

NEWSLETTER

April 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 due for 2013**

**Monthly meeting** – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 1.00pm

**Acquisition meeting** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1.00pm

**Market Meeting** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 10.00am

### MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY MARKET

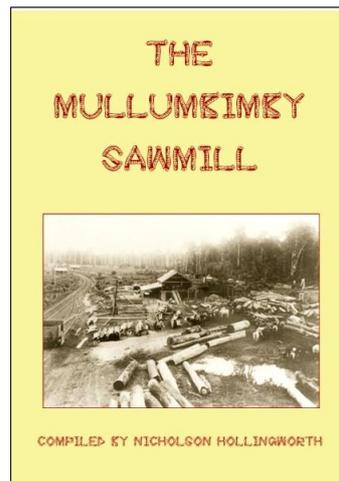
Our market manager, Rusty, has set up a website to promote the market. We are trying a special feature each month to attract more people. Go to:

<http://www.mullummarkets.com.au> and find out what the special feature of each market will be.

Also a Facebook page for the market has been launched and we are keen to get heaps of likes:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mullumbimby-Market/361586577285185>.

### NEW PUBLICATION



Nicholson Hollingworth, in his book, *The Mullumbimby Sawmill*, tells of his family's association with the mill, the horrible accidents, the local timber industry etc. Thanks Nick for documenting an industry important to the development of Mullumbimby.

Copies are available at the museum for \$16 each. If you would like a copy mailed add \$6 for postage & packaging.



*The Railway Display (almost completed) – just a photo or two to add*

### NORTEC WORK

**PARTICIPANTS** have been very busy - some of their activities include:

- (1) updating of the railway display with a timeline of the North Coast railway. Come & check it out. It looks fantastic.
  - (2) continuing to scan the Eric Wright Collection in collaboration with Byron Bay Historical Society – a huge project
  - (3) improving workplace safety & security – fixing up all those 'round-to-its'
  - (4) combining the cemetery records into one database
  - (5) tidying up the photo & artifact databases
- Great job everyone. Thanks!

## Auld Lang Syne

The Mullum Star greeted 1932 with a warning to *Beware of False Prophets. This paper hates to say "I told you so" but the writer being but human cannot refrain altogether. Exactly what was predicted by this scribe in connection with the Mullum-based North Coast United Movement has come to pass.... That intelligent dairy farmers could allow themselves to be beguiled into parting with their hard earned cash in the way they have is almost incomprehensible but it all goes to show what a glib tongue and an ingratiating manner can do....*

*In fact, we ventured to remonstrate mildly with some of those prominently associated with the movement locally, and inquired what they thought Mr Craig (the sacked Country Party organizer) and his new movement could accomplish that Mr Budd (MLA Byron) and Mr Green (MHR Richmond) were unable to.... Neither Craig nor Mr A.W. **Chew**, who also took a prominent part, had paid a penny towards membership dues at the time.... But when the Mullum dairy farmers sought to clip his wings, financially so to speak, he rebelled and promptly sacked himself, and formed another movement (this time in Lismore) and christened it the North Coast United Movement INDEPENDENT (of the Country party)....*

*His contempt... of poor little Mullumbimby and the founders of the movement was very thinly veiled. It was apparent even then that we were a stepping stone, and Lismore the Mecca of their ambition, and accordingly plans were made for the Movement's (Mullumbimby at that time, to quote the President, Mr J. **Bassett**, representing it lock, stock and barrel) bank account to be opened in Lismore, and the headquarters of a District Council also located there..., so get angry about being conned.*

On 16Jan32 A short meeting of the North Coast United Movement was held in the School of Arts... where President **Bassett** expressed regret that there was not a larger attendance. The meeting had been called to ascertain whether members were in favour of the Executive attending the meeting of The Dairy Farmers' Assn (the PPU's rival formed by James **Condon**) in Lismore on the following Tuesday. He reported on the attendance of officers at a recent meeting in Lismore, but it was found during the course of the meeting that a new movement had been formed and that therefore they were unable to take any part in the proceedings. During the meeting Mr Sam **Wiley** (released from goal 2mths later on a NCUM petition) addressed the members on the Marketing Act in preparation for Tuesday's meeting. At the conclusion of the address, it was decided on the motion of Messrs **Chew** and **Lattimer** that as many members as possible attend the meeting in Lismore; although no direction was given regarding how they were to record their vote.

Messrs A. **Chew**, J. and R.J. **Bridger** and V. **Bassett** informed the Lismore meeting that Mullum's NCUM was not prepared to amalgamate with Lismore's NCUMI unless Craig was sacked. This wasn't acceptable so they took their bat and ball and returned home, while ex-Nationalist/Liberal W.F. Oakes swayed the meeting into affiliating with the United Australia Party. Craig, who had impressed Oakes with his organising skills, was sent as their delegate to the UAP convention in Sydney, but when he hadn't returned to Lismore by May32 his services were terminated and the 175-member NCUMI (the majority of whom were ex-Dairy Farmers' Society members) formally became a branch of the UAP. A resolution... that Mullumbimby and its branches be notified was adopted. It was said that Mullumbimby members might decide to form a branch of the UAP and link up with the movement.

But Mullum was already on its sick bed, the Star reporting that *Although a general meeting of the Mullumbimby, Bangalow, Eureka, Ewingsdale and Federal branches (of the NCUM) was called for Tuesday night (24May32), there was great difficulty in obtaining a quorum. The President, Mr Jack **Bassett** said that he had joined the movement with the object of organising to benefit the farmers..., but It had since become practically a political movement, and the meeting tonight was to decide its future. Mr James **Bridger** said the movement was almost dead, and as an election was looming, they should decide what Party they were going to support. He moved, seconded by Mr **Latimer** and carried, unanimously, that the movement disband.... Joe **Bridger** moved and Ernie **James** seconded that their funds totaling £55 be distributed amongst a number of bodies, the Mullum branch of the Country Party being one the beneficiaries. Mayor **Latter**, who was present by invitation..., and who is also president of the United Country Party, intimated that all members of the Mullumbimby branch of the defunct body would automatically become members of the local branch of the United Country Party. And that was the region's last hurrah to any conservative alternative to the socialist Country Party. (Arnold **Chew**, at one time rumoured as a NCUM election candidate, decided to move to Lismore to become secretary to the auctioneering firm of Arthur Martin & Co.)*

Meanwhile, Senator Elect Charles Hardy, Chairman of the United Country Movement is carrying out an extensive organising tour of the whole of New South Wales.... On 15Apr32 he hit Mullum, accompanied by Green MHR and

Budd MLA, and addressed ~250 people at the Empire Theatre, with Mayor **Latter** presiding. *Mr Hardy was greeted with applause when he rose to speak.... In his own town of Wagga, which had a population of 9,000, one out of every three was at present dependent on the dole for their existence.... The most paramount problem of the day, irrespective of what Government was in power, was that of unemployment, and unless that could be solved there was nothing to prevent the complete socialisation of the country....*

*Let any man pad around trying to find work; see the despair in his wife's eyes; the hunger in those of his children. Let him line up in that line of degradation, the dole queue.... The cure of Communism was freedom for private enterprise again to take up its natural, uninterrupted flow....They were, concluded Mr Hardy, facing a crisis to-day greater than that of 1914-18 and if they could get the united support of the people, they would obtain what they wanted and make Australia safe for generations to come. (Prolonged applause).*

*Mr S.H. Lee, as a vice-president of the PPU, proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker. They should step out, he said, and stand side by side with Mr Hardy in his endeavours to do something for the primary producers.... A sub-group of the movement was afterwards formed. Dr A.S. **Cockburn** was elected president; Mr R.N. **Rollo**, secretary and Mr C.J. **Latter** treasurer.... It was pointed out that all those who had subscribed to the Country Party under the bank order system automatically became members....*

The Star devoted half a page to Hardy's harangue, next to which was a Bolshevik alert: *Pledged "to take up arms on behalf of Lang," a Red Army is being formed in Sydney amongst Labour Unions. It is stated that 100,000 members are in sight, and that as soon as Lang "gives the word" there will be a mass demonstration. In addition to the Red Army, the Returned Soldiers and sailors Defence Corps has also been formed. This corps is restricted to Unionist ex-fighters..., one of whom was Sgt James Fredericks, School Teacher of Numulgi, President of the Lismore District Branch of the Teachers Federation, President of the Lang-leaning Lismore Branch of the ALP, and Green MHR's opponent at every election.*

Next up was the fascist New Guard, and *Standing room only was available in the School of Arts on Wednesday evening last (20Apr32), when Major A.D. Beveridge, DSO, OBE, who, as one of the "Old Contemptibles"... addressed the gathering on the aims and objects of the New Guard. Mr F.I. **Ward** presided, and Major Carter (of the Lismore Troop), in a brief address introduced the speaker. For 16 months, said Major Beveridge, the New Guard had been carrying on what they believed to be the duty of all honest and decent citizens. They had been somewhat misjudged by the general public and it was decided recently that the time had arrived to impart knowledge of the aims of the organisation to the public....*

*The New Guard, he stated, is the enemy only of revolutionary, disloyal, dishonest, irreligious and corrupt people. Commissioner Childs had said that the police force was quite capable of dealing with any trouble that might arise. The New Guard contended that the police force was not strong enough to do that. It was boasted, for a start, that the Red Army was composed of 25,000.... In remarks on socialisation, which was being sought by Mr Lang, he stated that 65 per cent of the New Guard members were trade unionists.... The New Guard... stood for the three great principals - God, King and Empire. A vote of thanks was tendered by Mr W.F. Oakes (who was prominent in Lismore's 700-strong New Guard troop and accompanied the major to all his rallies). A number of those present afterwards applied for "liberty bonds" to assist the fighting funds of the organisation, and a number of additional members were enrolled.*



**Rev Percy W.R. Rowlands,**  
Cure of Souls in the Anglican Parish of Mullumbimby Mar28-Aug34

*On Anzac Day Rev Rowlands said I cannot help commending a speech made in this town last week in connection with the New Guard. We were told that that body stands for God, King and Empire. All its objects centre round the word "manhood." Men who stand together to uphold such ideals are worthy of the support of every loyal citizen. We are told that the Church should not take sides in politics. That is true, but I take it that the Church should always and everywhere be on the side of law, order and decency....*

*(Major Beveridge was just as popular at Bangalow where The first branch of the women's auxiliary of the New Guard on the North Coast was formed..., at a reception chaired by prominent auctioneer J.N. Ferguson.)*

## 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  
**02 6684 4367**

bvhs84@yahoo.com.au  
[www.mullumbimbymuseum.org.au](http://www.mullumbimbymuseum.org.au)  
Facebook: Mullumbimby Museum

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:

Rusty Selvey  
Gordon Wright

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 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013  
1.00 pm**

**See you there!**

\*Deadline for agenda items

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013.

### MUSEUM HOURS

**Friday 10am - 12pm**

**Market Saturday 9am - 1pm**

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



The Mullumites first learned of a coming election on 19May32 when the Show Society changed its Ball advert to: *Lang is sacked! Celebrate the occasion at the Agricultural Ball in the Empire Theatre to-night.* At the same time Ernie **Neath** announced his intention to contest Byron as a Lang Plan fan, but in any event, when nominations closed on 25May32, Sgt Fredericks' mate, Fred Crowther, was Mr Budd's only challenger (while Ernie subsequently became a County convert and took a seat on the committee of the Mullum Branch of the UCP).

Arthur E. Budd, whose son Ron had just opened a pharmacy under the Court House Hotel, came to town on 3Jun32 and proceeded to read Lang's horoscope. *Their standard of living has been reduced to the lowest ebb possible. The unemployed have increased in 18 months from 50,000 to 200,000. More people are homeless to-day than ever before. Markets for the farmers are the worst in the history of the State (but offered no solution to the butter mess or uttered a word on the floundering Paterson Scheme).... Mr Lang said "The Labour Party will review the unemployment relief tax and the incidence of the taxation imposed by it." The Labor Party did review it with a vengeance - raised it from 3d in the £ to 1/-, which increased the already heavy burden on wage earners and industry, and increased the unemployment.... Not a penny was spent on any work in the country districts....*

*The most pressing and important task of the incoming Government will be to grapple with the problems of unemployment. A start has been made with money granted by the Federal Government..., through Assistant Treasurer Massy-Greene and the Loan Council, which bankrolled the big unemployment relief schemes. Now, the question for you electors to decide, declared Mr Budd, is whether you want a continuance of Langism, as displayed in the infamous Lang plan of dishonesty, default, misrepresentation, repudiation, humbug, and hypocrisy, or sane, sound and clean Government backed by honesty and straightforward dealing, with restored confidence and balanced budgets. .... A hearty vote of thanks to Mr Budd was proposed by Mr W. **Graham**, Myocum.....*

On the same evening Comrade Crowther addressed the Labor faithful at Byron Bay at a 'well-attended open air meeting' presided over by D. Kennedy, secretary of the Byron branch of the ALP. Crowther, once prominent in the Lismore branch of the Country Party until becoming disillusioned with Dr Page, probably considered Mullum a lost cause as there was not even a report of a whistle stop.

On 16Jun32 the Star announced that *The Labour Party was almost wiped out of existence on Saturday when the people of New South Wales, in the most effective manner in their power, told Mr Lang and his followers what they thought of him and his Plan...,* and amongst the victims losing their seats was W.F. Dunn, Minister for Agriculture, whose Marketing Act was supported by Oakes' UAP/NCUMI. Budd, Missingham and Reid, contesting the respective Northern Rivers seats of Byron, Lismore and Casino, almost doubled their previous majorities. Budd romped home with 79% of the Byron vote, his Mullum fans having the distinction of awarding him the highest approval rating (86%) of all the main population centres, while the Bolshevik unionists at Norco and Anderson's Abattoirs were responsible for the Bay presenting him with the lowest vote (64%) of the entire 63 booths.

By Peter Tsicalas