

AUSTRALIAN MUTUALS HISTORY



NEWSLETTER

Australian Credit Union Archives Trust

Number 15

December 2020

Well, 2020 is drawing to a close and it has been a *different* year but Australian Mutuals History has continued to make gains ...

We recently welcomed Andrew Barnes to the team. Andrew has taken up the role of Treasurer, created after the departure of our long time Manager, John Cottee. Andrew is the Senior Compliance Officer with QBANK. He has significant experience in mutuals and financial services more broadly and we're very pleased to have him join us.

The collection continues to be an essential resource for researchers interested in various aspects of the mutuals sector. A current research project is being undertaken by Professor Greg Patmore of the University of Sydney Business School Co-operatives Research Group. The Group are writing a history of CUFA for their 50 year anniversary in 2021. Assistant Archivist Ben Woods has been working with Professor Patmore by providing material from the Australian Mutuals History collection which details the work of CUFA from inception in 1971 to 2005.

We have again gratefully accepted major contributions of records from CUA and Bank Australia in 2020 as well as a number of smaller donations from other mutual banks and credit unions. We have completed an index of *Connexus* magazine, a publication begun by CUSCAL in 2001 and running until 2014. Its 13 years of analysis and commentary on Australian financial mutuals is now easily accessed by researchers. Our small run of Victorian Credit Co-operative Association (VCCA) *Common Bond* magazines from the 1980s have been indexed as well.

As promised in our last newsletter we have some more credit union videos from yesteryear

from our VHS video collection that are now digitised and available for viewing in our "Best of the Blog" section below.

On behalf of Australian Mutuals History and the Australian Credit Union Archives Trust, thank you for supporting us in 2020 and we look forward to working with you again in 2021. Merry Christmas!

Best of the Blog

CUSCAL - "The Difference that Makes all the Difference"

We recently digitised a number of videos produced by CUSCAL in the 1980s and 1990s. One called "The Difference that Makes all the Difference" is an industry promotion aimed at the general population highlighting the important differences between publicly listed banks and credit unions. Take a look [here](#).

Friendly Societies - The Spirit of Co-operation and Self-Help

Friendly societies reflected a tradition of self-help and were started as a means to protect workers and their families from financial hardship due to ill health, death and other misfortunes. Over the years, many Australian friendly societies have been associated with credit unions and indeed were being written about in *Connexus* magazine as recently as 2010. Read more [here](#).



A photograph of friendly society members in Newcastle (NSW), 1902

Elcom Credit Union on TV

One video we recently digitised held a number of ads produced by Elcom Credit Union. Elcom Credit Union was registered in 1966 as Newstan Collieries Employees Credit Union. It changed its name to Elcom Credit Union in 1973 and expanded its bond but remained based in the Lake Macquarie region of NSW, as you will see in the video [here](#).

"Credit Union Australia Can Do!"

Finally, we have a little TV commercial from CUA from the late 1980s or early 1990s. It's a very summery affair and was produced to the highest standards of the time. Its tagline is "Credit Union Australia Can Do!". You can enjoy it [here](#).



Maleny Credit Union (MCU) HQ

Maleny Credit Union - A Short History

Maleny is a small town in the hinterland of Queensland's Sunshine Coast with a big reputation for running co-operatives. In fact it is the unofficial 'Co-operative Capital of Australia'. One of these mutual enterprises is Maleny Credit Union. MCU is known for its commitment to conservation and 'green loans' and you can read more [here](#).

What we can do for you...

- Provide advice about transferring records to us
- Provide details about records we hold on your credit union/mutual bank, or its predecessors
- Give information about the history of your credit union/mutual bank or the movement generally
- Provide access to records we hold

We are here to help ...

