**The 1895 Demise of the Fruitgrowers’ Union of NSW**

**(or ‘How Not to Run an Association’)**

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 5 Jan 1895**

The past year has seen the last of a [Parramatta] district organisation, which, at one time, bade fair to lead a thoroughly useful existence: the Fruitgrowers' Union of New South Wales. The Union has died a lingering death, if not from senile decay, yet from a state of inanition, brought on by mismanagement, cradled in folly and nurtured in negligence, selfishness, and crass ignorance. The few intelligent men who had cast in their lot with the Union, and who worked steadily on in the face of no ordinary discouragements, were at length utterly worn out and disgusted, and were compelled to turn their backs upon the whole concern. The Union's five or six years’ record has simply been an unbroken chain of futile efforts, often well-conceived, but wrecked invariably by the notorious inefficiency and stupidity of some of the so-called leaders

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 15 Jun 1895**

The Defunct Fruitgrowers' Union of N.S.W.

The Final Meeting.

Disposal of the Property.

After lingering for over ten years in a state of chronic decline and doing little but providing a billet for a secretary and a means of allowing a few individuals to have their names in the papers once a month, the Fruitgrowers’ Union of N.S.W. flickered out its feeble life a few months ago. It had been in an inanimate condition so long that it took some time to realise that death had actually ensued, and so, after some months, when the corpse had been decently waked, it was decided to bury it with becoming respect, and divide the little property that had not been wasted.

The Secretary submitted a statement showing that when the secretary's salary at half rates had been paid (£8 16s) and other small outstanding accounts settled, there would be a balance of 4s 3d left, and it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Cox and Mr. Mills, - 'That the Treasurer be authorised to pay all outstanding accounts owing by the Union and close the banking account as far as the Union was concerned.' The chairman suggested that the 4s 3d balance that would be left should be handed over to him to go towards covering the expense he had been put to for postage during the past ten years and this was generously agreed to.

The next business was to dispose of a sum of £25 2s 6d which had been collected by Mr. A. J, Howard (Seven Hills), C. Gibbs (Kenthurst) and G. Boasley (Carlingford) for a Flying Fox Destruction Fund, but which with characteristic dilatoriness the Union had never found time to spend. After discussion ranging from flying foxes to Italian lemons it was decided that the

money should be handed over to the three gentlemen who had collected it and that they should return it to the original donors, who may receive the amount of their donations by calling for them.