



NEWSLETTER

February 2013

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

REMINDERS



Membership fees are now due for 2013

Please use the form at the end of the newsletter.

Monthly meeting – 1st Thursday of the month at 1.00pm

Acquisition meeting – 2nd Thursday of the month at 1.00pm

ACQUISITIONS

During 2012 our collection had many interesting items added to it. George Ryan donated more railway memorabilia and agreed to an oral interview by one of our members.

Several handmade children's clothes and a bridal train belonging to Christina Robertson were beautiful additions to our fabric collection.

Heather Mott's daughter donated a gift that Heather had been presented with during the Second World War in acknowledgment of her group being the highest fundraisers for a contest organized by Red Cross.

MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY MARKETS

At the January monthly market, Gordon Wright who has been our market manager for the last 12 years stepped into the assistant market manager role. Under his care, the markets matured featuring a wide variety of stalls and good entertainment. Also he encouraged various local charities to use the markets to fund raise. The market income has allowed BVHS Inc to be able to finance many projects in the museum. A huge thank you Gordon for a job very well done.



Our new manager is Rustin "Rusty" Selvey. With the advent of farmers' markets and a variety of other markets in the shire it has become very competitive. Rusty is in the process of developing strategies to boost our market, its profile and thus its support by the public and the stallholders. We wish him well and give him our total support. So members please support our monthly market to keep it strong and growing.

(Photos of Gordon & Rusty were taken at the September Market "A Hat Affair")



HEALTH & SAFETY

Nortec conducted a survey of our buildings to ensure that they confirmed to Workplace Health & Safety regulations. Generally we were well appointed. A couple more exit signs, smoke alarms and a fire extinguisher in the shed workshop are required and are being organised. Tidying of powerboards has been fixed.

Political Fallout

In Jan31 the Mullum Star declared a pox upon all political houses, reckoning that *We are paying the penalty to-day not only for our past extravagance, but also for the fact that we have allowed ourselves to become the slaves of party government...*, which has *failed us miserably...*, and thereafter started publishing excerpts from the Country Party's 'Weekly Bulletin'.

In Mar31 the fallout from Lismore's political solution to the financial distress reached Mullum with a request that *Councils call a public meeting and urge people to sign an enclosed petition, requesting the Governor General and the Governor of NSW to use their prerogatives and dissolve present Parliaments. On the motion of Ald Chew, seconded by Ald Starr, it was decided that the Mayor call a public meeting and ascertain the feelings of citizens in regard to the matter.* The Star helped publicise *What is hoped will be the largest meeting ever held in Mullumbimby...*, to wave goodbye to *the present Labour misrule of Australia....*

On 14Apr31 *There was a fair attendance at the Public meeting... at which Mayor Frost called upon Ald Selwood to move the 4 resolutions, concluding with: We petitioners therefore most humbly pray that your Excellencies may be graciously pleased to dissolve your respective Parliaments. Ald Selwood, speaking to the motions, said that every one was aware of the present parlous state of affairs of the country, for which they could not blame the present Government alone, but those past as well. Machine politics was at the root of the distress being felt to-day. Men were put into parliament to represent the people, but instead of that they obeyed the dictates of Political organisations....*

Alderman Chew seconded the motion and... referred to the unemployment tax which he said was imposed for the special purpose of relieving unemployment, but since the present Government came into power, hardly a penny has been used for that purpose, and it was causing grave discontent among the people. The Federal Government was at present preaching "inflation" and the State Government "repudiation," but neither would improve our position.... He referred to the New State movement, which would mean an entirely new method of Government. The seven-hundred politicians at present governing Australia had got the country into an unholy mess....

Mr Ernest Hollis Neath inquired of Mr Chew whether he insinuated that "Jack Lang had brought the present state of Affairs about" and declared it was absurd and a reflection on the people's intelligence.... Mr Chew said no one could truthfully say that the Government was behaving sanely and providing proper legislation.... Mr George Neath questioned why inflation should not be adopted.... Mr R.W. Thompson directed Mr Neath's attention to Germany where once wealthy people, because of inflation, were now beggars. Mr E. Hollis Neath inquired whether it was right that the women and children of Australia should be allowed to starve, whilst money was provided for British Bondholders.... Mr Freeman inquired of Mr Neath why should not everyone practice repudiation if the State Government did, and refuse to pay income tax and other taxes.... The resolution was then read by the Town Clerk, Mr C.S. Inch, and put to the meeting and carried, with five dissentients. The majority of those present afterwards signed the petition....

At the same time there was heightened agitation over the Country Party's call for Separation, Colonel P.P. Abbott, President of the Northern Self-Government Movement, chairing a meeting in Lismore in Jun31 which resolved *"That this convention, representative of the North Coast districts, agrees to co-operate wholeheartedly with the New England movement for self-government.... It was also agreed to appoint a delegation, including political aspirant P.E. Tighe of Ballina, to meet and confer with the Riverina and Western movements to formulate a common objective and concerted plan of action....*

At Mullum in Oct31 *There was rather a stormy interlude during the second meeting of the Country Party's opposition, The North Coast United Movement. Mr Jack Bassett, as president, occupied the chair and there were present eight other members, in addition to the organiser Mr Craig. The latter officer and another young man present, said to be his son, were the principal speakers at the meeting.... Mr Vic Bassett said one of the great objects was to have control of their own funds, and they could not do this if the accounts were in Lismore. The lock, stock, and barrell of the movement, said he, was at present in Mullumbimby....*

Mr F.I. Ward and Dr Cockburn at this stage arrived at the meeting and Mr Ward inquired what the money was being subscribed for, and was told by the organiser, who seemed to take the matter out of the chair's hands, that it was similar to the Riverina movement. Some of the farmers had wakened up, and decided to form a North Coast movement to put their case. Mr Ward claimed that the County Party, a properly constituted body, was already in

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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David Roupell
Market Co-ordinators:
Rusty Selvey
Gordon Wright
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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 7th March 2013
1.00 pm
See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items
Wednesday 6th March 2013.

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

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Participants and BVHS Inc.



existence for this purpose, and was represented in this electorate by Mr Budd.... Mr J. **Bassett** informed Mr Ward that one of the objects of the movement was to obtain relief in connection with Tick administration..., and Budd MLA wasn't helping.

*"What are this movement's credentials, and where did it spring from? inquired Mr **Ward**, and was told by the chairman "It was formed here a fortnight ago."... Mr Craig said He had issued an invitation to Mr Ward to come into the movement, and had been treated "most discourteously" and "snubbed." He, therefore, had no right to be present that night. Mr Ward: "What are your credentials? There are five hundred farmers in his district and how many are here tonight? I did not treat you discourteously. You asked me to sign a blank cheque, and I refused."*

*Dr **Cockburn** informed the meeting that Mr Craig's services HAD BEEN DISPENSED WITH by the Country Party, and referred to Col E.J. Munro's letter that had appeared in the press, to that effect. "What is the movement, and where are the headquarters?" inquired the doctor.... Mr **Ward** and Dr Cockburn after explaining that they thought that they were attending a meeting of the Country Party, withdrew, and the business of the meeting resumed, and on the motion of Messrs **Bridger** (James, whose son Robert was secretary of this new organisation) and A.J. **Latimer** the minute relating to banking was altered to read Mullumbimby.*

*A letter from the General Secretary of the United Country Party was read in connection with an application for affiliation, explaining that the New England Movement already provided for the North Coast, and it was already affiliated, and this again set the organiser off at a tangent..., he protested that WE, in his electorate are not going to have anyone THRUST on US that we don't want (at the coming election). Mr **Chew** said it was the same old story of neglect over again. He was pleased that the organisation was waking up to the fact.... Mr Craig again waxed eloquent over the apathy of the Country Party towards the North Coast and moved that "this meeting expects the same treatment as other movements".... It was finally decided that as Mr **Bassett** was going to Sydney on Saturday, that he be deputed to interview Col Munro....*

Published alongside the report of the meeting was the letter from Colonel Edward J. Munro, General Secretary of The United Country Party of NSW, stating that Craig had been sacked as a Country Party organiser, probably on the instigation of Mullum PPU President S.H. **Lee**. *For the information of your readers who are supporters of the United Country Party, I have to advise that Mr E.E. Craig, who previously was organizing and collecting funds for the party in the Richmond electorate is no longer in any way connected with the Party. (But who appointed Craig in the first place was a mystery, although suspicion fell on the Lismore Branch of the Country party, which wanted to remove Green MHR, placing it at odds with the Party's Central Executive.) Recently arrangements were made whereby the four Country movements, that is, New England, Western, Riverina, and Monaro/South Coast, became the United Country Movement, and at a later Conference affiliated with the Country Party, which now becomes the United Country Party, the main aim of which was to create new 'self governing units' to increase the number of rural politicians.*

The North Coast has always been associated with the New England Separation Movement, and no steps have been taken in any way to alter the position; consequently, all branches of the Country Party within the

Richmond Federal electorate have been asked to become sub groups of the New England Movement, the headquarters of which are situated at Armidale, Mr R.N. Hickson being the Secretary. I understand that recently Mr E.E. Craig launched a movement at Mullumbimby which had as its object the policy advocated by Mr Charles Hardy (initiator of the Riverina Movement until suborned by the Countrites). As Mr Hardy is (now) the leader of the United Country Movement, it naturally follows that all those branches which adopt the recommendations of the Central Council of the Party and become sub groups of the New England Movement automatically come under his leadership....

A week later S.H. **Lee**, Country Party stalwart of Myocum, had a bob each way by supporting the North Coast Movement, but not with Craig as the organiser. *If they are of the opinion that it is necessary, that is their own business and its success will depend upon their own loyalty and zeal. That it started in a small town like Mullumbimby will not be detrimental to it.... There is no reason why this North Coast Movement should not catch on under the same circumstances... as the Victorian Kyabram movement.*

*Sometime ago Mr Craig paid me... A courtesy call, so he said, and he was anxious that I should appreciate the honour conferred. It appears that "courtesy call" is specially reserved for PPU Presidents. The PPU being a non-political organization, I resented Mr Craig's courtesy call.... If the Country Party wants an organiser, are the young men of the North Coast so lacking in ability and personality that we have to bring a man from South Australia to organise an electorate where 80 per cent of the electors belong to the Country Party? Small wonder Mr F.I. **Ward** and Dr **Cockburn** wanted his credentials. When the organiser of a party so forgets the dignity of his position, that he indulges in sarcastic sallies about the political representatives of the electorate he is organising it is time some one took a hand (although Craig's opinions were in accord with the powerful clique running the Lismore Branch of the Country Party.) Who is Roland Green? he asked.... I felt it my duty to send Mr Craig's remarks to me about Mr Green, with the result that Mr Craig's services were dispensed with, as conveyed by the letter from the General Secretary....*

In Nov31 W.P. **Condon** of Tyagarah entered the fray, with his *...object in taking the pen in hand to reply, is to point out to Mr Lee wherein I think he has erred.... I would say that if the leaders of the Country Party accepted Mr Lee's version of the matter and dispensed with Mr Craig's services solely upon that, without giving him an opportunity of defending himself, the adherents of the New Movement should get in quickly with a resolution strongly disapproving of the action taken at headquarters.*

The writer is strongly inclined to the belief that the great majority will take the view that whatever the criticism may have been in respect to the conduct of the Federal Representative, electors would not be influenced to any material extent, and a sensible man like Mr Lee would be expected to pass the matter over – leave it at that – and take no action. To lay an "information" is not a matter one should be proud of, or gloat over, and the writer is surprised that apparently in a weak moment Mr Lee should have so far fallen away from grace....

[The NCUM arguments were carried on in the Northern Star with more detail, which disclosed that Craig had been sacked (or resigned) from Mullum, but after the election W.F. Oakes, President of the Lismore Branch of the Nationalist Party, invited him to form a Lismore branch of the movement and adopt the policies of the UAP. Lismore subsequently became the headquarters of the movement, with J.T. Whipps of Alstonville as President, after the meeting rejected Mullum's demands that Craig be sacked. Arnold **Chew** was Craig's leading antagonist, whom Craig contended had intended to use the UCUM as his vehicle to enter politics. *...Mr Chew had indicated his desire to contest the Richmond seat against Mr Roland Green, but was unable to do so owing to lack of finance which he was relying on securing through my efforts..., which was denied by Chew.]*

Green MHR rode into town in Nov31, but his meeting/s went unrecorded. He returned in Dec31 for some formal electioneering in Burringbar Street, from the footpath in front of Miss Nelson's Central Cafe, and got a big write-up on a broad range of subjects, saying amongst other things that *Fortunately, the Commonwealth Government had been able to save Australia's name, or the remnants of it, when Mr Lang repudiated by meeting the payments itself..., by Dr Page's action in placing the Commonwealth Bank beyond political control....* He waved his endorsement from Dr Page in the face of the other Country Party candidates *opposing him for the seat..., while he reckoned Mr Fredericks (school teacher of Lismore), representing the Lang Plan faction..., was a communist. Ald A.H. **Starr** presided and Mr S.H. **Lee** moved the vote of thanks.*

Across the road in front of Caponas's Cafe (the late 'Popular'), Ballina Mayor P.E. Tighe *...offered no apology for entering the field of politics as a Country Party candidate. He had formed the opinion that there was a strong desire*

for a change in representative, and had consented to stand as a result of a largely signed requisition.... The capitalist system of to-day, said Mr Tighe, was not able to meet all the calls upon it... but ...The experience in Australia had been that when the State Government had become the owner of industry, waste and chaos had reigned and disaster followed.... In reply to Mr **Neath**, who inquired whether he approved of the policy regarding Old Age and Returned Soldiers' pensions, Mr Tighe said he was greatly concerned.... It had been with considerable reluctance that Old Age pensions had been reduced, but the country was "up against" it.... In reply to Mr **Shepherd**, he admitted that 18 years ago he had contested this electorate as a Labour Candidate. He had moderated his opinion since then, however, and now had a wider and more perfect knowledge. The Labour Party had been a different thing then; disintegration had not set in. The rally was chaired by Alderman **Selwood** and the vote of thanks moved by Alan **Gibson**.



Dr Archie Cockburn became Dr Coburn in 1934, when he was still a fan of his 'look-a-like', R.C. Gibson, while his fellow citizens had switched to an ex-Billinudgel banana grower and cousin of Dr Page, E.J. Eggin, as Green's antagonist.

They were followed by two more Country party candidates, L.E. Greening (a mate of Colonel Bruxner's from Glen Innes) and R.C. Gibson (ex-secretary of the Richmond District Council of the PPU and backed by the Lismore Branch of the Country Party.) Alderman **Chew** presided at Greening's rally and Ald **Starr** at Gibson's, but the meetings only got abbreviated write-ups. Gibson had the backing of President **Banner** of the Byron Shire and Bill **Graham** of the PPU (and Norco, although Chairman Hayter, no fan of Green, was forced to deny it - *Norco is absolutely non-political and is not financing any candidate.*)

The punters gave the UAP an overwhelming majority in the House of Reps, enabling it to govern in its own right without the financial guidance of Dr Page and the Counrites, Prime Minister Lyons preferring the advice from Senator Massy-Greene as assistant Treasurer. But Country Green retained his grip on Richmond, while getting a fright when 70% of Sergeant Fredericks' Labor preferences went to Gibson, narrowing his winning margin to 331 votes over Gibson (20,559/20,228). In the primary count, Mullum with 11% scored the 5th lowest Labor vote (just ahead of the farming districts of Nimbin, Alstonville, Eltham and Acacia Crk) in the 19 subdivision hierarchy, while Byron came in with the 6th lowest on 15.2%, but both behind the Richmond average of 20.5%. Of the 4 Country Party candidates, Mullum favoured Green with 34% (Byron 41.3%) against an electorate average of 35.2%.

By Peter Tsicalas

February 'Owl' Evening Competition – all begin with CAN

1. Shrewd	5. A coarse cloth	9. Prominent at Elections	13. What can can't	17. Where soldiers like to be
2. A light	6. A church song	10. Tins used in kitchen	14. Church dignitary	18. A frame for branching lights
3. To trot	7. Used in war	11. A small boat	15. A Cold country	19. An overhead covering
4. A sweet	8. City in China	12. A Choral Composition	16. Artificial waterway	20. System used in building

Answers to Dec/Jan Quiz – Jumbled Cakes

1. Ribbon	4. Raisin	7. Tennis	12. Christmas	13. Cream Puff
2. Sponge	5. Sutlana	8. Feather	11. Marble	14. Orange
3. Date	6. Coffee	9. Lamington	10. Seed	15. Pound

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP 2013



Annual Membership Fees	Payment Options	
Adults \$15 Students \$5 Printed mailed copy of newsletter \$5 p.a.	<i>Cheque/postal order payable to</i> The Secretary Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc PO Box 378 Mullumbimby 2482	<i>Direct deposit</i> Bank: Westpac BSB: 032 583 A/C: 201192 Include your name/s

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