



Two great new books out soon

The pandemic has impacted dreadfully on all aspects of our community but one area which has escaped the claws of the virus is research and writing by our dedicated local historians. I foreshadowed in the August Newsletter that Wayne Patfield has completed his second book on the ships which plied the Paterson River. The first one was sail, this one steam. The book is ready for the printers and will be printed during September

The other book has been written and compiled by Alison Pitkin, the editor of the Paterson Psst, called *Portraits of Paterson, NSW*. Alison has focussed on the village of Paterson, its buildings and families. Over the years Alison had recorded stories about local families, businesses and houses which have been published in the Psst. The next step was, of course, to put these together into a book. These stories have been supplemented by further new research in order to cover most of the older buildings, businesses and families living in Paterson during the 20th century. Alison's research has recorded much about the 20th century events and changes within our own lifetimes which is important and often overlooked.

Portraits of Paterson has been extensively illustrated by Val Anderson, long time and former curator of Paterson Court House Museum and Life Member of the Paterson Historical Society. Val has gone to great detail in illustrating many buildings not found in old photos and other records.

We would have loved to have had a launch of these new books but cannot see it being possible. Local halls have a limit on them of around 40 people and the logistics of only having some people attend and not others is not worth contemplating.

We are therefore planning to have two informal events in Tucker Park whereby the respective authors will be available to sign copies and books will be available for sale. They will be stationed in the poplar tree area for a Sunday afternoon. Both authors have had tremendous support from so many people and want to ensure people can obtain copies as soon as the book is available.

The dates are:

18 October for *Steamships on the Paterson River 1832-1950* by Wayne Patfield

15 November for *Portraits of Paterson, NSW* by Alison Pitkin

The books are an important source of revenue for the Society and it is essential to have them on the market leading up to Christmas. Final details will be in the next newsletters.

These are special books, prepared with love for our history, village and district. Both deserve a big launch but alas it is not to be. Instead we are going to plan B which I hope will make the books available, acknowledge the great work of the authors and all those who generously contributed

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