

Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.

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Newsletter for May 2025

The next meeting of the Society will be at the **Royal Hotel on Tuesday, 20th May**
when **Sue Tanner** will present

A Damn Good Question: Who Made the Bricks?

The brickmakers of Armidale have not been easy to research and Sue has been able
to 'unearth' information regarding who they were.

Please order meals prior to the meeting.

Membership for 2025-6: A membership renewal form will be included in this
mailout, with details of payment options. The Annual General Meeting will be in
July and payment by 30th June would be appreciated.

Dumaresq Chambers: The family of our late member, Nancy Bruyn have kindly
donated a map cabinet and its contents to the Society. We hold a considerable
collection of maps, some of which have been catalogued and with the additions to
the collection, John Atchison and his team will take on the task of identifying and
indexing the full collection. Paper maps will become history in this digital world,
making our collection all the more important for 'hands on' research. We are most
grateful to the Bruyn family, the late John Ryan, Elders Ltd, Armidale and individual
members for providing the Society with the extensive map library and cabinets.

WWII Project: We welcome information/photos of Armidale people who served.

A Trip Down Memory Lane: Topics for May meetings each decade.

1965: Prof. C. M. Williams – Film re National Trust

1975: Dr J.F. Atchison – The Australian Agricultural Company and its Impact
On New England

1985: Graham Wilson – A Social History of Hillgrove 1880-1910

1995: Paul Lamb – An Account in the making of the fascinating career of the country
Bishop who became a World Figure

2005: Arnold Goode- A Brief History of Brown's Paddock Gold Mines Company

2015: Dr Nathan Wise – World War One – Dig, Dig, Dig,

Snippets of History: The Club Hotel. There is no longer a '**Club Hotel**' at 117 Marsh Street, Armidale. However, the brick building of the 1800s has undergone numerous changes and since 2006 has traded as the '**White Bull Hotel**' with logos of multiple bulls to advertise its presence. An outside wall display provides the history of the Flemish Bond blue brick building, as the site of the '**Robert Burns Hotel**' 1876-78, then the second '**Armidale Hotel**' from 1878 to 1888 when it became the '**Club Hotel**'.

However, these allotments facing Marsh Street may have been a hotel site prior to 1876 as (Cady (ADHJ 34) noted **Joseph Scholes** was granted a licence to run the '**Crown Inn**' on 18 April 1854. **James Tysoe's** obituary (AC 21/8/1910) stated he was the licensee of the '**Crown Hotel**' in Marsh Street prior to building the '**Freemasons Hotel**' in 1863 (on the SE corner of Marsh and Rusden Streets, which became the '**St Kilda Hotel**' in 1870).

Alan McDonald held the licence for the '**Robert Burns Hotel**' in 1876, which was transferred in 1877 to **Henry Allingham** who changed the name to the '**Armidale Hotel**'. But the following year the four lots, 1,2,11 and 12 in Section 11 comprising the '**Armidale Hotel**' and outbuildings were for sale (owner **George Quinlin**) and in 1880 the goodwill, furniture, stock and business of the Hotel were noted as the 'Oldest business in town'. At the end of 1885 the 'large, substantial brick building and outbuildings in Marsh Street' were for sale or rent (owner **William Hiscox**). **George Hogbin**, **B.Coughlan**, **Joseph McKeogh**, and **Lewis Gream** were licensees and in 1886 **William Glover** renamed it the '**Club Hotel**'.

Lewis Gream ran the livery stables for the hotel and offered a wide range of horses (100!) and buggies to hire 'at a moment's notice'. He advertised the entire business for sale noting that he was leaving the district due to his wife's health. The hotel was described as a new brick building with extensive conveniences, the livery stables 'a fortune in themselves'. **David Jackson** from Guyra took over the licence. At that time (1892) the Hotel was described as a short distance from and almost in the centre of the '**Albion**' ('**Wicklow**'), '**Royal**', '**Victoria**' (in Rusden Street) and '**St Kilda**'.

In June 1895 Jackson's licence renewal was opposed on the grounds that the premises were in a very bad state, the back part old, damp and unhealthy, the floors decaying and the rooms smelt. Later, when a plan of proposed additions of 5 brick rooms, one wooden room and removal of a skillion room, the Inspector was opposed to granting a licence while any portion of the old premises remained; also the plan did not show whether the building would be 'constructed of calico, wood, iron or bricks' and as the current premises was not fit, the licence was refused. The owner **William Glover** produced further plan at an 1895 licencing court hearing along with a signed petition and indicated his intention to spend up to 1,000 pounds on improvements. The response was that there were 'about 18 or 19 hotels in the town, 7 of which were first class and the accommodation for 423 persons was sufficient. Despite this a conditional licence was granted.

In April 1896 **William Glover** opened the newly licenced '**Club Hotel**', enlarged, with rooms lofty and well-ventilated and the premises 'an ornament to the street'.