



THE JOURNAL OF
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED
MUSEUM NEWS



Galeola cassythoides (Climbing leafless orchid)

Photo: Lyn Walsh - Tocal Collage

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Affiliated with the ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MR P BLACKMORE

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MR G SEMKIN

PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM is open regularly on SUNDAYS - from 1pm

MEETINGS: Paterson Historical Society Inc. meets the first Thursday of the month - 7.30pm at the Paterson Court House Museum (except December and January)

JOURNAL: "MUSEUM NEWS" is published five times a year - February April June August October

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION DUE: February each year

Family: \$5.00 Single: \$3.00 Student; \$1.00

What a busy year this has been!

The Dorothy Mackellar book launch, the Lodge Banner celebrations and successful grant applications were highlights early in the year. However it was the success of publications which caught us by surprise! Jack Sullivan's George Townshend Heritage Address was printed by way of a RAHS grant, the Mackellar and Lodge Banner books sold very well, and our two latest publications "The Australian Women's Land Army" by Shirley Threlfo and "Settlers of Paterson's Plains" by Cynthia Hunter (also printed by way of a RAHS grant) are being very well received. The cataloguing of our photographic collection is nearing completion - copies have been taken and identification is continuing. A \$300 grant from the Australian Archives plus archival boxes was unexpected but very welcome.

Here's to 1998 and the surprises it could bring!

Pauline Clements

Editor

CURATORS CORNER: VAL ANDERSON

The original Banner Box c 1902 and original surround fabric (replaced by new fabric during restoration) are now on display in the Court Room for visitors to view.

A Banner plaque has been placed at the Court Room entrance.

A Banner Reference Folder is available for quick reference following visitor's questions.

Office outer door has been re-swung (hinges reversed now making access much easier).

Double power points have been installed giving power to our new display cabinets.

Original Notice Boards have been repainted - one relocated to enable fire fighting equipment to be installed.

Curtains to the western side of the building have been hung to reduce intensity of the summer sun on photos and artifacts.

More fabric of the same colour (deep brown) has been purchased to replace existing cabinet covers.

Move to save old building

A public meeting at the old courthouse building at Paterson decided to ask Dungog Shire Council to seek trusteeship of the building.

The meeting, chaired by the President of Dungog Shire Council (Cr. Hawley), was told the Justice Department was no longer interested in the building as a courthouse. The Police Department would build an office with a police residence and would soon also be no longer interested.

The Bushfire Brigade said it wanted part of the land.

Mr. J. Donohoe said it would cost the Civil Defence hundreds of dollars to move equipment.

Mr. W. Northcott suggested the courthouse could be used as a library and an historical museum.

There were many old original photographs and writings relating to the town and district that would be lost if they were not kept together.

Historical

Paterson and district had 34 historic buildings.

Mr. S. Fry said the Progress Association had not decided if it wanted the building. Problems were the cost of upkeep and caretaking.

Mr. D. Stewart, of the architectural branch of the Department of Public Works, said if any major changes

were made to the building the department would want to be consulted. The courthouse was about 120 years old. It was included in the National Trust's record of historical buildings.

Its restoration should be encouraged, he said.

The Shire Clerk (Mr. Toms) said the council would consider the meeting's proposals. If a library service were started the council would want premises in Paterson as well as other centres.

Mr. Stewart said the building was owned by the Lands Department. He was advised that, on application from Dungog Shire Council, it would be made trustee of the land and building for virtually nothing.

Mr. Toms said the council could not afford to spend \$10,000 on repairs for no purpose.

The back portion of the building could possibly be converted to home units, Mr. Northcott said.

After Cr. Hawley said he would put it to council that it accept trusteeship of the building, Mr. Toms said there would need to be assistance by grant for restoration.

Mr. Fry said if the council took over the building it would not get off the ground as a library or a museum.

Cr. Hawley said a small museum at Dungog which opened for one day a week was yielding \$14 to \$15 a week.

LODGE OF GOOD TEMPLARS.—We learn with pleasure that a lodge of Good Templars is to be opened in this town on Thursday, the 25th instant, at the Oddfellows Hall, when a deputation from Sydney and Maitland will attend to formally open the new lodge, and afterwards address the members and the public on the importance of joining the institution. It is to be hoped that our townspeople—the young people especially—will come forward and join such an important movement, and thus assist in checking the drinking propensities of our community; and thereby endeavour to train our rising generation to become a sober, wiser, and more intelligent people, that these colonies may eventually become a mighty nation renowned for the sober, wise, and industrious habits of the inhabitants.

MAITLAND WEEKLY MERCURY

26 May 1894:

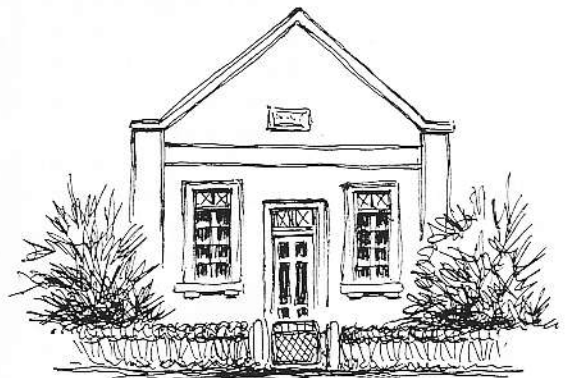
Jack Sullivan

Rev. E. Tucker, the I.O.G.T. Grand Chaplain, visited the Paterson Lodge on Monday evening last, and gladdened the members by his warm enthusiastic speaking. The reverend gentleman purposes giving a lecture with limelight lantern views in the Oddfellows' Hall, Paterson, on Tuesday night next, which we have reason to believe will be very attractive and good.

MAITLAND MERCURY— 19 July 1900

Jack Sullivan

The Oddfellows are holding a ball here on Friday night, which if the weather continues as at present, is likely to be largely patronised.



ODDFELLOWS HALL - 1865

ORCHID NEWS: MABS KEPPIE

At long last *P truncata*, possibly Rev Rupp's favourite orchid has been found in the hills behind "Glenlossie". It was identified earlier this year during a visit to the area by John Riley, considered one of Australia's foremost botanical illustrators. *Galeola cassythoides* (climbing leafless orchid) known for some time to be growing in the hills has been found on the flats of "Glenlossie" in the scrub on one of our boy's properties.

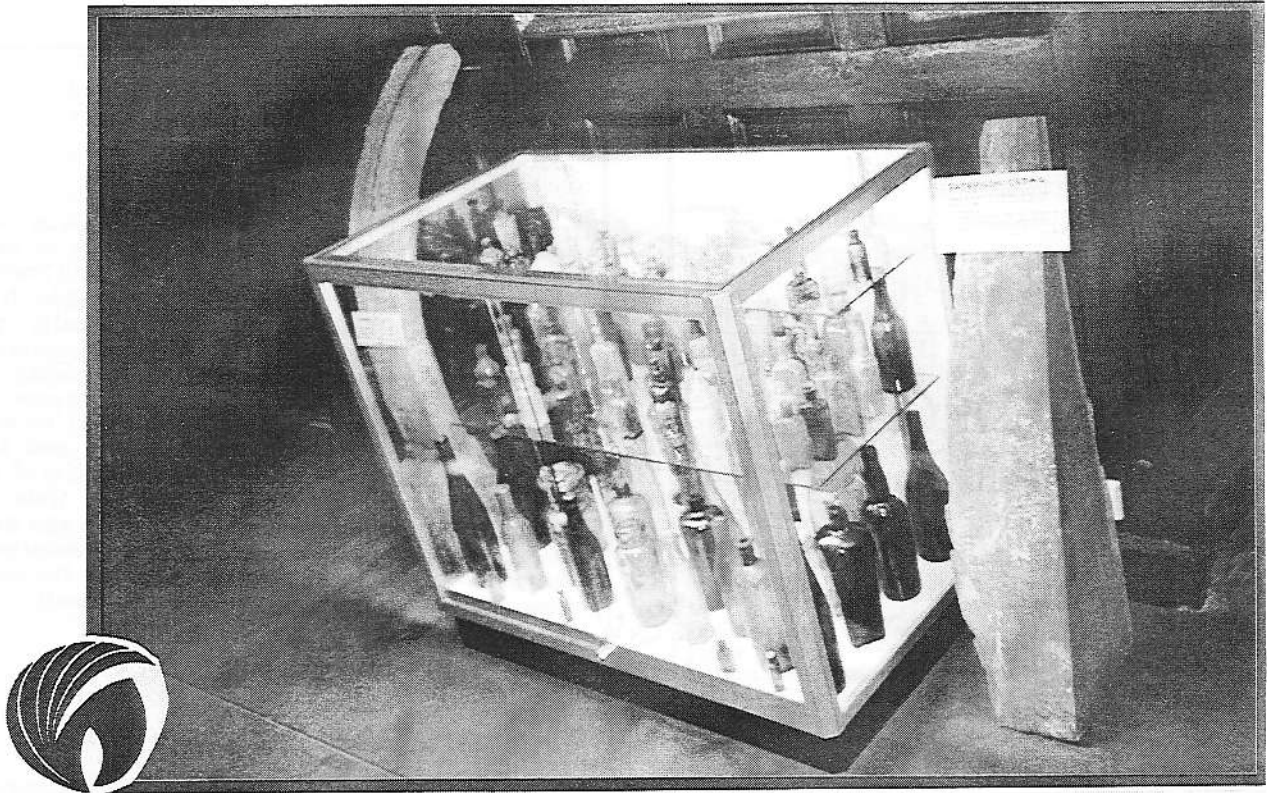


Photo: Bill Anderson

BUILDING PROJECTS: Bill Anderson

A successful grant of \$5000 from the Ministry for the Arts NEW SOUTH WALES for assistance towards the purchase of display cabinets (\$4000) and upgrading of electrical facilities (\$1000) has greatly enhanced our display situation.

Four display cabinets donated by Cessnock Historical Society have been detailed and are now in full use.

Fire fighting equipment has been installed in the Court Room and stair well room by Dungog Shire Council.

The co-operation given by Dungog Shire council relative to ground maintenance is greatly appreciated.

LORD HOWE ISLAND MUSEUM: MEMBERS VISITS

First stop for the Andersons on a recent visit to this island paradise was the museum. Outstanding in presentation, wonderful support from many authorities and waiting with anticipation for news of financial support to rebuild the entire complex. The elderly, but knowledgeable gentleman attendant gave a wonderful overview of the island's history but added that he was a newcomer to the island settling when he was 26 years of age - what age was he now? - 93 years!

Esme Meehan followed the Andersons and is pleased to report that the island's modern museum would be a reality, finance is through and work has already begun.

(A visit to L H I brings forth the usual question - did you climb Mount Gower (the "Everest" of L H I)? NO - the Andersons didn't nor did Esme Meehan, but member Cynthia Hunter did!)

Jack Sullivan followed his usual favourite pursuit - bird watching!

SNIPPETS: Andy Burg

Watch for Mabs and Bill Keppie as extras in the film "Fifteen Amore" recently shot at historic "Wallalong House". (Congrats to Bill and Mabs on their 50th wedding anniversary.)....The Dunlops have added another vintage car to their stable....Thanks to President Cameron for our new Heritage Walk signs - if all else fails Cameron!....Also thanks to Cynthia Hunter for supplying coasters for the Cessnock cabinets and to Bill Anderson for creosoting the museum fence....As usual, Jack Sullivan bowled us over with his slide program at our Christmas gathering (special thanks to Sue Sokolof for keeping him under control.....
.....and....CLIVE'S BACK!