

Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.

'Dumaresq Chambers', Corner Faulkner St and Cinders Lane, Armidale
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Newsletter June 2019

The next meeting of the Society will be on **Tuesday, 18 June at 7.30**, at **Dumaresq Chambers** when the speaker will be **Wayne Hoppe**, President of the Armidale Family History Group. In his ongoing recording of Armidale Cemetery history, his research has included the Undertakers and Stonemasons who have serviced the cemetery and his talk will present his interesting findings on the history of **The Undertakers of Armidale**.

Vale Arnold Goode: Vale historian extraordinaire, vale a wonderful teacher and a friend to all and to the wealth of knowledge that we still needed to hear from you.

Membership renewal: June 30th looms.

Your Assistance requested: We are looking for the names (at least) of people who were born, based, lived or died in the Armidale District and have made a significant contribution to **any field of endeavour**. There are over 200 people named in the Australian Dictionary of Biography who qualify and we know there are many more we should add to our Roll of Honour.

Petition re Armidale War Memorial Library Plans: The 'Friends of the Library' have placed a Petition in 'Readers' Companion' Bookstore for members of the Community to sign requesting information from the Armidale Regional Council to consult with the community regarding plans it may have for the Library. Please view the information to understand the request for signatures on the Petition.

A Trip Down Memory Lane: Topics for May meetings each decade – the June list was inadvertently given in the May newsletter!

1969: No Meeting.

1979: Dr Pauline Kneipp – The Ursuline Order in Armidale: Beginnings.

1989: Herb Hoy -Working Life in Armidale – some reminiscences.

1999: Professor Geoff Quaife – Love and Herbs in the Garden.

2009: Dr Margaret Rodwell – Aspects of Life on *Ollera* Station 1838-1914

Snippets of History: In the light of the current upsurge of local commercially brewed boutique beers, it seemed timely to look at the story of the breweries and brewers of Armidale, based on Graham Wilson's article in ADHS Journal 37, Lionel Gilbert's *An Armidale Album* and newspaper advertisements.

The early hotels were inns for accommodation and refreshments and small shanties along travel routes provided alcoholic refreshment. In April 1850 licences had been approved for five Armidale hostelryes and **John Warn Tuck** of Maitland set up a brewery on two and a half acres in Dumaresq Street (between Markham and Allingham) 'near Allingham's Flour Mill'. This relieved the publicans of freight costs from Sydney/Maitland. But the brewery, operated by **R.S. Jenkins** was put to auction in early 1852, prompting **Edward Butler**, proprietor of the *Victoria Hotel* (north Beardy St, between Marsh and Taylor) to encourage potential buyers with his advertisement - *A Brewer! A Brewer! A Brewer! at Armidalewhere a fortune awaits him.* In an 1854 inquiry into the 'alarming increase in intemperancy in the Colony', Armidale, a town of around 600 inhabitants, did not enhance its reputation for sobriety! **R.S. Jenkins** continued to run the Brewery, which appears to have been leased by **Lewis Markham**, until **Mr Edward Baker** leased it in June 1865, with **Mr Butler** the licensee. Meanwhile, the **Messrs Jenkins** had been manufacturing lemonade and soda water in Barney St which appears to have progressed to be a Markham Street cordial factory and brewery by January 1867. In 1871 **Charles Jenkins** was praised for the quality of the products of his brewery - relating this to the fine water in his 40 foot well. Jenkins had **Mr Harper** demolish his 'old brewery' in 1873, after his father Richard died. This would have been the Dumaresq Street building. He then sold his Markham Street enterprise to **Bernard Hertzog** before leaving the district in 1875. Hertzog indicated that demand for his ale exceeded supply and it would seem Newcastle continued to be main the source of beer for the town. In late 1879 a brewer of 15 years experience was needing a partner to set up a brewery and after the sale of six acres fronting Beardy, Butler and Dumaresq sts, **Mr Peter Simpson** built a brewery fronting Butler street on part of this land. This was for sale in 1887 and purchased by **Messrs Billson** of Beechworth and Albury, by which time the **Star Hotel** was opposite, (on SW corner of Butler St and Brewery Lane). In quick succession this **City Brewery** changed hands – **Hillier and Solomon, A.P. Cunningham, J.T. Rampling, R. Scholes and Rampling** – and from 1890 to March 1893, **John Francis McKinlay**, who built the swimming pool on the south side of Dumaresq Creek at the rear of the Brewery. In 1893 **Stephen Hillier** took over and in 1895 **W. A. Allen** had the Brewers Licence with **Mrs Hermann** the owner of the premises. In 1900 with the sale of her estate, the Brewery and the **City Brewery Cottage** (demolished 2019) were possibly bought by William Allen. The Sydney Breweries became dominant after World War One and the **City Brewery** was demolished in early 1920.

