

10th Annual General Meeting, 25 November 2015

President's Report

I am very pleased to be able to present my report as President of the Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc. including Aberdeen Local Studies Group. I am proud of what we have achieved over the past year, with the wonderful cooperation of all the committee, supported by our members and friends.

The achievements during the past year include

Six Heritage story boards installed at Taylor Park, for Aberdeen's History. Thanks to Jan Sumner for all her research, work and dedication.

Our group were honoured to be awarded Aberdeen's Community Group of the Year for the Australian Day Awards from the Upper Hunter Shire Council on 25th January. As volunteers, our hard working group, present the luncheon the monthly "Golden Oldies Movies" at the Aberdeen Sport and Recreation Club for local residents and surrounding district seniors.

Catering for:

- 7th February 2015 Celebration of Roy Staddon's Life on his passing.
- Seniors Week morning tea 17th March 2015,
- 19th April 2015 Kayuga Cemetery and home Open Day and book launch.
- 22nd October, Aberdeen Town Revitalization Stake holder's workshop.

Members and friends helped with a raffle at the Aberdeen Quilt Affair also on 19th April, thank you to those who donated items from local business and members.

Workshops attended included;

- Voices of the Hunter, Oral History by the Newcastle University at Muswellbrook Library 26th August.
- Museums De Accession Workshop at Scone Museum 21st March by Bill Storer from the Newcastle Maritime Museum and Julie Baird from Newcastle Regional Museum.
- "Telling Significant Stories" through on- line opportunities and the website, held at Tamworth with Kevin Williams Regional Arts Development Officer, Arts Mid Nth Coast. Tamara Lavrenicic Museums and Gallery. Caroline Downer RADO/ Executive Officer Arts North West.

Successful applications include

- Drayton's Mine funding through 2015 Anglo American Social Investment & Donation Programme. We would like to thank Anglo American and Matt Frodsham for their support and for providing storage space for our equipment.
- NSW Seniors Week Funding Grant
- Scone and Upper Hunter Cultural Grants.

In April, the small room at the Library, became available for the Aberdeen Local Studies Group for our monthly scanning of photos and historical information collection, very successful and informative afternoons for all. Fred Day an Aberdeen icon and supporter passed 2nd May 2015

The successful Bus trip to Gunnedah to visit Red Chief Museum and Gunnedah Rural Museum for Naidoc week in July organised by the Museums Network, Heather Ranclaud and Lynn Collins Museums Advisor to Council. Lynn supported and made representation to Scone and Upper Hunter Shire Council on our behalf over the years and we thank him.

Tom and Kath Holder, who contributed greatly with the movies, moved to Foster, We heartily welcome Jim and Beryl Hartin. Jim expertly hangs the cinema curtains, runs the movie and raffle with Kevin Taylor's help. Welcome to new members Tony and Carol Berry.

September we made inquiries to Mt Owen Xstrata re Hebden Public School and a road trip recently to visit the school by members about the possible relocation made us enthusiastic. A letter to the Scone Shire Council and the reply made it seem impossible but time will tell!

The Heritage Story Boards, at Aberdeen's Taylor Park, were nominated for the Inaugural Blue Star Awards, held in Gloucester on November 6th and 7th making the finals but not an award. Thank you to Heather Ranclaud and the Museums Network for the submission.

Action Plan 2016,

- To put information on the website, for our collection, our events and activities during the coming year
- Obtain signs for Memorial Grove and John's Heritage Walk,
- To increase our membership through continued dedication and support of the Golden Oldies Monthly Movies and the Aberdeen Local Studies Group.
- Record Oral History of Aberdeen's History.
- Install next set six Heritage Story Boards.

I conclude by thanking my committee, Dianne Walmsley, vice President, an inspiration, Jan Wild for a super secretary, Jan Sumner an accurate Treasurer also Tim who helps if needed at the movies, members Val Ray, Robyn Betteridge, Jim Hartin, Avil Saddler and Kylie Mary Power all volunteers & hard workers on our movie days and Ian Morgan, members and supporters not mentioned thank you.

Carol Ray President