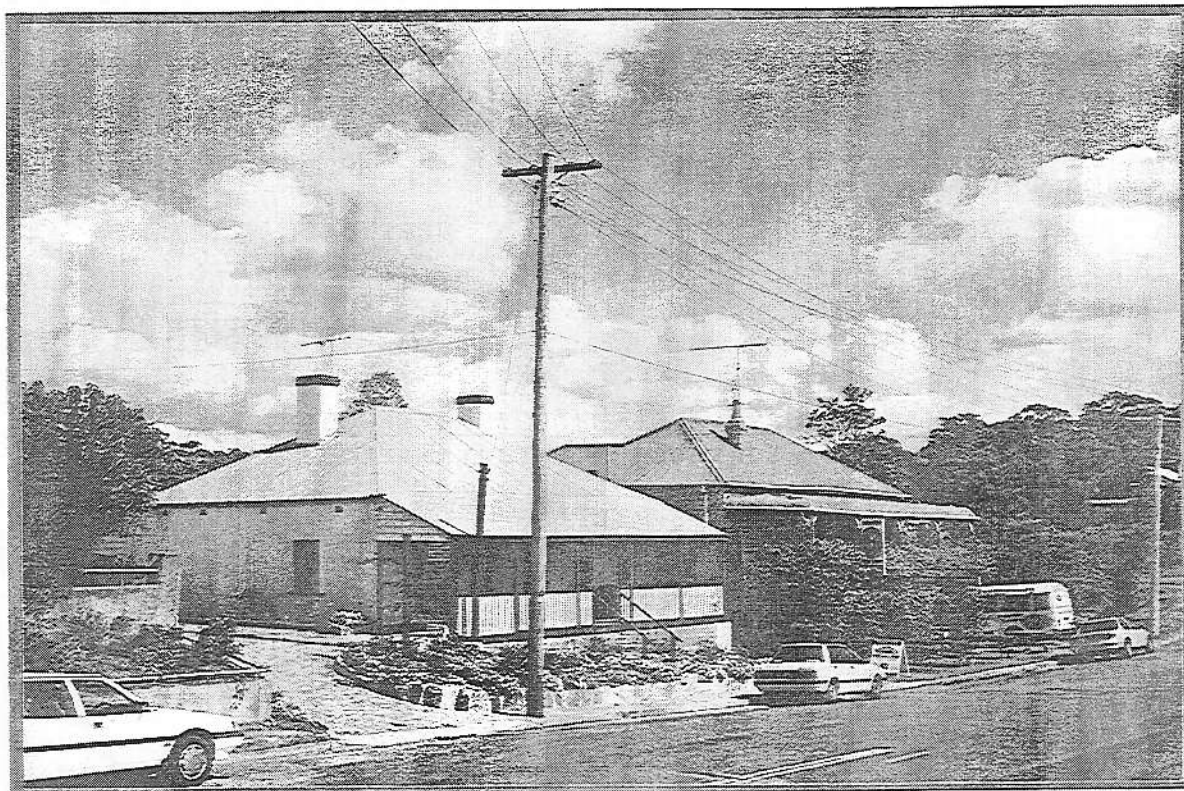




THE JOURNAL OF  
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED  
**MUSEUM NEWS**



"NOUMEA" - PATERSON NSW

FEBRUARY - MARCH - APRIL 1998  
VOLUME 5 #1      ISSN - 1321 - 4438

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society Inc

PRESIDENT: Cameron Archer

SECRETARY: Pauline Clements

ASS SECRETARY: Pam Sivyer

TREASURER: Shirley Threlfo

VICE PRESIDENT: Maurice Dunlop

JOURNAL: Pauline Clements - Val Anderson

MUSEUM CURATOR: Val Anderson - Committee

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR: Bill Anderson

RECORDER: Mabs Keppie

SURVEILLANCE OFFICER: Clive Corbett - Phil Leak

RESEARCH OFFICERS: P Clements SThrelfo M Keppie B Keppie  
V Anderson

PATRONS:

MR M MORRIS OA

MR R BALDWIN

MR P BLACKMORE

MR A FAIRHALL

MR L KIDD

MR G SEMKEN

PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM is OPEN SUNDAYS from 1pm

MEETINGS: Paterson Historical Society Inc meets the first Thursday of each month - 7.30 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

MUSEUM ROSTER:

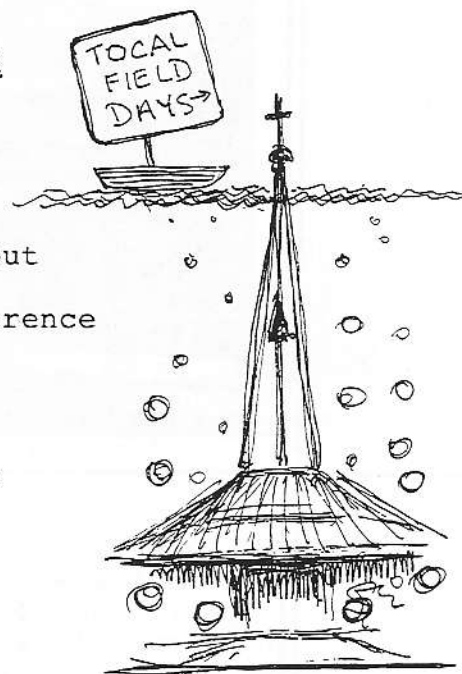
7th JUNE	M&M DUNLOP	2nd AUG	C ARCHER
14th "	B&V ANDERSON	9th "	S THRELFO P SIVYER
21st "	C ARCHER	16th "	B&M KEPPIE
28th "	S THRELFO P SIVYER	23rd "	P LEAK P CLEMENTS
		30th "	M&M DUNLOP
5th JULY	B&M KEPPIE	6th SEPT	B&V ANDERSON
12th "	P LEAK & P CLEMENTS	13th "	C ARCHER
19th "	M&M DUNLOP	20th "	S THRELFO P SIVYER
26th "	B&V ANDERSON	27th "	B&M KEPPIE

PROGRAM:

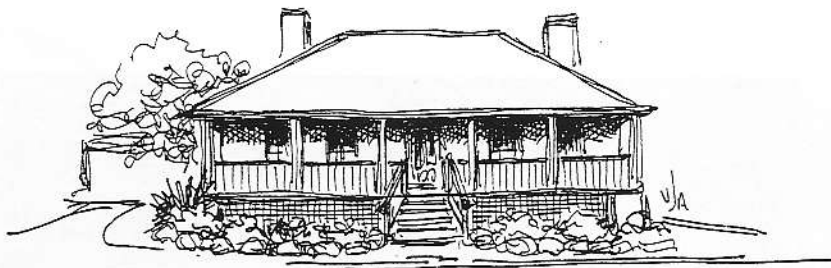
JUNE	4	<u>MEETING: GUEST SPEAKER: CYNTHIA HUNTER</u> Fry Family/Business Enterprises and Mawson Excursion
JULY	2	<u>MEETING: BUSINESS MEETING</u> <u>WORKING BEE at Museum - ALL WELCOME</u>
AUGUST	6	<u>MEETING: GUEST SPEAKER: PHIL LEAK</u> (Slide Evening - topic to be advised but always interesting)
SEPT	3	<u>MEETING: BUSINESS MEETING - 1999 Conference</u> 1999 Citrus Festival <u>OUTING - details to be advised</u>

MUSEUM ACCESSIONS:

Hunter Valley Register - E Guilford - by Purchase  
Glass Display Cabinet - C & B Sexton  
(Bob) Anderson Family Histories x 2  
Dungog District Books x 6 - by Purchase  
Indigenous and Australian Flags - Bob Baldwin MP  
Metal Cabinet - Table etc - by purchase  
WW1 Fabric Artifacts x 3 - A & K Eather  
TALA Icing Set - Clive Corbett  
WW1 Books x 5 - (Army Bridge Monographs) - D Wilson  
BIBLE 1904 - Prize to Violet Keppie/St Paul's - B Keppie  
Colonial Cook Book - Doyles - M Keppie  
1833 Village Reserve Map - J Sullivan  
COVER PHOTO: Bill Anderson



ANY RAIN AT  
LOCAL  
THIS YEAR  
CAMERON?



### "NOUMEA" - PATERSON

Although "Noumea", standing in Prince Street, Paterson is considered to be the oldest building in the Paterson township, very little is known of its early history.

It is believed to have been built about the time the Village of Paterson was planned by the government surveyor, George Boyle White, for when the village map was published the town's southern boundary adjoined the northern boundary of James Phillip's 2090 acre land grant, allotted to him in 1823. The maps of the Land Grant adjoining the new township show several small buildings on the land, one of which could have been the cottage.

The Government of the day had purchased 90 acres of land from Mrs Susannah Ward so that the town might be built on the navigable part of the river - remember at this time the river was the only means of transport and communication for the newly established township. It is believed that James Phillips had the small cottage erected originally to be used as a store, and with later additions became a residence in which one of his sons dwelt for many years. Stories are told, although none can be substantiated, that the cottage was used as a police station at some time, and as a school, and this last story, at least can be vouched for.

In the Maitland Mercury of Wednesday 13th July 1932, a wellknown Paterson identity, Mr John Tucker in an article recalling "how Paterson used to be" told of his school days when he attended lessons in the old school house in Prince Street, Paterson. His memories went back to 1858, when as a small boy he was taught reading and writing, and played in the school yard with his young friends. He particularly remembered a rose bush growing near the wall of the building from where the children picked many flowers. He recalled the old eucalyptus tree growing near the school, almost in the centre of the road, where the children watched the native bears (koalas) at play. Mr Tucker lamented the fact that (in 1932) all this was gone ..... except for the old house.

A long succession of owners and tenants have made their home at "Noumea" over the years, and now the old house enters a new phase in its life.

After several months of work by carpenters, painters and bricklayers, a new "Noumea" has emerged. Painted in Heritage Colours of green and cream, a modern-day Bed and Breakfast establishment now stands in Prince Street ready to welcome the weary traveller.

Featuring a paved drive-way to off-street parking, and a pretty cottage garden planted with colourful annuals and shrubs, the house presents a picture-perfect setting for a quiet country holiday.

Congratulations to Garry and Lorraine, owners of the "Paterson Tavern" who have brought about this wonderful transformation.

Pauline Clements

### 1998-99 REGIONAL FIELD OFFICER APPOINTMENT - Eve Semple

Eve Semple, graduate of the Museum Studies Program at the UNIVERSITY of SYDNEY has been appointed as the 1998 Regional Field Officer for the Hunter Chapter of MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA (NSW) Inc. Eve, who was born and raised on Norfolk Island, has worked at the Norfolk Island Museum as well as Victoria Barracks Museum, Paddington, and the Australian War Memorial where she was a member of the planning team for the renovation of the Bradbury Aircraft Gallery.



STROUD OUTING:

Highlight of the society's recent outing to Stroud with Raymond Terrace Historical Society was the presentation of an A A Company typewriter previously given to our society, by Shirley Threlfo to Elenora Rea of Stroud Historical Society.

Photo: Society executives, Shirley Threlfo and Bill Keppie and Elenora Rea (centre) at Quambi House, Stroud.  
Photo - Bill Anderson

PATERSON HERITAGE WALK - 1998: PHIL LEAK

Sunday March 22nd turned out to be as hot as the weather had been for some weeks, but this did not deter around 50 people who came for the walk.

They paid their \$3 to learn some local history.

As usual the leader was President Cameron Archer who commenced the proceedings with a preliminary talk outside the Courthouse on the history of Paterson.

He then led the way down King Street, around the town and Tucker Park, stopping at historic buildings and sites and giving the history of each one. On arriving back at the Courthouse the walkers were revived with tea, coffee and cool drinks before setting off on the next stage.

This led along Church Street and up the hill to Marquis Street with its panoramic view of Paterson and the surrounding district.

Returning down the steep track to the Courthouse they again partook of refreshments to help them on to the third section of the walk to the historic sites along the Commercial Road area.

Several local residents went on the walk for the first time and were most impressed with the way it was presented.

Special thanks go to Cameron for the time and effort he, as usual, puts into his presentation. Thanks also to the members who organised the refreshments, book sales as well as attending to the normal museum visitors.

(1997/98 summer has been one of the longest, hottest and driest in the Hunter Valley on record. The temperature on the day of the walk was in high thirties - Ed)



LINDSAY  
THE  
KIDD

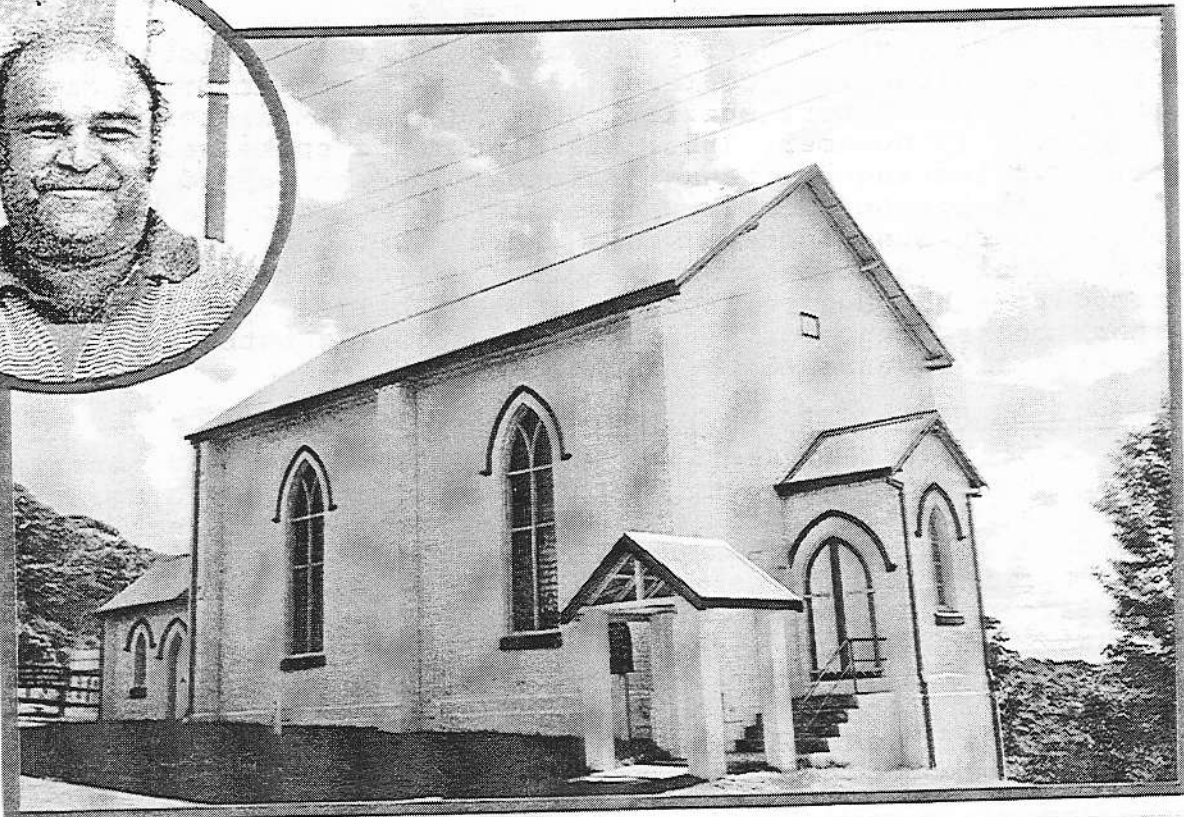


PHOTO - BILL ANDERSON

#### NEW BELL TOWER FOR ST ANN'S CHURCH, PATERSON - 1840

Earlier this year, member Lindsay Kidd was instrumental in relocating the original bell of St Ann's, the oldest practising Presbyterian Church on mainland Australia. Lindsay built a new bell housing in memory of St Ann's longest serving parishioner, Ken Crouch who died last year. The housing was transferred from Lindsay's home to the church where it was attached to four brick pillars at the church entrance. A special dedication service was attended by Ken's wife Heather, daughter Lyn and son Raymond. St Ann's is situated opposite the Court House Museum. The church bell was rung with such enthusiasm on Armistice Day at the end of WW1 that it cracked, so the story goes!

#### BUILDING PROJECTS: BILL ANDERSON

Floodlighting to the eastern facade of the Court House of a 70 watt sodium lamp, and three 40 watt lamps (two below the western eaves and one to the south, which also illuminates the Police Station yard next door) is now completed. The original 3-75 watt carriage lamps on the eastern wall will be down graded to 15 watts. Progressive installation of twin power points as required to suit new display cabinets will continue. The quality and economy of design of the new powder-coated fabricated installation for the 70 watt sodium lamp and donation of the three 40 watt lamps by J A Martin, electrical contractor is greatly appreciated by our society. This recent work, together with the 70 watt sodium lamp on the front arcade offers excellent night security. The building now both day and night is aesthetically outstanding.

INTERNAL RESTORATION: Grant funding applications, \$ for \$ in association with Dungog Shire Council have been lodged with the NSW Heritage Office (Com. funded) and the NSW Ministry for the Arts (NSW State funded) to assist with the refurbishment, internally, of the Court House. External building and ground realignments have been completed and internal refurbishment will now commence as funds become available. Society executive met recently with Ian Bowie, the newly appointed Heritage Advisor for Dungog Shire Council. Ian brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge and we look forward to working with him during the next phase of our museum's history.

#### PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO Tocal:

In April this year the Hon. John Howard MP Prime Minister of Australia visited Tocal College. This was the first Prime Ministerial visit since Sir Robert Menzies, the then Prime Minister opened the College in November 1965. All dignitaries spoke well during the informal gathering but it was Eric Halliday who capped the usual warm hospitality of Tocal by presenting to Mr Howard a Tocal student shirt to wear when fishing! Maria Semken (wife of our Patron, Grahame Semken) should be pleased with her inovative photographic momento of the day - Bob Dunn of Tocal Homestead obliged by holding both visitors books, that of 1965 and 1998, allowing both Prime Minister's signatures to be in the one shot.

#### "KINGS IN GRASS CASTLES": FILMED AT Tocal HOMESTEAD

At our April meeting, President Cameron Archer gave an interesting 'behind the scenes' account of the filming of "Kings In Grass Castles" at Tocal in which the Homestead and outbuildings were featured in early scenes. An update on members who have attained the status of film 'Star' - Harry Boyle is to appear in a film based on the life of Maitland boxer, Les Darcy, screening some time in May/June - Don Threlfo (husband of treasurer, Shirley) was twice on the big screen in the block buster, "Young Einstein". Other movies filmed in the Paterson have been "Going Sane" at Therese Doyles' place, "Edenvale" in 1985 and "The Earthling" set mainly around the timber cutter's huts in the Upper Allyn.

#### STEAM HISTORY ON TAPE:

In 1988, Clive Corbett taped proceedings of the re-opening of a section of the Pelaw Main-Richmond Vale Railway Line. On the reverse side are interviews with retiring drivers of the last steam engines on the South Maitland line taken from an NBN program. Clive has now re-recorded copies of this tape and for steam engine buffs is well worth borrowing from Clive.

#### SNIPPETS: ANDY BURG

NEW MEMBERS- We are pleased to welcome our local librarian, Michelle Ellicott of Paterson, Wendy Swan and Russell Whitehead of Newcastle and a special welcome back to Kay and Athol Eather of Vacy. Congratulations to Cynthia Hunter on her two recent Dungog publications. MACKELLAR VANDALISM. Recent Keppie decendants visiting the museum admired the Mackellar display, in particular Jack Sullivan's photo of the family plot at Waverley Cemetery, sadly reported to duty member Mary Dunlop that the impressive crosses on the grave had been knocked over.

Norm Worth, retired Maitland Mercury editor and great supporter of our society recently socially met Mrs Margaret Whitlam who was unaware that "My Country" by Dorothy Mackellar had its origins in the Hunter Valley at Torryburn. The society passed on to Norm the Mackellar/Paterson book who kindly sent it to Mrs Whitlam. (It is also pleasing to mention that Bob Baldwin, local Federal member for Paterson made reference to the Mackellar/Hunter Valley conection in his Maiden Speech to Parliament.)

#### PATERSON POLICE OFFICER RETURNS:

Ron Cox (now of Wollamia NSW) who was in charge at Paterson Police Station (1979-82) when the Court House closed and the office transferred to the new building, made a pleasant surprise visit to the museum recently. Ron and his wife Pat were very impressed with the progress made by the society in establishing the museum. Ron was able to tell us about the police residence building prior to some alterations being done in his time.

#### LITERATURE STORAGE CABINET:

Special thanks to Bill Anderson and Maurice Dunlop for their involvement in obtaining a much needed storage cabinet for our increasing and successful literature program.

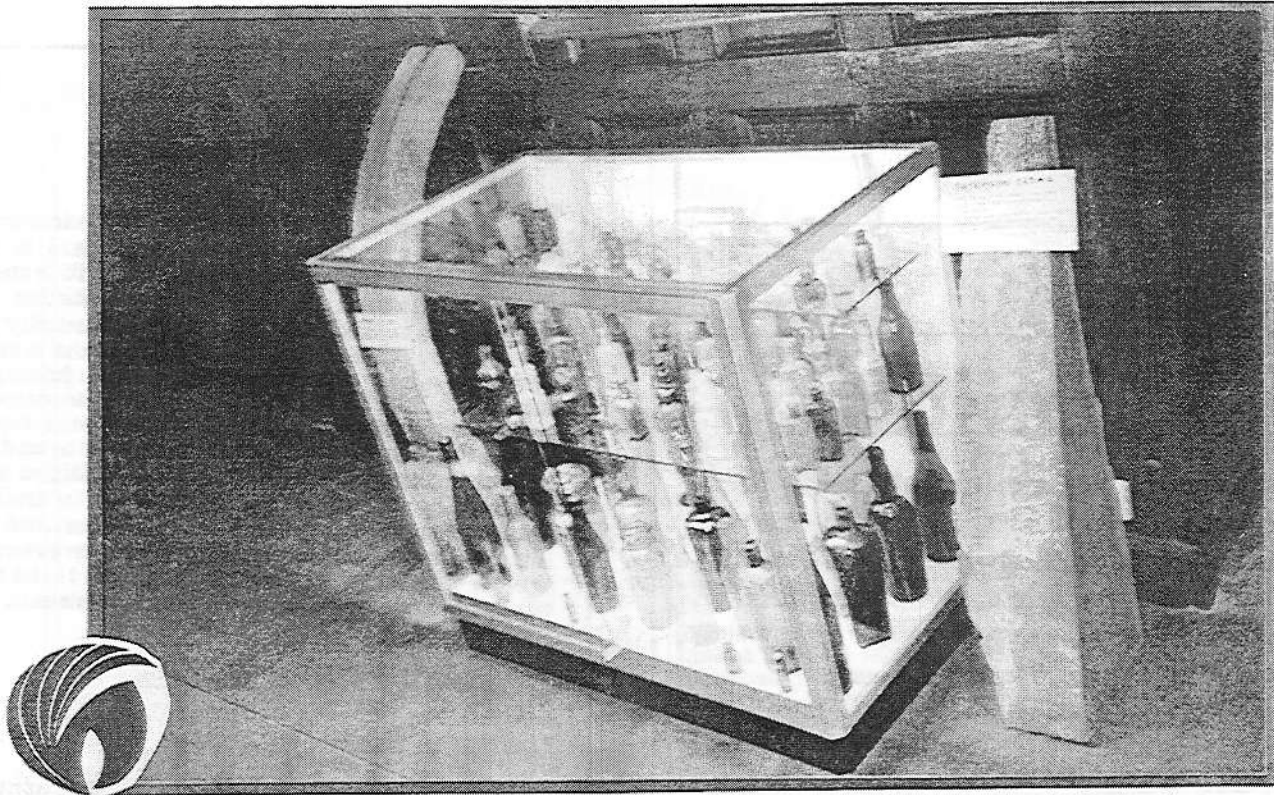


Photo: Bill Anderson

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!

# 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.

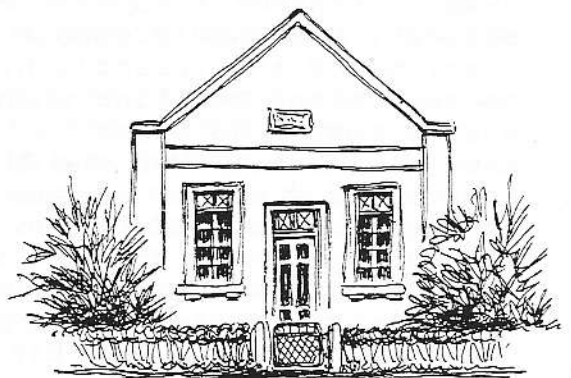
Mr. Fry said if the council took over the building it would not get off the ground as a library or a museum.

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.

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.

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.