promoting our monthly movies.

A big thank you must go to all those who held executive positions and to all those who have volunteered with the group throughout the past year.

The biggest thank you must go to all those who regularly support our monthly functions and continually support us throughout the year.

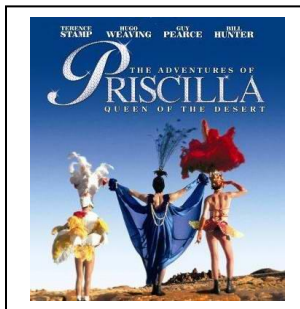


**A Very Merry Christmas
and Best Wishes to Everyone.**



Aberdeen Golden Oldies
Tuesday, 9th February, 2016

The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert



Starring Terence Stamp, Hugo Weaving,
Guy Pearce & Bill Hunter

(DVD, **Colour**, 1994, 103 minutes, [M])

Enjoy a 3 course meal - Doors open at 11.30am

Bookings: **Jan Wild 65 425 168**

Please note that we will not be taking any
advanced bookings for the February
luncheon and movie.

Next Meeting UHMRL
Wednesday, 20th January , 2016 at 4.30 pm
Aberdeen Library - New members and
volunteers always welcome.

Next scanning afternoon for the
Aberdeen Local Study Group
Friday, 29th January, 2016
2pm - 4.30pm at the Aberdeen Library.

Although the collection of The Aberdeen Local Studies Group is only in the preliminary stages, copies of the images housed at the library will be made available at the scanning afternoons to anyone interested in viewing them and recalling the "good old days".

A digital voice recorder has been purchased by the group and the collection of oral histories will begin in the New Year.

Story Board N^o. 6 - M.C Mackenzie

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



M. C. MACKENZIE

- Colonial Businessman -



M.C. Mackenzie & Sons Ltd. Stores, Aberdeen - Post Card circa 1905

In 1863 a young and adventurous Scottish draper, Murdo Cameron Mackenzie, arrived in the little village of Aberdeen and opened his first store in the front room of Segenhoe House for the rent of six pence per week.

Mackenzie's business grew and by 1870 he had moved to premises on the western side of the Main Road and a central position south of the newly established "Australian Inn". With hard work and initiative Mackenzie's Store prospered and it became the principal one in the district.

In 1895 erection of an impressive new store began for M.C. Mackenzie and Sons opposite his old wooden store and on the other side of the Main Road. This building was a large square brick building with one front door and two large display windows. There was no ceiling, just exposed beams and rafters. The office was at the back and there was a large produce depot next door. The sign across the front reads "M.C. Mackenzie & Sons Ltd Stores" - "Merchants" and "Imports".

A kind and generous man, Mackenzie played an important part in the development of Aberdeen. He was a Justice of the Peace, Chairman of the Recreation Ground and Town Common, a member of the Presbyterian Church and the Local Public School committees.

In 1895 Murdo Cameron Mackenzie became the first Mayor of the newly established Municipality of Aberdeen.

Murdo Mackenzie died in 1908 at the age of 70 years and his store in Aberdeen was sold to the M. Campbell and Company of Muswellbrook in 1913. Work soon began with the construction of a second building adjacent to the store. Mackenzie's store was doubled in size and the new façade that you see today was constructed.

A previous owner of the old store tells us that Mackenzie's ghost still inhabits the old building and always ensures that children are looked after.

