

**Report: Museums & Galleries NSW
Dr Annette Brown – Museum Advisor
Snowy Valleys Council
May 2017 to October 2017**

Batlow 2017

- Funding for installation of urgently needed toilet facilities at the museum has been sought through the office of State Government member, Darryl Maguire. It is hoped that the work can be carried out through a successful application to the Community Partnership Building Grants program.
- Installation of insulation panels and vermin proofing is continuing with the help of the Batlow Rotary Club.
- Committee members attended launch of *Talking Machines* in Wagga Wagga.
- Timber for garden retaining wall has been purchased. The wall will be constructed by members of the Batlow Rotary Club.
- Batlow Museum is gaining positive feedback from their Facebook page, created and managed by Robert Spencer. The video clips from the *Talking Machines* exhibition have been uploaded and to October 26, they have had 8.5k views (WWII Land Army), 3.2k views (Apple Grader), 2.9k views (Imperial Tractor), 1.1k views (Set-up of Imperial Tractor) and 1.8k views (Store Keeping in the Bush).
- Robert Spencer has been re-elected as President for 2017/2018.
- A huge thank you to Robert Spencer who has continued in his role of Batlow Museum volunteer, before and after surgery for cancer, and during chemotherapy.



1937 McDonald Imperial Tractor

Batlow - Priorities 2017/2018

- Ongoing relocation of textiles and paper based objects to new storage shed.
- Planned refurbishment of exhibition space within the Scots Church building.
- Funding to be sought to engage a museum consultant who specialises in planning of museum interiors.
- Funding to be sought for installation of power in storage shed.
- Exhibition themes to be developed for church interior. Themes to include: H. V. Smith and apple growing, Apple Blossom Princess and WWII Land Army in Batlow and district.
- Strategic plan re-assessment.

Adelong 2017

- *Golden Fleece: Shearing in the Adelong District* was opened on Tuesday 17 November 2016 and continues to run. It has been a popular exhibition with locals, tourists and school groups. Cabramurra, Tarcutta, Talbingo and Rosewood Schools visited the exhibition. The committee plans to print the exhibition panels as a booklet.
- *Golden Fleece: Shearing in the Adelong District* has been nominated in the Exhibition Projects - Museums volunteer or up to 2 paid staff of the 2017 Imagine Awards. Nomination submitted by A. Brown (RMA).
- Adelong Alive Museum have upgraded their computer system.
- The Adelong Alive Museum committee hosted a visit by the committee of the Mount Erin Heritage Centre (Wagga Wagga). The Mount Erin group gained valuable information on hanging systems and exhibition layout in small gallery spaces.
- Thank you to Margaret Bentley for researching and curating the *Golden Fleece: Shearing in the Adelong District* exhibition.



Margaret Bentley and Committee Members 2017

Adelong - Priorities 2017/2018

- Development of in-house exhibitions. Possible themes include: Local businesses
- Research continuing into the “Lost Villages” of the Adelong Valley.
- Continue with succession planning for Adelong Museum.
- Strategic plan re-assessment and development.

Tumut 2017

- Good visitor feedback from Chinese Heritage exhibition. Local families of Chinese descent extremely happy to have their heritage showcased.
- Additional donation and acquisition of Chinese heritage objects from the family of Tumut store owner, Quong Wing.
- Successful interviews and filming of local people involved in the millet growing and dairying industries for inclusion in the *Talking Machines* project. This project has connected to many people in the Tumut community and had positive outcomes for the museum.
- Quote has been sought to replace the east facing windows in the Miles Franklin room and annexe with double glazing. A Lands Dept. Grant will be sought to fund this project.
- Textiles, manuscripts and books in the Miles Franklin have undergone conservation work.
- Cement slab has been laid and metal posts erected for the installation of a new skillion roof. Work will be undertaken by Snowy River Sheds.
- Marcia Commins to contact the Yugoslav Consulate in regard to a possible joint exhibition



Tea caddy and bottle donated by the grand-daughter of Tumut store keeper Quong Win

Tumut - Priorities 2017/2018

- Recommendations outlined in report from Kim Morris to be continued.
- Conservation work to continue on Ah Chee's ledger and Yarrangobilly Caves House Visitors Book.
- Quote to be sought for digitisation of Yarrangobilly Caves House Visitors Book.
- Strategic plan re-assessment.
- Next in-house exhibition, *Down the Main*, to be researched by Marcia Commins and installed during 2018.