

AUSTRALIAN MUTUALS HISTORY



NEWSLETTER

Australian Credit Union Archives Trust

Number 12

March 2020

Welcome all to a new year and a new decade! Australian Mutuals History is looking forward to another busy and fruitful year. So far this year we have been processing a large collection of Board Minutes donated to us by CUA. We also have begun working on indexing credit union publications in order to improve access. Please read on ...



We asked Kaye Wetzler (pictured above), the chair of the Australian Credit Union Archives Trust, to write a few words for this edition about her involvement with credit unions. Here is what she wrote:

My working life, before motherhood, was mostly in finance companies. Some of you may never have heard of them. They were owned by banks to do the kind of lending that banks wouldn't, or couldn't by regulation, do.

I had no clue what a credit union was and while the Chairman of the day tried to explain it, I kept thinking, 'isn't that what banks do?' He could see he was not getting through to me and in exasperation he said,

"Look, credit unions help the ordinary man in the street manage his financial affairs with dignity."

I have never forgotten those words and have tried to live up to them throughout my 47 year career.

I have been involved with the Trust for seven years - it is a position I took up in May 2013 at the behest of the previous CEO of COBA. I will admit I thought at the time, "OMG, really! – how thrilling", but let me tell you I have enjoyed every minute of it.

The Archives, to put it simply, is a repository of our (credit union/mutual bank) history in Australia in the form of records (digital and physical).

At the most recent meeting of the Australian Credit Union Archives Trust it was mentioned that we hold over 30,000 items donated by credit unions and mutual banks. I wondered out loud what all that might be worth and the answer came back *"PRICELESS"*.

It is impossible to put a dollar value on history, but without history there is nothing to guide us into the future – we are all poorer without it. So I would encourage you to use

Australian Mutuals History – our archives. That includes sending your organisations' *priceless* history to the archives!!!

Kaye Wetzler

Best of the Blog

Visual Atlas of Australian Co-operatives History

Early in 2020 Professor Greg Patmore, Chair of the University of Sydney Business School, Co-operative Research Group, wrote a piece for us on the significance of the Visual Atlas of Australian Co-operatives History that the Co-operative Research Group is working on and the important role that our archives are playing in the project. Read more [here](#).

Barbara Wellington

In January we wrote about a woman pioneer of the South Australian credit union movement named Barbara Wellington. Barbara's credit union career really got started when she took the reins as Manager of ABC Staff Association Credit Union (SA) in 1970, a position she held until 1980. She was the first female delegate to the Australian Federation of Credit Union Leagues (AFCUL) and was instrumental in setting up Adelaide Central Mission Credit Union. Read more [here](#).

Tweed BGF Members' Credit Union

Also in January we wrote about Tweed BGF Members' Credit Union which today trades as Southern Cross Credit Union. Tweed BGF Members' Credit Union began life in 1966 as a mutual financial endeavour for registered members of the Banana Growers' Federation listed on the Tweed electoral roll. Tweed Byron's Credit Union House is pictured below. Read more [here](#).

Interview with Steve Sampson, Recently Retired GM of WECU

Just prior to his retirement in February we spoke to Steve Sampson about his 31 year credit union career. Twenty of those years were spent as General Manager of Plenty

Community Credit Union and the last eleven were spent as General Manager of WECU (Woolworths Employees Credit Union). Read Steve's story [here](#).



Dealing With Wet Records

The recent rains have been a welcome relief. But, unfortunately, heavy rain can lead to flooding. Flood waters and leaking roofs can cause damage to business premises and office areas, and consequently, to records.

At the end of 2018 we published a blog titled “Dealing with the Deluge – how to salvage wet records” which provided links to conservation advice about dealing with wet paper records (see <https://mycuhistory.wordpress.com/tag/record-preservation/>). There are helpful online resources available to those dealing with wet records, and below is a list:

- The NSW State Archives and Records Authority has useful advice about dealing with wet records (see [Conservation Tip No. 6 Dealing with Wet Records](#))
- The Queensland State Archives has advice about recovering and salvaging records after a disaster – including water damaged and charred records (see [Business continuity and disaster management for records](#))
- National Archives of Australia has some advice about dealing with flood damaged records (see [Recovering flood damaged records](#))

Damp conditions and high humidity can cause mould which is very damaging to records. The following resources address the problem of mould.

- The NSW State Archives and Records Authority has useful advice about dealing with mouldy records (see [Conservation Tip No 5: Removing mould from records](#))
- The Queensland State Archives has advice about preventing and treating mould on records (see [Prevent or Treat Mould](#)).

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
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We are here to help ...



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You are receiving this email because you provided your email address to Australian Mutuals History. This newsletter provides information about the work of Australian Mutuals History and updates on the archival collection relating to the financial mutual sector that we manage.

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