

IDLE CHATTER Mark II

Newsletter No: 6

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This newsletter is an initiative of the Quandialla Centenary Committee

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The following article appeared in the Newcastle Herald sometime this year. With our Centenary just around the corner and working towards this big event this article has hit a nerve with me.

Historic country town has some ghost-town appeal

Once a thriving service centre on the plains of The Bland country at the western edge of the Weddin Shire, the little village of Quandialla is in danger of losing its fight for survival.

Locals say it will not be long before it's nothing more than a ghost town, a victim of changing times and fortunes.

But, for now, Quandialla lives on and it is not without rustic charm.

Founded in 1914, it was a product of the coming of the railway.

"Quandi" is 46 kilometres from Grenfell and 65 kilometres from Young.

The Weddin Mountains are a short drive away.

Quandialla hit its commercial peak in the 1950s, a time when the town had three stores, three stock and station agents, three motor garages, a police station and courthouse, a cinema, hotel, convent school and saleyard.

Today with most of the 1950s farms now depopulated and aggregated into large corporate holdings worked by contractors, Quandialla is reduced to one store, a hotel, bowling club and central school with a tenuous enrolment of about 40 pupils.

Visit before it is too late.

This article appears to be a piece for tourism and that's great but I still took exception to it on various points, yes the author did state the facts correctly but I strongly object to the backhand remarks of "ghost town", "losing the fight for survival" and especially "visit before it is too late".

They say there is no such thing as bad publicity and rustic would be a good description, so thank you to the author. I would also like to thank her because this article has made me stop and think that it is up to us and no one else to see that Quandialla does not slip any closer to this predicted ghost town scenario. We need to continue to work together as we have in the past and support the village that was and still is the centre of the district. Also we need to support all those little organisations/groups that keep things ticking over and make's Quandialla a great place to farm and raise a family. Just think, if Quandi does disappear there would be no more nicking into town or down the street so you can buy milk, bread, stamps or have a beer, go for a swim, have your blood pressure taken, play bowls, get chemicals, buy petrol, go to church, attend school functions, socialise with friends, I could go on. I know times have changed but that doesn't mean that we should let our heritage and Quandialla slip away. I apologise if you think I have over stepped the mark with my thoughts on this matter but I do feel especially now that we are preparing for our Centenary this article could be a wakeup call, as the saying goes "let's use it before we lose it".

Our district is a great place to live and raise a family, the advantages of country life far outweigh the disadvantages, and I am very proud to say Quandialla is my home.

THE FUTURE – CENTENARY NEWS

SHIRE MAPS: At our last meeting we discussed maps that pertain to our district and where we might be able to source them. It was also mentioned that there could be lots of farmers etc. who over the years have collected maps of the area and have them stored on top of the cupboard. So this is where our little newsletter jumps into action. Do you have any maps that you have collected or ones that Dad passed down to you for safe keeping? Would you loan them to the Centenary Group to assist us in trying to collate a record of the various owners of properties down through the years. If you can help please contact Robert Reeves, Marlene Taylor or Sue Priestley.

