

# NEWS from Farrer Place

## Queanbeyan & District Historical Museum Society Inc.

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Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society



### ***Important Dates for Your Diary!***

## **Newsletter February 2015**

To contact us: send an e-mail to [gbnmuseum@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gbnmuseum@yahoo.com.au) to the attention of who you want to contact and your message will be passed on to the appropriate person. President 02 62972730

### ***From the Editors***

Lots coming up on the Museum Calendar of Events for 2015 including Member's Get Togethers and Training. Put the Calendar of Events on your Fridge, so you don't miss out on Museum events in 2015! We will send out a full Queanbeyan Heritage Festival program soon.

Eds: Kerrie Ruth & Nancy Monk.

### ***From the President***

A new year is beginning with the need to plan and to gain members and involve them more. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for up-coming events and try to come along, starting with the members' get-together on Sunday 1 March.

We also need more weekend openers, so check when you can come to a training day for this activity. The first training day is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> March.

It is pleasing to hear the positive comments of visitors to the museum. Thanks so much to all who have worked very hard to achieve this high standard, but we can't afford to rest on our laurels.

**John McGlynn**

### ***– Queanbeyan Heritage Festival – 9<sup>th</sup> April - 2 May***

#### ***Members Get Together*** – Sat 1st March – 1 – 4

Theme: Railway History, drop in for history chat, a cuppa and to catch up on what is happening at the Museum. All members most welcome.

#### ***Weekend Openers Training*** – Sat 14th March – 1 - 4

### ***A Very Special Event for the ANZAC Centenary The Riderless Horse At Queanbeyan Museum 18<sup>th</sup> April 1pm – Free Admission***

An Australian Impression of World War 1 in song (60 mins)  
Join us for an entertaining and moving journey through WW1  
With acclaimed musicians Chloe and Jason Roweth

This material has the ring of truth for nobody knows better than those who were there ...From the rousing songs of nationalistic fervour, to the soldiers' brave faced morale boosters composed on the spot in the trenches and sung by many voices, to the ballads of those left behind to watch and wait - It's the songs written by people of the time, those directly affected by being at war, that really tell the story and provide a rare insight into Australia at the time of the war to end all wars.

Although these songs were never meant to tell the story of one soldier's experience, this presentation has been arranged chronologically and gives a strong impression of continuity. The show also contains a potted folk history of Australia's involvement in WW1.

Thanks to ANZAC Centenary Local Grants program.

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On right – dynamic folk musicians  
Chloe and Jason Roweth will  
perform The Riderless Horse – An  
Australian Impression of WW1 in  
song on 18<sup>th</sup> April at the Museum



## ***Queanbeyan River Festival October 2014***



Two of our wonderful volunteers Gerardina and Denise on our stall at the River Festival

### ***From the Registrar, Cataloguer, Museum Assistant***

Volunteer Heather Thomson and Cataloguer Ximena Briceno have been busy during the month of January accessioning objects on display in the Hospital room.

A highlight of this project has been cataloguing the photographs of Mr William Rusten and Matron Mary Ann Rusten, Nurse Mary Johnston, Dr Patrick Blackall, Matron Wright and Nurse Mary Bowers, MBE (nee O'Rourke) currently on display. These images provide the community of Queanbeyan a glimpse of the prominent Matrons, Doctors and Nurses working in Queanbeyan during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

These photographs are important to Queanbeyan, as they are part of Queanbeyan's medical and nursing history.

**Ximena Briceno**



Left: Matron Wright  
Queanbeyan  
Hospital  
1930s-1950s

## ***Queanbeyan's Living History Oral History Project Continues***

The oral history project is continuing. We plan to have a group meeting soon to assess progress and organise the next interviews. Marilyn has just interviewed Robert Campbell. There are plenty of prospective interviewees on our list and the urgency of interviewing our older citizens has been emphasised by the death of two of our interviewees after the interview, most recently Bede Tongs. Thank goodness we have their words to remember them. Everyone is welcome to join the Oral History group, just e-mail us at the Museum.

**John McGlynn**

### ***Membership Reminder***

Some of you will have received reminders with your last *Quinbean*. Please renew if you to continue getting our Journal. Renewals are due annually in either April or October.

**Fred Monk**

### ***Weekend Openers Training***

— Sat 14th March — 1 - 4

Part of the fun of doing weekend opening are the visitors and their requests for information: One keen couple visited the Information Centre, our Museum and the Library and have extensively researched their family history. They are interested in finding out specific location / if there is a photo of shop in Crawford Street early days i.e. mid 1800s of W G Lloyd, Bootmaker. There is a gap in the Rates books so no help there.

**Nancy Monk a regular Weekend Opener**

### ***Thank you to our generous donors:***

M Murray  
H & P Jeffery  
J Cope  
R Burston

***Queanbeyan Museum is  
Supported by  
Queanbeyan City Council***



Queanbeyan  
6 Miles

Captains Flat  
22 Miles

The Museum  
garden is looking  
wonderful after all  
the rain.

### ***Thank You Charity Book Fair!***

The Charity Book Fair has had its last Saturday in Queanbeyan. It was held once a month with a wide selection of books, journals, records, etc for sale.

Thank you to Peter Bray and the wonderful team of Volunteers, who received, sorted and displayed the books in the R B Smith Rooms and then cheerfully assisted and served the many people donating and buying books, records, journals plus maps and sheet music. Our Special Thanks for the books of local historical interest and any with "Queanbeyan" mentioned, put aside for QDHMS to have first option for our reference library.

The Charity Book Fair also donated \$1,000 towards our historical mural.

**Nancy Monk**



### ***Weekend Openers Training 14th March – 1-4***

#### **Museum Openers**

QDHMS has a large membership base but can always do with more members who want to be involved as a volunteer, particularly weekend openers and those willing to show groups around.

Perhaps people are nervous about showing visitors around with out themselves having a deep knowledge of Queanbeyan's history or of the displays. As one who only came to Queanbeyan in 1975 I can say that that is no bar to staffing the museum. We often get visitors who are able to tell stories about the building and history and it does not take long to gain a real appreciation for the exhibitions.

It's great fun hearing the anecdotes of the visitors. A woman who used to live in the house when it was a policeman's residence told about the times had by her and her brothers growing up there.

Descendents of a bushranging family were disappointed there was not more extolling their exploits and at the same time descendent of the first Police Magistrate was able to present his side of the story.

The kitchen and washroom often remind visitors of their grandparent's life. Schoolchildren who come on school excursions often bring their parents or grandparents in the next weekend to show off what they have learnt. Even old fogies are enlivened by the enthusiasm of the young!

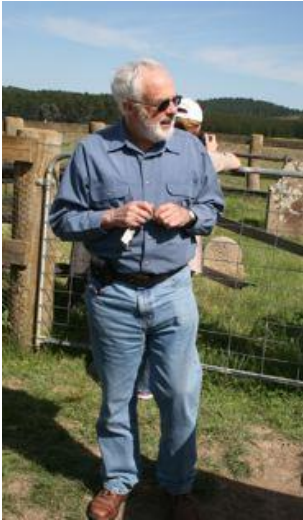
Of course, we don't expect volunteers to go in cold. We team new volunteers with old hands. We have an introductory session for weekend volunteers on Saturday 14 March 2015 from 1pm at the museum. **John McGlynn**

We have planned some ***Members' Get-togethers*** to talk about aspects of history and to get to know one another. The first will be on Sunday 1 March, again starting at 1pm at the Museum. The topic will be railways in the district and there will be several historians and railway enthusiasts to lead the discussion. **Nancy Monk and Marilyn Folger are your hosts**

***We are on Facebook!***  
***<https://www.facebook.com/queanbeyanmuseum>***  
***Check out our new Facebook page***  
***and like us and follow us to keep up to date with Museum news.***

## ***It's all happening at the Queanbeyan Museum! - Photo Gallery***

***October 12 - Society Excursion - A SMALL RURAL COMMUNITY NO MORE – THE  
GLENBURN/BURBONG HISTORIC PRECINCT IN THE KOWEN FOREST, ACT***



**Col McAlister**  
Tour Leader



**Next Excursion** Col will lead an NPA drive/walk on Sunday 3 May. All welcome. In addition to the usual, we will see the new additional interpretative signs that have been erected, have a look at Atkinson trig and probably visit the site of the McInnes' Kowen Homestead complex (which was bulldozed in 1979). Hopefully, the quinces will also be ripe at Colliers orchard. Meet at the Canberra railway station, Kingston at 9.00am. People from Queanbeyan could meet Col at the locked gate at the intersection of the Kings Highway and Charcoal Kiln Drive at about 9.20-9.30am.



27 of us went on a fascinating day tour, full of history. Highly recommended!



**Further Information** – see National Parks Association of the ACT website [www.npaact.org.au](http://www.npaact.org.au) and click on *Friends of Glenburn*, and *Glenburn and Burbong*.