

NEWSLETTER
November 2012

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

Cnr Stuart & Myocum Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

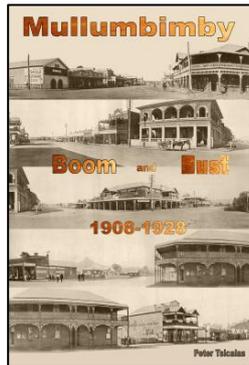
OPEN: FRIDAY 10 AM – 12 PM

MARKET DAY (3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH) 9 AM-1 PM

MUSEUM NEWS

New Publication

Our new publication is now available for purchase at \$27. Include \$10 extra for post and packaging if requiring a copy by mail. Payment can be made by cheque, postal order or direct deposit to Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc Direct deposit info:
BSB: 032 583 A/c No: 201192



Reminders



Museum opening times:

Fridays 10am to 12 pm

Market Saturdays 9 am to 1pm

Monthly Meeting – 1st Thursday of the month at 1 pm

Acquisitions Meeting – 2nd Thursday of the month at 1 pm

Our Trash & Treasure Stall always needs new things to keep it looking fresh each market. Your support has been terrific. Please no clothing or electrical items.

Visiting Group

On Sunday 28th October the Automobile Restorers Association of the Gold Coast made a special visit to our museum. Thanks to the members who gave of their time to open the museum. Go to <http://autorestorers.com.au/> for information on the association.

As a result of this visit we realize that we are not really wheelchair friendly and so are arranging a removable ramp at the step causing the problem.



One of the vehicles that visited – 68' Mini Cooper 5 sedan.

Next year they will plan a run on a market Saturday.

Retro Cocktail Hour

On Friday 2nd November, Byron Shire Relay For Life held its launch at the museum from 5.30-7.30. Relay is a fun overnight community event to raise awareness of cancer, remember those who lost the battle to cancer and celebrate with those who have survived. Byron Shire Relay is being held at the Mullumbimby Giants Football Playing Fields on 16 & 17 March 2013. The Byron Shire RFL is seeking teams to participate in the event.

At the well attended launch was information about relay, a demonstration of swing dance, the showing of Dr Alderman's 60's movie of Byron Bay, Mullumbimby & Brunswick Heads & a display of retro gear from Taylor Props. The food was served by 2 of the Show Queen contestants. A very enjoyable evening was had by all with the movie being a special highlight. Special thanks from the Byron Shire Relay For Life Committee to BVHS Inc for the use of the venue.



What Depression?

The gurus have decreed that the Great Depression was formally trumpeted-in by the bell ringers of Wall Street in late Oct1929, but the resonance didn't register on the Brunswick where bumper Christmas crowds were gearing up to sift sand through their toes at the beach. Into Jan30 *Every available cottage at Brunswick Heads is still occupied, and numbers of families are awaiting vacancies. Camping areas are also fairly full and the number of campers has exceeded all records.... The crowd on Boxing Day was easily a record, cars being parked where never before.... Most of the best woodchoppers of the Commonwealth were present....* Still, after the holidays the Mullum Star felt odd vibrations coming from the real world, commenting that *The inevitable aftermath of the Great War has taken longer to reach Australia than the rest of the world, but the wave of depression has at last touched our shores.... there is no occasion to panic.... It would appear that a great deal more has been made of our troubles than is warranted by the facts.... It will do Australia no harm to get down to her job a little more strenuously and she will be all the better for it.... One of the reasons Australia finds herself in an unpleasant predicament to-day is... because those bludgers in the city borrowed too much for their mickey mouse projects like the Harbour Bridge. Had a more generous proportion of the loan monies been expended in works which would have assisted the development of the country... things'd be different (conveniently overlooking the 4yr, £4,500,000 Grafton-Kyogle railway project nearing completion, which directly employed over 1500 people and had a flow-on effect throughout the region. Not to forget that the 'unpleasantness' was just another straw to the load for the acclimatized Brunswickers, who had been doing it hard since the early 1920s.)*

By mid Feb30 the £275 Christmas grant to the Municipal Council for unemployment relief had been spent, and they were now retrenching staff, including 20yr old Assistant Town Clerk 'Jim' **Boxall**, son of the recently resigned Clerk C.H. Boxall, even though *Council had been quite satisfied with the work of Mr Boxall, but as a matter of economy, retrenchment had to be made... to make way for a cheaper junior.* In Jul30 Council employees came under the Schedule of the Public Servants' Salaries Reduction Act and had their pay knocked back by 8½%, an action supported by the Bolsheviks at the Brunswick District Teachers' Federation, who *...offer no objection for a reduction, provided that a fixed term for the reduction to operate is definitely stated; such term to cease not later than the conclusion of the financial stringency....* The farmers at the Tweed District Council of the PPU were also happy with wage reduction *in place of dismissals... in the public service as they want consumers for their butter.* But they thought transfer of the telephone mechanic to a central maintenance facility at Bangalow was a bridge too far: *It is felt in all quarters that it is but another instance of sacrificing Mullumbimby on the altar of Departmental economy irrespective of the inconvenience caused.*

But in the relativity race Mullum was riding out the Clayton's Depression without too much hassle. In early Jun30 the *...Convent Ball is now consigned to the limbo of things past, but not for many a day will the brilliancy and splendor of the function be forgotten.... As for depression! Travellers and visitors to the district have repeatedly remarked that no such thing existed in this favoured spot; and the gorgeousness of Monday night's function and the collective wealth that the cars and frocking represented would seem to confirm their statement....* Conservative Miss 1930 revealed herself as a charming piece of femininity in ankle length frocks of such diaphanous lightness and kaleidoscopic colouring as to completely put to shame the rainbow... (compared to Miss 1928..., a fairy like person with shingled hair and a frock that reached to the knee... to better enable sinful jazz moves.) National unemployment for the first quarter of 1930 rose to 14.6%, from 12.1% in Oct29 when Labor took Federal power, and then rapidly increased to 21% by mid 1930, at which time the Brunswick still remained relatively insulated, Municipal and Shire unemployment reckoned to be 12.7% and 8.1% by extrapolating from the mid 1933 census figures.

Nevertheless, in late Jun30 Mayor Chew acceded to the Government request to call a public meeting *to consider ways and means of relieving cases of local distress...* and a week later *Very few citizens evinced sufficient interest to attend the meeting called by the mayor.... Ald Frost moved that a committee be formed, to be known as the Mullumbimby Community Chest, and that donations (of 'food, money and garments') be left at the Council Chambers.... The Mayor, Ald Chew, was appointed president, the Town Clerk was appointed secretary and treasurer. It was decided that a committee be formed to consist of one independent townsman, and a representative from each of the Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, Returned Soldiers' League, and two members of the Council. Mr S. Brooker was appointed the townspeople's representative.... A communication was received from the Federal government that a parcel of five military jackets, five pairs of boots, five tunics and five hats had been forwarded to Mullumbimby....*

A week later, *Speaking at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce last week in connection with a request from the Mullumbimby Community Chest to appoint a representative from the Chamber, Mr J.P. Walker expressed himself in no uncertain terms. There was plenty of work to be had about Mullumbimby, said he; some people won't work, but*

make their wives work instead. There was no occasion for anyone to starve in Mullumbimby. It was decided to acquiesce with the Community Chest's Request and Mr **Hungerford** was appointed the Chamber's delegate. Mr Hungerford, in accepting the position, assured the meeting that as far as he was concerned, there would be no indiscriminate giving, and every case would be thoroughly investigated. Mr G. **Lindsay** expressed the opinion, that as far as Mullumbimby was concerned, the depression so much spoken of at present, should not exist.

In May30 Premier Bavin's NSW Coalition restored the 48hr working week, overturning Lang Labor's '44 Hour Bill' of 1925. In Jul30 the general workforce joined the public service in sharing the philanthropic load when the Unemployment Relief Tax of 3d in the £ was introduced and applied to all employees on a pay of 30/- a week and upwards. At the same time Mayor **Chew** announced some Municipal statistics, inclusive of the fact that the ucw was now £139,221, the lowest since the peak of £159,480 in 1925, while the population mysteriously had continued to grow, asserting that the town now housed 1563 people. The increase was probably made up of economic refugees from the metropolis, mostly seeking shelter in the Enterprise Sale Yards in Fern Street and/or the Showground pavilion, where they were tearing the place apart for firewood. (Conversely, the mayor reckoned that the wider Mullumbimby Police Patrol District had a population of 4154, a reduction of just over 100 from the 1922 peak in the banana and dairy boom. The district now accommodated 323 registered dairies housing 160,000 cows, who presented the district with 80,000 cans of cream per year, half of which was despatched through the Mullum station for processing at Byron.)

In Aug30 the Council decided to jump on the new Unemployment Relief Scheme gravy train and applied for £1136, to be spent on extending the bitumen to both sides of Burringbar Street from the one-track strip down the centre. But they were only awarded £600, which was all used up by late Sep30 in giving employment to 17 blokes to construct and clear drains, generating controversy 2wks later when Ald **Arnold** said a lot of the unemployed were complaining about the way the work under the unemployment relief scheme had been given..., while The Town Clerk, Mr **Inch**, said that there was not one man, who was available, that had not been put on, and Mayor **Chew** asserted that the work had been equitably distributed.

In mid Oct30 Ald **Starr** delivered a regular tirade at last week's Council meeting, when a request from Waradger Shire was read seeking co-operation for the reduction of all salaries and wages by 33½ per cent. Thumping his fist on the table, Ald Starr thundered out: "I wouldn't be a party to any such thing. Employees have already received a big slump in their wages, and I don't think it is fair to put any extra burdens on them, especially in Mullumbimby." His indignation gathered momentum as he spoke.... Mullumbimby, he declared, was the dearest town on the North Coast in this respect (bread and meat).... The mayor took exception to Ald Starr's remarks about the town charging such high prices. He claimed that Mullumbimby catered for the public as well as any other town....



Mayor Chew was into self-help and evolved a Community Shopping Scheme, which gives promise to do great things in building up the business life of Mullumbimby.... During recent years many of the older residents have deplored the fact that there was at present no intercommunication between residents of the town and district; they were drifting apart, and consequently the old feeling of sentiment for their own town was dying.... In late Sep30 The most representative meeting of business and professional men ever assembled in Mullumbimby for the last twenty years gathered.... Briefly the scheme was to obtain the support of ALL the business houses, in issuing a large circular to every home in the Brunswick district inviting them to visit Mullumbimby on Community Shopping day (to be fixed) and so make an effort to re-capture the trade at present going to the larger town of Lismore.... From the 40 who attended a Committee of Management was appointed, comprising Messrs F.I. **Ward**, A.W. **Chew**, J.P. **Walker** and W.G. **Farrar**, who enlisted the support of 44 business people, organised prizes and essay Competitions, and arranged free lorries to bring people from Wilson's Creek and Goonengerry on opening day. Alas, it was not the big success it deserved to be... because it was held on a Friday, not Saturday when most farmers can get into town, advised pseudonymous letter writer 'Job or No Job' in early Oct30.

But in late Oct30 R.N. **Rollo**, secretary of the School of Arts and seemingly the temporary editor of the Mullum Star, reckoned that farmers from various parts of the district declare these popular weekly functions (the 'old time' dances at the School of Arts) to be the best movement ever started in Mullumbimby, inasmuch as it is helping them to forget their troubles for the time being, during the present depression, providing cheap and pleasant relaxation for themselves and their families, as well as a common meeting place for friends throughout the district. The old time dances still provide a lure for many that jazz failed to attract.... Retro dancing competitions were on the rise as a

**Brunswick Valley
Historical Society Inc.
Newsletter**

This newsletter is written by and for the members of the BVHS

Cnr Myocum & Stuart Sts
Mullumbimby
P.O. Box 378 Mullumbimby 2482
bvhs84@yahoo.com.au
www.mullumbimbymuseum.org.au
Facebook: Mullumbimby Museum
02 6684 4367

Patron: Frank Mills OAM.
President: Stephen Hall
Vice President: Gordon Wright
Secretary: Janelle Barram
Treasurer: Susan Tsicalas
Assistant Treasurer:
 Sarah Newsome
Committee Members:
 Sadie Mudge
 Jennifer Elward
 David Roupell
Market Co-ordinators:
 Gordon Wright
 Rusty Selvey
Newsletter team:
 Susan Tsicalas & Work
 Experience Participants
Public Officer: Susan Tsicalas

**All members are invited
to contribute to this
newsletter**

*Please leave material with Sarah or Liz
Tues Wed Thur 10 am - 2 pm.
Or email to:
bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au

**NEXT MEETING
Thursday 6th December
2012 1.00 pm
See you there!**

*Deadline for agenda items
Wednesday 5th December 2012.

**MUSEUM HOURS
Friday 10am - 12pm
Market Saturday 9am - 1pm**

BVHS Newsletter is produced by NORTEC Work Experience Participants and BVHS Inc.



major diversion from the gloomy outlook for the cow, and every hall in the region was heavily patronised.

The number of swaggies on walkabout looking for work started to increase following the completion of the Ballina-Booyong and Kyogle-Beaudesert railway lines in Sep30 (followed by termination of the Casino-Bonalbo project in Dec30.) The perception that these disgruntled blokes were Laborites and likely to influence the outcome of the coming State election probably accounted for a sudden increase in the number of pro-Country Party and anti-Labor Party articles in the local rag. But the first indication that an election was imminent was a small notice in the potpourri column on 9Oct30 that *A.E. Budd (Country Party, Byron), was the only member returned unopposed at the present elections.* Locals had to consult the Northern Star or Tweed Daily to learn that Country Budd was the only unopposed candidate in New South Wales after Communist Haddow withdrew at the last moment, and *...The electorate, of course, is a veritable Gibraltar for the Country Party....* The only other election comment occurred two days before the 25Oct30 poll when the Star 'cut and paste' an article from the Sane Democracy League, which reckoned that *As between the policies of Mr Bavin and Mr Lang, the electors of the State should not have much difficulty in making a decision..., as Mr Bavin's is a policy of safety and sanity...,* giving the punters the license to endorse Lang's Bolsheviks with a landslide victory.

That was the last mention of the election and a week later it was back to cow business. *Here in Mullumbimby in the heart of the richest dairying district of the State and with the bottom falling out of the dairying industry, a fool public is unprotestingly paying 7d a quart, a higher price than was paid when the dairying industry was at its peak.... Who mentioned a depression?* And notwithstanding a bit more belt tightening along the way, it transpired that when the economy was finally on the road to recovery 3yrs later (while the cow was in intensive care) the Mullumites were still scratching their heads over that 'great' in Great Depression. By Peter Tsicalas

Recently some party guessing games, that were played when there was no TV, were donated. Have a go. Answers next month.

Fruit & Vegetables Competition

Answers are names of Fruit or Vegetables

1. A substance found in bones _____
2. A sort of shot _____
3. What hair-restorer should make the hair do _____
4. The postman brings us _____
5. A wise man _____
6. At the present time _____
7. Father's pay _____
8. What is never found in a packed building _____
9. A republic in South America _____
10. It flies _____
11. Associated with stables & the bush _____
12. Free state _____
13. Born in Sweden _____
14. A red-haired person is sometimes called _____
15. A policeman goes on _____
16. What a kettle does with a hole in it _____