

# *Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.*

'Dumaresq Chambers', Corner Faulkner St and Cinders Lane, Armidale

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## **Newsletter for October 2022**

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 5.30pm at the Imperial Hotel** and as this will be the final meeting for 2022, it will be a fun photographic 'Trivial Pursuit Night', asking you to identify some of our many photographs and sharing information about them.

David Betts has commenced indexing and cataloguing the photograph collection, providing reproduced images to allow us to share them, rather than have them hidden in computers. This is a project everyone will be able to appreciate.

**Annual Excursion:** The bus is booked for **Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> November, leaving the Visitor Information Centre at 8.30am** to visit the villages of **Moonbi, Kootingal and Bendemeer**. We tend to pass by these villages, but this time will stop and Graham Wilson OAM will provide their stories and the early Aboriginal and European relationships. The cost, (including bus, morning tea and Moonbi Museum) will be \$50 with individuals to pay for their own lunch at the Bendemeer Hotel. Bookings (by 13/11/22) to Judith Grieve, phone 67751205, 0431223701, e-mail [judycobben@gmail.com](mailto:judycobben@gmail.com) or call at Dumaresq Chambers.

**Armidale Family History Group Seminar:** The Armidale Family History Group will host their annual seminar at Nova, 122 Faulkner Street on the **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**. Cost is \$35 or \$25 for a half day. Graham Wilson OAM will provide information on '**Tracing the History of Your House**' at the first two sessions on Saturday morning with the afternoon speakers to be and Bill Oates (Digitisation of Family Records) and Bronwyn Clarke ((Caring for and Documenting Family Heirlooms). On Sunday at the AFHG Centre, Kentucky Street, there will be a celebration of 25 years and dedication of the library in honour of the late Ros Townsend. Contact Dianne Hoppe 67714681 or [afhgarm@gmail.com](mailto:afhgarm@gmail.com)

**Heritage New England North West Inc:** This new regional group will be launched at the inaugural conference on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October** at Nova, 122 Faulkner St with speakers, activities and workshops. Bookings on trybooking.

**A Trip Down Memory Lane:** Talks at October meetings each decade.

**1962:** K. Aubrey – The Foundation of the Anglican Diocese of Armidale.

**1962:** Dr David Denholm – The Old Families of NSW.

**1972:** Dr Pauline Kniepp – The Ursuline Nuns in Armidale, one Hundred Years of Service.

**1992:** Mark St Leon – New England: The Showman's Gateway to the North.

**2002:** Jillian Oppenheimer – Who was George James Macdonald?

**2012:** Darrell Fisher – The Evolution of the Armidale Pipe Band

**Snippets of History:** Recently the Society received a request for information regarding the old-style house at 63 Markham Street which has recently been sold. The 1866 town map indicated that this block, lot 18 Section 105 was 2 roods on the SE corner of Markham and Donnelly in the name of **Thomas Rae**. Thomas Rae also owned lots 16, 15 and 11 along Donnelly St. In 1881 these blocks all came up for sale as good building sites. Lot 18 disappears from the sale group in January 1882, presumably sold. But it was for sale again in May 1883 with three of the Donnelly St blocks, for **Mrs Birch** who was leaving the district.

**Thomas Rae** was a Scotsman and may have been the poundkeeper and auctioneer in the 1850s and associated with the Rocky River mining community, but his obituary also indicates he was the Clerk of Petty Sessions in Armidale. In 1861 he married **Anna Morson Buckland** in Armidale and was the owner/licensee of the Falconer Hotel, 7.8kms north-east of Guyra in the Sandon Goldfields. Being involved in the local race meetings in Armidale and in Falconer would have brought business to his hotel, but in 1874 the *Armidale Express*, describing the goldfields settlements stated *Mr Thomas Rae remains the sole resident of all he surveys from his own windows at Falconer*. Thomas died in February 1882 aged 67. Guyra and Falconer were proclaimed as villages in 1885, but as the 1884 extension of the railway went through Guyra, the settlement at Falconer lost significance and Guyra grew. At the end of 1882 **Mrs Anna Rae** sold her household goods and the de-licensed hotel was auctioned as a 14 roomed house. She became **Mrs Henry Birch** following re-marriage in September 1882.

After establishing that the lots for sale in Markham/Donnelly streets were good building sites in 1882/3, the next *Armidale Express* reference to lot 18 is **Mr Frederick Stidworthy** selling two brick houses on the site in October 1894. The house on the corner was his home and the adjoining new brick house is now 63 Markham Street. All his furnishings, two cows, a horse, buggy etc were up for auction. Stidworthy was a roadworks contractor (**Hansell and Stidworthy**). In September of 1894 the sale was advertised for the lease of his shop and all stock (confectionary, groceries, furnishings) from the premises in the business area of Beardy Street (adjoining Apps, saddler). He was leaving Armidale for Western Australia. On 10 November 1899 **Mrs Stidworthy** put the 2 cottages up for sale with no reserve on the sale by Auction of all furniture and effects at Markham Street residence as she was moving to Western Australia.

On 3 January 1904, two 'nice brick cottages', 'almost new, well-built and very comfortable' on lot 18 Section 105 were again advertised for sale by Charles Wilson and Co. under instruction from Mrs Stidworthy, now living in Western Australia. The two four-roomed cottages were tenanted by **Mr J. Doyle** and **Mr G. Ince** at 6 shillings per week and were 'in one of the nicest positions for a residence in Armidale'. On 12 July 1907 the two brick cottages were to be sold and **Mrs Stidworthy** placed no reserve on the sales.

An article appeared in the *Express* 17 September 1918 referring to the prosecution for manslaughter in the Criminal Court of Perth W.A. of **Benjamin Paruscio** for killing Frederick Stidworthy by stabbing him with a penknife after a quarrel over the courage of Italian soldiers.

