

A U T U M N 2 0 1 6

the
Memory Bank

Quarterly Newsletter of the Millthorpe & District Historical Society

The President Writes

March is here - the year is flying by!

The Trevor Pascoe Pavilion has well and truly become a hit with most visitors, with some spending hours reading about many inventions that they had no idea were invented by Australians.

The museum is becoming a very popular venue for many visiting groups, and the catering committee have been kept quite busy supplying morning and afternoon teas as well as lunch for some groups. The new concrete on the verandah of the Pioneers Gallery has made such a difference with the catering at that venue.

The Audio Visual Equipment used in many sections of the museum is always giving trouble in one way or another. We have 12 screens, some work on computers, others with TV screen and DVD players, then others with portable DVD players, and others on TV screen and USB operation. All have to be started up at the beginning of each day and closed down at the close of the day. All operate in different ways and it becomes a very complicated and a time consuming operation to open and close the museum for the volunteers.

We have had an Audio Visual expert visit us and he is looking into a system that will improve our presentations and hopefully make it much more simple to operate our excellent Audio Visual sections in the museum. He also suggested we install motion sensors on quite a few of the screens, so they are not operating all the time, as they do now even when there are no visitors. It may be costly but we feel we need to move with the times. The system we operate now is with old 'hand me down' equipment that has just evolved over the years.

Peter Whiley
President



THE SAMPLER

The Sampler includes snippets about items in the museum's collection

A mystery solved



Local pioneer, Mr Jack Amos, bought this brass plaque back from World War 2. Discovered in New Guinea it is heavily made and cast with Japanese characters, it has sat in the museum collection for many years.

Was it an instruction from a shrine? Was it a directive from the Emperor, the dedication from a battleship or something sinister? No one really knew until our Rosemarie Amos asked a Japanese teacher who deciphered the mystery.

The enigma has refueling instructions and directions for fuel mixes on it. The plaque is probably from a Japanese plane. Perhaps we shouldn't have asked!

A light in the darkness

Our forebears woke at sunrise and went to bed soon after sunset. No wonder they had big families! To ward off the dark they used a variety of sources of light. The most common in the bush was the candle. The object in the photo is a candle makers' tallow plate on which the lady of the house would render down beef or mutton fat on the stove. The cast iron skillet would give up a smelly substitute for candle wax. You can see the spout on the side



Character moulding

The rendered tallow would then be poured into candle moulds along with a wick and allowed to cool. The museum houses two such moulds. Wicks ideally were braided. The braiding encourages the wick to curl back into the flame as the surrounding tallow burns down. This means more wick is burnt, and less charred, sooty "stuff" needs tidying up. Most of the light in our pioneers' homes came from the fire but in summer or in dark corners candles were appreciated.





1922



1970



2016

Then and Now

8 Pym Street, Millthorpe

Millthorpe is noted for its striking nineteenth century streetscape with verandahs and shop fronts much the same as they were a hundred years ago. One of these buildings is the home of John and Marnie Mason.

Although little is known about who built this striking building it is assumed that it was built prior to 1890. Eight Pym Street is constructed from ash blocks reputedly made from ash found in the furnaces of the Great Western Milling Company premises.

The premises have had a colorful history being used as a barber shop, gentleman's club and billiards room, Red Cross shop, tea house, scout

hall, old wares shop and now a stylish residence.

Like many buildings in country towns in the 1970s the verandah was removed, purportedly for safety reasons and two large roll a doors were installed.

Fortunately John and Marnie had the foresight to restore the building to its earlier status and it now stands proudly facing the future.

The interior of 8 Pym Street has also had a makeover with John and Marnie's eclectic collection of antiques, old wares and most notably John's electric jug collection installed.

Central NSW Museums Network – Open Weekend 2nd & 3rd April 2016



Golden Memories Museum is again joining in with all the museums in our network for this Open Weekend event by offering something special.

We will be hosting the Ariel Motorcycle Club on Saturday 2nd April when they stop to show off their bikes and have lunch at the museum as they pass through on their National Rally. Come along to give them a warm Millthorpe welcome and check out their lovely bikes.

For other museum events in the district log onto the networks website on www.centralnswmuseums.com.au

THE SAMPLER

Our museum has in its extensive collection, items from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Many of the curios are extremely fragile and but for the foresight of previous owners and their descendants would have been disposed of. Amongst these are clothes that tell some remarkable stories. Here are a few items and the stories attached to them.



Doris Paul's hat and dress circa 1965

Doris Paul was a well known identity in Millthorpe and lived in the village most of her life. She was a trained nurse and after retiring became involved with the Millthorpe & District Historical Society, the CWA and St Marks Anglican Church. She had this dress and matching hat especially made for the opening of the Museum in 1965.

Joan Whiley's "Going away outfit" circa 1967

This "going away outfit" was worn by Joan Whiley after her marriage to Peter in 1967. Joan attended the opening of the Museum as her first visit and introduction to Millthorpe. Joan's husband to be, Peter Whiley, was a foundation member and is now President of the Society. Joan is currently convener of the Catering Committee.



Joyce Pascoe's semi-formal dress

Joyce Pascoe made this dress to attend her cousin's wedding in Millthorpe. It was originally a full length dress as it was a semi-formal occasion. Joyce later shortened it so it was more practical and useful to wear as a good day dress. Joyce attended the museum opening with her husband Geoff in 1965. She joined the society in 1990 and has been an active member, filling roles as the convener of the Craft Cottage, Catering Committee and has served as Secretary.