



Merewether Historical Society

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

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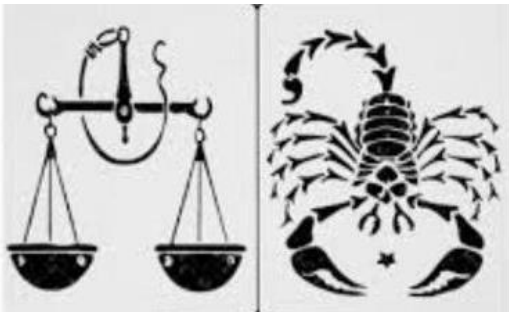
Website: www.merewetherhistorical.com

The Chronicle

October 2023

Meetings: Next meeting will be held at Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St on **Tuesday** 10 October, 10.30 for a 10.45 start. Following the meeting Kevin will once again open the restaurant specifically for us, unfortunately for the last time as he finishes at the Club on 22 October. It would be great to see a large turnout to send him off on a high note!

Birthdays in October Many happy returns to Pauline Boyce, Lynette Dailey, Trevor Jenkins, Mark Richards and all members celebrating another year of life this month.



Guest Speaker Open Forum with members to share their own stories – we never have the time to truly know the backgrounds of each other so this is your opportunity!

Bus Trip Our day out to Destiny Haven Dungog was wonderful – great weather and great company – not to mention a delicious morning tea and lunch. Destiny Haven is a truly awe-inspiring place.



Staff are all volunteers and many are graduates from the 12 month program.

23 to 26 October the 4-day tour to Batemans Bay is being finalised. Still a number of seats remaining so please contact friends and family who may be interested.

City of Newcastle Civic Week 1929

The following is taken from a Souvenir publication in honour of the new Town Hall and Civic Buildings.

H Wheeler, Mayor at the time wrote in his Foreword "...and if we could but see the Newcastle of a century hence we would appreciate what a wonderful privilege with the accompanying responsibility ours really is", 'Ours' encompassing the then 16 member (all male) Council.

Municipality of Merewether the first Council of Merewether was incorporated in 1885 with Ald F. Kempster being the first Mayor. It covered an area of 1,114 acres with a population of 8,635 and having 2,114 buildings. There were 5,271 electors and 1,986 rate payers. The average revenue of the Municipality is £15,741. The Council Chambers was situated in Llewellyn Street.



After a rather contentious start in Newcastle in 1883 the Salvation Army quickly grew and was involved in many civic activities. In the 1920s “the olde Merewether Homestead was purchased by the Army, remodelled and converted into an up-to-date Mother’s Hospital.”

“Hillcrest” nestles in the hills at Merewether, close to other places in the vicinity, and yet somehow aloof - perhaps because of its lovely position, perhaps because much of its work must necessarily go unpublicised. They [single mothers] enter “Hillcrest” as early as they please before confinement. When their babies are born, the Army finds the mothers employment or, when the environment is satisfactory, sends them home. Many have no desire to part with their children, but when the wish is expressed to have them adopted - and only when the wish is expressed - this is arranged through the Child Welfare Department.” www.findandconnect.gov.au

“Merewether has one of the finest natural beaches in the Commonwealth with modern dressing and shelter sheds and promenades. Recently constructed by the Council is a fine bathing pool the natural rocks which abound the beach on the southern end.



Circa 1950 Merewether Beach

The Municipality also boasts of a very good Town Band, consisting of about 30 members. It has won numerous trophies in other States to its credit and is competing in the forthcoming championships in Sydney.”

Merewether, once served by electric tramways to the city, and today by buses, has road connections to all sections of Newcastle and the major highways which serve it. Our meeting place, the Merewether Bowling Club, after 18 months construction, was opened on 6 February 1954 with one green.



Point to Ponder: “We are one but we are many, and from all the lands on earth we come. We'll share a dream.... **I am, you are, we are Australian**” *The Seekers*

“Resultant upon the Mine Subsidence Act, banks will now lend money for building purposes, thus giving building activities an added impetus. There is a very fine range of homes throughout the district, being well served by tram and bus services. Portion of the municipality has been gazetted as a residential area and one of the many advantages to be availed of in Merewether is the absence of smoke and other nuisances which are part and parcel of industrial centres.”

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A sewage treatment works was being constructed well south of Merewether to considerably improve the existing works.

**Merewether Historical Society
 is proudly sponsored by:
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