



UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM of RURAL LIFE Inc

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

## NEWSLETTER

May, 2016

### Aberdeen's Quilt Affair.

On Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, Liz Birch conducted a very successful display of magnificent quilts and a market day in Aberdeen. The array of quilts were inspirational and hopefully there will be even more on display next year as we try our hand at quilting too.

The UHMRL conducted a Mother's Day Raffle on the day as well as a display of photographs from the Local Studies Group's Collection. Thank you Liz for this opportunity.

The winners of the Mother's Day Raffle:

1 <sup>st</sup> - Robyn Lawson [ Purple B 11 ]	2 <sup>nd</sup> - Bev Pittman [ Purple C 29 ]
3 <sup>rd</sup> - Helen Hartin [ Purple C 51 ]	4 <sup>th</sup> - Denise Bell [ Red B 73 ]

*Thank you to all those who regularly support our fund raising and functions.*

### - WANTED -

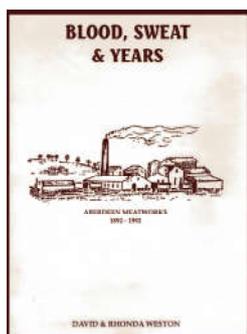
Local History reference books required for the  
Aberdeen Local Studies Group

#### "Blood, Sweat & Years"

Aberdeen Meatworks

1892 - 1992

compiled by David & Rhonda Weston



Next Luncheon & Movie

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June**

**" Singin' in the Rain "**



DVD, Colour, 102 min, [G]

Bookings: Ruth 65437872 or Daphne 65438356

The picnic day planned at Lake Glenbawn to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of Hunter Valley Museum of Rural Life has been cancelled.

Contact Mr. Mark Reedman at Arts Upper Hunter to make inquiries regarding the future of the museum and the collection of artefacts.

Next meeting UHMRL -  
Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May at 4 pm  
Aberdeen Library .  
New member & volunteers always welcome.

Next scanning afternoon for the  
Aberdeen Local Study Group -  
Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> May  
2pm - 4.30pm at the Aberdeen Library.

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)

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## The Post Office in Aberdeen

In the early years the mail for Aberdeen and Blairmore was left with Mr. William I. Gardner, publican at the Aberdeen Inn (Segenhoe Hotel).

By 1856 a request to the Post Master General was approved and the first Post Office in Aberdeen was opened at the inn with Mr. Gardner as the Post Master. In these days a haven was cut into the bank to ferry mail across the river in times of flood. In 1858 the application to renew the license was opposed on the grounds that Mr Gardner could not be a licensee and Post Master. Gardner's mother-in-law, Eliza Mitchell, took over and continued to operate the Post Office from the inn. In 1859 Gardner abandoned the license for the inn and it became a private home. The Post Office closed and Aberdeen was without one for over a year.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1861, the Post Office re-opened across the Hunter River on a site just north of the ford, with Mrs Jessie MacKay as Post Mistress.

By June, 1862 the Post Office had returned to the town area. James Turnnell, a blacksmith, carpenter and pound-keeper, took over and conducted the Post Office in a bark hut alongside his smithy which appears to have been located in Segenhoe Street between Graeme and Bedford Streets.

In April 1864 Thomas Patterson, Schoolmaster of the National School, was made Post Master and moved the office to what was described as a substantial building, well shingled, adjoining the National School and the Scotch Church, being still in Segenhoe Street but now between Graeme and Moray Streets. Although Patterson was dismissed as a teacher in the following year he continued as Post Master.

In 1872 the Police Station closed the watch-house became the Post Office. In later years Patterson was assisted by his grandson, Arthur Smith.

In December, 1886, Arthur Smith was appointed as Post Master at Aberdeen.

Maitland Mercury, Saturday, October 19, 1889

We notice our local Post Office is undergoing repairs and enlargement in its

staff of officers, having now a male assistant, extra rooms are also (we are informed) to be put to the building, besides a verandah. This will make a great improvement to the appearance of the building, which previously was used for a gaol or lockup, and wants something to take away the bare appearance. We hear our bachelor postmaster is going to be philanthropic enough to do all this at his own expenses if the Government won't – which is questionable. The increased accommodation and assistance is evidently required or we presume our local P.M. would not incur the expense, risking the off chance of getting recouped from Government, and perhaps is necessitated by extra business, or as Mrs Cundy and Miss Rumour have it that different branches of the Civil Service are to be amalgamated and form a beneficent department, this of course we cannot vouch for.

By 1890 Aberdeen was made an Official Post Office and combined with the Telegraph Office which had formerly been at Koolbury rail siding.

When the police department resumed the site to build a new police station, Mr. Mackenzie, a local store keeper erected a building for use as a post office on the southern end of land, opposite his private house and about 200 yards north of the watch-house. (That puts it about where Barton's Newsagency stands today.)

The present Post Office on the corner of Moray and Segenhoe Streets was completed in June, 1900, at a cost of £535. Arthur Smith continued as Aberdeen's Post Master for another 15 years.



[ Post Card - M.C.Mackenzie & Sons Ltd. ]