



**UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM of RURAL LIFE Inc**

P.O. Box 140. Aberdeen, NSW, 2336.

## **NEWSLETTER**

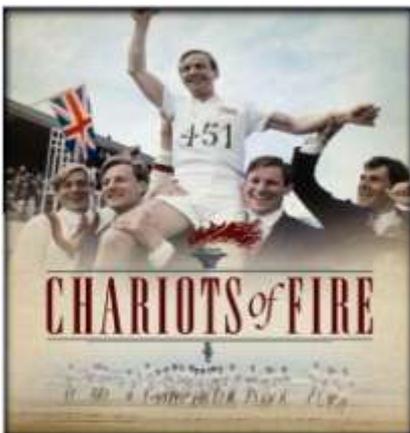
August 2016



Some of the hard workers of the Local Studies Group meet with Michael Johnsen, State Member

The U.H.M.R.L workers and the Local Studies Group are continuing to work for Aberdeen. The monthly Luncheon and Golden Oldie movie is continuing with the help of local volunteers. The story board project will see more story boards around the town soon. Have you seen the ones in Taylor Park? The L.S. Group has an interesting afternoon each month when they collect photos and talk about 'the good old days'. If anyone has anything they would like to contribute, talk to one of the volunteers. Winter is almost over and Spring is just around the corner and with all the recent rain it should be a lush green one. Keep warm until the sunny weather arrives and enjoy the movie.

Aberdeen Golden Oldies  
Tuesday 13th September 2016  
**'Chariots of Fire'**



**Bookings: Daphne 6543 8356 or  
Jan 6543 7150**

### **Next Meeting UHMRL**

**Wednesday, 24th August, 2016  
4pm at Aberdeen Library.**

**New members and volunteers always  
welcome.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Next scanning afternoon for the  
Aberdeen Local Study Group  
Friday, 26th August, 2016  
2pm - 4.30pm at Aberdeen Library.**

We will be there to scan your photos or you can have a look through the collection of Aberdeen memories we have collected so far.

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)

Email: [uhmrl@skymesh.com.au](mailto:uhmrl@skymesh.com.au)

*Proudly supported by*



## Old Aberdeen.

### THE HECTIC DAYS OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS SINCE.

JACK GARDINER'S GREAT STRENGTH.  
(By William Bridge in the "Scone Advocate.")

Apart from the hotel gentry, the members of the Gardiner family were big men in the early days of Aberdeen. Endowed with the strength of Hercules, and built on the lines of Anak, their association with the then struggling township before the days of subdivision of land and industry, makes interesting reading. Mr. W. I. Gardiner, the senior of several brothers, conducted a general store in the Segenhoe Hotel premises, where 67 years ago he competed in the grog trade. Conjointly with his business, he managed the only butchery, and was helped on the road to prosperity by brothers John and James. The former of the two brothers was responsible for placing Aberdeen on the map in no mistaken manner, his phenomenal strength being lipped from one end of the colony to the other, and his appearance generally attracted an interested crowd.

Carrier, horseman and versatile bushman, the feat of which he is best remembered was the carrying of his pony through the old toll-bar near Sandy Creek. The toll in respect of loose stock was one-penny, horses in harness or saddle two-pence. On this particular day, Jack accosted the toll keeper thus: "Nothing to carry, a parcel through!" "Nothing," replied the unsuspecting toll-keeper, who could hardly believe his own eyes when the young fellow, standing square under his mount, shouldered it and marched through, and then returned still bearing his burden. The bar was subsequently shifted to the northern end of Muswellbrook, where it remained until the toll system was abolished. A lift of eight hundred-weight was seemingly exercise for his muscular limbs, and more than once he successfully essayed to lift a prime steer. To see him load his brother's waggon with some 30 bags of wheat (often 4 to 4½ bushels to the bag) and then repeat the performance when giving his own conveyance attention, caused wonderment. A man of medium build, Jack Gardiner turned the scales at 12st. 71bs.

James Gardiner was an intrepid horseman and figured in incidents which set the residents singing his praises. It was he who swam his horse into the turbulent Hunter, and passing a rope around Mr. W. Madden, senr., who had been washed from his mount, swam back and passed the rope on to friends on the bank. When hauled to land, Mr. Madden was in an exhausted condition, but soon recovered. About the same time, two young men named Livingstone and Asser, the latter a brother of the late Mr. N. F. Asser, got into difficulties in the same stream. The same rescuer succeeded in getting the former out, but his mate was drowned. Another victim claimed by the torrid waters of the Hunter was Mr. S. Dunbar, who entered the river with Mr. John Newman, who is still on deck in his 88th year in Scone. Remarkable though it may seem, when the former, who was a good swimmer, disappeared, his mate grabbed at his horse's tail - both had been washed off - and clinging to it, got ashore safely. Livingstone was a shepherd, and when rescued, came to land hanging to the horse ridden by Gardiner. The same horse was the hero of quite a number of wonderful swims. A flock of sheep being tended by Livingstone were marooned by the rising waters, and all perished.

One of the first, if not actually the first, premises run up in the locality, was a flour mill erected by Mr. Potter McQueen, the grantee of Segenhoe. Now probably a hundred years old, it was occupied by John Morrison 65 years ago, and was then turning out an excellent flour. After functioning for many years, it was converted into a cordial factory under the proprietorship of one Hopkins, and in turn a bakery was established within its precincts by the progenitor of the Schroter family of 1927. A son, Mr. Albert Schroter, following in the footsteps of his father, donned the cap and apron. Hence from a flour mill in the misty days of the early twenties of last century, it is today turning out the finished article, the staff of life, for the populace of the town.

Printed in the Muswellbrook Chronicle  
Friday, 15 July, 1927

<http://trove.nla.gov.au>