

Autograph quilt research workshop this Saturday

The Rylstone District Historical Society is planning a Rylstone Autograph Quilt Exhibition for History Week in September 2015. Photographs and research undertaken by members of the Society and people all over New South Wales will be shared at this special event.

The existence of this important part of local history first came to the attention of the historical society in 1999 in the form of a letter from a Mrs Simpson who had attended a Sydney house auction in 1957. The house belonged to a lady who had previously been a resident of Rylstone. At the auction, Mrs Simpson made a successful bid for the contents of a linen cupboard.

Amongst the linen, Mrs Simpson discovered a quilt with the words Rylstone Autograph Quilt embroidered on it. The quilt had been embroidered all over with signatures and contained a reference to World War I and the names of soldiers who had enlisted. According to Mrs Simpson's letter, she sent the quilt to the Rylstone District RSL Club but it

was returned to her. Mrs Simpson then sent the quilt on to the Australian War Memorial Museum in Canberra where it has been kept ever since.

Of the 966 signatures, 49 have been identified by the Australian War Memorial Museum as being of World War I soldiers. The other signatures are predominantly of friends, family and members of the Rylstone and district community. The Society is currently researching the names and is encouraging members, as well as the wider community, to provide information about the people behind the signatures.

A workshop on quilt research is being held this Saturday, September 13 at the Cottage Museum (behind the Bridge View Inn). Relatives and interested community members are invited to come along and research a signature and enjoy morning and afternoon tea. Bring along your laptop, photographs and any research files you have.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Helen Marsonet on 6379 0772 or by emailing helenmarsonet@bigpond.com.



FASCINATING HISTORICAL ITEM: A small section of the Rylstone Autograph Quilt which is at the Australian War Memorial Museum. The quilt will be the focus of attention this Saturday at the Cottage Museum.