The CSU Regional Archives is currently extending its opening hours to include the first Saturday of the month. This initiative has been put in place to cater for those researchers who are unable to visit the archives on weekdays during normal business hours.

The next Saturday opening will be on February 1, 2014, from 10am to 3pm.

The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building on South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with inquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straight-forward enquiries for a fee of $55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information, phone 02 6025 3600, email archive@csu.edu.au, or visit our website at www.csu.edu.au/research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.

HISTORY IN A PICTURE

Photographs from England shed light on station life

ABOVE: Group of station hands, 1891. BELOW LEFT: Wool Scour, 1891. BELOW RIGHT: Togannmain Station, 1891.

Murrumbidgee River, was one of the principal grazing properties in the Riverina. It was first established by Sir Alexander Mackay before being sold to Thomas Robertson in 1876. It then remained in the Robertson family until 1988. In 1893 (just two years after the photographs were taken) Togannmain Station exceeded just over 300,000 acres in size, and was bounded by extensive Murrumbidgee River frontage. The homestead and accompanying outbuildings resembled a little colony including barns, stables, and a carpenter and blacksmith's shop. Even in 1893, the homestead already had electric lights installed, and telephonic communication with the outstations of Togannmain were also in place (in some places stretching over 25 miles). The Togannmain wool shed was a fine structure measuring 240 feet in length and 80 feet in width.

When shearing took place it was not unusual to have 60 shearmen engaged, along with housebots, cooks and shearing hands, as well as another 30 men employed on contract to work at wool scouring. In total it was not unusual to have more than 150 men employed to complete shearing.

Amazingly, in 1891 a total of 218,000 sheep were shorn at Togannmain. The wool clip from Togannmain Station also had an excellent and enviable reputation for both quality and style in Australian and English wool trade circles.

The CSU Regional Archives has an existing collection of records documenting Togannmain and Coonibbil Stations during the mid to late 20th century.

The State Library of NSW also has an extensive collection of earlier records from Togannmain which cover the 19th century.

REFERENCES:

SEARCH HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS ON LINE

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... then visit www.trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper for your Treasure Trove of Riverina history.