



ADFAS Mudjee Inc

ABN 38 303 378 600

Newsletter

No. 1 March 2011

Dear ADFAS friends

This will be the first of regular newsletters to be circulated to ADFAS Mudjee members and other ADFAS societies throughout Australia. The ADFAS Mudjee committee aims to keep you informed of lectures and other arts-related activities in the Mudjee region. We look forward to seeing you at the many wonderful lectures planned for 2011.

2010 AGM

The AGM for 2010 to elect the executive and committee for 2011 was held on Friday 3rd December at the Mudjee Bowling Club. Former Secretary and Membership Secretary John Broadley is now Chairman, Sue Ann White and Peter Windeyer return as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, Patricia Poole is Vice-Chairman and Ray Parle is Membership Secretary. Returning committee members are Yvonne Bucknell, Jill Grieve, Lynne Mearing, Penny Mowat, Randall Reed and Cilla Warre, while Margaret Charlesworth, Alene Coleman and Kayleen Fergusson have replaced retiring Chairman Melanie Trethowan, Liz Loneragan and Jenny Hoffmann.

Melanie was presented with a sterling silver ADFAS brooch and a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her hard work as Chairman over the past three years. Under Melanie's leadership ADFAS Mudjee Inc has retained a strong membership despite today's busy lifestyle and the GFC. I wish Melanie well in her numerous committee activities.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank retiring committee member Liz Loneragan for her considerable input as a committee member: hosting many lecturers and hosting numerous committee meetings. Liz was a foundation member of the steering committee of ADFAS Mudjee in the late 1990s and along with the foundation chairman Cilla Warre worked tirelessly to establish a 'full-blown' branch of ADFAS, with its first year of operation in 2003. ADFAS Mudjee has since gone from strength to strength and evidently fills a much-needed void in the artistic life of the Mudjee region. Liz served as vice-chairman of ADFAS Mudjee for several years and I look forward to her continued involvement as a member.

2010 AGM SPEAKER, JANET MANSFIELD, POTTER

Over the past few years it has been the practice to invite local speakers to address the AGM of ADFAS Mudjee. The current chairman started the ball rolling in 2006 by talking about the "Architects of Mudjee", in 2008 committee member Randall Reed talked about early Australian coinage, and in 2009 Professor Bob O'Neill from Rylstone talked about Afghanistan.

The greater Mudjee district is fortunate to have many talented and creative people in varied artistic fields. In 2010 noted local potter Janet Mansfield of Gulgong addressed the AGM, displaying slides of her works and methods and discussing her long and varied experience in international ceramics.



Janet Mansfield

Janet started working in ceramics in the 1960s and moved to “Morning View”, a property west of Gulgong, in the late 1970s where she has built several brick kilns herself. She was particularly attracted to the Gulgong district, north of Mudgee, because of the fine quality clays available locally. She has hosted major ceramic events, initially at her property and now in the town of Gulgong, which have attracted huge interest over the years.

Janet travels the world extensively as a speaker and judge, and in 1997 received an Order of Australia medal for her contributions to ceramics. She contributes to magazines and still finds time to create her own pottery.

2011 VENUE

In 2011 ADFAS lectures will return to the Cudgong Valley Public School hall after major renovations and extensions under the BER at the school. We should experience a larger and more practical space, with improved lighting/darkening and sound facilities for our ADFAS lectures.

FIRST LECTURE FOR 2011

NADFAS lecturer Christopher Bradley is the first ‘cab off the rank’ in 2011. Many of you will remember Christopher’s fascinating lecture on the Queen of Sheba a few years ago. Christopher has a busy schedule in Australia this year, lecturing to two ADFAS circuits.



Christopher Bradley

All aficionados of coffee should appreciate his upcoming lecture: *Coffee: from Arabia to the coffee house – the Art and History of Coffee Drinking*.

Below is a synopsis of his lecture:

“Long before cappuccinos and skinny lattes, all the world’s coffee traded through the tiny port of Mokha in Yemen. Popularised in Constantinople, Vienna and Amsterdam, the first English Coffee House opened in the 1650s and by 1700 there were 500 in London alone. Beginning as ‘sobering meeting places’ they were frequented by musicians, artists, authors and politicians where the debating of literary and political ideas was encouraged, as seen in early prints and lithographs. The Tatler newspaper, founded in 1709, used the names of coffee-houses as subject headings for its articles. Johann Sebastian Bach composed a special coffee suite in honour of the enlivening drink.

The promotion and marketing of coffee went through a distinctive art nouveau period and we will see it included in works of the major French Impressionists. Coffee was extremely popular during the stylish art deco times of the 1930s, especially in the USA, as shown by the paintings of Edward Hopper. Coffee Arabica has a strong aroma, ideal for blending, and is still traded from the Ethiopian Highlands as part of coffee's latest renaissance. A typical Ethiopian meal is traditionally followed by an elaborate coffee ceremony.”

I look forward to seeing you on Friday 18th March at 6.30pm

CHURCH RECORDING



St John's Anglican church, Mudgee

For the past two years a dedicated group, sponsored by ADFAS Mudgee Inc, has been undertaking a church recording of St John's Anglican Church in Mudgee. This magnificent church is actually the second church on site, replacing the first church which was completed in 1841 when the town of Mudgee was just in its infancy, having been established in 1838. The first church, designed by architect James Hume at the instigation of Bishop Broughton, was inadequate for the burgeoning congregation as a result of the gold rushes in the Mudgee district in the 1850s. The new church, designed by the partnership of Sydney architects Weaver and Kemp, was built alongside the old

church and was completed in 1860; the old church was then demolished.

The completion of the tower, the bell and the magnificent Brindley and Foster organ (recently restored) were the gift of Mudgee bank manager Robert Hoddle Driberg White, the grandson of wealthy Robert Hoddle, surveyor of the city of Melbourne. Grandson sued grandfather for failing to settle his grandmother's estate, of which he was a beneficiary and which involved an entire block in Melbourne's CBD in the boom time of the 1880s. The case was settled before court action and White received over 200,000 pounds.

The glory of St John's is the superb and substantial stained glass windows, two of which are by the noted Hardman firm of Birmingham in England. The colours of St John's windows are truly superb.



Portion of the window to St John the Baptist, after whom the church is named

ADFAS Mudgee Inc looks forward to seeing the completion of this project in the near future and thanks local architect and parishioner Barbara Hickson and ADFAS Mudgee member Marilyn Dear for overseeing the project. It is a massive task and the several volunteers who are performing the painstaking research are to be commended. This project will be a wonderful outcome for our community once it is completed and hopefully will set a precedent for further church recordings in an area littered with historic churches.

THE STABLES GALLERY, MUDGEE



The Stables Gallery, Market Street, Mudgee

The former Police Stables in Market Street, Mudgee – currently used as a gallery space and community meeting space - are adjacent to the former Police Station which was relocated in 1994 further west in Market Street to the more spacious former Police Lockup adjacent to the Court House.

The first section of the Police Station was constructed in 1867. Over the years the building was expanded and its interior modified. In 1892 plans were drawn up by the office of the NSW Government Architect for stables for Mudgee Police Station. Copies of the plans which hang in the building show that the stables were constructed as designed. The plans show a long rectangular building on an east-west axis with a forage room on the eastern end, accessed from the exterior and with access on the interior to the stable section with eight stalls. The building was well-constructed (builder unknown) in red brick, in English bond, with tuckpointed arches over windows and doors.

The stables became redundant in the age of the automobile and the building was ultimately converted to three garages and storage. Unsympathetic roller doors were inserted in place of the main entry and one of the windows, while another window had long been replaced by double ledged and braced doors.

In the early 1990s Mudgee Shire Council decided to restore the stables and extend the building sympathetically at the rear to provide a space for exhibitions and functions and a meeting room for local community organizations. The revamped building, opened in 1994, has since been well used and functions well for a variety of organizations and events: book launches, art exhibitions, Council committee meetings, church groups, public meetings etc. ADFAS Mudgee held its lectures here in its first few years of operation. In recent years the Mid-Western Regional Council, successor to the Mudgee Shire Council, allowed the use of the original stables section to be used as a permanent gallery space, given the lack of a regional gallery in an area of which Mudgee is the focal town.

The arts have a high profile in the Mudgee district with many artistic endeavours, but a larger exhibition space is desperately needed in the near future.

Editor

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JOIN ADFAS MUDGEE INC?

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