

## *Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.*

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### **Newsletter for March 2025**

After our unexpected last-minute change of venue last month, we will return to the  
**Royal Hotel for the March Meeting at 5.30 on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March.**

The subject of **Wendy Baker**'s talk on the night will be -

**Every Man Makes his Mark – changes in St Mary's and Joseph's Cathedral.**

If you are staying on for a meal, please place your order prior to the meeting.

**New Books:** Dumaresq Chambers has received a number of new books recently. The story of the Braund family, a very detailed history of the McCrossin family of Wandsworth compiled by **Megan James (nee McCrossin)**, **Jim Swales' Woodlands** which looks at the history of the Swales family and *Archibald Mosman: The Field of the Faithful Man* by **Dimity Mortensen**.

**Dimity Mortensen** is coming to the **Armidale War Memorial Library** to talk about her book and **Archibald Mosman** who has a street named after him in Armidale, a suburb named after him in Sydney and a town in Queensland remembers his son. Her talk is at 12.30 on Monday 24 March at the town library.

**Audio visual Equipment:** We are grateful to Alan Hardaker whose application to Armidale Regional Council on behalf of ADHS to for assistance to fund more up-to-date audiovisual equipment has been successful. The \$2,000 has covered most of the cost of the electronic gadgetry which will be used at our meetings.

**Armidale Enlistments in World War Two:** We would welcome Volunteers to assist in a research project for an exhibition to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War Two in November 2025. Please contact Peter Hoare or Judith Grieve.

**A Trip Down Memory Lane:** Topics for March meetings each decade:

**1965:** Dr W.G. Walker – Schools of Two Frontiers

**1975:** No Meeting

**1985:** Ian Johnstone – World War One and The Armidale School

**1995:** Sister Kathleen Burford – Blessed Mary McKillop and the Northern Tablelands

**2005:** Joe O'Brien – Memories of Growing Up, Working and Living in Armidale

**2015:** John Harvey – An Incident at Dangars Falls



### **Snippets of History: The Corner of Marsh and Brown Streets**

Today the homes gracing this intersection provide us with a wealth of local history—they comprise 'Teragram' and 'Belmore Cottage' on the Northern corners and 'Stockton' and 'Birida' on the South.

The history of the Californian bungalow style weatherboard home 'Teragram' (Margaret spelt backwards) at 163 Marsh Street (Lot 1 Section 17) before the **Turner** family purchased it in the 1950s is sparse, but the original half-acre block of land is recorded in the name of **Arthur Hunter Palmer** on the 1866 Plan of the Town of Armidale.

In 1840, young Irish-born Arthur became the manager of **Henry Dangar's** pastoral holdings including 'Gostwyck' in Armidale. **Palmer** purchased a number of town lots and also 'Palmerston', 400 acres on the Dangarsleigh Road which he sold to the Dangars on leaving Armidale in 1863. It would appear that he also sold Lot 1 Section 17 on the north-east corner of Marsh and Brown streets to **Joseph Scholes senior** who built and lived nearby at 'Newton Terrace' 175 Marsh Street. **Palmer** married Cecilia, daughter of ex-whaler and Armidale businessman **Archibald Mosman** (correctly spelt where his whaling station was situated in Mosman, Sydney and misspelt in Mossman Street Armidale). **Palmer** became a successful pastoralist in Queensland and entered politics to become Premier of Queensland 1870-74.

**Joseph Scholes** was a leading figure in early Armidale history, with numerous business interests and town properties. In 1857 **Scholes** and a number of other parents published their satisfaction with the education their children were receiving at the new **Armidale Grammar School** under the tutelage of **Dr Thomas** and his wife. In December of that year **Dr Thomas** advertised that the school had 'moved to commodious premises expressly erected for him in Marsh Street'. This most likely was on **Joseph Scholes'** Lot 1 Section 17 as by 1866 **Thomas'** Grammar School receives no further mention but in 1866 **Robert Mayhew** is running a similar-named school, which in 1868 is described as **opposite 'Belmore Cottage'** in Marsh Street. He also advertised that he was endeavouring to start a chess school.

[On 17/3/1873 an *Express* article describes a game of chess played by telegraph between Messrs **Robins** and **Mayhew** of Armidale and **Creed** and **Lardner** of Glen Innes. It extended over five hours during which time forty moves were made. An 'ingenious' move by **Mr Robins** secured a win for Armidale!].

In December 1873 **Robert Mayhew** put up for auction 'the whole of his costly and valuable household furniture, books, land, stores' (and the list is impressive), the sale was unreserved and **Mayhew** was leaving the district.

By January 1874 **Joseph Scholes** advertised that the 'House and Premises situate in Marsh Street, lately occupied by **R. Mayhew Esq.** as a boarding school' was To Let. From 1902 to 1904 similar advertisements were placed in the *Armidale Express* for the sale of 'Allotment 1 of Section 17 on the corner of Brown and Marsh streets on three quarters of an acre of land on which is erected that large weatherboard dwelling known as 'Koonawarra'. No further references as to when 'Koonawarra' met its fate.