

# *Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.*

'Dumaresq Chambers', Corner Faulkner St and Cinders Lane, Armidale  
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## **Newsletter February 2021**

A Happy New Year and may it be an improvement on the last! As we need to be Covid19 compliant, we are unable to have our meetings at Dumaresq Chambers.

**The February meeting will be held the New England Art Museum (NERAM) at 5.30pm on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February with Margaret Bain's talk, Hinton and Friends: The Beginning of Life-long Friendships**

This talk is based on the recently found diaries written by Howard Hinton which provide a fascinating insight into life around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**October AGM:** This was held in the Dangarsleigh Hall to allow social distancing and to 'value-add' a performance of 'Armidale-Our Town'. Our patron Bill Oates ran the elections which resulted in replication of the previous Executive and the addition of Judith Grieve OAM to the Honour Board of Life Members. Thank you so much.

**November Excursion:** On 21/11 the bus trip followed the railway through Dumaresq, Black Mountain, Guyra and was enjoyable, informative and somewhat nostalgic.

**Dumaresq Chambers:** The library has grown substantially and 'the book team' is busy each week putting them in order. Since re-opening in January we have had a steady flow of visitors and requests and have implemented a Covid 19 Safety plan. The Haberdashery displays have been popular. A good printer has been purchased.

**UNE Heritage Centre:** With heavy hearts and braving the rain we bade farewell to Bill Oates, Michael McElveen and Phillip Ward in Curtis Park on 21<sup>st</sup> December. The occasion was a BBQ to thank this team for providing a friendly and fruitful relationship of gaining and sharing knowledge and their professional assistance. The Society is the poorer for their absence. A sub-group has been formed to liaise with the University with regard to on-going community access and any future changes.

**A Trip Down Memory Lane:** Topics for February meetings each decade. For many years there were no February meetings during School holidays.

**1961:** A.V. Cane - 'Ollera' Pioneers

**2001:** Mr J. Fields – An Armidale Resident and International Photographer

**2011:** Mr Peter Chambers: Bravery Under Fire – Braund's Fire Remembered

**Snippets of History:** From the *Armidale Chronicle* 8 September, 1923

**Death of Mrs William Low, A Respected Pioneer**

After a lengthy illness Mrs William Low, one of Armidale's oldest residents, passed away at her residence in Brown Street...at the age of 78 years. Born at Mudgee, the deceased came to Armidale when a child.

In her reminiscences she says - When uncle and aunt passed through Uralla the first time, I do not remember seeing any houses, except the mail station for changing the mail horses. The next time I saw Uralla there was a hotel- and then a few more houses. When they arrived in Armidale there were very few good houses. The streets were only tracks and huts with bark roofs, slab walls and ground floors were the general rule. The chief constable, the late Lloyd Bradshaw lived in a four-roomed hut with a bark roof and slab walls. It stood on the corner of Beardy and Faulkner Sts. Mr Bradshaw had a long flowing beard, so the street was named Beardy St. The lock-up was a slab building with a high slab wall around it. The Horse and Jockey Hotel was in Beardy St, near where the New England Hotel is now. The Crown Inn was in Marsh st. I forget the name of the licensee, but remember Joseph Scholes senior coming to take charge of it. The Royal Hotel at the corner of Marsh and Dumaresq Sts was kept by the late Bernard Naughten. Mr Naughten lived in Barney St before going to the Royal Hotel. Mather and Gilchrist kept a shop on the land where Richardsons now stands. Edward Allingham had a store on the corner of Beardy and Allingham Streets, also a mill at the opposite corner. John Trim kept a store and boarding house near Armidale Creek, back from Dumaresq St near Faulkner St. The Church of England was a small building on the land where the present Cathedral stands, the Reverend Septimus Hungerford being in charge and lived in a cottage near the church. The Church of England day school was on the corner of Faulkner and Rusden, kept by the late Dr Edward Baker. I attended the school for some time. Mr James Robinson came later and took charge of the school until he disagreed with Mr Hungerford over the management. Then Mr Robinson started a school in Marsh street, calling it the Armidale Grammar School. Later Mr Robinson moved to Zion House, where I spent the happiest days of my life where the governess was a sweet lady and the girls idolised her.

The Presbyterian Church, a building like a barn, was in charge of Rev. Andrew Maxwell. Mr William Ewans started a day school in the church, Mrs Maxwell, Mrs Tom Rae and Mrs Patterson taught the girls sewing...Mr and Mrs Maxwell lived in the home near the willows and Mrs Maxwell gave all Mr Ewans' pupils and her own Sunday school pupils a feast. We all had a good time and each child was presented with a book of scripture made easy for children to understand. Mine was 'The Good Shepherd'. Later on the Presbyterians subscribed for and bought the land adjoining Zion House property and had a brick building built for a church and later on the Manse was built as the Reverend Thomas Johnstone was to be married to Miss Glass. Mrs Johnstone started a Sunday School in the church, which was kept going until the present Presbyterian church was built..... [William Low was a blacksmith and they had sixteen children, six of whom were surviving in 1923.]