from the archives

what you need to know

The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building on South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with inquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straightforward inquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information, phone 02 6925 3666, email archive@csu.edu .au, or visit our website at www.csu.edu.au/ research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.

THE CSU

Regional Archives is currently extending its opening hours to include the first Saturday of the month.

The next Saturday opening will be on December 7 2013, from 10am to 3pm.



There are some lovely examples of handiwork at the CSU Regional Archives, such as this embroidered postcard sent to Eleanor McTavish of Elsmore, NSW, from Reginald Satterly who was serving in the 33rd Battalion, soon to depart for



Officers and Committee of The Cuckoo Club [from the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society Collection, RW5/5561.

Finding the unexpected



rchives are often likened to "treasure troves": open a nondescript archives box and the most unexpected things can be found inside. Home-movies from the 1920s, panoramic glass plate photographic negatives, and World War I diaries are just

some of the more wonderful possibilities. Below are some examples of the more unusual items we have at CSU Regional Archives.

MUSIC AT "BYGOO"

THE Stewart Family of "Bygoo" in Ardlethan donated some wonderful items to us in 1998 which don't usually make their way to an archive - such as a children's book published in 1902, entitled A Dog's Day, an embroidery sampler stitched in 1904, and a 3A folding pocket Kodak camera.

Among the collection is a whole box of sheet music, some of which dates from the 1880s - at that time, if you wanted to hear music, you had to play it

The Stewarts appear to have been partial to: Our Jack's Come Home Today by WJ Devers, I'm Always Chasing Rainbows by Joseph McCarthy and Harry Carroll, and The Snow-Drift Galop by Charles Coote

There are also a few patriotic war songs dedicated to the Anzacs, ranging from The Anzac Marseillaise by AJ Smith:

'Soldiers in khaki, sailors in blue, Fighting on land and sea; Fighting for England's dear old flag, Our homes and liberty. Plenty of pluck, but jolly bad luck, Landing at the Dardanelle; But playing the game, they made such a name, Which all the world has learned how to spell!" To Annie Kent's I Gave My Only Son To Britannia's

"The call to arms is sounding So we must part, I know.

The mother in me wants you, But my lips tell you to go. I've seen you such a tiny soldier, When a little boy at play, Now there's a real gun on your shoulder, And I'm proud of you today." A Pommy's gun belt and spurs

IN 1923, a young Reg Sharpless left England in search of a dry place to recuperate from chronic asthma. Sharpless found himself at Mossgiel Station, 30 miles from Ivanhoe, employed as a jackaroo. His only problem was that he had no idea what a jackaroo actually did.

Sharpless returned to England a few years later but never forgot his jackaroo-ing experiences.

In later life, he published a book entitled, Pommy in the Outback (1982), detailing his stay on Mossgiel

Reg Sharpless was kind enough to donate many of his papers, photographs, and other items to CSU Regional Archives. Among the usual letters,, photographs, books, cards, and diaries, are some surprising objects to be found in an archive. These include earmarking tools, leather stock whips, riding spurs, a tin billy can, a water boring tool, a ukulele (still in its case), and a leather gun belt to hold .22

THE CUCKOO CLUB

IN ONE of our collections, there is a photograph showing seven young moustachioed men posed for the photographer.

In itself, it is not a particularly remarkable image. However, printed along the bottom of the mount are the words, "Officers and Committee of The Cuckoo Club."

There is no other information with the photograph to say what The Cuckoo Club was, where it was, or who was in it.

However, TROVE (that wonderful online resource provided by the National Library of Australia) has given us a couple of options for what The Cuckoo

While most of the groups around Australia known as Cuckoo Clubs gave concerts for entertainment and fund-raising, the most interesting of all the clubs we found was a group of gentlemen in Goulburn, going by the names of Mr Pimple, Mr Toenail, Mr Mews, Mr Flap, Mr Scab, Mr Fiddle, Mr Snaptripe, Mr Seal, and of course, the president, Mr Cuckoo. The Lyre faithfully recorded the proceedings of each meeting and was paid for his work with two beers per week (the wage was later increased to three beers).

This particular Cuckoo Club was, as recorded by The Lyre, "instituted for the discussion in plain court

English of the burning questions of the day".

Some of the topics under discussion in 1901 at the club were the lack of taxation of bachelors, the banning of burglary, the over-proliferation of ornamental trees in Goulburn, and the "falling off" of patriotic songs.

SHEEP'S HEAD BROTH

THERE are a number of notebooks that can be found in the archives collection, once belonging to diligent middle-class housewives.

These notebooks can contain many things, including stocktakes of linen and silver, useful medicines such as tonics for indigestion and fever, and even the odd diary entries of appointments and memorable events.

Another use of these notebooks was to store useful recipes, often copied out of magazines and women's journals.

Reading through these recipes, you will see the expected, such as mince pies, lemon cheesecake, and devonshire dumplings and then there will inevitably be a few surprises, like macaroni and cheese, stewed tripe, potato sausages and glazed tongue

For your delectation, here is a recipe for pigeon

Cut four pigeons into quarters and place them in a saucepan with ... gravy. Cut into rather small pieces and allow them to stew half an hour. Take out the pigeons and strain the gravy. Put the pigeons in a pie dish with two or three slices of ham, pepper and salt. Cut up four hard boiled eggs and put in pie dish. Pour the gravy over. Cover with a nice puff pastry.

And the (apparently) very simple recipe for sheep's head broth:

1 sheep's head

1/2 cup barley, pepper, and salt

2 carrots 1 turnip

1 onion

21/2 quarts water

Boil the head first. Boil well and then take out and add the other things. Enjoy!

References: The Stewart Family Collection [RW1763]; Reg Sharpless Collection [RW283]; The Cuckoo Club [RW5/556]; Walter Campbell Collection [RW2132]; Werriwa Times and Goulburn District News, 1901.

Compiled by Jillian Kohlhagen

for your Treasure Trove of Riverina history







