



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

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Meetings: Next meeting will be held at Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St on **Tuesday** 12 September, 10.30 for a 10.45 start. **Members will be voting on a decision for the Society to sponsor the action to restore the historic carriageway between Llewellyn and Caldwell Streets.**

Following the meeting Kevin will once again open the restaurant specifically for us.

Birthdays in September Suzanne Martin and Dennis Hinchliffe wishing you, and all our September birthday members, a truly delightful special day.

Guest Speaker Ed Tonks will be our speaker on the 12th. He is a local historian and has been researching and promoting the Hunter's history for over 50 years.

Bus Trip October 18th to Destiny Haven Dungog at a cost of \$70. Definitely a must see if you haven't been before, and an uplifting experience to repeat. Please let Denise on 0413892214, or Monica 0419496988 know if you are interested in joining us.



23 to 26 October a 4-day tour to Batemans Bay is being arranged. Minimum of 30 passengers is required for the trip to proceed and 23 have already signed up. So please contact friends and family who may be interested.

[The slow death of the Australian icon that is the corner store \(or milk bar, or deli\) - ABC News](#)

The neighbourhood corner store was once a colourful and vibrant hallmark of typical suburban Australian life. A real community asset. For decades, families would visit to buy groceries mixed bags of lollies, ice creams, fresh milk, bulk biscuits and bread, or to pick up a copy of the daily newspaper.



However those days are all but over — supermarkets, petrol stations and on-demand smartphone apps have well and truly turfed out the local convenience store.

Take a walk in any well-established neighbourhood and you're bound to find a building that was once a corner store. Many of those shops have now been converted to homes or cafes.

But the corner-shop experience was about so much more than just buying a few groceries. There were no self-serve checkouts, so you were usually greeted by a familiar face when you popped in to grab some milk or a loaf of bread. These stores were convenient in every sense of the word and store owners were happy to help with anything you needed.

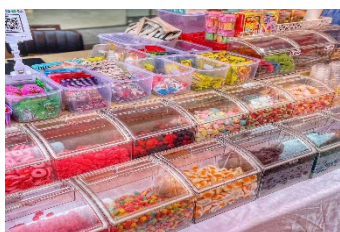
Your parents could hand you some money and trust that you'd come home with exactly what they asked for. The shop-keepers knew

your usual order and would weigh and cut products to suit your needs, ready for you to carry home to mum.



A trip to the corner store was a part of growing up in Australia. Children had a sense of importance, a taste of independence when their mother asked them to run to the local shop. Most shop keepers kept a 'book' and entered each customer's purchases to be paid for at the end of the week.

You could spend what seemed like hours deciding which sweet treats from the massive jars you wanted. No wonder it was the place kids went whenever they earned their pocket money.



The family run corner stores had to continually adapt to fast-changing consumer habits, as well as fend off competition from big business.

Many kept doing the things they had always been doing, with stores that had not been upgraded, front windows plastered with posters and not opening extended hours. But the rise of multinational chains and on-demand home deliveries eventually saw the corner shop pass into Australian history. They were the neighbourhood gathering area, a place to socialise and catch up on the local community information.



Just as popular as the corner shop was the local milk bar where young people could meet their friends, get ice creams or milk shakes, listen to the juke box – generally a small one on each table – and hang out for hours, way before social media and before iphones.

Supermarkets heralded the end of the corner store, able to offer cheaper prices due to bulk purchasing, greater choice of product due to the size of the buildings and extended hours. However, they are now facing similar difficulties with the growth of online shopping and home delivery services.

Today it is all about convenience and on-demand with the mentality of, 'when I want it, I expect to be able to get it'. Unfortunately the sense of belonging to a community, part of a caring neighbourhood is also passing into history.

Point to Ponder: The number one reason people fail in life is because they listen to their friends, family and neighbours Napolean Hill

2023/24 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 Darryl Boyce
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