

Archives Newsletter

Australian Credit Union Archives Trust

March 2019

Number 8

Australian Mutuals History March 2019

Australian Mutuals History has already had a busy start to the year as I am sure you all have.

We have received a number of interesting research inquiries since our last newsletter including helping COBA in their #MoreThan4 campaign as well as with their research into Christmas Clubs in Australia.

Our focus for 2019 is to work on unprocessed backlogs of records in the collection. This will ensure that more archival material is discoverable for research use. As we undertake this work we will highlight interesting "discoveries" through social media.

Wishing you all a successful and enjoyable 2019!

A Tribute to Gary Lewis



Above: Gary Lewis researching "People Before Profit" at our office in Sydney in 1996

Australia's customer owned banking industry and the co-operative sector more broadly was most saddened to learn of the passing of credit union and co-operative historian Gary Lewis recently.

Among many other projects Dr Lewis was the author of the definitive history of the Australian credit union movement, *People Before Profit*. Read our blog about Gary Lewis' life and work [here](#).

Photographic Memories

We have recently processed many hundreds of

photographs on behalf of a variety of individual and institutional donors. Two choice selections are reproduced below and you can have a look at a larger selection [here](#).

Below: Tom Kelly, about to board a steam train in Sydney in celebration of his retirement in 1986. His ticket is attached.



Above: Riding a heritage Cobb & Co horse drawn carriage to the opening of Queensland Teachers' Credit Union Office in Surat in 1996.

Our Blog

The Co-operative Credit Bank of Victoria

While the first enterprise registered using the term “credit union” in Australia, was Universal Credit Union in the 1940’s, an entity in Victoria can lay claim to being the first “customer owned banking organisation”.

The Co-operative Credit Bank of Victoria was established in 1905 by a group of public servants. Read more [here](#).

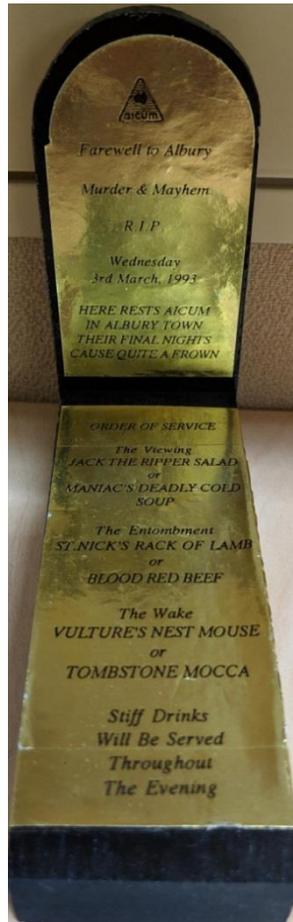


Above: Co-operative Credit Bank of Victoria share certificate, 1913.

Credit Union Curios

Our collection is not all documents and photographs, we also collect items archivists’ classify as “ephemera”. This covers every day and idiosyncratic items not readily classified as something normally collected. We processed a marvelous array of “credit union curios”

recently and you can read about them [here](#).



Above: The certainly curious menu for the 1993 AICUM Conference dinner

United for the Common Good

Last year we looked back at some of the peak bodies that serviced the needs of credit unions in NSW.

We finished the series with a short examination of the first national body to advocate on behalf of credit unions in Australia - The Australian Federation of Credit Union Leagues (AFCUL).

The inaugural AFCUL meeting took place in 1966. After the reforms of Project Renewal in 1989/90, which we have also written about, a new direction in credit union administration was required and AFCUL made way for CUSCAL, who still operates today in a different capacity. Today, of course customer owned banks are serviced by COBA. For more on AFCUL, our blog is [here](#).

Donation of records

Australian Mutuals History is keen to add to its unique collection of records relating to credit unions, mutual building societies and customer owned banks. If your organisation has records it would like to donate, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us for a chat!

Contact Details

59 Buckingham Street, Surry Hills

NSW 2010

PO Box 1985, Strawberry Hills

NSW 2012

T: 0428 785 392

E: enquiries@mycuhistory.com.au

www.mvcuhistory.com.au