

**UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM of RURAL LIFE Inc
(& Aberdeen Local Studies Group)**

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

**NEWSLETTER
December, 2016**

Abercairney Terrace - MEMORIAL GROVE

In November, 2006 The Aberdeen and District Group of Gardeners, with the assistance of students from the Aberdeen Public School, planted rows of trees along Abercairney Terrace.

As this grove was planted as a memorial to honour all those who have served in all wars, the UHMRL have recently purchased a sign board.

The council has erected the sign for us and we hope that this grove of trees will hold some significance in Aberdeen. The trees have matured and the row of Jacarandas look particularly showy at this time of year.



“Abercairney Terrace MEMORIAL GROVE
In Remembrance of those who served in all wars.”

By now most of the Aberdeen locals have already seen the Christmas display installed beside the highway just south of the town.



Thank you to Peter Day and his helpers.

UHMRL - Annual General Meeting

At the meeting held last month the following committee was elected:

President Carol Ray
Vice President Michael Carey
Secretary Jan Wild

Congratulations to the new committee members!

The positions of Treasurer and Public Officer are yet to be filled.

Next meeting UHMRL - **Wednesday,
25th January at 4 pm**

Aberdeen Library .

New member & volunteers always welcome.

First scanning afternoon for 2017
Aberdeen Local Study Group -

Friday, 27th January

2pm - 4.30pm at the Aberdeen Library.

Next Luncheon & Movie

Tuesday, 14th February, 2017

“ A Date With Judy”

Jane
Powell



Elizabeth
Taylor

Musical Comedy - Colour, 113 min, 1948, [G]

Bookings: Daphne 65 438 356

Please note that advanced bookings will not be taken at this time for the February luncheon.

 *Merry Christmas* 

Thank you for your generosity and support throughout the years.

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



GEORGE WALLACE (1895-1960)

On 4th June, 1895, George Stephenson Wallace was born one wild and stormy night in a tent in Aberdeen, NSW. At the time of his birth, his father was an out-of-work comedian known as George "Bronco" Wallace, had taken employment at the meatworks.

By the age of three years young George Wallace appeared as a pirate in the minstrel shows and on stage with his parents in their song-and-dance act. Following his parent's divorce he was often seen as a juvenile busker on the Pyrmont waterfront.

At the age of thirteen he went cane-cutting in northern Queensland but performing soon called him back to the stage. After an unpaid trial as an acrobatic clog dancer George joined a travelling troupe at the age of sixteen years - singing, dancing, playing the piano and cracking jokes in halls and shearing sheds across the outback.

In 1919 George Wallace teamed up with Jack Paterson as "Dinks and Onkus, The Two Drunks", a knockabout comedy act playing to full houses.

With his love of comedy, George headed for the bright lights of Sydney and a career in vaudeville theatre. Making his debut at the Tivoli Theatre in 1929 "with an atmosphere of old-fashioned extravaganza a dash of modern revue, the dancing of musical comedy and a suggestion of plot, George Wallace provides good entertainment".

A witty song and revue sketch writer, George was described as "small and tubby, with google eyes, mobile expression and a croaking voice." Baggy trousers precariously hitched at half-mast beneath a protruding stomach, a checked shirt and a battered felt hat were his trade mark. He had the audiences rolling in the isles. Astonishingly agile, he was a scally-wag with an earthy sense of humour. "Irresistibly funny without ever descending to the vulgar".

George travelled throughout Australia, New Zealand and toured the United Kingdom. Hailed as one of the greatest comedians of his time, George was not only a painter, a musician, a composer and a skilled tap-dancer, he wrote his own comedy skits as well as the scripts for radio shows and movies he performed in. George wrote several top selling songs, including the war-time hit, "A Brown Slouch Hat".

George introduced characters such as Stanley the Bull, The Drongo from the Congo and the so-refined bus conductress, Sophie the Sort.

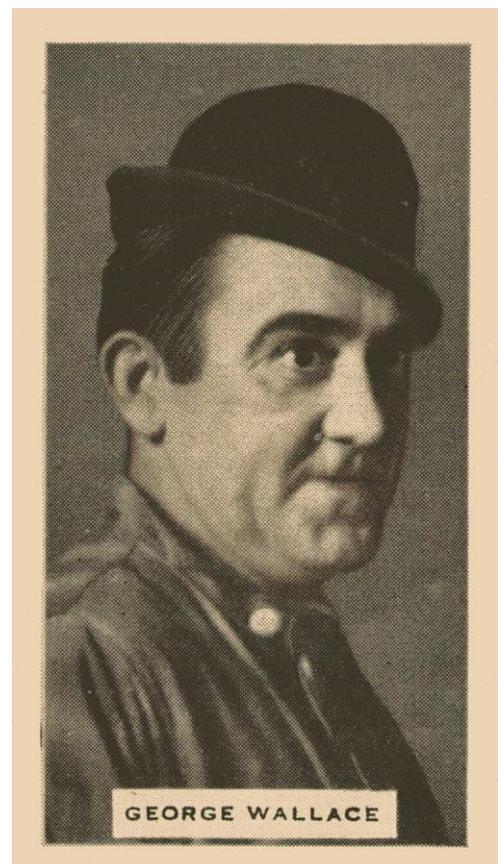
George wrote several hit songs including the war time favourite, "A Brown Slouch Hat" in 1942.

Following several short films such as "The Dance of the Wounded Wombat with the famous Russian dancer, Palmolive" George made five full length films:

- 1932 His Royal Highness
- 1933 Harmony Row
- 1934 Ticket In Tatts
- 1938 Let George Do It
- 1939 Gone To The Dogs

"His Royal Highness" was Australia's first feature musical movie.

"Gone To the Dogs" was partly filmed at Wells Gully, near Aberdeen and had its world premier at the Aberdeen Talkies in 1939.



GEORGE WALLACE - Cigarette Card circa 1930's

In 1944 George appeared with Chips Rafferty and Peter Finch in "The Rats of Tobruk" and in the 1951 movie "Wherever She Goes".

Something of a loner, George made felt dolls for charity. Passionately fond of animals, particularly horses, he had a chicken farm at Rooty Hill. George lived his later years in semi-retirement. He died on 19th October, 1960.

George Wallace was an important influential comedian whose comic persona was unashamedly Australian he was called the finest comedian Australia ever produced. [JS]