



UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM of RURAL LIFE Inc

P O Box 140 Aberdeen NSW 2336

NEWSLETTER

April 2018

**Your membership is important to us.
If you have not paid for 2018 please do so soon.**

The warm days are hanging on but with some mornings quite cool and the gardens looking happier that summer has gone we can look forward to some nice days before it turns cold.

N.S.W. Senior's Festival continues until Sunday so find out what is on close to you and try to catch some of the events.

With Anzac Day coming up later this month and marking 100 year since Australia's involvement in the First World War, this Anzac Day will be an important one so do go, if you are able, to the March or other events on the day.

Our next movie will be shown during Scone's Horse Festive so has a horsey theme. You may have seen it but a nice romance, some fast action and the beautiful scenery of the Australian Snowy Mountains makes the Man from Snowy River well worth watching again.

The information on the Municipality of Aberdeen on the reverse of this sheet is an example of some of the information that the Local Studies Group collects and they also are looking for any old photos of Aberdeen. If you have any old photos or would like to have a look through what they have collected so far come to the Library on Friday 27th April 2pm until 4.30pm for a look.

Luncheon & Movie



Tuesday 8th May 11.30am
For lunch \$10 donation
Bookings Daphne 65438356

Next Meeting UHMRL

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

4.30pm at Aberdeen Library

**No meeting in April due to Anzac Day
New members and volunteers always
welcome.**

**Scanning afternoon for the
local history collection of the
Aberdeen Local Studies Group
Friday 27th April 2018
2pm - 4.30pm at Aberdeen Library.**

Come along and look through our photo
collection of Aberdeen's memories or see the
display in our showcase in the Library

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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THE MUNICIPALITY OF ABERDEEN

1894 – 1937

From the earliest days of a colonial village, Aberdeen steadily developed, just like many other small towns of the time. By the middle of the nineteenth century the village of Aberdeen had a population of about 100 persons living here.

With the arrival of the railway in 1870 and the establishment of the meatworks in 1891 by the Australian Chilling and Freezing Company, there came an influx of workers and a rapid increase in Aberdeen's population.

In 1894 a petition of 876 signatures was forwarded to the Governor of New South Wales proposing the establishment of the Municipality of Aberdeen.

The new Municipality of Aberdeen was proclaimed on December 18th, 1894 and the first election of six aldermen followed in February, 1895, with local businessman, Murdo Cameron Mackenzie elected as the first Mayor of Aberdeen.

Meetings of the Aberdeen Municipal Council were held at the School of Arts Hall on the corner of the Main Road and Moray Street.

The duties of the new council included the collection of rates. The major expenditure being on the upkeep and management of Aberdeen's public roads and streets.

Council by-laws covered such matters as the "regulation and licensing of public vehicles and the suppression of nuisance, and for the general good rule and government of the Municipality".

"All water carts and owners of vehicles plying for hire shall be licensed by the council....."

"Any person who shall cart or throw....upon any carriage-way or footway, any soap suds, slops or refuse water or any refuse vegetables shall pay a penalty

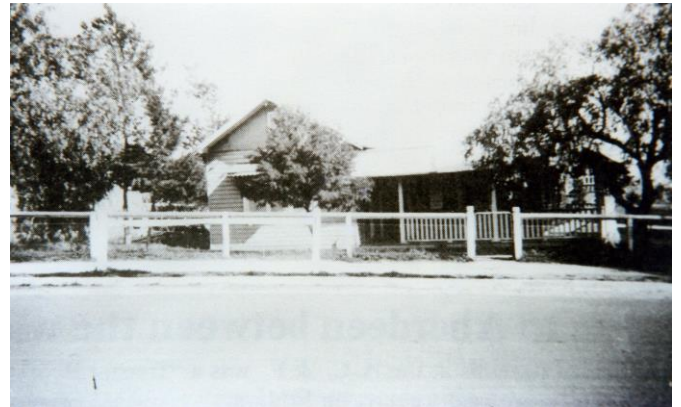
"Any person who shall ride or drive around the corners of any street within the Municipal Council at a pace faster than a walk shall on conviction forfeit and pay a sum

The Council also had the power "to impound all animals of every description found straying within the Municipal District" or "to impose a penalty for allowing Bathurst burr or Scotch thistle to grow on your land."

The Aberdeen Municipal Council regulated the use of the Aberdeen Recreation Reserve where throughout the years they have been the home to many sporting groups such as football, cricket and hockey. A swimming club used the river nearby.

The Aberdeen Amateur Racing Club held its first meeting in November, 1898 and the Aberdeen Municipal Golf Links were in operation by 1930.

In July, 1925 Aberdeen officially opened their own Municipal Council Chambers near the site of the old School of Arts building that had recently burnt down.



The Aberdeen Municipal Council Building

In 1927 a decision was made to provide the village of Aberdeen with both electricity and a town water supply. By the end of 1929 the Electric Light Company of Scone was supplying power for electric lights in the Council Chambers and for several street lights.

The School of Arts Building was replaced with a new Memorial Hall in 1927.

In 1929 the Aberdeen Municipal Council under-took the tar sealing of the Main road.

The Depression of the 1930's severely affected the Aberdeen Meatworks – the major employer in the town. The council had the responsibility of looking after the town's unemployed. To assist in these times, the council made grant applications to employ the men on a road repair scheme.

For many years the government had tried to force the council's amalgamation with either Scone or Muswellbrook.

At a final meeting on 6th October, 1937, the Aberdeen Municipality ceased to exist and the town became part of the Scone Shire Council.

Although a well shaft was begun in 1936 it was not until 1939 before pumps were installed and Aberdeen's water supply was officially turned on.

(It was not until 1981 that The Scone Shire Council eventually connected properties in Aberdeen to a town sewerage system.) [JS]