

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	Sue Tanner	0439240348		Ruth Thomas
Treasurer	John Burrell	0438187848		

Newsletter for August 2023

The next meeting of the Society is on Tuesday, 15th August, 5.30pm at the Imperial Hotel.

Speakers - Graham Wilson OAM and William Oates will present an illuminated address,
The Curtis Family and the 'Cotswold' Story.

Bill and Graham are members of the Australian Garden History Society and over time have researched the history of gardens in the New England region. The talk will provide details of who has occupied 'Cotswold' house over time, the significance of the surrounding garden and the link between the Curtis family and many organisations in Armidale.

AGM held July 2023: Chaired by our Patron, Bill Oates, the elections added Sue Tanner as a Vice-president (with Graham Wilson and Wayne Hoppe), and Julie Harm accepted the position of secretary. With other executive positions unaltered, we welcomed Marina Makepeace and Denise Towns as additional members to the re-elected committee of 2022. Thanks are extended to all who support the Society in their many different ways, contributing to a productive and unified group recording, keeping and sharing our history.

Farewell Anthony Hardwick: Anthony was a staunch supporter of the Society and a member of the ADHS Committee. We will miss his almost daily visit to Dumaresq Chambers to read his mail, have a cuppa and biscuit and share stories from his incredible memory of notable people and events during his lifetime, which spanned 95 years.

Meat Tasting: The UNE-based meat tasting project has resumed after Covid forced postponement. Society members indicated willingness to participate in further tastings which require 60 people committing to gather in groups of 20 to provide their assessment of small quantities of cooked meat. Friday afternoon was the favoured time and willing participants can contact ADHS (J. Grieve, 0431223701 or email contact@adhs.org.au) or at Dumaresq Chambers. Sign up - it is an interesting experience (and \$1200 for ADHS).

1963: Mr John Robertson – The Early History of the Australian Agricultural Company

1973: Dr L.A. Gilbert - Historical Museums, Here and There

1983: Dr M. McKernan – The Historian and the Museum

1993: Ian Johnstone – The Men of Armidale and Hillgrove who Fell in WWI

2003: Prof. John S. Ryan - Tales from New England: A Biographical and Cultural Study of Significant Regional Prose Writers

2013: Dr Margaret Rodwell – Donald Stewart of 'Tangley', Guyra 1861-1913: from 'Ollera' sheep overseer to large-scale grazier.

Snippets of History: *Bailliere's New South Wales Gazetteer and Road Guide , Syd , 1866.*

ARMIDALE, is an important town in the County of Sandon, Parish of Armidale and electoral district of New England and is the central town of the New England district. It is situated on the Dumaresq Creek, Tilbuster ponds, being about 5 miles NE and Mihi or Miles' creek flowing on the south and Saumarez creek 5 miles distant in the same direction. Duval's mountain stands 10 miles NW, and the Devil's pinch, a steep rise on the great Northern Road is 15 miles N in the parish of Exmouth and near the head of the Tilbuster ponds. Armidale is situated in an agricultural, pastoral, and alluvial mining district, the nearest diggings being those at Rocky river or Uralla, Oban, Puddledock, Camerons creek, and Gara, all of which are within 20 miles of the township. There are 3 flour mills in the town, 1 brewery, 1 soda water & etc manufactory and one tannery, all in work. There are 2 newspapers published in the town, the *Armidale Express* and the *Armidale Telegraph*. The nearest townships are Uralla 15 miles S, Falconer 28 miles N and Walcha 40 miles S. With Uralla, communication is by mail coach, with the other places by packhorses, bullock or horse teams and private conveyances. The means of communication with Sydney, 313 miles S, are by mail coach to Singleton, thence by rail to Newcastle and then to Sydney by steamer, or by horse and dray to Grafton, 130 miles along a bad road and thence by steamer. Armidale has a good hospital, an excellent and rapidly improving school of arts and 3 schools. A new bridge is also being erected over the creek, which will connect the township with the great Northern-road. The Commercial bank, City bank, Joint Stock bank and the European, Life, Sydney, Northern Fire and Life, Liverpool, London and Globe and Australian Mutual Insurance companies have branches and there is a court house, post office and a telegraph office in town. The hotels are the Wellington (G.D. Cooper's), Freemasons (Tysoe's), New England (Mather's), Royal (M'Lean's), Gold Diggers (Millis's), Daniel O'Connell (Galvin's), Plough (Gordon's), Lord Nelson (Callaghan's), and Victoria (Mulligan's). The mail coach office is at the Armidale Store (Moore's) and the office of the Express wagon and the Tallyho coach, running twice a week to Uralla and the Rocky river diggings, at the Wellington Hotel. Armidale is under the control of a Municipal Council, it having been proclaimed a municipality on November 13th 1863. Armidale has a masonic lodge (Lodge Unity). The population of the township is about 1,000, mortality 1 in 78.

How would we amend this to describe Armidale today?

