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Happy New Year to every-one and as I write, the rain is falling with streaky lightning and loud claps of thunder. Let's hope the rain is reaching all those places that need it the most. We have had a slow start to the year with the hot weather, but, it now being February, it is time to get motivated.

Plans are under way to open the factory over the Easter weekend, 10.30am to 2pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with refreshments available for purchase. Monday morning will be from 7am to 10am with a sausage sizzle. There will also be a plant stall. A gold coin donation will allow entry into the building with a self-guided tour. **Phone** Beryl on 4622 2755 or Diann on 0438 140 301 if you are able to help on any of these days. Pots are also needed for potting up plants. Please phone Veronica on 0418 743 490 if you have any.

The planning for the plough day and tractor pull to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May at the Polo Cross grounds is on track with the signage for this event being finished. The signs just need to be placed around town now. A flyer to advertise the event will be distributed shortly.

Roma Historical Motor Club Inc. will be holding their National Motoring Heritage Day at the factory on 17<sup>th</sup> May with a display of historic vehicles. A BBQ, Ivy's Coffee Van, Apex Jumping Castle and the Leo's (Lions Youth Group) will be in attendance. The grounds will open from 11.30am.

Funds are still a major hurdle for the butter factory and to achieve what we would like to do there, we need to fundraise. One of our ongoing fundraisers is the collection of containers for the Cash for Containers Refund Scheme. We were fortunate in receiving a grant which has enabled us to purchase a trailer with a cage, also wheelie bins and appropriate signage. We have placed containers at the butter factory entrance so you will be able to drop off your cans and bottles at any time.



The *Apex Fine Wine & Dine* evening held at the factory last November was a huge success. The marquees were first setup on the bitumen until a storm brewed blowing decorations in all directions so tables and chairs were changed to inside the building. Lighting, not a problem with generators and flood lights. Fairy lights strung around with candles on the tables and a string orchestra provided a surreal atmosphere. A 5 course meal was prepared and served by caterers from Mitchell along with wine to suit each course from the St George Riversands winery. Thank you to Tyson Campbell and his small band of helpers from Apex for organising the event. A cheque for \$1,000 was presented to the RHPI from the proceeds of the evening.

With the factory being open at Easter, it was decided to connect the electricity to the office building which will help immensely with the serving of tea and coffee etc. We are now looking for the donation of a fridge. If anyone is able to help with this request, please contact either Ken or Ray.

Progress is being made with the book on the butter factory and local dairy farmers. We hope to have it published later in the year.

It was with sadness that we farewelled one of our members on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Alan Beitz, husband of our treasurer Jan, passed away unexpectedly on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. His memorial service, held at the Golf Club on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, was well attended by members of the community and friends from afar. Alan was well known for his involvement in the Apex club and the Roma Show Society.

A working bee will be held each Saturday morning commencing at 8.30am to prepare the factory for the Easter open days.

Membership renewals will be due on 1<sup>st</sup> July for the 2020-2021 year. Membership forms will be sent out in June.

**The next meeting of the RHPI will be held at the butter factory on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 3.30pm.**



## Thank You!

We gratefully thank the following people/organisations for their donations, be it items or their time. These are recent donations and do not include the fantastic items that we received for the Open Day back in August of last year. Apologies if I have missed anyone.

**Wright family of Westmore, Roma** – old cold room which was used to store the cream before it was transported to Roma.

**John & Dulcie Chappell** – small cream can and old milk bottles.

**Lyn Kajewski/Fleming Cypress** – filing cabinets and timber which will be used for the restoration of the office building.

**George Mehay/RSL** – 4 glass cabinets and 3 fold up tables.

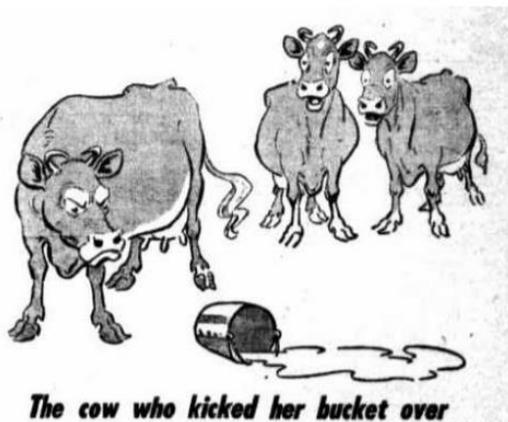
**Helen Murphy** – table and chairs.

**Diann Heffernan** – tablecloths, tea towels, cups, glasses etc etc.

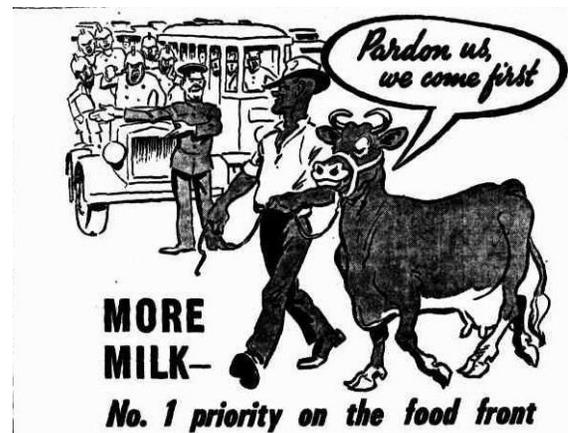
**Clark family/Presbyterian Church** – display boards.

**Roma Fire Fighting Equipment** – supply of fire extinguishers.

**Graeme Thrupp** has been kind enough to do the mowing and whipper snipping at the butter factory which is saving us a lot of time and work.



Excerpt from Advertisement – Western Star – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 1945<sup>1</sup>



Excerpt from Advertisement – Western Star – 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1944<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Western Star and Roma Advertiser (Toowoomba, Qld. : 1875 - 1948), Friday 2 February 1945, page 6 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article98048345>

<sup>2</sup> Western Star and Roma Advertiser (Toowoomba, Qld. : 1875 - 1948), Friday 20 October 1944, page 1 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article98047294>

**GIL & ANNIE SHERIDAN****HUNTERTON**

Joyce Ross has wonderful childhood memories of visiting Hunterton in the mid 1940's. Joyce says, "I remember, when I was about 6 years old, what a thrill it was for me & my siblings whenever Dad said he would take us to collect the mail. We would climb into Dad's Model T Ford & make the 25 mile journey from Hendon Park to Mr. & Mrs. Sheridan at Hunterton, where they were Post Master & Mistress. They had a small room at the end of their front verandah which was used as the Post Office. Our special treat was to be given lovely cakes & cordial. Before we were allowed into Mrs. Sheridan's spotless kitchen though, we had to go to her bathroom which was a separate building. We had to walk down the back steps, along a flagstone path and up 3 steps into quite a large building which housed the bathroom and laundry. The bathroom had no running water but there was always water, in a large jug, ready to pour into a china basin. The best part was the beautiful cashmere bouquet soap we could use. I always thought that was the most beautiful bathroom because of the wonderful smelling soap. After the trip to the bathroom we could sit down, at the kitchen table, on a long stool and enjoy the goodies. There was a standing rule though, we couldn't leave that stool until Mrs. Sheridan said we were excused. I will never forget how I got into terrible trouble by Mum the day I asked Mrs. Sheridan why did she have whiskers on her chin."



*Hunterton Homestead – Post Office was room with window on left.  
Photo taken in 2004 by Joyce Ross with her sister Daphne standing on the verandah.*