

AUSTRALIAN MUTUALS HISTORY



NEWSLETTER

Australian Credit Union Archives Trust

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Welcome to another year and a new edition of the Australian Mutuals History Newsletter. There is quite a bit of news to share with you.

Assistant Archivist Ben Woods is working with Woolworths Team Bank (WTB) by preparing material for them in a number of media to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Contributing records derive from our own collection, as well as papers, ledgers and photographs newly acquired from WTB and primary research.

We have recently undertaken our annual survey of the websites of Australia's financial mutuals in order to update our collection of industry annual reports, disclosure documents, newsletters, constitutions and other important documents of record. After our recent work we now have 1744 of these digital records in our collection.

Our ongoing project to index Australian financial mutual publications reached another target recently by completing the indexing of our run of Credit Union Association of SA newsletters. We are now working on our holdings of Association of Tasmanian Credit Unions newsletters dating from the late 1960s to the late 1990s.

Work was started last year on a new website for Australian Mutuals History. We hope to provide more details on this in the near future.

Documenting Covid-19

As mentioned in our June 2020 Newsletter we have undertaken a project to collect material that illustrated how the mutual banking sector responded to the pandemic and helped their customers.

AMH now has a small digital collection of Covid-19 related resources (such as COBA special bulletins, reports, RBA material, web pages etc.). If you have any relevant resources (digital or otherwise) that you think should be preserved we would love to hear from you.

As we move into the second quarter of the year we would like to thank [our present and past financial supporters without whom we could not continue to preserve your history.](#)

Best of the Blog

Richard Crosbie - A Professional Co-operator



Richard Crosbie VCCA Chairman

“The saying of the people who are strong on philosophy is – what are the things that you want to attain, and then demanding of the efficiency experts how to achieve what is wanted. It is far too easy for the efficiency experts to say, it is too expensive, get rid of it. The role of volunteers is to say that it is fundamental to what I understand credit unions are about. What I want you, my professional manager/efficiency expert to do, is to find a way of achieving it for me.” - Richard Crosbie
Read about him [here.](#)

Penny Banks - Helping Small Scale Savers!



Penny Banks were a unique form of community bank originating in Scotland in the 19th century. Cairns Bank, which still operates today, started as Cairns Weekly Penny Savings Bank in 1899 (*Pictured above is an 1847 penny, the year the first Penny Bank was established in Scotland*). Read all about them [here](#).

Steve Birt's Dedication to Credit Unions



Steve Birt (pictured above) passed away in 1993 at the age of 46. An extraordinarily hard worker and efficient operator, Steve held his first credit union Chair at the age of 21. By the time he passed away he had held senior positions with NSW Teacher's Credit Union, the Association of NSW Credit Unions, the Australian Federation of Credit Union Leagues and was on the NSW Government's Credit Union Advisory Committee. Read about Steve [here](#).

The Antigonish Credit Union Movement



The Antigonish Movement was developed at the University of St Francis Xavier in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, in the late 1920s and 1930s. One of the founders of the Movement was Father Moses Coady, pictured above, flanked by Australian credit union legend Clarrie Murphy on the left and Kevin Young on the right, at the CUNA Convention in Maddison, USA, 1958. The Movement had credit unions as part of an entire social program and influenced Australian credit union pioneers who visited Father Coady. Read more [here](#).

Pat Taylor



Pat Taylor (pictured above) did a remarkable job in the 1970s and 1980s working with credit unions in financial distress due to a changing legislative, economic and technological culture. Many early credit unions were begun and run by "amateurs" and in an ever more complex world this became untenable. Read about her [here](#).