



UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM of RURAL LIFE Inc

P O Box 140 Aberdeen NSW 2336

NEWSLETTER

June 2018

Well it is really winter now and hopefully you have had a little rain. A good time to watch a movie, do some craft or read a good book. In winter I do some more family research. Did the questions about our mothers on last months newsletter get you thinking or passing on some of your life stories to the younger members of your family? We have received quite a few completed sheets, if you haven't brought yours back you can still do so next movie day. We will have some similar questions around Father's Day so get some of those funny stories ready.

Now that about half the year has gone by we would like to thank all our volunteers and helpers that put our movie days together, the helpful people who have brought photos and other items of interest in for our collection on Scanning Days. We are grateful for the support from the community and especially the Aberdeen Library, the staff there are ready to help and they are a great source of local knowledge.

Luncheon & Movie



Tuesday 10th July 11.30am
For lunch \$10 donation
Bookings Daphne 65438356
by Friday if possible.

Next Meeting UHMRL

Wednesday 27th June 2018
4.30pm at Aberdeen Library.

New members and volunteers always welcome.

Scanning afternoon for the local history collection of the Aberdeen Local Studies Group

Friday 29th June 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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ABERDEEN CHURCHES

St. Mark's Anglican Church

The first religious service at Aberdeen was celebrated by Rev. Stack, Rector of West Maitland, who after his appointment to the parish in 1838, conducted quarterly services throughout the Upper Hunter. In 1838 the only building in the village was the horse powered mill. It was almost certain that church services were held at the mill until the opening of the Aberdeen Inn (Segenhoe Inn) in April, 1839.

In the 1840's Aberdeen was described as having an inn and a steam mill under construction. Several tradesmen were about to establish themselves and it was proposed to erect a church.

Early maps show an area of land near the mill was set aside for a proposed church and burial ground but it is believed that this never eventuated.

With the first sale of Crown Land in Aberdeen in 1843, two allotments of land in Segenhoe Street, at the corner of Moray Street, was set aside for the Church of England. Two adjoining allotment in Segenhoe Street were added in 1847. It was some years later that the community gathered sufficient support to erect their first church.

By 1851 the town's population numbered 27 and there were 5 houses, besides the mill and the inn.

In 1854 the first Anglican Church was erected. Described as a little wooden slab building, with a shingled roof but without any windows or furniture.

This building was dedicated as St. Mark's Church in 1857 and could accommodate about 35 people. Seating was installed in 1860.

By the 1860's the number of children in the village increased to about 50. A small cottage was built alongside St. Mark's Church to serve as a residence and the first school was established.

In 1849 four allotment in Abercairney Terrace, at the corner of Moray Street, were allocated to the Wesleyan Church. A small Chapel was later built on this land and in 1864 was used for the first National School in Aberdeen. This site was in an out of the way place and a new weatherboard church was later built for the Presbyterian Church in Macqueen Street, now known as Walker Street.

Building work began on the new brick Presbyterian Church, St John's, on Macqueen Street (Main Road) and was opened 14th December, 1889.

In 1886 the old St. Mark's Church was re-built.



St. Mark's Church - circa 1890

In 1896 four Sisters of St. Joseph Convent, Lochinvar, arrived in Aberdeen to establish a Roman Catholic School in the community. The St. Thomas Church, a neat little wooden building, was used as their school.



St. Mark's Church - circa 1920

The foundation stone for the present St. Mark's Church was laid on 7th July, 1913. The new church was opened within a year but was not dedicated until 15th June, 1918.

Further extensions to the present St. Mark's Church were carried out in the 1960's with an enlarged nave, a baptistery, porch and spire. The completed church was consecrated in May, 1965.

