Discover your home's history

at the archives

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Are you ever wanted to find out the history of your property? How old is your house? Who was the first owner? Has anyone interesting lived there before you? Or maybe you would like to know where your ancestors have lived.

The rate and valuation books can be a good source for providing this information, particularly for older properties in Wagga Wagga.

The type of information that can be gleaned from the rate books includes: a description of the property, the type of buildings materials used (e.g. brick or timber), the names of owners and/or occupiers, the occupation of the owner and/or occupier, and of course, a valuation of the property.

The CSU Regional Archives has the Wagga City Council ratebooks from 1875 to 1949 on microfilm, and can be accessed in the archives search room at any time during opening hours.

Many of Wagga's ratebooks are stored on microfilm at the CSU Regional Archives.

THE CSU Regional Archives will be again offering at least two summer research scholarships this year to eligible CSU students. The students will work on designated projects from January 3, 2007 to February 1, 2008 (with scholars having a

Wagga's charmed history on wheels

Rollerskating has proven to be a favourite pastime for the people of Wagga Wagga, with a number of skating rinks existing in the town over the years.

This keenness for skating is supported by the fact that during the winter months of 1938 there was enough interest to necessitate the existence of two competing skating rinks.

The first to open on May 7, 1938 was the Wagga Roller Skating Rink, located in the Freeman's hall, and was followed by the Victoria Skating Rink on June 1, 1938, which saw the Albion Flour Mill on the corner of Kincad and Trail Street transformed into a first class skating floor.

However, the height of skating popularity in Wagga came about with the construction of a purpose-built rink in 1910.

The proprietors of Wagga Wagga Skating Olympia were Collins and Hayes, who spared no expense in ensuring a comfortable and attractive venue.

The rink was situated in Kincad Street near the junction with Fitzmaurice Street and had a skating area of approximately 110ft by 20ft (33m by 18m).

Wagga Skating Olympia hosted regular carnivals and competitions and was a thriving spot for local youth.

The White Night Carnival held on July 8, 1910 was a much-anticipated evening of skating and fancy dress that did not disappoint the mass of spectators and participants that were present.

The accompanying photograph was taken on that icy July evening, and captures the "whiteness" of the occasion, along with an amazing display of fun and style.

It was a requirement of the event that skaters be dressed in white, which produced an array of inventive costumes including, a snowflake, moonlight, a nurse, a cigarette, winter, a cricketer, a toot-hachee-cure and a baker. Prizes were awarded on the night for the prettiest costume, most handsome costume, best comic costume and also for the most graceful couple.

Among the prize winners were two of the ladies featured in the photograph, Mrs Greer with partner FJ Ross, and Mrs Dunn with H Byles who took out first and second prizes respectively for the most graceful skating couple competition. Many locals may remember in more recent history the Rollerama in Hammond Hall at the showgrounds and again in Pearson Street, showing that rollerskating in Wagga has had a continued popularity.

(References: The Daily Advertiser May 8 and 31, 1938; December 2, 1910; March 10, 1910; July 8 and 14, 1910)