

NEWS FROM FARRER PL

Queanbeyan & District Historical Museum Society Inc.

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Newsletter June 2014

To contact us: send an e-mail to 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

We have a new name for the newsletter. Hope you like it!
Eds: Kerrie Ruth & Nancy Monk.

From the President

Despite the reduced numbers of active workers at present, due to sickness etc, we are still achieving a remarkable lot. Gillian is preparing what will be a fascinating look at the Red Cross in Queanbeyan; oral history is continuing; Kerrie and Karen are working on our internet presence and we aim to have a launch of a new project of 45 objects on the web for our 45th birthday party; Heather has taken Gillian's place on the QCC Heritage Committee and is helping Ximena catalogue our collection. Many, many thanks to Gillian for her valuable work on the QCC Heritage Committee.
John McGlynn

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Important Dates for Your Diary!

45th Birthday Celebration and Launch of 45 Pieces of Queanbeyan - Online Exhibition

Saturday 2nd August 12 noon @Museum. All welcome

Museum Open Day - Local Government Week

Thursday 7th August 10 – 3 @Museum

Working Bee – Sat 26 July – to get ready for 45th birthday party!

Working Bee – Sat 30 August – prepare for Red Cross Calling

Working Bees 9.30 - 12.00.

All members welcome, bring lunch to share from 12 noon

Volunteer Training – Sat 30 August. 1-4 Come along and find out how you can assist us run the Museum. Lots to learn and do!

History Week - Queanbeyan 2014

Red Cross Calling Exhibition Launch

Celebrating 100 years of the Red Cross in Queanbeyan

Saturday September 6 12-4 @Museum Launch 2.30

Afternoon tea at 3pm

Medalling in Military History

This workshop will assist you trace your relatives who have served in the Australian military

Friday September 12 10 – 12 @ QCC Library. All welcome.

Other Upcoming Events

QCC History and Heritage Meeting

Queanbeyan Proclamation day cake cutting and speaker TBC

Thursday September 25 6pm @QCCLibrary. All welcome.

Isabella St 150 Years

October @Museum Date TBC

Tour of Glenburn Historic site - Hosted by Friends of Glenburn

October meet @Museum Date TBC When the pear tree is in flower!

National Archaeology Week 2014 - Friends of Archaeology

On Sunday 18 May 2014 Deputy Mayor Cr Peter Bray opened National Archaeology Week at the Museum. He entertained about 50 people with his personal exploits into this field, delving into other people's rubbish, as could be said of much archaeology.

Helen Cooke, President of the Canberra Archaeological Society spoke of some people's amazement at local archaeology followed by a hands on look at some of the artefacts on show that had been retrieved in local digs such as Crinigans at Gungahlin. These artefacts help to tell stories of the early settlers, particularly the women who are often missing from the historical record. The Crinigan artefacts have recently been provisionally registered as ACT Heritage Objects.

Dr Rebecca Parkes was on hand to discuss the artefacts from Googong that have been donated to the Museum. Patrick Connolly's 1860 home site was excavated before the Googong Development began and the back to back fireplaces have been re erected in the new township to show that pioneers were part of the 1800s landscape. Later this year we will have an Exhibition on Googong and the families associated with the early settlement of the area.

Ximena Briceno and Marilyn Folger had prepared display photos of the Crinigans project which had involved many hours of excavation, sieving and washing of artefacts by family, friends and CAS members, also photos of the QDHMS visit to the Googong dig in March 2012.

Our courtyard served the purpose well together with the sunshine, chat, tea and coffee and Anne's homemade fudge slice.

National Archaeology Week continued with events such as *Hidden histories: lost in the mud at Fromelles* at the Australian War Memorial, *Archaeology family fun day* at Questacon and a *Visit to archaeology sites in Gungahlin* (Crinigans, The Valley, Palmer Trig and Girrawah Park).

Marilyn Folger



Queanbeyan's Living History Oral History Project Continues

The oral history project is gathering momentum again. Marilyn has interviewed Pat Jeffery, is preparing to talk to Jim Woods and is continuing her interview with Bill Grey. I have set up an interview with an Aboriginal elder, Ethel Baxter and Wendy after her marathon with Michael Cockayne, is to interview David Lowry. Lee and Kerrie and Jane all have plans. There are many more subjects in the pipeline. We have a new recorder so with Marilyn's we can work on three interviews at a time. Thanks to a generous donation by Wendy Smith we can continue transcripts. **John McGlynn**

Rusten House – In the News

Where to now for this historic Queanbeyan building? Put aside a small space for historical medical memorabilia? A writer's retreat? A gallery? Accommodation for an Artist in Residence?

A Brief Overview of its History:

- ◆ 1861 permanent Hospital building constructed now known as Rusten House
- ◆ End section built as Isolation Ward
- ◆ 1933 became Matrons Flat when 'new' Hospital (central core) was constructed
- ◆ 1970s Blood Bank, in end section fronting Collett Street, closed 1987
- ◆ Late 1980s office area for senior nursing personnel (Accreditation HQ) with middle section for Mental Health team
- ◆ Flats for Trainee Enrolled nurses accommodation when the Nurses Home closed
- ◆ Accommodation for building team from Goulburn (South East Health HQ) during the nine months of refurbishment of Hospital
- ◆ Occupied by expanded Mental Health Services and Living Skills programme
- ◆ 1991-2 Historical Restoration now referred to as 'Rusten House' rather than 'The Old Hospital'
- ◆ "Rustys Coffee Shop" a Living Skills initiative opened 1993, (in Blood Bank section), closed 1997
- ◆ 1997 building refurbished for Community Health Services e.g. Palliative Care and Community Nurses, Children's Services
- ◆ 2014 Hand over by NSW Health Department to Queanbeyan City Council
- ◆ Currently renovations are being under taken by QCC to bring it to a level aiming for opening Rusten House for inspection by stakeholders with a view to submission of plans for the future usage of this historic building.

Nancy Monk

Thank you to our generous donors:

M Budakoski	P Dennis
J & R Hill	D Quane
K Willis	E Rawlings
M Clements	R Curry
N Donoghoe	O Warren
H Quince	W Smith

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



Farewell Peter

Peter Conlon, QCC Library and Cultural Services Manager has worked tirelessly with us over the last ten years on many and varied Museum projects, including one major renovation project and two building projects and lots of well attended events. We have achieved a lot together. It can't have been easy working with a passionate bunch of volunteers, all with our quirks and ups and downs. Goodbye and the best of luck in your retirement Peter! From all your colleagues at the Queanbeyan Museum. L to R Fred Monk, John McGlynn, Peter Conlon and Marilyn Folger at Elise Bernards's farewell 2013



From the Registrar, cataloguer, Museum Assistant's Desk

I have been working in partnership with volunteer, Heather Thomson, every Wednesday, accessioning and cataloguing artefacts from the collection. We have focused on objects from the Laundry room, Main Street Gallery and Hospital room. One of the most interesting objects is a wooden clothes' mangle crafted in the 19th century in the United States. This object found its way from the United States to Queanbeyan. This object was manufactured on a commercial scale, and represents the power of supply and demand for domestic products before electricity. It is also a remainder of how labour intensive domestic chores were performed, mostly by children and women.

Ximena Briceno



45 Pieces of Queanbeyan

Join us at the Museum on **Saturday 2nd August at 12 noon** to celebrate 45 years of the Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum Society! Yes there will be a special cake made by Annie's Cake Place! We will also showcase our new website and launch our very first On line Exhibition **45 Pieces of Queanbeyan** which showcases 45 objects from our collection, from the quirky to the plain gorgeous!

Thanks Todd!

After an article in QCC City Life about the digital training we undertook, and asking for assistance we were approached by professional Web aficionado Todd Taylor who is assisting us to make it look bling. We are learning and documenting as we go so we can do more to showcase our fabulous collection and Queanbeyan's history in the future.

Kerrie Ruth



Isabella St Public School - 2014 150th Anniversary Celebrations



The Queanbeyan Museum will put on a display to celebrate Isabella Street's 150 years at the Museum in October 2014.

Isabella St class 1950s. Photo Courtesy Eric Rawlings from Queanbeyan's Living History Oral History Project

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

Queanbeyan Heritage Festival 2014

Open Day and Launch of Post Haste Exhibition



Left: Graeme Adler entertained us on the fiddle
Above: Gillian Kelly curator of *Post Haste*



Left: Morse code keyer and letter scales. Two of the interesting items you can see in the *Post Haste* Exhibition



A beautiful Autumn day to learn about Queanbeyan's remnant bush from local naturalist Bill Willis at right



Launch of National Archaeology Week



Heritage Awards



Left: QCC Heritage award winners with QCC Mayor Cr Overall and Deputy Mayor Cr Peter Bray

Above LHS: President of Canberra Archaeology Society Helen Cooke (on left) Above RHS: QCC Deputy Mayor Cr Peter Bray launching NAW
LHS: Crowd at NAW launch
Below: Crinigan's & Googong assemblages on display

