



THE JOURNAL OF  
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED

MUSEUM NEWS



Photo: Bill Anderson.

CHRISTMAS AND END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS – NOVEMBER, 2004

For many years now our Society has had the pleasure of a slide evening presented by Sue and Boris Sokoloff at our Christmas party.

Photo: Mary Dunlop – Boris Sokoloff – Cameron Archer, Harry Boyle OAM – Pauline Clements

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

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Royal Australian Historical Society

*Affiliated with:*

Museums Australia – Hunter Chapter

**PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. EXECUTIVE 2004**

**AFFILIATED** with Royal Australian Historical Society Inc. and Museums Australia Inc.

**PRESIDENT:** Cameron Archer

**SECRETARY:** Pauline Clements

**ASS. SECRETARY:** Pam Sivyer

**TREASURER:** Shirley Threlfo

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Kathy Lyall

**JOURNAL:** Pauline Clements, Val Anderson & Shirley Threlfo

**MUSEUM CURATORS:** Val Anderson & Bill Keppie

**PROJECT COORDINATOR:** Bill Anderson

**RECORDER:** Mabs Keppie Shirley Threlfo

**PUBLIC OFFICER:** Cameron Archer

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE:** P Clements, S Threlfo, M & B Keppie, B Brown, H Boyle OAM, J Sullivan, C Archer, V Anderson.

**PATRONS**

Mr. M Morris OA

Mr. R Baldwin MP

Mr. J Price MP

Mr. S Lowe AM

Mr. G Semken

Mr. A Fairhall

**MEETINGS PHSI** meets the first Thursday of each month – 7.30 pm. – at the Paterson Court House Museum (Recess December/January)

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** Annual subscriptions due February each year. \$5. single \$10. family.



As we commence 2005 our enthusiasm is equal to previous years. As a small group we move at our own pace, work in our special areas and above all, we enjoy our friendships. We are also acutely aware of comments made by Kylie Winkworth, Heritage Consultant in The MAG – Vol 1 – issue 2 – p10 during an “Up Close and Personal” interview. When asked of her greatest fear relative for museums – her answer....

“The future of Historical Society Museums, as volunteers age and if detailed stories of the objects held is not written down.”

Our group is aware of the responsibility we hold and with it our endeavours will continue to present and record as much as we can of our Paterson Valley.



**SUNDAY MUSEUM DUTY ROSTER**

Without the wonderful support of our executive members the regular Sunday opening of the Court House Museum would not be possible.

Thank you – Cameron Archer – Pauline Clements – Shirley Threlfo – Pam Sivyer – Mabs and Bill Keppie – Mary and Maurice Dunlop – Jennifer Dunn – Michelle Ellicott – Kathy Lyall and Val and Bill Anderson.

We also extend our appreciation to McDonald’s Book Shop, Maitland, Paterson General Store, CBC Bed and Breakfast – Maitland Tourism – Tocal Visitor Centre and Newcastle Regional Library for their support with our literature sales programme.



**OUR NEW NEIGHBOUR -**

Our executive recently welcomed the new Paterson police officer, Senior Constable Brian Taylor to our midst. Brian, his wife Clare and children Blake and Paige have taken up residence in the police residence next door to the museum.



**Our Annual Heritage Walk** has been set down for 5 April and will be led as usual by President Cameron. The Rowcliffs of “Hayward” on Commercial Road have once again offered to allow our visitors to view their continuing restoration of their historic cottage. The Hallinan Family Bassinet will form the centre of a Museum display.



**Television Feature**

Hilldale local lad Inspector Don Eyb APM – Commander of the NSW Mounted Police was approached to delay his retirement to assist with the first appearance in Australia of the Edinburgh Tattoo. The troopers segment was just as impressive as the segment at the Sydney Olympic Games opening which Don also orchestrated.



### HEARSE SHED RESTORATION PROGRESS -

The Society has been successful in obtaining funds to restore the historic Hearse Shed in John Tucker Park. Funding has been made available from the Premier's Office through John Price, Member for Maitland and the Rotary Club of Paterson. The Hearse Shed (and Corn Staddle) are significant to the welcoming of visitors to the Dungog shire being the remaining links with the Fry family enterprise which operated from the 1850s to the 1920s.

Work to date has been the removal of the ironbark stump, the remains of an enormous tree which caused the bulk of damage to the building's foundations. The work will enable the bricklayer to commence.

The Society wishes to thank Paterson residents, Betsy Perrottet, Cameron Archer, Peter Marquet and Bill Anderson who generously donated sandstock bricks and to Tocal Homestead for storage facilities.



Hearse Shed tree stump removal – February 2005  
Rocky Eyb – Ray Rumbel – Bill Anderson

Photo: Peter Sivyer.

**Mercury extracts** – *Maitland Mercury* 29 March, 1893 - Harry Boyle OAM

The negotiations concerning the allotment on which St. Paul's Sunday School room stands, between the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney and the Diocese of Newcastle, have been completed, and this desirable property, so admirably situated, has been purchased by the former, whom we believe will shortly erect a commodious bank and residence thereon.



We are happy to report that Mr. Usher tinkler is rapidly recovering from his accident, which threatened so seriously last week. (Usher Tinkler jun.)



Very little stir is being exhibited here to mark the Easter holidays. We understand the Odd-fellows will hold their customary annual dinner on Easter Monday, and on the same day a cricket match will be played on the Paterson ground between Messrs. Ireland's establishment of Newcastle and Paterson.



**MELBA'S GIFT BOOK of AUSTRALIAN ART AND LITERATURE**

Shirley Threlfo

Published by George Robertson and Co. Propy. Ltd.  
Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane.

There is no date of publication. My copy was given to my mother on the 7 June 1916. Opposite inside cover page -

*The Entire Profits from the Sale of this Book will be devoted by  
Madam Melba to the Belgian Relief Fund.*

**A Word of Explanation** (by Melba)

There is a personal reason for the appearance of this book. I was born in Australia, and I glory in the land of my birth. But as an artist I was born in Belgium. I made my debut there; my first appearance in opera was at Brussels, and I can still hear the cheers of my first audience, the kindly, warm-hearted Belgians whose generous recognition of the unknown artist from distant Australia gave me hope and courage to persevere.

For me, personally, the remembrance of that night makes a link, that can never be broken, between my native homeland and the country where my life as an artist had its beginning. To the Belgians, who welcomed me long ago, Australia was a land of fable; but they opened their hearts and took me in. Could an artist—could a woman—ever forget such an experience?

All hearts are with the Belgians for their heroism, and for their sufferings. My heart is within them, not only for what they have done and for what they have endured, but because I have lived among them in their brighter, happier days, and because I learned to love them.

How charming the people of Belgium were! Lovers of freedom, lovers of all the arts, lovers of beauty, lovers of flowers, lovers of children. That is how I recall them. Honourable, public-spirited, industrious, competent, inheriting the passion for independence that their forefathers showed in the long struggle against all who tried to crush them.

Can we believe that the race that withstood Alva, Louis Quatorze, and Napoleon will succumb to a greater tyrant than any of them—but an infinitely smaller man? No, a nation made up of such people cannot be blotted out.

I love every stone in Belgium; but now those stones are trodden by invaders. And such invaders! One lies awake at night thinking of what they have done, and wondering how one can help the victims who still survive. What does the heart require of any nation that claims its sympathy? That the men should be brave and tender, the women loving and true, and the children frank and gay. That is what the Belgians were as I remember them, and that is what they will be still, when all this dark cloud of misery has passed away.

The Belgians are a finely artistic people. In music, in painting, in sculpture, in architecture, in poetry, they have produced masterpieces. The nation has a soul that loves what is beautiful and what is true. That is why they love liberty.

To live nobly, and to die splendidly for liberty—surely that is the greatest of all the arts. In that supreme art they have shown themselves pre-eminent. We who are the spectators in the auditorium can at least give them praise and thanks from the depths of our souls.

And that is the purpose of this Australian book.

Nellie Melba

**THE SHADOW**

By DOROTHEA MACKELLAR

I see upon the hill-side  
As deep in grass I lie,  
A happy grove of wattles  
Soft gold against the sky,  
And well content am I

Between their fragrant treasure  
And that cool marshy ring  
Where stand the wistful ti-trees,  
Wind-silvered, whispering—  
As happy as a king!

Far happier, for a moment,  
A gleam that does not stay—  
Because of that red shadow  
That's half a world away  
While I make holiday.

The wattle-trees beguiled me,  
They stood so peacefully  
I almost had forgotten  
As small sweet birds skimmed by,  
That there men fight and die.

Yet it is always with us,  
That thought, a spur to drive,  
A two-edged knife to wound us  
And stab our souls alive  
That we may feel, and strive. . . . .

*Dorothea Mackellar*

**ST COLUMBA'S FIRST WEDDING** – *Maitland Mercury* 1893 – Harry Boyle OAM

The first wedding in our Roman Catholic Church was celebrated on Monday, when Miss Mary Dunning and Mr. Keiran Lantry, both of Paterson, were joined in wedlock at the hands of the Rev. Father O'Neill, of Gresford. The bride was arrayed in cream silk with train, wreath and veil, and the bridegroom appeared supremely happy. A large number of spectators assembled in the church to witness the ceremony.



The Museum **Rupp display** was mounted in the slab garage of "The Rectory", to support the present owner of the historic landmark when it was listed for sale in December 2004. The Edwardian-style residence was built in 1906 to replace the original rectory first occupied by Rev James Jennings Smith in 1839 and was sold by the Anglican Church in 1976. Rev HMR Rupp was in residence from 1924 to 1930. To everyone's pleasure, Rupp's granddaughter Sandra Bembrick and her family attended the sale.



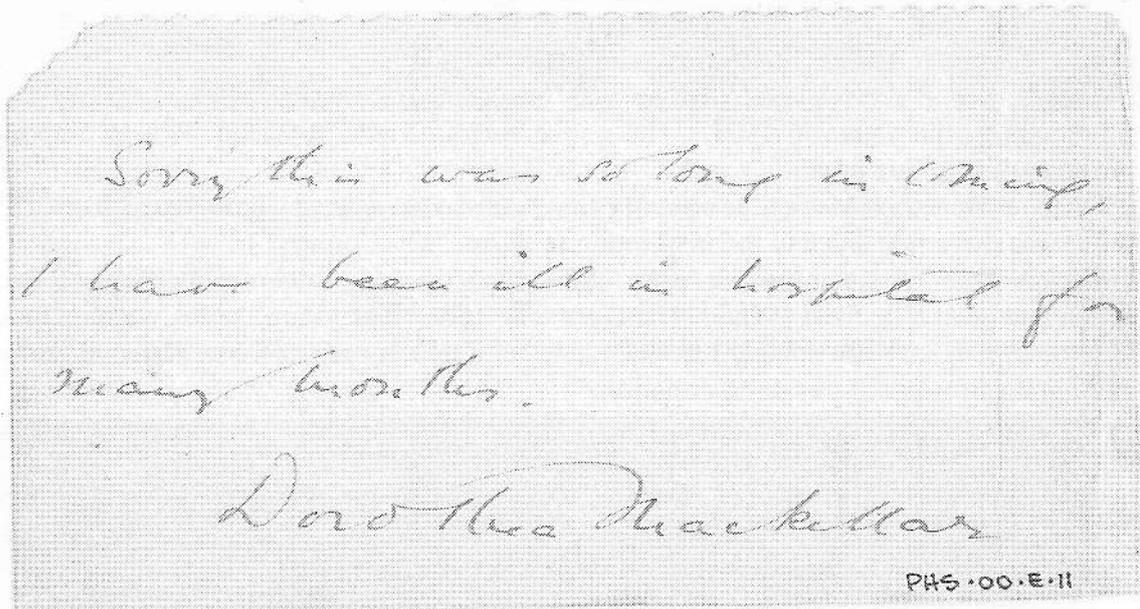
Cameron Archer (former Rectory owner), Val Anderson and Sandra Bembrick

Photo: Bill Anderson.

(The Society also mounted a display at the Gresford 175th Anniversary)



An item of **Dorothea Mackellar memorabilia** has been presented at the Museum. A hand written note by the poet has been donated by Alf and Sharon Cantrell of Yeoval – NSW whose family were friends with the Mackellars



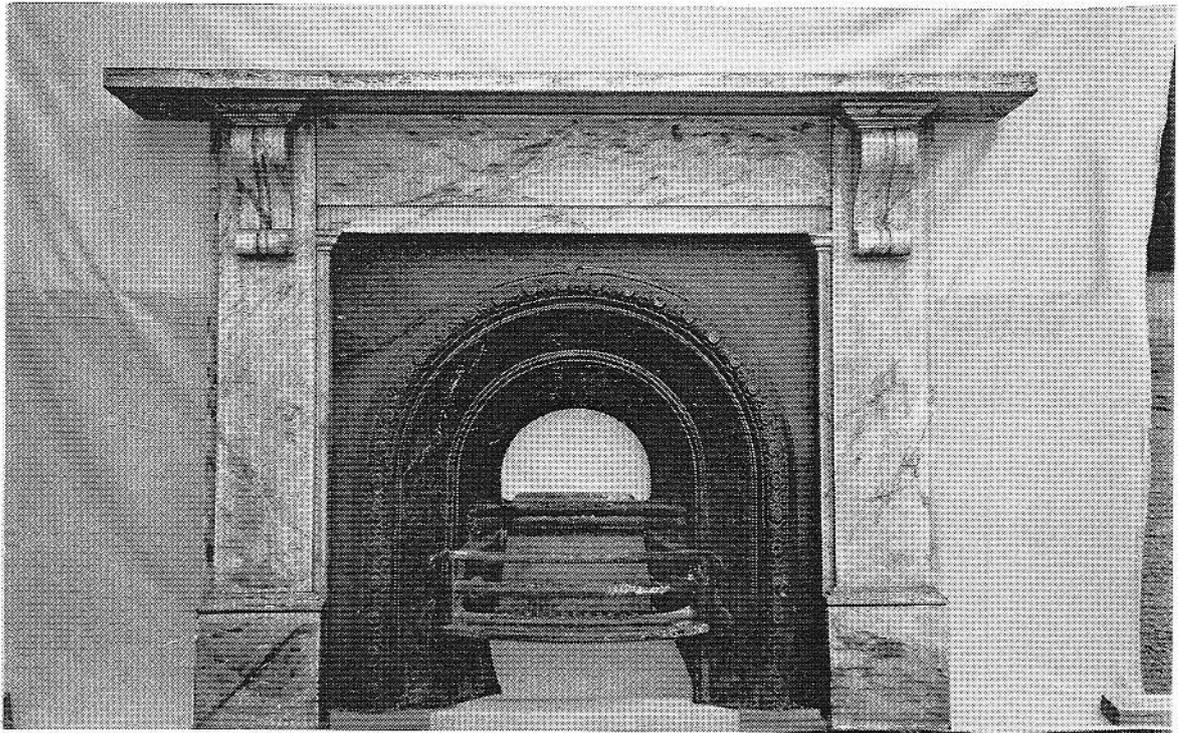


Photo: Bill Anderson

**J W PENDER FIRE SURROUND AND GRATE – 1881  
“TORRYBURN” – GRESFORD – NSW**

**“Torryburn” Estate Donation –**

During a clearance sale at “Torryburn” in late 2002 a cedar timber fire surround and grate, thought to have come from the original J W Pender designed homestead was given to the Court House Museum. The surround was painted with a fake marble finish and apart from the passing of time, storage (in an outbuilding) and handling, it was in good condition. In the late 1990s the grate was found by an employee whilst ploughing a paddock on the estate. Gentle cleaning revealed two inscriptions on the back of the surround ...

JAMES RICHARDSON Sept 1 – 1881

(thought by Margaret Dent of Gresford Historical Society to be the James Richardson who was an early Gresford builder)

and ...

PETER HANNAN – 1991

Contact with Peter revealed that he was one of two contractors who carried out extensive alterations to the estate in 1991. The above surround was replaced with an imported marble surround during this time.

(The poet Dorothea Mackellar’s family first leased then owned “Torryburn” from 1898 to 1901 and it was there that she had the inspiration to write, “My Country”)

The University of Newcastle recently catalogued the magnificent collection of Pender Plans which had been a bequest to their Archives. The 1881 “Torryburn” plans were included as work for Robert Logan. The society has been able to obtain copies of those plans and to our delight, there in detail was our treasured donation.

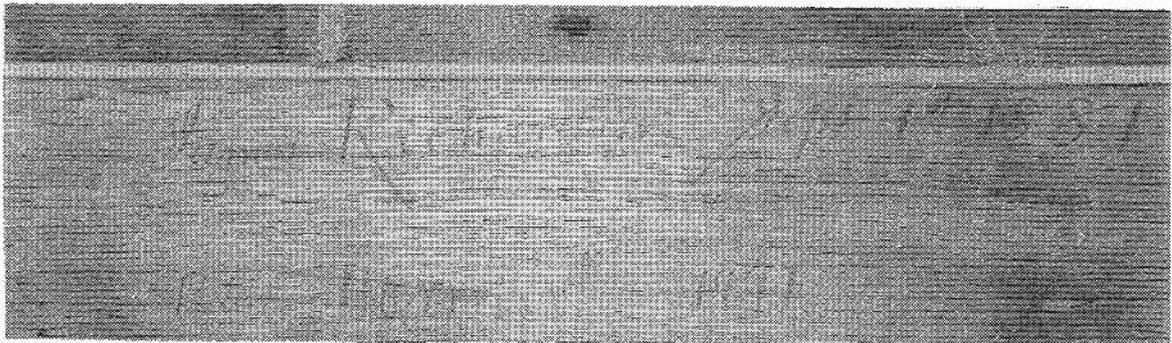


Photo : Bill Anderson