



Merewether Historical Society

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

Telephone: 0412 925 918

Email: secretary@merewetherhistorical.com

Website: www.merewetherhistorical.com

The Chronicle

June 2022

Meetings: Next meeting is Tuesday 14 June at 10.00 for morning tea. Meeting begins at 10.30, venue is Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St. Lunch will be available following the meeting for those who are interested.

Birthday Wishes to Eileen Graham and our other members who celebrate in the first month of Winter! Our best wishes are warmer than the current weather.



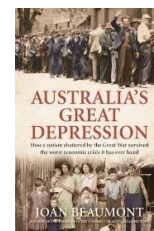
Guest Speaker: Jan Graham will talk on Archibald Clunes Innes – 'Australian Royalty'

Bus Trips: Tuesday 19 July will see us travel to Alison Homestead for morning tea then onto The Entrance Diggers for a Christmas in July lunch. Please see one of the Committee if you are interested in attending. Seats are still only \$70 for morning tea, lunch and lucky seat prizes.



Annual General Meeting: will be held Tuesday 12 July so it is time to begin thinking about nominating for a position on the Executive or the Committee. Nomination forms will be available at the June meeting, and also emailed to members for consideration. Membership for 2022-2023 is also due on July 1st; \$20 or \$30 for a couple.

How a nation shattered by the Great War survived the worst economic crisis it has ever faced. Joan Beaumont is Professor Emerita at the ANU and Honorary Professor with the Contemporary Histories Research Group. Her recently published book, **Australia's Great Depression** is well worth reading, particularly in light of current international and economic influences on Australia.



The following precis was copied from the Royal Australian Historical Society website.

"Some generations are born unlucky. Australians who survived the horrors of the Great War and the Spanish flu epidemic that

followed were soon faced with the shock of the Great Depression. Today we remember long dole queues, shanty towns and destitute men roaming the country in search of work. With over a third of the workforce unemployed in 1932, Australia was one of the hardest hit countries in the world. Yet this is not the complete story.

In this wide-ranging account of the Great Depression in Australia, Joan Beaumont shows how high levels of debt and the collapse of wool and wheat prices left Australia particularly exposed in the world's worst depression. Threatened with national insolvency, and with little room for policy innovation, governments resorted to austerity and deflation. Violent protests erupted in the streets and paramilitary movements threatened the political order.

It might have ended very differently, but Australia's democratic institutions survived the ordeal. Australia's people, too, survived. While many endured great hardship, anger, anxiety and despair, most 'made do' and helped each other. Some even found something positive in the memory of this personal and communal struggle. *Australia's Great Depression* details this most impressive narrative of resilience in the nation's history."

Laurie Graham OAM our stalwart foundation member has sadly resigned from the Committee and the Society due to ill health. Laurie has been an integral part of Merewether Historical Society since its inception and has worked tirelessly to ensure a regular supply of guest speakers to keep us informed, on our toes and amused. We will miss his smiling face, jokes and anecdotes at our meetings and our thoughts and best wishes are with him and his family. Thank you so very, very much for all you have done for the Society Laurie.

Another member, Keith Connor has been admitted to a nursing home due to ill health. We will also be thinking of you Keith and wish you well.

To any other members who are not feeling the best please look after yourselves and maybe the following photos, courtesy of Robyn

Single will help to cheer you up.



Marcus Clark/Waltons/Spotlight I have received an email from someone concerned that a proposed development on the corner of Hunter and National Park Sts, the site of the former store, may destroy forever an important part of Newcastle's heritage. Apparently, the original facade (pictured below) was modernised when Waltons added cladding 58 years ago. If the original façade is still intact perhaps consideration should be given by the developer to incorporate it into the plan for the site.



Point to Ponder: Getting old is not for wimps!

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
Laurie Graham
Iain Kelso
Jan Welsman
- Hon. Solicitor: Nicholas Dan
- Hon. Auditor: Ian Watkins

**Merewether Historical Society
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Hamilton/Merewether/Adamstown RSL**