



**UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM of RURAL LIFE Inc**  
**& Aberdeen Local Studies Group**  
P O Box 140 Aberdeen NSW 2336  
**NEWSLETTER**  
September 2018

A very successful Big Boys Toys was held at Jefferson Park on the first Saturday in September. Afterwards a band of happy people met at the Aberdeen R.S.L. Club for the first of, hopefully, many back to Aberdeen 'Get-Togethers'. Locals and visitors, those that had lived and worked in Aberdeen recently or for some, a long time ago, met for a good old 'chin wag'. The event was supported by the Aberdeen Men's Shed and Aberdeen Lions Club and donations were accepted on behalf of their charity of choice for this weekend which was Prostate Cancer Research.

There were liquid refreshments and hot food aplenty and lots of catching up to do. There were display boards of photos and items of interest from the newspapers, old school photos and a lot of interest in old photos of the town especially the meatworks that were displayed on a slideshow on the T.V. I'm sure many phone numbers and email addresses were swapped to keep in touch in the future. If anyone has photos that they would like to share with the Local Studies Group they can contact us on Facebook 'Aberdeen Remembers' or email: [uhmrl@skymesh.com.au](mailto:uhmrl@skymesh.com.au)

### ***Luncheon & Movie***



Tuesday 9th October 11.30am  
For lunch \$10 donation  
Bookings Daphne 65438356  
by Friday if possible

### **Next Meeting UHMRL**

Wednesday 26th September 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 28th September 2018  
2pm - 4.30pm at Aberdeen Library.

Come along and look through our photo collection of Aberdeen's memories, and bring in some of your old photos to add to the collection.

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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## GEORGE WALLACE (1895-1960)

On 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

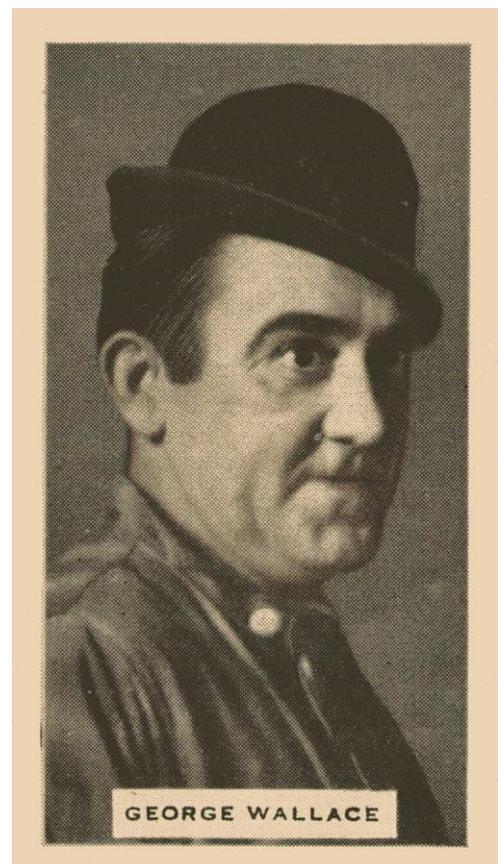
George wrote several hit songs including the war time favourite, "A Brown Slouch Hat" in 1942.

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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]