

# ADFAS Mudgee Inc

ABN 38 303 378 600

## Newsletter

No. 8 December 2014

### Dear ADFAS Mudgee friends,

Looking back over last year, we travelled the world – from the “olde” world to the new world, and from Asia to Australia. We visited palaces, temples and gardens, listened to music, saw paintings, art and glass. The year of 2014 certainly delivered the Decorative and Fine Arts that our name says we will give you.

We finished 2014 on a high note with an enthralling lecture by Chester Nealie, well known Wood Fire Potter from Gulgong. Chester illustrated his lecture with a power point presentation on the making of his pottery, through the stacking into the kiln on the property, the wood firing, and finally the finished pots. He had pots on display to show us. Everybody was delighted with the lecture. Chester lectures worldwide and his works are on show in The Powerhouse Museum, The National Gallery of Australia, The Shepparton Art Gallery, The Bathurst Regional Art Gallery as well as major museums in New Zealand, Korea, The USA and Germany.

For 2015 we have changed the format of the programme. It is simple and easy to read and refer to. Put it under a magnet on your fridge for ready reference. For the 2015 ADFAS year we have another very interesting programme, the topics to be given by highly qualified world class lecturers once again. This year we have added one more lecture to the programme, making nine lectures plus a local lecturer following the AGM in December, making ten in all. We will let you know who our AGM lecturer

will be as the year progresses. I am looking forward to the year with great anticipation.

Peter Windeyer, Chairman

### 2014 AGM

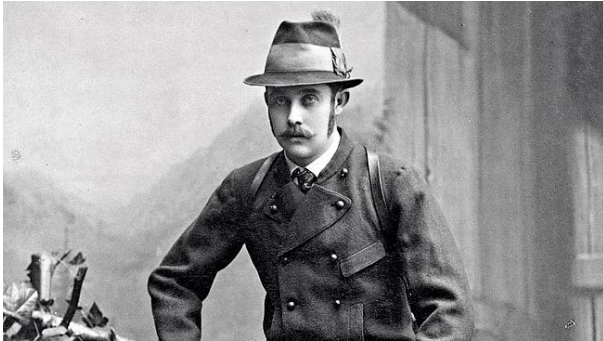
The 2014 Annual General Meeting of ADFAS Mudgee Inc was held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December at the Cudgegong Valley Public School hall which resulted in the re-election of all of the committee from the previous year with the exception of Randall Reed and Margaret Charlesworth who have retired. Both have made significant contributions during their terms of service on the committee and our thanks and best wishes go to them both. We hope to still see them in the ADFAS Mudgee audience.

**The 2015 Committee:** Peter Windeyer (Chairman), Jill Grieve (Vice Chairman), Penny Mowat (Secretary), Ray Parle (Treasurer), John Broadley, Terry Croom, Kayleen Fergusson, Ro Francis, Juliana Heslop, Gai Lydiard, Marcelle Marskell, Lynne Mearing and Anne Watts.

### Archduke Franz Ferdinand's visit to Narromine and Nyngan in 1893

Most people have vaguely heard of the Austrian prince, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, whose assassination in 1914 precipitated the First World War. Centenary commemorations of the unleashed maelstrom were held across the world in 2014 because this event was, sadly, one which essentially involved the entire world, with a great loss of military and civilian lives.

I was somewhat astonished to discover, when I recently read *The Assassination of the Archduke* by Greg King and Sue Woolmans (2013), that in 1893 Franz Ferdinand had gone on a world tour that included Australia, and specifically New South Wales. Even more interesting was the fact that he had actually visited our Central West region on a hunting expedition. I was intrigued to find out more about Franz Ferdinand and his time in Australia.



Archduke Franz Ferdinand ca 1893

Franz Ferdinand is one of the most misrepresented and misunderstood characters in world history who continues to receive bad publicity which is quite unwarranted. After the notorious suicide of his first cousin Crown Prince Rudolf in 1889, Franz Ferdinand became an heir to his aged uncle, the Emperor Franz-Josef, ruler of the enormous crumbling empire of Austria-Hungary which covered several modern-day countries in central and eastern Europe and featured numerous volatile and hostile ethnic minorities. Uncle and nephew did not get on, as Franz Josef suspected Franz Ferdinand of liberal tendencies and consequently excluded him from any position of real influence.

Franz Ferdinand would later further alienate himself from his uncle by insisting on his marriage to a woman of noble but non-royal rank, Countess Sophie Chotek. This was finally permitted in 1900, but Sophie was given a lesser title and rank (initially Duchess of Hohenberg, with the style of “Your Grace” instead of Highness) and any children could not inherit the throne. Until her death – she was assassinated with her husband in 1914 – Sophie endured social ostracism and countless slights at the archaic and etiquette-ridden Austrian court.



Franz Ferdinand, wife and children in 1913

In late 1892, however, Franz Ferdinand was in poor health – suffering from tuberculosis which claimed his mother – so he was sent on a world tour, disguised as a fact-finding mission, to assist in his recovery. Travelling on the *Kaiserin Elisabeth*, the Austrian navy’s latest and most powerful cruiser, he set out from Trieste, then Austria’s major port on the Adriatic, navigated the Suez Canal, then headed to Ceylon, India, Java, Sydney, Noumea, Singapore, China, Japan, Canada and the United States. Some of his trip was official, while other parts, such as his Australian tour, were private. He extended his stay in India to participate in hunting expeditions and consequently, much to his later regret, shortened his Australian stay.

Franz Ferdinand arrived in Sydney early on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 1893, accompanied by a retinue of lackeys and factotums which included an official photographer, and a taxidermist, as he dispatched numerous animals and birds of sundry species in several of the countries he visited. An avid collector of both the exotic and the mundane, he acquired an enormous ethnographic collection and assortment of souvenirs during his world tour which was put on exhibition in Vienna during 2014.

Francis Suttor of Bathurst, who was the Minister of Education at the time, volunteered to escort Franz Ferdinand out west and made all the arrangements with graziers around the Narromine and Nyngan district – Messrs Mack, Alison, Campbell and Routledge – to give the archduke a taste of hunting “Australian style”.



Franz Ferdinand's train at Narromine

A special train was provided for the trip out west which included a dining car and a sleeping car. Leaving Redfern on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May the party stopped to admire the mountain scenery at first Wentworth Falls, and at Blackheath drove out to Govett's Leap. Franz Ferdinand was much impressed by the Blue Mountains, as he recorded in his detailed diary:

"Due to the clean atmosphere the more distant hills and mountain ridges appear in an intensive blue color which explains the name of "Blue Mountains"; this faint blue mist lies over the valleys – a strange spectacle of nature that I observed here for the first time."

He was also much impressed by the zig-zag railway which descended to Lithgow.

The train reached Narromine at midnight and hunting began in earnest the next morning. His catch over the next two days, which would today be considered politically and ecologically "incorrect", comprised parrots, numerous kangaroos, a pelican, some ibis, three black swans, and a dozen ducks.

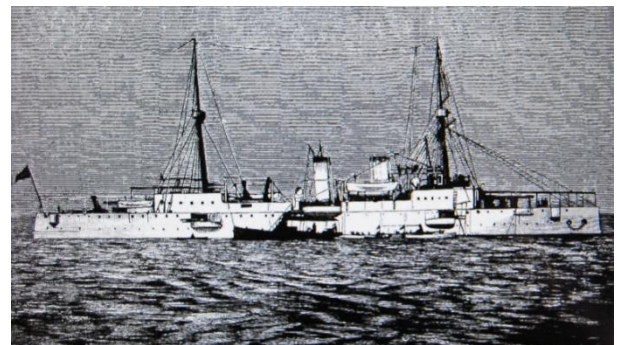


Some of Franz Ferdinand's Australian trophies among the thousands of items collected during his world tour

On the Saturday the party moved onto Mullengudgery station near Nyngan where he bagged a falcon, an emu, some ducks, an ibis, a crane and numerous pink cockatoos. The train returned to Sydney that night, so that Franz Ferdinand could attend mass at St Mary's cathedral on Sunday morning.

The next day Franz Ferdinand departed by train for Moss Vale, thence to Arthursleigh Station as a guest of the Badgery family for three further days of hunting which saw him bag numerous koalas, wallabies, possums, quolls and platypus.

During his stay in Sydney Franz Ferdinand had received the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Frederick Darley, and local dignitaries on board the *Kaiserin Elisabeth*, which was moored in Farm Cove, and he also dined at Government House. He greatly enjoyed strolling privately around Sydney, watched a shearing demonstration and boomerang throwing, visited the Australian Museum and Art Gallery, and went souvenir shopping.



*Kaiserin Elisabeth*

A lavish reception on board the *Kaiserin Elisabeth* on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May was a huge success. Franz Ferdinand sailed on to Noumea on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May, with fond memories of his Australian stay.

There has been much speculation about the fate of Europe and the world had Franz Ferdinand not been assassinated at Sarajevo in 1914 and if he had succeeded as Emperor. He was a realist who well understood that the Habsburg empire was in drastic need of change. Whether he would have been able to introduce effective changes or postpone the empire's collapse is debatable.



I will be delivering a Powerpoint presentation, **“Franz Ferdinand in Australia”**, during a history conference at the Mudgee Library in April (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>).

### Church Recording

Following on from recording St John’s, Mudgee, in 2013, I am proposing to record two small rural Catholic churches in the Mudgee district: Saint Lawrence O’Toole at Wollar (1905) and Saint Matthew’s at Botobolar (1901). Both of these charming churches are in stone and were designed by local architect Harold Hardwick. Update as negotiations proceed.



St Lawrence O’Toole at Wollar

### Photos from 2014

Barbara Santich, based in South Australia, was our first Australian presenter in March, lecturing on medieval table manners. Barbara is a sister of ADFAS Mudgee committee member Lynne Mearing.



**L → R** Gai Lydiard, Peter Windeyer, lecturer Barbara Santich, Lynne Mearing, Julie Heslop and Margaret Charlesworth

Our second Australian presenter for the year was Fiona Ogilvie who lectured on the influence of China and Scotland in gardening.



**L → R** Fiona Ogilvie, Peter Windeyer and Peter’s sister Susan Loudon

ADFAS Mudgee audiences are a hungry lot. There is rarely a sandwich left by the end of supper.



Committee stalwart and waitress extraordinaire Jill Grieve

Suggestions for newsletter items are welcome

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