



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

## **NEWSLETTER**

June, 2015

### **Thank you and Goodbye!**

When John Scriven departed this life in May, 2011, he entrusted his much loved projector into the care and operation of his long time friend Tom Holder. Tom has carried out this task for our museum group willingly and professionally since then. We sincerely thank him for his generous contribution to our movie days, also with our much loved raffles and the public address system. Kath Holder has manned the door for us many times, assisted with raffles and functions from time to time and again our committee is very much appreciative of this help.

Very soon Tom and Kath will be leaving our district, bound for Forster - we will always remember their great contribution. Our committee wishes them every success in their new venture and may their future be filled with health, wealth and happiness.

Arts Upper Hunter always support our function by promoting our luncheons and movie days in their magazine, "artsbark".

They have requested that we promote the TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL'S Newcastle program at the Tower Cinemas 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June.

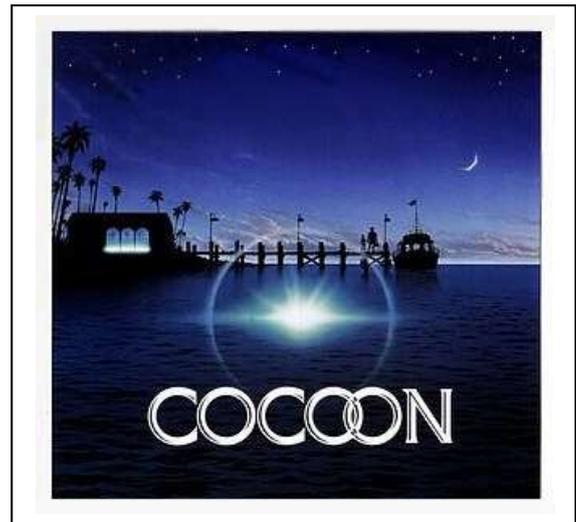
### **- WANTED -**

The UHMRL, like all community run groups in country towns, is on the hunt for volunteers.

With the departure of Tom we are now looking for someone who can assist the group by hanging our curtains & black-out screens.

Do you know anyone who may be able to assist us? must be able to climb ladders!

### **Aberdeen Golden Oldies Luncheon & Movie** **Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July** **~ COCOON ~**



**A Si-Fi fantasy / comedy**  
**with a cast of veteran actors.**  
(DVD, Colour, !985, 117 minutes)

Enjoy a 3 course meal - Doors open at 11.30 am  
Bookings: **65437150 or 65425168**

**Next meeting UHMRL - 24<sup>th</sup> June at 4 pm**  
**Aberdeen Library - All Welcome.**

**Next scanning afternoon for the**  
**Aberdeen Local Study Group - 26<sup>th</sup> June**  
**2pm - 4.30pm at the Aberdeen Library**

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

Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc. raising funds to establish a Museum and Cultural Centre in Aberdeen.  
[www.aberdeenmuseum.org.au](http://www.aberdeenmuseum.org.au)

Proudly supported by



## **Frederic Arthur Day - 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1921 – 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2015 - A True Blue Australian**

Fred was a farmer's son, one of 14 children, born to Ethel May Dwyer and Wilde Abercrombie Day. The Day family worked on farms around the Pokolbin, Luskintyre and Greta areas. Fred's father was the first of the Day family to come to the Upper Hunter. Fred was born in Muswellbrook and attended Dartbrook school from 1927 to 1935. He drove a horse and sulky to school and home each day.

To make pocket money he collected pelts from rabbits, hares and foxes. A great bonus was snake skin which was worth good money. After rain, he would pick mushrooms and sell them door to door for 1d per pound. During the depression the Day family worked on the land so they had their own fruit, vegetables, milk, butter and meat. Fred can remember his mother making jams and pickles for the family.

Fred left home in January 1941 to stay with his sister Birdie at Stockton where he found work at Stewarts & Lloyds in Mayfield. October 1941 he was called up for war service - Fred chose to learn carpentry and joinery as an army trade.

He married Violet Emily Hinton on 23rd January 1943 at Penrith.

In 1945 he served on Tarakan Island. Whilst in Borneo, Fred made the decision to make a home in Aberdeen as it was a food producing area, so on discharge from the army he and Vi moved to Aberdeen. On their arrival at Aberdeen, they rented a house for ten shillings a week, before making their home at 30 Macqueen Street, which remained Fred's permanent home. They adopted two children, Robert (1951) and Janet (1955).

Fred acquired work at Aberdeen Meatworks earning £5-8-0 (five pounds, eight shillings) before tax, taking home £4-19-9 (four pounds nineteen shillings and nine pence.) He worked here from 2nd January 1946 to 28th August 1986, becoming a leading hand.

Violet passed away in April 1970.

Much of Fred's pleasure came from work, gardening, family and home renovations.

Several years later Fred met and married Joy Robbs, who bought her two daughters into their care. Fred and Joy adopted a son Norman.

Cupboards were always kept full and if the family hit a rough patch, at least they could get through using what was stocked up. Fred believed that the answer to all of the worlds' problems is: an honest day's work for a fair day's pay. After retirement Fred cared for Aberdeen cemetery for 14 years, Scone cemetery for 9 years and worked for various land owners and family.

At age 70 he underwent open heart surgery for four by-passes at RPA Hospital in Sydney.

His second wife Joy passed away in February 1999. Fred gave credit to his two wives and his mother's influence on his life, in getting to the position he achieved in his lifetime.

Fred hoped families learn to cherish any historical or family memorabilia they may have and use it to learn of the hardships and happiness in all family life. He believed it helps us all appreciate what was endured to preserve a path for our life to follow.

Taken from a submission by Denise Bell and Rhonda Nash that was collated with Mr. Day before his death to reminisce his life. Published in the Scone Advocate.

JW

The Fred Day I knew was a bit of a collector – a bower bird by nature. With an interest in local history he saw the need for the preservation of the past.

When Aberdeen's Municipal Hall, on the corner of the highway and Moray was demolished by the council in 1981, Fred saw the old memorial stones that had been laid at the entrance of the hall being taken to the dump. He purchased these two stone and held on to them for some cause in the future.

In 2010 Fred donated the two engraved stones to the community of Aberdeen and John Scriven (UHMRL President) arranged to have them mounted within old sandstone blocks and re-laid in front of the Aberdeen Library, near to where they originally stood. (John organised for a flag pole and Roy Staddon donated the large 12 foot Australian flag to be flown there.)

Without Fred's forethought these memorial stones would have been lost forever.

[The Memorial Hall was built on the site of the School of Arts building after it burnt down in 1925.]



**ABERDEEN  
SCHOOL OF ARTS  
AND  
WAR MEMORIAL HALL**  
THIS STONE WAS LAID BY  
**R.G.D. FITZGERALD  
M.L.C.**  
**AUGUST 28, 1926**

**ABERDEEN  
SCHOOL OF ARTS**  
ORIGINAL FOUNDATION STONE  
LAID BY  
**THOMAS COOK ESQ.**  
**JUNE 1893**

