

Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.

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

The next meeting of the Society will be held at Dumaresq Chambers on **Tuesday, 21st May at 7.30pm.** The speaker will be **Ian Forrester**, well-known Armidale resident and a Carrier for many years who will give a talk entitled **Armidale – The Way I Saw It**

Ian's memory for people, places and events is incredible and 'his' Armidale was a very different place to the city of today. Visitors are always welcome to attend our meetings and this one will provide a fascinating look into the past.

Dumaresq Chambers: We continue to attract visitors and enquiries when the doors are open, and grateful thanks to the handful of volunteers who allow the doors to be open as often as they are, allowing the Chambers to fulfil its purpose in the community. Co-ordinator Louse Brennan is continuing to keep order and organise the considerable resources which have and there are numerous small and large projects to be undertaken for anyone interested in our local history. Please consider the possibility of giving some time to 'manning' our home, it is a rewarding and beneficial experience for all.

Annual Membership Renewal: Please find the Membership renewal form accompanying this newsletter. Prompt payment will greatly assist our new Acting Treasurer John Burrell and allow records to be accurate and up to date. Membership remains at \$45, with additional \$10 if the Journal is to be posted. The option of \$25 for Associate Membership provides the advantages of full membership but does not include an annual Journal.

A Trip Down Memory Lane: The May meetings for each decade;
1969: Mrs L.T. Daley – The Early History of Shipping on the North Coast of NSW
1979: Herb Hoy - Working Life in Armidale – some Remembrances
1989: Dr J. Atchison – 'Warrah' Settlement Area
1999: Prof J.S. Ryan – Thomas Galloway – Father of J.J. Galloway, Surveyor
2009: Graham Wilson OAM – The Wollomombi Wild Dog Fence

Snippets of History: George Macdonald wrote to the Colonial Secretary on 30th September 1839 from Head Station “Armidale” - *I have fixed my Head Station on an extensive open plain – well watered & sheltered - centrally situated & contiguous to the Extensive Establishments of Messrs Dangar and Dumaresq & c. ... This has been thought to be where Macdonald Park is now situated. An alternative (anon) story in The Town and Country Journal 20/11/1866 ‘THE ORIGIN OF ARMIDALE’, has the camp near the current Imperial Hotel. ‘The following narrative was supplied by an old resident of Armidale to a contributor to the local CHRONICLE: Early in the month of August in 1838 (sic), I was one of a party of troopers, who were camped at Salisbury with the Commissioner, (Mr. Geo. Jas. M’Donald). He sent me to Mr. Cruikshank’s Station, Mihi Creek, with a letter for that gentleman, and in endeavouring to carry out my instructions, I missed the track, and rom a bad “slew” I became, what I then believed, hopelessly “bushed”. At sundown I made my fire and let my horse go; my camp being somewhere about the place where the Bank of New South Wales now stands. (corner of Beardy and Faulkner Streets 1866). During the night I fancied I heard a dog bark, and when going to the creek next morning for my horse, I again heard the dog, and after saddling up, made in the direction of the noise and soon came upon a sheep station – Chas. Rich and another man in charge. Rich took me up the creek as far as what was then known as the Beardy Track, and put me on a track which then brought me to Saumarez: from there I worked my way down to Dangar’s and following the creek down, I found myself at the place I started from – Salisbury. I reported myself to the Commissioner and informed him that I had got lost. In the course of conversation he asked me whether I had seen any place which was suitable for a police camp, and I told him I had seen some very nice little plains. On August 9, 1839, we broke up camp at Salisbury and made the head of the Armidale Creek the same day, camping that night at the same place when I heard the dog bark. The sergeant and two men were ordered back to advise the bullock drivers of our camps, and the next day we pitched our tents. On the 15th the commissioner sent a dispatch down to Sydney, particularising the camp and informing the Governor that he had taken up his quarters there. He (the commissioner) asked me what we should christen the camp, and I suggested then something in the remembrance of Lord M’Donald. After the pros and cons had been duly weighed, the Court Guide was produced from the commissioner’s trunk, and he, standing up, proclaimed as follows: “*Per mare, per terram, - Armadale Castle, Isle of Skye*”. He then ordered us to mount and give three cheers, which we did; and this was the christening of Armidale by Mr. George James M’Donald on the 15th of August 1839. From this it would seem that the proper name of this township is ‘Armadale’, not “Armidale”.’*