

**Lockhart Shire Local Heritage Fund for 2014-2015 financial year.**

**SUMMARY REPORT ON ALL COMPLETED PROJECTS**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Heritage item address</b>	<b>Project description</b>	<b>Total project cost</b>	<b>Applicant's contribution</b>	<b>Local heritage funding</b>
CWA The Rock Branch,	The Rock Heritage Conservation Area	Enamelled steel history signs for main street.	<b>\$11000</b>	<b>\$5500</b>	<b>\$5500</b>
Joy Schultz	The Rock & District Hall & Museum, Urana St, The Rock	Interior history display boards.	<b>\$5000</b>	<b>\$3000</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
Uniting Church Parish, The Rock.	Uniting Church, The Rock	Exterior painting.	<b>\$6000</b>	<b>\$4500</b>	<b>\$1500</b>
Terry Bailey	King's Own Hotel, The Rock	Paint roof gables.	<b>\$5000</b>	<b>\$4000</b>	<b>\$1000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$27000</b>	<b>\$17000</b>	<b>**\$10000</b>

Based on the approved funding agreement for this financial year and the local heritage funding expenditure of \$10,000, the Heritage Office is requested to reimburse \$5,000.

*\*\* Council can claim \$ for \$ funding reimbursement on this amount from the Heritage Branch.*

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Lockhart Shire Council Local Heritage Fund for 2014-2015 financial year

**FINAL PROJECT REPORT – THE ROCK HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA - ENAMELLED STEEL HISTORY SIGNS FOR MAIN STREET.**

<b>Heritage item address</b>	The Rock Heritage Conservation Area
<b>Project description</b>	Enamelled steel history signs for main street.
<b>Reason for the project</b>	Heritage streetscape improvement.
<b>Heritage item listing</b>	LEP, Lockhart Heritage Study.
<b>Applicant</b>	CWA The Rock Branch
<b>Date commenced</b>	15 December 2014
<b>Date completed</b>	05 May 2015
<b>Total project cost</b>	<b>\$11000</b>
<b>Applicant contribution</b>	<b>\$5500</b>
<b>Local heritage funding</b>	<b>\$5500</b>

**Before photo**



**After photo**



*Bob Blake stands at a new history sign at the Men's Shed, The Rock*

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Lockhart Shire Council Local Heritage Fund for 2014-2015 financial year

**FINAL PROJECT REPORT – THE ROCK & DISTRICT HALL & MUSEUM – HISTORY DISPLAY BOARDS**

<b>Heritage item address</b>	The Rock & District Hall & Museum
<b>Project description</b>	History display boards
<b>Reason for the project</b>	Interpretive display
<b>Heritage item listing</b>	LEP, Lockhart Heritage Study.
<b>Applicant</b>	Joy Schultz
<b>Date commenced</b>	15 September 2014
<b>Date completed</b>	05 May 2015
<b>Total project cost</b>	<b>\$5000</b>
<b>Applicant contribution</b>	<b>\$3000</b>
<b>Local heritage funding</b>	<b>\$2000</b>

**Before photos**



**After photos**



## Welcome to

### The Rock Town Hall & Museum

This hall has served the community as a social meeting place for most of the 20th Century. Built as a Masonic Lodge, it was donated back to the town for use as a community venue and multi-purpose facility.

The Rock Masonic Lodge No 490 was formed on 24 July 1923. Early meetings were held in the Presbyterian Church and a total of 73 'Brethren' were present at the Dedication ceremony.

In November 1923, a decision was taken to accept a block of land donated by a member and the lodge members decided to erect a purpose built hall and temple.

The foundation stone for the new building was laid on 13th August 1924 and the Masonic Temple was erected in bricks, which were manufactured by Temple members. The total cost of the project was £4046 plus £300 for the electric light supplied by the lodge's own generator.

Lodges played an important role in the social life of NSW towns. There were other lodges in the district, such as the I.O.O.F., a temperance lodge, but the Masons had the strongest membership. The Lodge also boasted the leading community social event, the annual Masonic Ball which was held with great pomp and ceremony. Visiting dignitaries joined the long list of prominent local people, who invited their most influential friends. Frocks selected by the ladies made this the stand out fashion event on The Rock calendar.



The Rock Masonic Lodge

Photographer: John Blair  
Image Courtesy: Ian Schultz

Cinema plant was installed in the hall and operated from 1926 and picnics, sports meetings and cricket matches were held here until the late 1940s.

During the early 1930s and the depression years, the Masons began to feel the strain of meeting their commitments to the bank. They were struggling to make interest payments and to reduce the principal. In 1934, the Masons were still finding the cost of hall upkeep crippling, and following a public meeting, the Masonic Hall was registered as a public hall under the name 'The Rock School of Arts and Cultural Hall'. The donation of the Hall into public hands occurred on the basis of the Masons retaining free access to facilities and also on the condition that the Trustees never move the Foundation Stone from its original position.

Relieved of the maintenance costs of the hall, things improved financially for the Masons, however interest had waned and the last candidate for initiation was accepted in July 1978. The Rock Masonic Lodge held its final meeting in 25 June 1985.

During its term, The Rock Masonic Lodge No. 490 catered for the Masonic yearnings of the community for 62 years and initiated 171 candidates, with 81 affiliates.

With assistance from grant funding, the Hall Management Committee and Lockhart Shire Council have made significant improvements to the Hall in recent years including painting, new lighting, sewerage, disabled access and new toilets. In 2015, the Hall Committee was merged with a keen local heritage group to create the new The Rock Town Hall & Museum.

The Rock Town Hall & Museum Management Committee thank the Lockhart Shire Council, the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage and the Heritage Council of NSW for their assistance with funding for the development of these history panels.



Acknowledgement is also given to many sources who provided information for the development of these history panels, including the Lockhart Shire Council Heritage Advisor and publication - 'Blessed Kerguel, Son of the Plains - the Story of The Rock, 1884-1984'. Edited for the Rock Centenary Committee by Geoffrey Marsh

The Rock Town Hall & Museum

## Community & Future

### OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Smaller, regional communities like The Rock do volunteering well, it's also a part of community life which has changed immeasurably over the past 20-30 years. Many women now work and families are generally finding they are time poor. The community of The Rock however support a vast range of local community sporting and social clubs - at least twenty five at last count!

Groups such as The Rock Progress Association have worked for over 100 years for the benefit of the community, playing an important role in the town's development. As early as 1911 the Progress Association was asking for The Rock to be declared an urban area. The request was granted in 1913 and a committee was elected.

While some community groups who were integral in the development of The Rock are no longer active in the town today, such as The Rock Urban Area Committee and the Freemasons, their efforts remain notable in the very essence of the town, in the streetscape and the fine buildings that follow Urana Street.



The Rock Football Soccer Team

Image Courtesy: Theron Brown



The Rock Masonic Lodge

Image Courtesy: Theron Brown



The Rock Masonic Lodge

Image Courtesy: Theron Brown

Since 1914, the community has supported branches of the Australian Red Cross, the Returned Soldiers' League (formed after WWI), the Country Women's Association (1947) the Pastoral and Agricultural Society (1947). These are just a few of the hard working community groups still strongly supported by local volunteers.

Sporting participants and spectators have a history of travelling many miles by train, horse drawn wagons and horseback over rough bush roads to participate in sporting activities. When the motor vehicle came into general use, travel often occurred on a flat-top truck, while sheltered from the weather by a tarpaulin slung over a pole. One hockey player in the 1950s recalls pushing such a truck through the mud to Lellion, winning every game in the knockout, then pushing the truck back through the mud to arrive home at 5am on Sunday.

Other pursuits were also plentiful with roller skating in Oddfellows' Hall, a boxing stadium, a nine hole golf course, football grounds and a turf wicket laid in 1891.

### FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Strangely enough, it has been the very things that came close to destroying the township of The Rock in the 1850s that has led to the town's gradual revival. The town's closeness to Wagga Wagga means people can commute to work daily while still enjoying the small town atmosphere. Municipal rates and land prices are much lower in The Rock and for those who love the rural life, it is possible to own a few hectares of peace and quiet at a very reasonable rate. From 1970 onwards there has been a slow but steady growth in the population of the town and the number of houses built. Increasingly more city residents choose The Rock as a place to live and retire, making this the fastest growing village in Lockhart Shire.



Rock Riding Club

Image Courtesy: Ian Schultz



Tennis at the Rock

Image Courtesy: Ian Schultz

As in the past, many community groups are working tirelessly for development, infrastructure and cultural life to ensure the town's long term survival and continued growth of our wonderful town, The Rock.

The Rock Town Hall & Museum

## The Railway Era

"Victorian rail extended to The Rock to divert trade to Melbourne."

In 1863 railway construction in NSW extended a mere 53 miles south of Sydney. In contrast, the Victorian government was already planning to construct railways into the Murray River and Riverina districts. In 1872, the NSW Government commenced planning rail routes into the interior of NSW.



### THE SOUTHWEST RAILWAY

In 1874, there were more than twice as many sheep in NSW than in Victoria, and by 1891 the Riverina flocks totalled over 13 million. The NSW Railways carried only a third of 238,162 wool bales shipped by the Victorian railways, however when the railway extension opened to Naramulla and Albury in 1881 this figure increased significantly.

Before the arrival of the railway, sheep were walked from the pastoral stations to Melbourne for sale, wool was carted on bullock drays, most travellers relied on horseback riding and loads were carried on wagons drawn by bullocks or horses.

Response to the arrival of the railway was even more spectacular for agricultural products. Crippled by inhibiting Victorian tariffs, the total crop acreage in the Wagga Wagga district between 1861 and 1881 had nearly risen above 10,000 acres, including 5,000 acres of wheat. After the opening of the railway, the crop area rose rapidly to 100,000 acres including 60,000 acres of wheat. Shortly after the completion of the railway branch lines, the 1895 NSW Crown Lands Act opened up more small land parcels for settlers.

### RAIL DEVELOPMENTS (1870s - 1880s)

The opening of the railway line from Sydney in the 1860s saw the growth of The Rock village, which until this time consisted of a crossroads, tavern, railway line with three buildings and workers' camp.

In 1901 the first train pulled out of Hanging Rock (later called Kingston), then The Rock for Lockhart on a branch line. This became an important rail junction. The "Type 4" station and "Type 5" stationmaster's house still stand and are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.

After laying the railway lines through the area, a number of men stayed in The Rock as fitters (railway maintenance men). Living conditions were rough in railway camps and many camped beside the railway line in tents, tin or slab huts. Archaeological remains of a railway workers camp near The Rock are thought to be near the 1890s bag camp, known as Tent City.

Typically, there were two gangs of fitters, each of five men including the ganger, or the group leader. Each gang lived at opposite extremities of a local line and kept the line in repair.

After laying the railway lines through the area, a number of men stayed in The Rock as fitters (railway maintenance men). Living conditions were rough in railway camps and many camped beside the railway line in tents, tin or slab huts. Archaeological remains of a railway workers camp near The Rock are thought to be near the 1890s bag camp, known as Tent City.

### DECLINE OF RAILWAYS

In 1925, most roads were still merely tracks through the trees, but the age of the car arrived in 1911 when the first local people bought motor vehicles.

The decline of the ways in the region occurred through the development of interstate semi-trailer transport in the 1950s carried wool bales to the markets.

The Rock Town Hall & Museum

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FINAL PROJECT REPORT – UNITING CHURCH, THE ROCK – EXTERIOR PAINTING

<b>Heritage item address</b>	Uniting Church, The Rock
<b>Project description</b>	Exterior painting
<b>Reason for the project</b>	Stabilising historic building
<b>Heritage item listing</b>	Lockhart Heritage Study.
<b>Applicant</b>	Uniting Church Parish, The Rock
<b>Date commenced</b>	15 December 2014
<b>Date completed</b>	05 May 2015
<b>Total project cost</b>	<b>\$6000</b>
<b>Applicant contribution</b>	<b>\$4500</b>
<b>Local heritage funding</b>	<b>\$1500</b>

<b>Before/after photos</b>	<b>Before</b>		
			
	<b>After</b>		

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**FINAL PROJECT REPORT – KINGS OWN HOTEL – PAINTING ROOF GABLES**

<b>Heritage item address</b>	Kings Own Hotel, The Rock
<b>Project description</b>	Painting roof gables
<b>Reason for the project</b>	Stabilising historic building
<b>Heritage item listing</b>	Lockhart Heritage Study.
<b>Applicant</b>	Terry Bailey
<b>Date commenced</b>	15 December 2014
<b>Date completed</b>	05 May 2015
<b>Total project cost</b>	<b>\$5000</b>
<b>Applicant contribution</b>	<b>\$4000</b>
<b>Local heritage funding</b>	<b>\$1000</b>

**Before/after photos**

**Before**



**After**

