



Merewether Historical Society

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

Email: secretary@merewetherhistorical.com
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The Chronicle

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Meetings: Next meeting will be at the Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St, on Tuesday 14 April at 10:30. Please try not to arrive too early as the Club doesn't actually open until 10:30. All are invited to join us for lunch at the end of the meeting.

Guest Speaker: Marie Hughes on "The Hughes Pottery" and the Hughes family.

Once again we would really appreciate it if one of our members could put their hand up to become our Secretary – every assistance will be offered!!

2025/26 Committee:

President: Geoff Wright
Vice President: Dennis Hinchliffe
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Greg Struck
Committee: Denise Wright
Monica Jordon
Iain Kelso
Alison Chapman
Jan Welsman
Judy Henry
Darryl Boyce
Chris Marshall
Hon. Solicitor: Nicholas Dan

After a quite long process of sorting out various technical issues Marie was finally able to start her talk and slide presentation.

In November 1866 the "Newcastle and Burwood Fire Clay brickworks" was founded by Moses Hughes and James Drury.

Initially they made only firebricks with the clay from the Burwood coal seam being mined in Victoria Gully. A branch siding delivered the clay directly to the pottery.

By 1877 it was one of seven brickworks operating on James Mitchell's Burwood estate.

In 1872 Drury sold his share to Moses Hughes.

From this date on the Pottery was under sole control of the Hughes family.

In 1881 steam powered machinery enabled the production of 1000 foot of piping every day. Twenty workers.



Snowball's photograph 1887
Courtesy Newcastle Regional Library