

What you should know

■ The CSU Regional Archives is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore building at the 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 enquiries. For those unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straightforward enquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour, including copying and postage.

■ For further information, phone 6925 3666, email archive@csu.edu.au or visit the website at www.csu.edu.au/research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.



at the
archives
Wayne Doubleday

Have you ever wanted to find out the history of your property? How old is your house? Who was the first owner? Has anyone interesting lived there before you? Or maybe you would like to know where your ancestors have lived.

The rate and valuation books can be a good source for providing this information, particularly for older properties in Central Wagga.

The type of information that can be gleaned from the rate books include; a description of the property, the type of building materials used (e.g. brick or timber), the names of owners and/or occupiers, the occupation



Many of Wagga's ratebooks are stored on microfilm at the CSU Regional Archives.

of the owner and/or occupier, and of course, a valuation of the property.

The CSU Regional Archives has the Wagga City Council ratebooks from 1870 to 1949 on microfilm, and can be accessed in the archives search room at any time during opening hours.

THE CSU Regional Archives will be again offering at least two summer research scholarships this year to eligible CSU students.

The students will work on designated projects from December 3, 2007 to February 1, 2008 (with scholars having a

Christmas/New Year break between December 24 and January 1).

One of the scholarships is normally awarded to a student considering a career in archives, libraries or museums.

This project would include the arrangement and description of an unprocessed collection held at the archives and the preparation of an online finding aid.

The other scholarship is purely a research project based on a regional collection currently held by the archives. In the past, this scholarship has been awarded to students from a range of areas, including humanities, social sciences, education, and visual and performing arts.

Each scholar is expected to compile a written report and to give a presentation to the archives advisory committee.

A tax-free allowance of \$3000 is paid to each scholar in four instalments, subject to a satisfactory record of attendance and progress.

For more information visit: www.csu.edu.au/research/archives/summer_scholarships.htm.

Wagga's charmed history on wheels

Rollerskating has proven to be a favourite pastime for the people of Wagga Wagga, with a number of skating rinks existing in the town over the years.

This keenness for skating is supported by the fact that during the winter months of 1888 there was enough interest to necessitate the existence of two competing skating rinks.

The first to open on May 7, 1888 was the Wagga Roller Skating Rink, located in the Freemason's hall, and was followed by the Victoria Skating Rink on June 1, 1888, which saw the Albion Flour Mill on the corner of Kincaid and Trail Street transformed into a first class skating floor.

However, the height of skating popularity in Wagga came about with the construction of a purpose-built rink in 1910.

The proprietors of Wagga Wagga Skating Olympia were Collins and Hayes, who spared no expense in ensuring a comfortable and attractive venue.

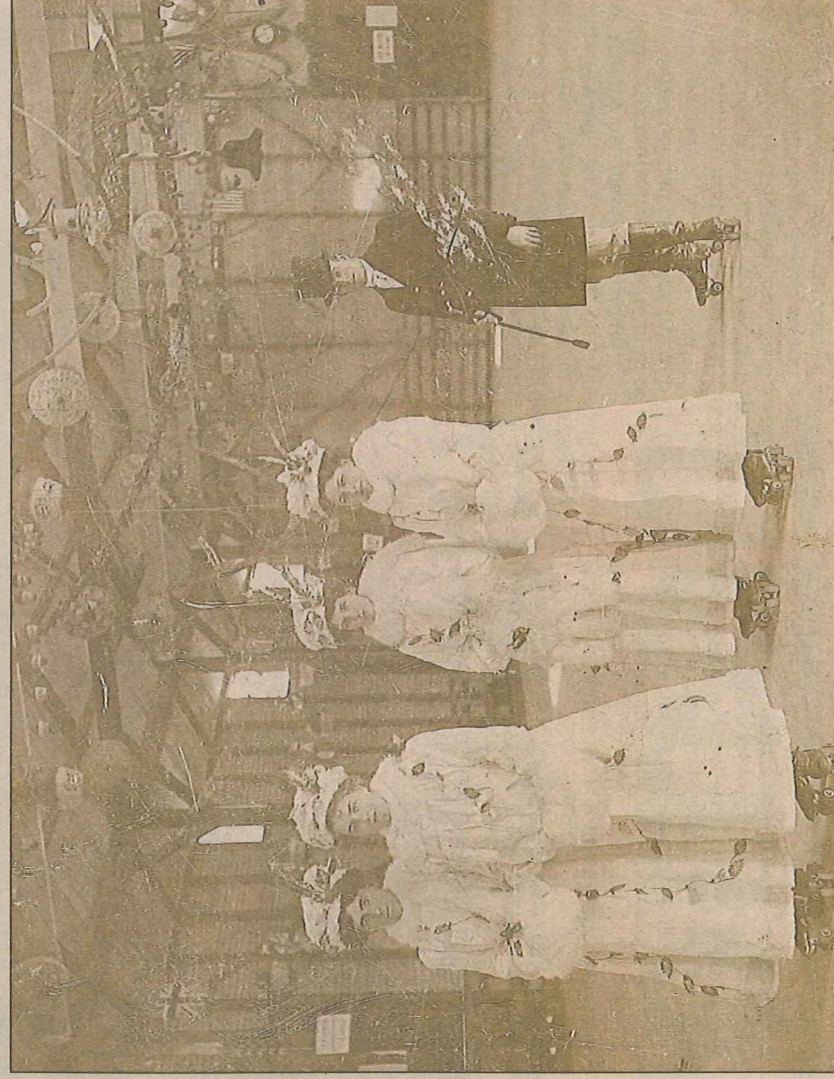
The rink was situated in Kincaid Street near the junction with Fitzmaurice Street and had a skating area of approximately 116ft by 50ft (35m by 15m).

Wagga Skating Olympia hosted regular carnivals and competitions and was a thriving spot for local youth.

The White Night Carnival held on July 8, 1910 was a much-anticipated evening of skating and fancy dress that did not disappoint the mass of onlookers and participants that were present.

The accompanying photograph was taken on that icy July evening, and captures the "whiteness" of the occasion, along with an amusing display of fun and style.

It was a requirement of the event that skaters be dressed in white, which produced an array of inventive costumes including, a snowflake, moonlight, a nurse, a cigarette, winter, a cricketer, a toothache-cure and a baker. Prizes were awarded on the night for the prettiest costume, most handsome



Taking part in the White Night Carnival at the Wagga Skating Olympia on July 8 1910 are Mrs Greer (nee Collins), Miss Essie Eyles, Mrs G Dunn (nee Eyles), Miss Merle Lammas and Mr Audrey Headley. (RW5/103 – Deposited by the Wagga Wagga & District Historical Society).

costume, best comic costume and also for the most graceful couple.

Among the prize winners were two of the ladies featured in the photograph, Mrs Greer with partner RT Rees, and Mrs Dunn with H Eyles who took out first and second prizes respectively for the most graceful skating couple competition. Many locals may

remember in more recent history the Rollerama in Hammond Hall at the showgrounds and again in Pearson Street, showing that rollerskating in Wagga has had a continued popularity.

(References: *The Daily Advertiser* May 8 and 31, 1888; February 12, 1910; March 19, 1910; July 9 and 14, 1910)