



ABN 70 411 965 626

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.  
COURT HOUSE MUSEUM

PO Box 34  
Paterson NSW 2421

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society  
Museums Australia - Hunter Chapter  
[www.patersonhistory.org.au](http://www.patersonhistory.org.au)



[patersonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:patersonmuseum@gmail.com)

## A new book from Paterson Historical Society to be launched in March

Paterson Historical Society's new book "*Gresford to Carrabolla - People and Places*" by Dr Brian Walsh will be launched at **2pm on Sunday 16 March 2025 at Gresford Bowling Club, East Gresford**. All are welcome to attend. It will be launched by the Mayor of Dungog, Digby Rayward.

The book reveals how European Society emerged along the river from the 1820s, albeit at the expense of the dispossession of Aboriginal people. It provides information on the land owners, convicts, immigrants and colonial born who worked on the estates or leased parts of them as tenant farmers. It also features the many "selectors" who took up small blocks in the remote bushland, hills and mountains of the upper Paterson. Despite floods, poor roads and isolation, they made it their home. With hard work, bush skills and resilience, they raised their families there.

The book highlights the formation of the schools, churches and post offices that became a vital part of the social fabric of the upper Paterson. It also shows the impact on the many families that lost their farms when Lostock Dam was built. This was followed by the dramatic contraction of the dairy industry and the depopulation of the upper Paterson.

In the book, Brian has woven a fascinating narrative within the context of the environment, gradually moving up the river sensitively telling the stories of enterprise, community and, of course, some dramatic financial failures. The failure of the large enterprises had an upside whereby large estates were broken up, providing the opportunity for aspiring family farmers to establish their own farms.

The Paterson River twists and turns as it heads north into the Barrington Tops and as Europeans headed up the river their fortunes also twisted and turned. The idea of "big" being the best way to farm in the nineteenth century is sorely tested in this story. On two occasions when large swathes of the land were held by the one person, it ended badly.

The book includes a chapter on the Lindeman family. Their inspiring story is a testament to the expertise and enterprise of Henry Lindeman and his descendants who built what was probably the Colony's largest wine enterprise at Cawarra and this includes their ability to pass the business to the next generation.

The limited fertile river flats abutted by steep hills, with only a few open basin-like areas such as Mount Rivers and Lostock, make these lands difficult to manage. The river was a source of permanent water even during the harshest droughts but it was a fierce torrent during floods, leading to weeks of isolation for residents. The families who lived and worked the land were resourceful and hard working. Their story in this part of the Paterson Valley is now there for us all to read and reflect upon.

We are all looking forward to reading this important book about the history of our valley.

Cameron Archer AM

President

Inquiries Cameron Archer

0427 202 94

[6579aca@gmail.com](mailto:6579aca@gmail.com)