



Merewether Historical Society

"A society aimed at recording memories of the past for the benefit of the next generation."

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The Chronicle

December 2022

Meetings: There is no meeting in December. Our Christmas lunch will be held at Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St on Tuesday 13 December, 12.00pm for 12.30. Hope to see you there. Please advise a Committee member if you are planning to attend. \$50 a ticket

Our next meeting is on 14 February 2023 at which changes to our Constitution will be voted on. For your information the 2 changes proposed are:

1: 3A Life Membership *Life Membership may be bestowed on a financial member of the Merewether Historical Society Inc. if they have served 10 years signal service on the Executive/Committee or performed outstanding deeds to benefit the Merewether Historical Society Inc. Nominations for Life Membership should be in writing setting out the nominee, his/her service along with a nominator and seconder. Each nomination to be presented to the June Committee for approval of credentials. If the nomination is approved by the Committee the Life Membership application is to be presented to the next Annual Meeting. The Life Membership nomination needs a 75% majority of members present at the Annual Meeting to be successful. A Life Member is no longer liable to pay annual membership fees.*

2: 13 3 3 Duties of Honorary Treasurer *Delete the word 'audited' to read "Present an annual financial statement to the Annual General Meeting"*

Birthday Wishes to Greg Nelmes and Robyn Single as well as all our other members who celebrate in December.

Bus Trip 26 members and friends leave for Cowra this weekend. Hopefully the weather is kind and the cherries plentiful! I'm sure we will hear lots of stories on their return.



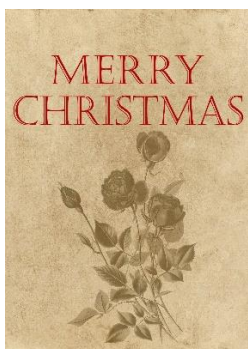
Christmas Cards sadly the tradition of sending Christmas cards is rapidly declining, mostly due to the popularity of electronic messaging and the rising cost of postage which is often more than the price of the card itself. Who can forget the excitement of running to the letterbox as children and finding beautiful cards from near and far? Or the arguments with siblings when they were being put away in January over who got which cards for their collection?

For many, the act of receiving a card gives them the knowledge that they are important to someone who is thinking of them at this special time of year.

"People have been sending Christmas greetings to each other for hundreds of years. The first recorded use of '[Merry Christmas](#)' was in a Christmas letter sent in 1534.

The custom of sending Christmas cards, as we know them today, was started in the [UK](#) in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole. Sir Henry had the idea of Christmas Cards with his friend John

Horsley, who was an artist. They designed the first card and sold them for 1 shilling each.



As printing methods improved, Christmas cards became much more popular and were produced in large numbers from about 1860. The first cards usually had pictures of the Nativity scene on them. In late Victorian times, robins (a British bird) and snow-scenes became popular. Snow-scenes were popular because they reminded people of the very bad winter that happened in the UK in 1836.

Christmas Cards appeared in the United States of America in the late 1840s, but were very expensive and most people couldn't afford them. In 1875, Louis Prang, a printer started mass producing cards so more people could afford to buy them. Mr Prang's first cards featured flowers, plants, and children. In 1915, John C. Hall and two of his brothers created Hallmark Cards, who are still one of the biggest card makers today!

The first known 'personalised' Christmas Card was sent in 1891 by Annie Oakley, the famous sharpshooter and star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. She was in Glasgow, Scotland at Christmas 1891 and sent cards back to her friends and family in the USA featuring a photo of her on it. As she was in Scotland, she's wearing tartan in the photo! Annie reportedly designed the cards herself and they were printed by a local printer.

In the 1910s and 1920s, home made cards became popular. They were often unusual shapes and had things such as foil and ribbon on them. These were usually too delicate to send through the post and were given by hand.

Nowadays, cards have all sorts of pictures on them: jokes, winter pictures, **Santa Claus** or romantic scenes of life in past times. Charities

often sell their own Christmas Cards as a way raising money at Christmas.”

[The History of Christmas Cards - WhyChristmas.com](http://TheHistoryofChristmasCards-WhyChristmas.com)

PLEASE KEEP THESE DATES



MHS Proposed bus trips for 2023.
Destinations may alter but the dates are definite!

21 March Dobell House
16 May To be determined
18 July Christmas Shop, Central Coast
17 October Scone Horse Stud
12 December 2023 Christmas Lunch

Point to Ponder: *Living in the past robs us of our future.*

As this is the last Chronicle of the year I would like to thank every one of you for your interest in the Merewether Historical Society, and especially our Committee members for the hours they put in arranging guest speakers and functions we think you will enjoy. It has been difficult to be proactive during the past few years but hopefully 2023 will see us able to progress the positioning of historical plaques at significant sites around our local area.

2022 Committee:

President:	Geoff Wright
Vice President:	Dennis Hinchliffe
Secretary:	Sue Kenny
Asst Secretary:	Denise Wright
Treasurer:	Greg Struck
Asst Treasurer:	Monica Jordon
Committee	Alison Chapman Iain Kelso Jan Welsman Judy Henry
Hon. Solicitor:	Nicholas Dan

**Merewether Historical Society
is proudly sponsored by:**

Hamilton/Merewether/Adamstown RSL