



**UPPER HUNTER MUSEUM of RURAL LIFE Inc
& Aberdeen Local Studies Group**
P O Box 140 Aberdeen NSW 2336
NEWSLETTER
May 2019

Aberdeen's recent Quilt Affair was a wonderful friendly relaxed day, lovely weather and lots of beautiful and interesting quilts to look at. There is so much talent in our local area and thanks to days like these quilters and crafters can meet and share friendship and ideas. Scone has had its Horse Festival, a spectacular celebration of the horse, and on the first Saturday in July Aberdeen will again celebrate all things Scottish with our Highland Games.

The Local Studies Group are continuing to search for and collect interesting stories and photos of local people and places. Lots of our pioneering families came from Scotland but they also came from many other places and all have a place in our history. Some of the results of our research are displayed on the new storyboards firmly planted in the parks around the town. The Local Studies Group researches and designs these boards and works hard to raise the money to pay for these enduring records to educate and enlighten locals and visitors to our beautiful town. An example of one of the boards is on the back page.

Luncheon & Movie



Tuesday 11th June 11.30am
For lunch \$10 donation
Bookings Daphne 65438356
by Friday if possible

Next Meeting UHMRL

Wednesday 29th May 2019
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 31st May 2019
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.

On 14th May 1973 the first Space Station, know as Skylab, was launched.

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 RAILWAY

In 1855 the first passenger rail train ran in New South Wales.

The construction of The Great Northern Railway Line quickly progressed through the Hunter Valley as gangs of labourers worked under difficult conditions as they laid the sleepers and line.

In 1863 the rail line was opened to Singleton and by 1869 the line had progressed as far as Muswellbrook.

From Muswellbrook the original plan was to cross the Hunter River to Kayuga and continue along the flats to Scone to avoid a steep incline at Aberdeen. The final route was altered to pass through Aberdeen where an extra engine would be employed to pull the trains into the station.

On 20th October, 1870, the railway line to Aberdeen was officially opened and the first train rolled into town.



A bridge was soon constructed over the Hunter River and by 1871 the rail line through to Scone was opened.

In 1899 deviation work began. The original station buildings were demolished and a temporary rail line and platform constructed as a team of about 120 men were employed to excavate a cutting and lower the rail line well below the level of the road. With the cutting down of the hill and the raising of the line towards the south and to the river in the north the gradient of the line was considerably reduced.

Kept busy with the traffic to and from the meatworks, Aberdeen once had a Station Master and a typical little station of brick construction with an office building, waiting room and other buildings.



THE RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER THE HUNTER, N. S. W.

After more than a hundred years the old railway bridge was replaced in 1980. With its intricate wrought iron patterns, it was at that time the oldest railway bridge in N.S.W. and a great example of the art of bridge construction.