

# Archives Newsletter

Australian Credit Union Archives Trust

March 2018

Number 4

## *Australian Mutuals History's first Newsletter for 2018*

It has been almost 12 months since Senior Archivist Amanda Barber and Assistant Archivist, Ben Woods, started at the Australian Mutuals History office. In that time, our name has been changed from Australian Credit Union Archives and our collection remit has moved from a purely credit union focus, to one that encompasses the entire customer owned banking industry (credit unions, mutual banks and building societies).

With that has come a change in our funding model to a user pays system (see box below). So far, operations as Australian Mutuals History have transitioned successfully.

## *Collections*

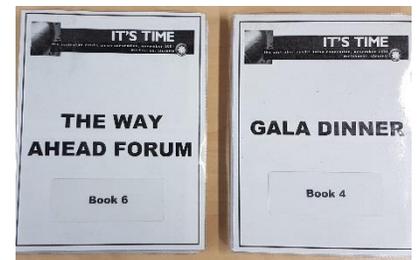
Over the course of 2017 we told you about some of the significant collections we acquired. These included material relating to credit union pioneer Don Closs, Quay Credit Union and the Customer Owned Banking Association (COBA).

We can now give you an update on the processing of the COBA collections. The most pleasing aspect of the donation was that it included 3 archives boxes of building society annual reports, which boosts our fledgling collection of building society material.

The donation also contained 24 boxes of material relating to credit unions, most of



which were annual reports which filled gaps in our collection, as well as some strategic plans and marketing material. The donated material, which measures 5 metres end to end, also contains photographs and ephemera which we will process soon.



*Above: Collections donated by COBA*

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## COBA 2018

Will be held at Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, 21-23 October (pictured at night below).



COBA 2017 was very successful for Australian Mutuals History. We made many contacts and talked with many interested people. We hope COBA 2018 is similarly successful.

## MY CU HISTORY BLOG

Our predecessor, Michelle Goodman, started writing a blog promoting the archives in 2015. With all her other duties, Michelle was only able to post intermittently.

Since April 2017, the new archival team of Ben Woods and Amanda Barber have made publishing a blog piece very nearly a weekly event. In the past 12 months we have published blog pieces on our audio visual collection, International Credit Union

Day, our time at COBA 2017, credit union histories, profiles of credit union pioneers, research work using our collections and more.

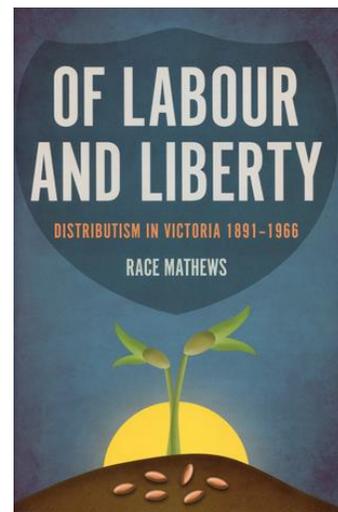
## Monash Business School Research Paper

One of the most significant results of recent research work conducted with Australian Mutuals History, was a paper co-published by Dr Luisa Unda from Monash Business School. With her co-authors, Kamran Ahmed and Paul R. Mather of Latrobe University Business School, Dr Unda published a piece in the AFAANZ journal, *Accounting and Finance*, called "Board Characteristics and Credit Union Performance". [Click here](#) to learn more.

## A Very Short History of Building Societies

While we have made it clear that Australian Mutuals History now collects and preserves material relevant to the entire mutual banking sector, as of yet, most of our material relates to credit unions. With this in mind, we decided to put together a short history of the building society movement, in part to show how building societies differ from other mutual

banking organisations. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Race Mathews' latest book (pictured above). He used our collections for his research. [Click here](#) to learn more

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HISTORY WOULD LIKE TO  
THANK OUR [FINANCIAL  
SPONSORS](#), WITHOUT  
WHOM WE WOULD NOT  
BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO  
DOCUMENT THE HISTORY  
OF AUSTRALIAN  
CUSTOMER OWNED  
BANKING