

Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.

'Dumaresq Chambers', Corner Faulkner St and Cinders Lane, Armidale
PO Box 692, Armidale, NSW, 2350

	website: adhs.org.au	e-mail: contact@adhs.org.au
President	Judith Grieve 6775 1205	Newsletter Editors *Judith Grieve
Secretary	Robyn Curry 6772 4700	Ruth Thomas
Treasurer	John Burrell 0438187848	

Newsletter for November 2020

Covid19 regulations will allow the traditional **November bus excursion** to go ahead on **Saturday, 21st November**. The bus will leave the Visitors Centre at 8.30am. It can accommodate 30 people socially isolated and more when family/friends/partners are happy to sit together. Masks optional. **Cost \$40 includes bus, morning tea, lunch.**

The plan is to go to **Black Mountain** via the old settlements at **Saumarez Ponds** and **Dumaresq** and basically follow the rail route to Guyra. A tour and morning tea has been booked at the **Springwater Trout and Yabbie Farm** at Black Mountain. David Barclay will then show us the **Baptist Church** (1902) and we can visit the **Railway Station** and **Cemetery** and see the school (1882) which currently has 14 pupils.

From Black Mountain to the **Mother of Ducks Lagoon** in Guyra for a BBQ lunch and there is a **Peony Festival** on the day in the main street. Then a visit to the newly refurbished **Guyra Historical Society** premises followed by a drive around Guyra to view the tomato and peony farms before heading south to the **Black Mountain Plant Nursery** on the way back to Armidale. Graham Wilson will be our tour guide.

Hope you can come!

Bookings can be made at Dumaresq Chambers, per phone 67751205 or email at contact@adhs.org.au

Journal 63: A huge thankyou to Alan Hardaker for the production of a high quality Journal 63 which those who came to the Dangarsleigh Hall meeting were able to take home. **It is now available to 2019 members at Dumaresq Chambers.** Ruth Thomas has done a 'grand tour' hand delivering to many local people. Thank you Ruth.

AGM: ADHS Patron, Bill Oates conducted the elections at the AGM held on 20th October at Dangarsleigh Hall. There were no changes in the Executive or the Committee, but the honour of Life Membership was conferred on President Judith Grieve OAM, accompanied by a beautiful armful of flowers and thanks.

Grant Money: The Society has received \$1500 from the Arts NSW Cultural Grants Programme towards the printing of the Journal which is of great assistance. The front cover photo on Journal 63 of the 1884 'beehive' Pallamallawa School in its original surrounds was a great find in the Heritage Centre Collection. And there it is in Kentucky Street on the back cover!

The three school buildings In Kentucky Street, forming the **Museum of Education** are now in the care of a community Trust (Alan Hardaker, Wayne Hoppe, Sue Tanner, Kay Mill, Bill Oates, Peter Pickett, and Graham Wilson). Having received a seeding grant and subsequently a grant of \$200,000 for restoration, progress is now possible to restore these buildings and allow the Museum to open after over 20 years.

The University of New England Archives and Heritage Centre: The information that, in the latest re-structure, UNE Archivist, William Oates has been included in redundancies has created shock waves in the community of those involved in history and local and family history. Bill has assisted countless members of the community far and above the call of the duties associated with UNE Archives and his patience, knowledge and deep interest in every facet of history has contributed to his being a friend and mentor to all. The expertise and lateral thinking of Michael McIlveen is an additional loss to the staff of the Heritage Centre. The future of this treasure house of primary source material without the expertise and knowledge of the friendly and obliging staff is unknown. A Special Interest Group has been set up to liaise with the University and Government representatives on behalf of the community.

'Armidale-Our Town': A big thank-you to the cast who provided entertainment at the Dangarsleigh Hall AGM meeting acting out scenes from Barbara Albury's play. The play is made up of short scenes depicting incidents occurring over the early history of Armidale and added a most enjoyable bonus (along with chocolate-coated ice creams) to the 'meetingless' year of 2020.

Snippets of History: Cyclone at Black Mountain 5pm 29th October 1948. As reported in the School Centenary Booklet.

The storm approached from Booroolong with its full force 3kms west of Black Mountain and it cut a three-quarters of a kilometre wide path through the timber. The school weather shed was flattened, the school unroofed, the school residence was moved slightly on its blocks and lost some roofing iron. The Church of England was completely demolished. A two-tonne horse wagon was lifted bodily out of a shed and other sheds left in ruins. A cow was killed. Miss Martha McLean had her glasses blown off and later found them two rooms away and Mr Douglas White was knocked out by an outsized hailstone while watching the storm approach. The Station Master reported hail as big as tennis balls.

Adding insult to injury, the township suffered further serious damage nine days later when another cyclonic strip passed through, unroofing houses and uprooting trees and Lilygrove school lost its weathershed.

23 tonnes of roofing iron, 137 metres of guttering, 76 metres of ridgecapping, 500 square metres of fibrocement and large quantities of bricks and timber were dispatched by rail as were tarpaulins supplied by the Railway Department. Voluntary workers from Guyra and Armidale arrived on the scene. Despite requests for assistance to Mr D.H. Drummond MLA no compensation was received for those who suffered losses. [My mother told the story of Mr Bell's woodheap being picked up and deposited further down the paddock in a previous cyclone! J.G.]

