



UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM of RURAL LIFE Inc
& ABERDEEN LOCAL STUDIES GROUP
P.O. Box 140. Aberdeen, NSW, 2336.

NEWSLETTER - September, 2017

History Week at the Library

On Tuesday, September 5th, the Aberdeen Library participated in their annual History Week. This year the theme was "Popular Culture" and Mr. Kevin Taylor was invited to talk to all the interested local about his memories of the past. Morning tea was provided and we were all very interested in Kevin's stories.

Over the past years Kevin has put together his own collection of local photographs and has now begun to put pen to paper and has started to write down many of his memories from his childhood, his youth, his working life and anything else that he took an interest in.

Kevin has written of Aberdeen and all the changes that have occurred in the town throughout the years. Not only has he recollected on many past happenings in Aberdeen but also on world events that played a significant part in his life.

Kevin then went about typing up his stories on the computer and forming them into booklets, complete with photographs, that he can now share with us.

Kevin's stories led to everyone at the morning tea contributing their memories and an interesting general discussion followed.

As we are concerned with the preservation of history in every form, we hope that Kevin's efforts set an example and others are encouraged to do the same and record their lives and memories.

Thank you Kevin, you are an inspiration to us all !

Aberdeen Golden Oldies
Tuesday, 10th October, 2017

"On The Town"



Starring Gene Kelly & Fred Astaire
Bookings: Daphne 65 438 356

Next Meeting UHMRL

Wednesday, 27th September, 2017
4.30pm at Aberdeen Library.

New members and volunteers
are always welcome.

Next scanning afternoon for the
Aberdeen Local Study Group

Friday, 29th August, 2017
2pm - 4pm 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

Email: uhmrl@skymesh.com.au

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Aberdeen's First Hotel

In 1837 Segenhoe's convicts assisted in the construction of a large and impressive sandstone building on the boundary of the estate along the Old North Road.

In April, 1839, the building was licensed by Ralph G. Martin and called the "Aberdeen Inn".

By 1840 Phillip W. Wright was farming part of Segenhoe land and he had taken over the flour mill and the inn. The inn now known as the "Bullock Driver's Arms".

About 1854 William G. Gardner acquired the inn and rename the hotel the "Segenhoe Inn". Gardner also ran the first post office and a store with the first butcher shop nearby. In the 1860's the inn became the Gardner family's residence and now known as "Segenhoe House".



Segenhoe Hotel – National Archives of Australia

By the end of the century the building was in disrepair. Gardner renovated the old building and with the coming of the meatworks the new "Segenhoe Hotel" opened in 1891.

For many years the Segenhoe Hotel was a landmark on the Old North Road, the centre of social life and a haven for the traveller.

The 1980's saw the hotel finally closed, bringing to an end to one of the oldest licensed establishments in the area.

The Australian Inn

During the early 1840's John Cundy, a blacksmith by trade, operated his business near the Segenhoe Inn but by 1847 he was selling liquor in a boarding house near Timor.

When Cundy returned to Aberdeen and in 1853 he purchased land along Fisher Street, near the Main North Road and opposite the Segenhoe Inn.

By 1855 construction of Cundy's "Australian Inn" had begun. Built of locally made bricks, the two storeyed building had a shingled roof and wide verandas on three sides.



The Australian Inn – circa 1890

Early maps show that at some time it appears to have operated as "The Australian Arms".

After John Cundy's death in 1876 the inn was operated by family members and a series of owners until it was delicensed by 1903.

In 1910 Mr. W.R.D. Stephens bought the Commercial Hotel at Moonan Brook and transferred the licence to the hotel at Aberdeen. He saw the growth in the Aberdeen Meatworks and the improving prospects for the town, so with a number of improvements he re-opened as the new "Commercial Hotel".

Further changes were made over the years and today the modern façade of the art deco styled "Commercial Hotel" surrounds John Cundy's historic old "Australian Inn".

The Aberdeen Hotel

Charles Edward Peachey arrived in Aberdeen about 1892 and became a licensee of "The Australian Inn".

With the expansion of the meatworks the town was now thriving. Peachey was an enterprising businessman and by 1900 construction of the town's third hotel, "The Aberdeen Hotel", had begun. With the new hotel's close proximity to the railway station Peachey was sure that his new hotel would soon become the leading hotel in town. Described as a double storey building of fine brick it was a most modern building with acetylene gas installed for the lighting of the rooms.



Aberdeen Hotel - Peachey's Hotel - Newcastle City Council Library

In September, 1913, disaster struck when the hotel was completely gutted by fire and nothing but the bare walls of the main building remained as the flames burnt from the top down to the ground floor. Old photographs show the different brick colours that were used after the reconstruction of the building.

Known by the locals as "The Top Pub" the hotel was centre of social gatherings in the early years of Aberdeen's history.

Mr. Peachey was a leading citizen of the community and served two terms as Mayor of the Municipality of Aberdeen. Following his death in 1919, his family held the freehold to the hotel for another 72 years. [JS]