

# Archives Newsletter

Australian Credit Union Archives Trust

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## Australian Mutuals History September 2019

We asked Kaye Wetzler, the chair of the Australian Credit Union Archives Trust, what she sees as the value of Archives. Kaye's response was to quote Winston Churchill

"The farther back you can look – the further you are likely to see."

And she added "That makes a lot of sense when you think about it. When you are able to look back and see where you got it right and where you could have done it better you give yourself a better view of the path to your future.

And that my friends and colleagues is the real value of the Archives."

We heartily agree with Kaye's words and our mission is to preserve important mutual history both for use now and in the future.

## Preserving A/V

Australian Mutuals History has recently completed the first part of a significant project to preserve, through digitisation, our audio visual collection.

We have digitised an initial tranche of 20 credit union video productions from their vulnerable VHS format.



*Image courtesy Gabriel Petry & Unsplash*

We hold around 600 videos and films produced by and about credit unions most of which are on vulnerable and fragile formats.

As these first videos were digitised successfully, we

hope in time to digitise more in order to ensure the preservation and accessibility of the collection.

This is important as these films document significant aspects of the history of the credit union movement that will be lost if not digitised.

We put together a short compilation of some of these digitised VHS videos produced by credit unions such as Members Australia Credit Union, City Coast Credit Union, NSW Teachers Credit Union, Berrima District Credit Union as well as CUSCAL. View it [here](#).

## COBA 2019

We will be at COBA 2019.

This will be a great opportunity for us to meet with our financial sponsors, donors and others from the mutual banking sector. Come and find us in the Exhibition Centre.

## Our Blog

### Why Archives Matter

In this blog we outline why Archives are an important and integral part of corporate and societal memory. Read

[here](#)



Image courtesy of Samuel Zeller & Unsplash

### If It Ain't Broke!

One of the most informative and fun VHS videos we digitised recently is called "The Basis of Our Success".

It was produced in 2001 on behalf of Broken Hill Community Credit Union.

It tells a truly remarkable story. Broken Hill Community Credit Union has dominated the financial scene in Broken Hill since 1973 and has never merged or changed its name.

The video features interviews with staff members, scenes inside the branch and back office, a cameo by founder Bill Cederblad and some lovely views of Broken Hill. Take a look [here](#).

## Our Mutual Friend - Maitland Mutual Building Society



What we know today as The Mutual Bank was known for many years as Maitland Mutual Building Society.

The people of Maitland, NSW, began talking about the need for a building society as early as the 1860's.

The editorial of the 16th July, 1863 edition of *The Maitland Mercury* stated:

"A good field for the operation of a building society is to be found in Maitland; the population of the town and district is of such a character as to furnish both investing shareholders and borrowers"

Eventually the Maitland Permanent Building Investment and Loan Society was created and the Rules of the Society adopted on October 22, 1888. Read the full story [here](#).

### A Regional Endeavour

Ballarat Co-operative Credit Union Limited was formed on 1 November 1976 from the amalgamation of four credit union entities in the vicinity.



Above: Photo of the Ballarat Co-operative Credit Union 1978 AGM (from collection)

Jim Muller, the first chairman, recounts in an oral history interview with Richard Raxworthy in October 1978 (held by Australian Mutuals History) that it took a great deal of negotiating and persuading before the four credit unions agreed to amalgamate.

More of the story of Ballarat Co-operative Credit Union can be found [here](#).

### AICUM Convention Picture Collection

We just processed a large cache of photographs taken at the Australian Institute of Credit Union Management (AICUM) Conventions held in Albury. Take a look [here](#).

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