



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

October 2024

Meetings: Next meeting will be at the Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St, on Tuesday 8 October, 2024, 10.30 for a 10.45 start. All are invited to join us for lunch at the end of the meeting.

Guest Speaker: Michael Wenham will speak on "Researching his grandfather, George Wenham, and other First Nation soldiers of the Australian Imperial Forces".

Birthdays in October: Many happy returns to Pauline Boyce, Lynette Dailey, Trevor Jenkins, Mark Richards and other members who celebrate this month. Flower and Birthstone are Marigold and Opal.



A belated birthday call to long-time member Thelma Jenkins who turned 100 on 3 September. Very best wishes from all at MHS Thelma. We miss your smiling face at our meetings Thelma!

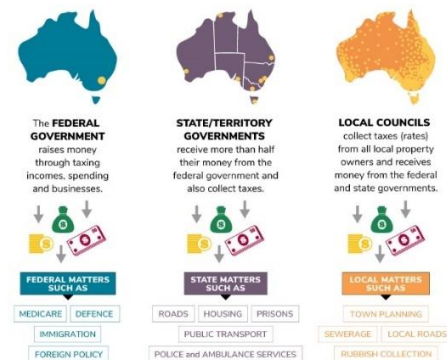
Christmas Lunch: Yes, it's time to think about reserving your place at our Christmas lunch on Tuesday 10 December in Fireflies at the Merewether Bowling Club. 12.00 for a 12.30pm start. \$50 for a delicious 2 course meal, champagne or orange juice on arrival and great company. Please see Monica or Denise to book

a seat and advise of any dietary requirements.

Following our recent Council elections, I believe the article below is very topical, given the apparent confusion by many over the role of each of Australia's levels of government. It is a fact sheet designed for students but the information contained is relevant to all ages.

The responsibilities of the three levels of government

The responsibilities of the three levels of government - Parliamentary Education Office (peo.gov.au)



- "Australia's three levels of government are the federal government, state and territory governments, and local councils.
- Each level of government has responsibility for providing different services to Australians."

"Sections 51 and 52 of the Australian Constitution list the areas which the federal Parliament can make laws about. For other areas, the federal and state levels have shared

responsibilities – concurrent powers. These areas include education, health and water management. Section 109 says that if a state parliament and federal Parliament pass conflicting laws on the same subject, then the federal law overrides the state law. Section 122 allows the federal Government, under Section 109 of the Constitution, to override the others.”

Each of the three levels of government should work together to provide the services needed to fully function as a progressive municipality. “There are over 550 local councils nationwide.”

Government Responsibilities

Representatives are elected to the federal Parliament, the state and territory parliaments, and to local councils, so that all Australians have someone to represent them at each level of government. Each level is responsible for providing different services to Australians.

Federal Government

Responsible for issues that affect all Australia (national issues) such as international and Australian trade and commerce, defence, postal and tele-communication services, citizenship, taxation, census and statistics, welfare payments, currency, Medicare, national employment conditions, marriage, divorce and immigration.

State Government Responsibilities

“relate to matters that are of primarily of state interest such as schools, hospitals, roads and railways, public transport, utilities such as electricity and water supply, mining, agriculture, forests, community services, consumer affairs, police, prisons and ambulance services.”

Council Responsibilities

Councils “make By-Laws about local matters and provide these services – they are responsible for local roads, footpaths, cycleways, street signage and lighting, waste management, parking, libraries, parks, sports fields, art galleries and museums. Services such as childcare and aged care, sewerage, town planning,

building approval and inspections, land and coast care programs and pet control.”

All levels of government raise money through the collection of taxes, rates, fees and other charges to pay for the services they provide. Local councils also receive funding from the federal and state governments.

Vale Ian Sherman I am sad to report that our very own ‘brick man’ passed away on 23 September. Ian has been unable to attend for several months and he will be missed.



Point to Ponder: Take time to talk to yourself, sometimes you really need expert advice.

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