



CANOWINDRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM INC.
PO BOX 76, CANOWINDRA 2804
ABN: 50208 429 495

NEWSLETTER – MARCH – APRIL 2012

Patrons: Berna Wright, Gwen Wythes, John Farley, Dorothy Balcomb

President:

Vice President: John Farley

Secretary: Diane Arandt, Tel. 63447100, Email: dmarandt@activ8.net.au

Assistant Secretary: Carmel Bryant Tel. 63 443663

Treasurer & Museum Curator: Anne Vincent, Tel. 63441817, Email: annevincent@netspace.net.au

Publicity Officer: Dorothy Balcomb, Tel 63600618, Email: tekoona@bigpond.com Assistants, Diane & Anne

Museum Roster and Assistant Curator: Audrey Farley Tel 63441747

Program Officer: Muriel Yell, Tel. 63441916

Committee: Executive officers ex officio and Michael Arandt, Ian McIlvain, Rosslyn Finn, and others to be appointed

Office Bearers for 2012: At the AGM on 6 March, office bearers listed above were elected. A president is yet to be appointed.



Belubula Farms in Flood, Early March 2012

Photo courtesy R G Watt

As this is the first newsletter for 2012 it is fitting to include a flood photo, when flooding rains have been so much in the news. It was on these Belubula River flats that John Grant II grew the first lucerne in the Canowindra district in the 1860s. I wish we'd had this photo last year for the lucerne panels, unveiled in October, that are now part of the museum's permanent display. If you have not seen them they are worth a visit.

MAGNA Award: The Sustainable Collections Project, (SCP) www.centralnswmuseums.com.au, involving regional museums within the areas of Cabonne-Orange-Blayney Councils, supported by Arts Out West and managed by Alison Russell, Orange City Council, provided funding for the lucerne panels and it was a triumph that the Project was the national winner of the medium museums category at the inaugural Museums and Galleries National Awards in Perth at the end of 2011 to celebrate and reward excellence in museum practice. www.museumsaustralia.org.au Also funded by SCP, Molong Museum recently opened a display on Fairbridge Farm. An invitation to the first of three talks by Sue Johnson on **Women of the Victorian Era** on Tuesday 27 March at 10 for 10.30 am at Molong Museum has been received. Contact Marie Hammond.

Museum Roster: The museum is only open on a regular basis on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 but Audrey Farley (Tel. 63441747) or Carmel Bryant will open on request at other times. More volunteers are needed to maintain the Saturday roster and Audrey or Anne would welcome offers especially to open the museum for extended opening hours during the coming April school holidays, Friday 5 to 22 April, when Canowindra will be a busy place with Easter and the Ballooning Festival. Can you volunteer some time, particularly during weekends and public holidays? If you have no knowledge of the museum another volunteer would help you. Some special events when the museum should be open are:

Easter Sunday 8 April: 208 vintage and veteran cars will be in town from 11 am to 3pm. 400 people with cars and a similar number of visitors are expected. With food etc in Gaskill Street and Memorial Park, the museum should attract attention if open.

Saturday 14 April: Food and wine market from 4.30 to 7pm. Then Balloon Glow.

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15: Bowd family reunion. Potential visitors.

Sunday 21: Lions Club Big BBQ in Age of Fishes. Again an opportunity for visitors.

Sunday to Friday: Balloon competitions and flights

Saturday 21: 6.30 to 8.30pm. Balloon key grab in Hamilton's Wines vineyard/airport.

Saturday 21: Second hand Saturday from 8.30 am until about 3pm. This will include garage sales, UTE & BOOT sales on the common between the caravan park and the river, shop clearance sales, craft & produce market in Memorial Park. Organisers are hoping to hold people in town after the key grab. Look at this website for more: www.canowindra.org.au

Australian Year of the Farmer – 2012: *Our Farmers, Our Future. The Year of the Farmer is a celebration of the vital role farmers play in feeding, clothing and sheltering us all.* So reads the blurb if you Google, *The Year of the Farmer*. Incidentally the website tells of good prizes being offered for photographs. As Canowindra is the service centre of a rich mixed farming district, it is a good reason for the town to celebrate Canowindra farmers, past and present.

Write your farm story: The Editor of the *Canowindra News* has agreed to publish a series of stories of farming families of the Canowindra district throughout this year as a project of the Canowindra Historical Society and Museum Inc. I still have two unpublished lucerne family stories from last year. There should be many more, not only of lucerne but also of wheat, wool, prime lambs, dairy, beef cattle, and, more recently, wine. The Historical Society invites district farm stories for this project. They could be posted, handed in or emailed to the secretary, treasurer or me on the understanding that they may be edited for publication. Accompanying photos would be copied and returned.

Fundraisers planned. Muriel Yell would welcome inquiries or offers to help.

2pm Saturday 26 May at Canowindra Bowling Club, Fashion Parade by Saffi with afternoon tea.

Saturday mornings: 29 September and 17 October. Raffle outside IGA.

Information Requests: The Society receives many requests for information which members do their best to answer. One recent request was for information on the evolution of fibro cutters. Walter Goodacre, builder of Canowindra patented an early fibro cutter in 1932 and a picture is on the Internet. Inquiries revealed that grandson, Allan Goodacre, of Orange, has the original fibro cutter at his home. Another request was from Graham Costello of Taree wanting details of the building c. 1947 of the concrete retainer wall on the Belubula River near the Swinging Bridge. His father, Les Costello, and Clarrie Wood were involved in building it when working for Boree Shire. He might visit Canowindra on Anzac Day. Can anyone help?

Heritage Plaques: The Society has applied for a Cabonne Council Heritage Grant to provide part funding for proposed Heritage Plaques on some Gaskill Street buildings.

Membership for 2012: Thanks to those who have already paid Society membership for this year, 1 January to 31 December 2012. If you have not yet renewed or would like to join as a new member, the annual subscription is Adult: \$15 or \$25 two at same address. Forms available from Anne Vincent or the museum, post cheque to PO Box 76 Canowindra or pay directly to BSB 082-500 Account Number 50-958-3181 Canowindra Historical Society & Museum

Monthly Meetings are held at 10am at the museum on the first Tuesday of the month.

The next general meeting is on **Tuesday 3 April at 10am.**

On most other Tuesday mornings there are working parties at the museum. Contact Diane Arandt or Anne Vincent if you are interested

Dorothy Balcomb, Publicity Officer