

Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.

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Newsletter for April 2022

The next meeting of the Society will be **Tuesday, 19th April, 5.30 at the Imperial Hotel.**

The speaker will be **Lyndon Hardman** who will give a talk on

Hardmans in Business

Hardman family members have been involved in a number of enterprises in the New England over the years including blacksmiths, bakers, and general storekeepers, but the name Hardman immediately brings to mind CARS. However, the recent sale of Hardman's automobile business in Armidale has ended an era of the Hardman associations with garages and car sales.

Exhibitions: The Pipe Band exhibition at Dumaresq Chambers will be taken down over Easter and replaced with an exhibition based on Lyndon Hardman's talk. Both the Pipe Band and Horbury Hunt displays have generated considerable interest and the latter will remain on display. At the Folk Museum an exhibition well worthwhile visiting, featuring

UNE Heritage Centre: The Heritage Centre with its treasure trove of historical information is again open to the public. But with a severe reduction in staffing, combined with the necessity to comply with UNE Covid policy, changes to the operation of the Centre have been found necessary. It is requested that visitation is to be by appointment and research enquiries should be by e-mail to allow time for staff to access material and have a record of requests. The e-mail address is heritage@une.edu.au and Jo Willey is the Archives and Collections Advisor of the Centre. The Centre will be closed until after Easter, but e-mails will be received.

Trip Down Memory Lane: Topics for April meetings each decade.

1962 No meeting

1972 No records of meeting

1982 **Mrs Pat Chapman** – History of the Armidale Golf Club

1992 **Graham Wilson** – West Hillgrove, or Metz

2002 **Mark Stevens** Armidalians who served in RAAF 453 Squadron in WWII

2012 **Kim Bloomfield** – A Kurrajong Lost and Found in Belgium

Snippets of History: In the current exhibition at the Folk Museum 'Time for Tea', is the silver tea service which was presented by the Armidale and District community as a farewell present to James and Susan Buchanan in November 1879. In 2006, following information from one of our members, Kay Noble, the Society, with the assistance of the Armidale Dumaresq Council and the community, raised the money to purchase the tea service in its oak box from an antiques dealer. On 13th November 2006 the Society presented a memorable re-enactment of the original 1879 presentation on the stage of the Mall. (ADHS J 50)

James Buchanan was a tall man with a black beard whose height was often extended by a top hat. He arrived in Australia with his parents and two brothers when he was 12 years old. His father, William was employed as the Clerk of Works on Goat island, a convict barracks and harbour site for the storage of gunpowder in Sydney and now in the care of National Parks and Wildlife. James also joined the Government service and came to the Northern Goldfields as Assistant to the Gold Commissioner and by 1856, aged 29, he became the Commissioner to the Northern Goldfields, stationed at Rocky River.

In 1839, 32 year old James married 17 year old Susan Bundarra Clerke of 'Clerkness' near Inverell and when James won the seat for the Northern Goldfields, the couple lived in Sydney. On their return they built 'Westholme' on the northwest corner of Dangar and Brown Streets (later part of Hilton Girls' School and demolished for townhouses in 1983), and James was appointed Police Magistrate. After 25 years, at the end of 1879, James was promoted to Police Magistrate in Newcastle. Subsequently he became Stipendiary Magistrate for the Sydney Water Police, which was full circle for James as the Headquarters of the Sydney Water Police was then at Goat Island.

The daytime farewell in Armidale on 13th of November 1879 was at the Wellington Hotel (Tattersalls) and an 'all men affair' with many speeches. A highlight of the occasion was the presentation of an illuminated address to James and his (absent) 'amiable' wife and the beautiful boxed, appropriately engraved, silver tea service. Susan would have been present at the evening gathering which many folk from the community (and their spouses) attended and the crowd spread out onto Beardy Street.

In 1891 James died of oesophageal cancer at their home in Darling Point, Sydney. Susan re-married William Young and the tea service was sold to Susan's nephew, Arthur Arundel McKenzie of 'Cabarr Feidh' Guyra, (1874 -1962), as the Buchanans had no children. A plaque on the box indicates McKenzie's ownership and he had each piece of the service engraved with the McKenzie crest and motto, 'Face All Weathers'.

