



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



THE LONG AWAITED OPENING!

4 AUGUST 1974

MR & MRS M MORRIS - MR & MRS J HAWLEY  
(MR G JOHNSON - BACKGROUND)

THE AIM OF THE PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM  
IS TO HOLD ITEMS IN TRUST  
FOR THE PATERSON COMMUNITY  
THE HUNTER VALLEY AND AUSTRALIA

VOLUME 6 #3 ISSN 1321-4438 1999

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC EXECUTIVE 1999  
AFFILIATED WITH ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC  
AFFILIATED WITH MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA INC

PRESIDENT: CAMERON ARCHER  
SECRETARY: PAULINE CLEMENTS  
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MR R HORNE MP  
MR J PRICE MP  
MR A FAIRHALL  
MR L KIDD  
MR G SEMKEN

JOURNAL: PAULINE CLEMENTS - VAL ANDERSON  
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PROJECT COORDINATOR: BILL ANDERSON

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PUBLIC OFFICER: CAMERON ARCHER

RESEARCH OFFICERS: P CLEMENTS S THRELFO M KEPPIE B KEPPIE V ANDERSON

PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM IS OPEN SUNDAYS FROM 1pm

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

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Annual Subscription due February each year  
Family \$5    Single \$3    Student \$1

\* \* \* \* \*

JOHN TUCKER PARK MUSEUM SIGN:

Bill Anderson has realised a long considered suggestion to the society that large signs relating to our museum and its attractions be placed on the Corn Staddle and Hearse Shed in John Tucker Park, an appealing, popular and well maintained council park in the centre of Paterson. Bill has placed in position one sign in time for the Paterson Rotary Club Paddlethon which is centred at the park this weekend and it looks great on the Corn Staddle. A similar sign facing traffic coming into the town to go on the Hearse Shed will be hung next week. Thanks also to President Cameron Archer for his interim repair to the Corn Staddle and to Bill Keppie for spraying the museum grounds.

NEW HOME FOR THE PATERSON GEESE:

For many years Gordon and Marianne Johnson collected day-old bread from the Lorn Bakery and fed the geese at the Lagoon (opposite John Tucker Park). When the Johnsons relocated to East Maitland the geese disappeared which was disappointing as they were a tourist attraction. Soon afterwards, society member Pam Sivyler noticed them down on the river in front of her property, the same five and thinking they could be hungry, gave them bread. They were back the next day, and the next and as was to be expected, Pam and Peter now collect day-old bread from the Lorn Bakery and are carrying on the tradition! Numbers have fluxuated but the family is back to the original five including a thriving gosling and spend their days between the Sivyler's and ANNANDALE (1839) also owned by a society member.

NEW BUSINESS AT PATERSON: MAITLAND MERCURY 20 August 1926-CYNTHIA HUNTER

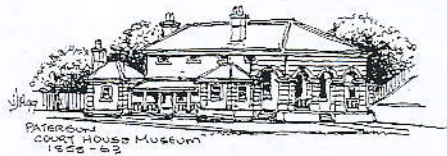
Mrs McCloy announces by advertisement in this issue that she will open business on Tuesday next at the residence of Mrs Andrew Keppie, BROOKLYN HOUSE, PATERSON, as a ladies and children's hairdresser. Face and scalp massage, manicuring, and electrolysis will also be undertaken.

Our cover photo, taken at the opening of the museum, shows Mr & Mrs Milton Morris (Mr Morris was then NSW State Minister for Transport and Member for Maitland), Mr & Mrs John Hawley (Mr Hawley at that time was President of Dungog Shire Council). In the background is PHS President Gordon Johnson. Although president of the society only for the year in which the museum opened, Gordon was for many years instrumental in gaining artifacts and the setting-up of the museum, and is always available to give support. Photo - Maitland Mercury

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

# 25th ANNIVERSARY

Anniversary  
Books  
Launched



Special  
Paterson  
Displays

We extend to you an

## INVITATION

To celebrate our 25 years contribution to  
conserving Australian Heritage at your museum

Complimentary  
Anniversary  
Memento

13th - 14th November 1999  
10am - 5pm each day

## FREE ENTRY

Complimentary  
Tea, Coffee  
Biscuits

### 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

Twenty-five years we have survived, and the sceptics of the town said it would never last!!

The inaugural meeting of the Society was held on 21st March, 1973, following a Public Meeting convened by the Town's Milk Vendor of the time, Mr. John Northcote. A small number of interested folk attended and voted to form a society to preserve the history of the district by the collection and display of photographs depicting Paterson's early days. The "Maitland Mercury" of 28th March reported the formation of the Society, and its office bearers..... and the new Society was under way.

The name chosen for the new group was the Paterson Preservation Society. However, it soon became clear that certain local persons were expecting their buildings to be preserved and that idea had to be dispelled quickly... so we became the Paterson Historical Society, (at times this was changed to the Paterson Hysterical Society by some, but we outlived that)

At this time there was no place for the new Society to call home, but the Paterson Court House was standing idle, awaiting the next stage of development in its long history. The last court case had been heard in the old building and the official closing date was 2nd October, 1967, despite protests from the Paterson Progress Association. The local Police Office still occupied its room in the building, and would now deal with the registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and issue Driver's Licences, but all other court work would, in future, take place in Maitland. The Court House was also the headquarters of the local Volunteer Bushfire Brigade.

Fortunately, the National Trust was interested in the Building, so there was no question of demolition, but its future use was still in question. The Building had been given into the Trusteeship of the Dungog Shire Council, and it was for this body to decide its future use. After many suggestions being examined the newly formed Society was allowed the use of the building for its meetings and other activities. At the meeting of 27th July 1973 the President of the Dungog Shire officially handed over the key of the building.

During the time since its formation the Society had been receiving many photographs of the Paterson of older days, and now it was felt sufficient had been received to commence preparing a photographic display. This display together with other historic memorabilia was opened to the Public on Sunday 4th August 1974.

Our Patron, Mr. Milton Morris, O.A.M., then the Minister for Transport in the State Government, performed the Official Opening, and together with the President of the Dungog Shire Council planted the two bottle brush trees in front of the building.

President John Hawley, in his speech, predicted that the Museum would become a tourist attraction in the town, and his belief has been justified.

Once the Museum was opened many more items were given by generous people, and gradually the scope of the displays widened. None of our members had any previous skills in this type of work, so it was all kept very simply. Our membership remained small, and it was a very few members who kept the Museum open each Sunday for the first ten years. Over the years new members have joined the Society and have been generous with their skills, thus allowing our exhibits to be upgraded and exhibited in a much more professional manner.

Over the past years we have been successful in our applications for grants from various Government Departments. The first big project undertaken with grant money was the repair to the outside of the building when attention was given to the sandstone walls, the ventilation of the building was restored to its original condition and the whole of the outside of the building painted in attractive heritage colours. Soon afterwards we were able to flood light the building, which gave Paterson an outstanding attraction to the visitor entering the town by day or night.

Other grants have enabled the latest styles in glass cabinets to be purchased to house exhibits, and these have been lit by neon tubing.... the entire electrical wiring of the building has been updated and improved, and many other smaller repairs and improvements made.

Probably the biggest and final work we need to undertake now is the repair and painting of the interior of the building. The money for this project has been received and work will soon commence on the first stages of the project.

Over recent years our sale of books, written mostly by our own members, has proved very popular, and our book sales department shows quite a healthy profit each year. Many of the district's first settler's life stories have been written about showing the struggles of the new-comers and their families, bringing new understanding to the early life of the district. New books are being made ready for printing in the coming months and will continue this trend. The sale of teatowels depicting the historic buildings of the town also has also proved successful.

As we celebrate this anniversary, it is most satisfying to all members who work so hard to keep our Museum open, that our efforts have not been in vain. The Society has given Paterson a tourist attraction that is now known far and wide, as well as saving the heritage of our country for coming generations. Each tourist attraction brings prosperity to the town, and it is a good feeling to know, as this old century draws to a close and a new one dawns, that we are helping to keep Paterson as well known today, as it was in the early days of its history..

Pauline Clements  
Hon Secretary

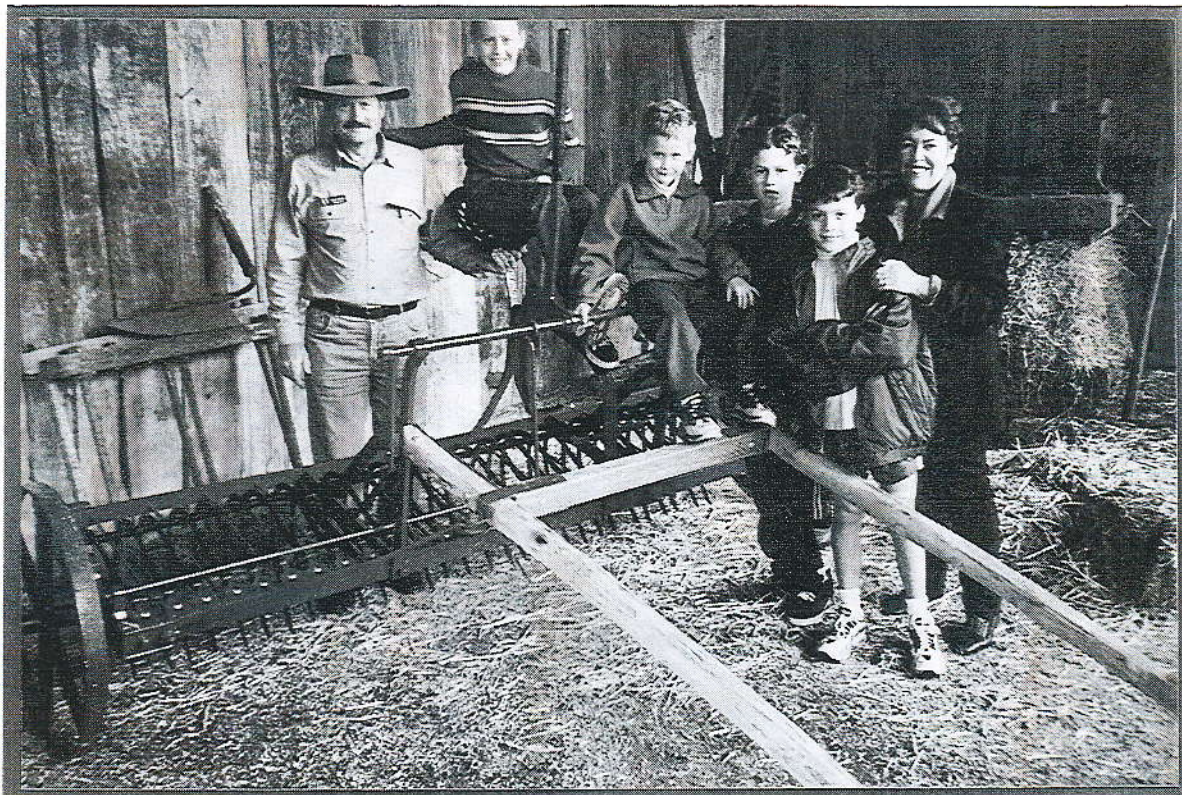


Photo - Bill Anderson - July 1999

#### RESTORED HAY RAKE - TOCAL

A hay rake donated to TOCAL by the Reynolds Family of DUNINALD has been restored and is on display in the Blacket Barn. Bob Dunn, from the Homestead and college students had great pleasure restoring the rake over a period of two months. Greybox timber, a dense hardwood was used to replace the shafts and the blacksmith's forge at the Homestead Blacksmith's Shop (c1820's) was used to make and replace the hooks and running bars. Apart from a little straightening-up, the rake was intact when donated. Member Geof Keppie and his dad, Bill seem to think it could be the same rake Bill used when he worked for about twelve months on DUNINALD in earlier days. Geof has recollections of his time there as a young bloke, Bill sitting him on a B25 International tractor, Geof about four years of age, his feet not touching the pedals and steering the tractor while Bill threw hay to the cattle from a dray being pulled at the back.

PHOTO: Geof Keppie, his wife Colleen and children with the restored rake in the Blacket Barn, TOCAL

#### TORRYBURN OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND - 23-24 October 1999

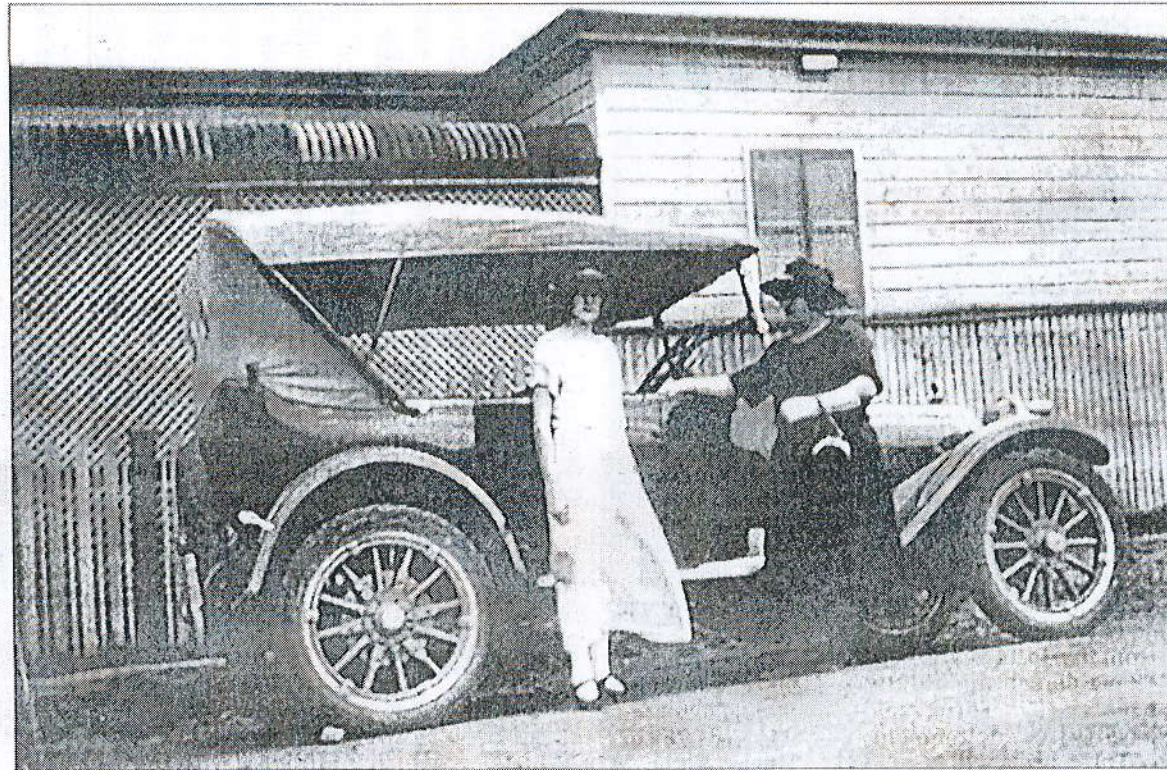
The society accepted an invitation to stage an exhibit covering the early history of TORRYBURN, the Mackellar's time there from 1897 to 1901 (first year leased), and Dorothea Mackellar's association and her inspiration to write MY COUNTRY. The weather was not at all kind over the two days (even so well over 500 came to visit!). The owners, Jenny and Rob Ferguson were very pleased with our display and have invited us back next year to be what they term 'an essential component of the estate'. The historical background was of great interest and complemented this magnificent property, the gardens now being a feature of the Australian Open Gardens Scheme. Our raffle created much interest. a triptych of pen sketches, the centre larger of the three showing TORRYBURN HOMESTEAD as it was when the Mackellars would have been in residence; to the left, a bluewren from a listing of birds, fish and reptiles recorded by Dorothea in her COMMONPLACE BOOK dated 1899 and written during her stays on the estate, and to the right a line from her famous poem... "And orchids deck the treetops..." was represented by Dendrobium amulum, an Australian native orchid which grows in abundance on the local ironbark trees.

Our group recently had the pleasure of visiting ALBION FARM and LORN HOUSE, historic homes set in lovely gardens, also participants in AOGS. Some of our members are closely associated with the TOCAL HOMESTEAD VALLEY GARDEN which is always a delight and open to the public on Open Days at the Homestead.



# First car in Paterson took on a life of its own

citywide  
the way we were



■ Herbert Fry's wife, Edith, and his daughter, Doris, standing beside the 1924 Dodge Tourer at 'Glen Ayr', the Fry family home, at Paterson. Photo courtesy of Barbara Fraser of 'Cardiness', Vacy.

WHEN the Paterson Court House Museum was established in 1974, Paterson residents were generous with donations of photos, artefacts and memorabilia reflecting the town's history, knowing their often treasured possessions would be held in safe keeping for future generations.

One such donation, among many items, was a car number plate from Stan Fry, a descendant of Herbert Fry who was so active in the early coaching, pre-railway days of Paterson.

With the sudden passing of Stan went vital background details of number plate 'NSW - 10-343'.

A recent opportunity to copy photos from the Fry Estate was made available by Stan's daughter, Barbara Fraser of 'Cardiness', Vacy. What a

pleasant surprise it was to find a photo of a 1924 Dodge Tourer, (marked on the back, 'Paterson's first car') with a number plate 'NSW-10-343'!

Harry Crouch of Jesmond, who was born at Paterson, remembers the Dodge well.

As a young fellow, he and his good mate Harry "Shortie" Godwin, bought the Dodge in 1940 for £18 when it was traded-in by Herbert Fry at Crouch's Garage, Paterson.

During the boys' army days when they were stationed at Largs Army Camp, the Dodge served the camp community, collecting locals from Maitland railway station, dances, pleasure outings and general

transport for their mates ... "10 bob to Hire - Supply Own Petrol"!

In 1946, the Dodge was 'modified' and used on Bill Keppie's place, 'Glenlossie' (on the outskirts of Paterson), to collect and carry firewood from around the property. (On many occasions the back wheel was jacked-up and connected to Keppie's cement mixer!).

Finally, around 1950, the Dodge was cut in half and the motor used to drive a saw bench at Harry Godwin's place, 'Eelah' (now part of Tocal) to cut firewood.

Harry Godwin and his father were timber cutters, pulling timber from the bush with their bullock team. There were five bullock teams in the Paterson district around that time; Mac

Godwin, Harry's father, Herb Burgess, Joe Horgon, Dick Martin and Hughie and Jack Shields.

On display at the Paterson Museum is a piece of the last timber load taken out of Dun's Creek by the Godwin team.

**VAL ANDERSON**  
Paterson Historical Society

CITY WIDE - THE WAY WE WERE: Society members contribute regularly to THE MAITLAND MERCURY and the interest generated from readers has been "wonderful", (to quote Jenny Hawke). These articles will form an occasional series in our newsletter.