

NEWSLETTER

June 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

OLD & GOLD AT BRUNSWICK HEADS

Once again we supported Old & Gold with 2 photographic displays, mainly of Brunswick Heads on the boards, and a slide show on the computer of a sample of our collection; on another computer we ran our DVDs; and we had our publications for sale. Some of the older titles we made 'specials' for the day.

This year we also had 2 mystery objects for people to try to guess what they were and/or their use. The guesses were interesting.

Thanks to our volunteers, not all shown here, who helped on the day with setting up, manning and dismantling. All had a fun day looking for bargains! It was great to catch up with old members and friends too.



REMINDERS



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

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

Market Meeting – 3rd Thursday at 10.00am

N.B. Annual General Meeting – 1st August 2013

JUNE MARKET

Theme – Organic Gardening

Entertainment - Conga Pa Gozar with special guest Nestor
Follow the market happenings on its facebook page:

www.facebook.com/MullumMarkets

Follow the museum happenings on its facebook page:

www.facebook.com/MullumbimbyMuseum

STEWART'S MENSWEAR WINDOW

Liz and the Nortec participants have a new display in Stewart's Menswear window for all to admire, featuring the timber industry and the Mullumbimby Sawmill; promoting Nick's book. Check it out.



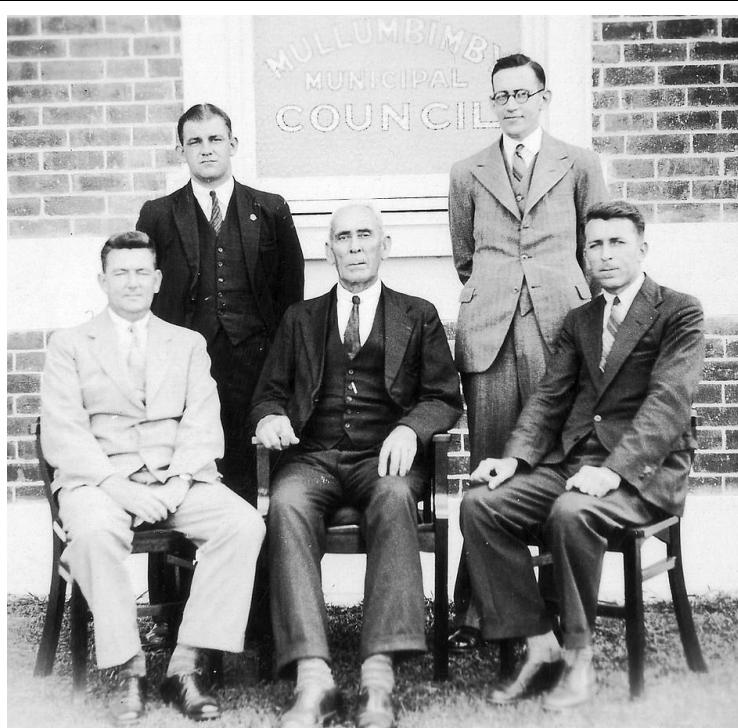
This is a portion of the display. Our heartfelt thanks to Gerrard & Sue Walker for their very generous support of our museum.

Council's Cash

In Dec32 the Government approved of the Council's recommendation for specific works..., to bring some Christmas cheer to the unemployed, and Yesterday morning (4Jan33) the first gang commenced work.... A grant of £500 has been made and an additional £500 has been loaned to the Council which must be repaid within 5 years (at 3% interest). The work commenced yesterday was cleaning out the gutters in McGougan's lane..., and the men receive the living wage, viz., £3/10/- per week....

At the Council meeting on 16Jan33 Ald A.H. **Starr** said "I think you have taken too much in your own hands, Mr Mayor, and I take exception to it.... It seems that new Mayor **Latter**'s sin was to start the jobs as soon as the grant money turned up in the bank, rather than consult his colleagues. He had immediately started 10 married men on cleaning and constructing drains in McGougan's Lane, had organised another 10 to start construction of Walker's Crossing near the showground 2 days later, and a further 8 men to start work on re-decking Chelmsford bridge 4 days after that, by which time single blokes were getting a break. Ald **Bryant** explained that only men who resided in the municipality were employed... and Ald Starr was still peeved with the Mayor: ...I am not saying you overstepped your mark, but I think it would have been more courteous to advise us on matters of employment....

At their next love-in on 27Jan33 A heated discussion ensued... when consideration was being given to the adoption of the rates and estimates for 1933.... Ald **Starr** complained that too many committee meetings were being held, also that decisions arrived at in committee had become "public gossip" within 24 hours after the meeting.... Ald **Bryant**... strongly opposed a rate of 5¾d... and reckoned One alderman had expressed opposition to an increase in rates and contended that the council should resign if the rates were put up. Now that alderman has supported the increase for the town area since a reduction was obtained for the rural areas. I have not seen any resignations come so far....



Council and Staff ~Dec1934

Rear L to R: Unknown, Charles J. Latter (Alderman and Mayor 1932-34 and 1938-42)

Front L to R: Town Clerk Clive S. Inch (1930-36), Alderman William Arnold (1929-45 and Mayor 1935-37), Electrical Engineer Sidney S. Berry (1928-37)

The culprit was Ald **Arnold** who said I supported the motion for a rate for the rural area before, but realise now I made a mistake. Ald **Starr** had said that any alderman who voted for an increase should resign. He got the rural areas reduced and then comes along and supports a motion that the rate for the town area be 5¾d. I don't know if he is a "yes-no man," but I think he must be. Farm property owner Starr said Under the circumstances I am not going to support the motion to-night. We must understand that the men on the land are having a bad time with the price of their product.... If these people are not using the streets and they stay on their farms, all the business people would go broke. Most of the talk here to-night is moonshine.... There is a danger that a large portion of the municipality will revert to the Shire if some relief is not given....

The Mayor explained that with the estimates fixed there was no margin for the Council to work on, and consequently they would be unable to carry on if the rate as suggested was not carried. He objected to the habit of some aldermen who were always ready to submit a motion to spend money, but objected to striking a rate to meet the liabilities....

Ald **Bridgland** said "It strikes me as a lot of hot air and waste of good time wrangling this now.... It was a financial impossibility to cut the rate and anyone with an ounce of brains must know that...." When the motion was put the voting was even, the Mayor and Aldermen Bridgland and **Slogrove** voting in favour, while Alds **Bryant**, **Starr** and **Arnold** voted against. The Mayor gave his casting vote for the motion and declared it carried. Ald Starr had suggested that the slogan of the aldermen should be not to bring new work before the council as it did not want to incur any additional burden on the ratepayers. The Mayor, in reply, said that such a policy was one of stagnation. He pointed out that for the past four years the council had slipped financially and it involved a special rate of 4d in the £ to liquidate

the overdraft.... So they settled on imposing the same rates as 1932 (ie 3¾d General Rate and 2d Town Improvement Rate) on a ucv of £89,890, the lowest municipal valuation since 1921.

Ald **Bryant** (Foreman of the Works Committee) also informed the meeting that he'd decided to stand down one of the drain crews. One gang had completed 31 chains of excavations in the fortnight, while the second had completed 15 chains of concrete work.... *Ald Bryant added that when submitting costs the council allowed £4 per chain, and the work so far had cost approximately £3/18/- under the first gang and £5/2/6 under the second.... The reason why he stood the second gang down was because he did not think they were earning their money.... Ald Starr moved that the action of Ald Bryant be endorsed. He said that the council was fortunate in having a man like Ald Bryant to look after their affairs.... The meeting endorsed the action taken by Ald Bryant and proceeded to select another gang to commence on the work the following day.*

*General dissatisfaction is being expressed by Aldermen and residents owing to the unsatisfactory manner in which the crossing known as "Walker's" has been constructed. The work has just been completed and both Mr W. T. **Walker** and Mr A.E. **Tarlinton** wrote to ...the Council expressing their disgust and stating that had they been asked to contribute half the cost to the Shire, they certainly would have demanded a much better job.... The thing was too low.... The Mayor said that in speaking to Mr Smith, Shire Engineer, who supervised the work..., He suggested that the best plan would be to forward a copy of the complaint on to the Shire Council.... The Mayor said that from the beginning there was a lack of co-operation between the two councils. The Mullumbimby Council had shared their unemployment relief money with the Shire and he expected that they would have appreciated that effort. Ald Starr: From Byron Shire? Mayor: Yes. Ald Starr: You don't know them! Mayor: They have co-operated with us as they should....*

At a Shire Council meeting Engineer Smith said *The plan of the proposed work was deposited with the Mullumbimby Municipal Council, and the whole question discussed before the work started. "The Engineer acted on instructions given by me," said the President (Cr E.J. Cook) and you will remember that at the last meeting we decided to contribute £20 towards the cost of this particular work (but so far have spent £37). I complied with the request of Mullum Mayor **Letter** and "I do not feel inclined to criticise another public body, as it is childish and undignified. The bickering leads nowhere, and surely we can agree to differ, and surely we can be left to decide our own way of dealing with matters." Cr Snow said... "I resent the suggestion of lack of Co-operation." The President's action was endorsed, Cr **Banner** adding "I agree that these little bickerings will get us nowhere, and we are getting quite a rush of it.... All this storm in a tea cup never occurred before and we have got along very well..., and after an inspection of the crossing they unanimously pronounced it a top job.*

The following week it was 4 sacked relief workers (J. Hill, J. Crandell, G. Boles and L. Larkin), with an average age of 50, who gave the council a hard time, complaining that they were being unfairly subject to a Bolshevik Stakhanovite system, with bench marks set by fit 30yr olds. The aldermen were unsympathetic and told them to go and re-register at the Labour Exchange, where Mr H.S. **Jerdan**, local labour agent (and secretary of the fascist New Guard), recently *has been advised* by head office that 10% of all work was to be reserved for single men without dependants.... Clerk **Inch** interrupted to advise that so far the unemployment projects had absorbed £500, and they must write for the next tranche.

Over at the Bay the Shire Council was absorbing the Auditor's report, which *shows that the ordinary income from rates and endowment for 1932 amounted to £17,471 as compared with £25,165 in 1929, indicating a considerable drop over the past four years. Revenue from Public Works last year was £12,381 as against £18,941 in 1929.... Total income for the past four years (inclusive of the major contribution from the Dept of Public Works) was 1929, £47,172; 1930, £44,709; 1931, £34,715; and 1932, £32,909.... Compared with 1931 the general purposes income was £4137 less while the public works income is greater by £2599.... (Clerk Brownell had earlier explained that they finished 1932 with a debit on the year's work of £1465/9/7..., contrasting with a credit balance of £4658/0/8 the previous year.)*

The following week (27Feb33) Mullum got its report card showing reliance on endowments to fill the coffers. *The total income from rates during last year amounted to £2049, which is the lowest for the last four years, the income from this particular source in 1930 amounting to £2514.... But by mid year 11% of the 1932 rates were still outstanding, which was deemed a cause for celebration as the hard-up ratepayers still owed 19% from 1930.*

The lack of money continued to restrict Council activities and in Apr33 Ald **Bryant** again went on the warpath. *"I have been in this council for 20 years and have never been with one like this to quibble so much about a few bob.... He was urging that the Electricity Works committee reconsider its decision regarding installing two additional street lights*

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

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Rusty Selvey

Gordon Wright

Newsletter team:

Susan Tsicalas & Work

Experience Participants

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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 4th July 2013
1.00 pm
See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items
Wednesday 3rd July 2013.

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

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



along Main Arm road..., and there were too many lights on the Myocum road.... He agreed that the estimates had been cut down, but... the money could be obtained from some other fund.... Mayor: You cut the estimates down by £200.... Ald Bryant said that... he was disgusted with the attitude of the council over the matter.... Ald Starr supported Ald Bryant....

And so it went through the following months. In Sep33 Ernest Hollis-Neath forecast amalgamation of the Shire and Municipality. ...*For the benefit of those aldermen and councillors, who are afraid of losing their seats, we are in an age of evolution and when I was an alderman, I strongly advocated amalgamation... and Dependence upon the Government is a big item in favour of amalgamation.... Hon Minister for Local Government is wide awake, and... Unless voluntary amalgamation comes about, legislation will be passed, which will abolish many of our shires and municipalities... It is to be hoped this legislation, which I have every reason to believe, will be law, prior to the end of this year. Myself, as an advocate of county councils..., was a bit premature.*

In Oct33 Byron Shire was devalued by 21.9%, from a ucv of £1,762,570 to £1,376,693. 'A' Riding (Mullum district) went from £549,717 to £401,738 and Brunswick Heads from £42,499 to £26,416 (37.8%). The reductions present a serious problem to Byron Shire council..., and "It is apparent that we will have to cease all work other than subsidised work," said President Cook. Clerk Brownell said "I have to direct the attention of the Council to the financial position and recommend that the matter be considered - after paying bills at today's meeting the overdraft will be £11,319, and the limit of overdraft allowed is £10,345.... The outstanding rates for 1933 are £3159 and from previous years, £4203.... I would point out that each councillor is personally liable to be surcharged any amount of expenditure incurred over the limit of overdraft.... The Councillors promptly resolved that all employees other than those engaged on subsidised works be dismissed, and that the Clerk be authorised to sue for rates without discrimination. By Dec33 they had managed to reduce the total outstanding rates to £5480, but had climbed back to be within £127 of the overdraft limit.

Upon being re-elected as Shire President in Dec33 Cr E.J. Cook said ratepayers were looking for relief, but there was a limit to which the Council could go..., as our rates and endowment income for 1934 looks like it'll only be £14,000. *Byron Shire Council decided that the basic wage reduction should apply to all employees as from January 1. The President said that the council should not deviate in any way from the award as immediately the wage was increased, they would have to put wages up..., and they decided to stick with 2d in the £ general rate. Cr Armstrong hoped that there would be a great improvement in the dairying industry the following year.*

At Mullum's last meeting for 1933 Mayor Latter was re-elected for another term with an allowance of £35 for the year. *To maintain a general rate similar to 1933, the aldermen found it necessary to dispense with the services of two of their road staff and cut out several works which had originally been provided for..., to join 3 outdoor staff they'd already dismissed. Despite a plea by Mayor Latter to stick with the proposed works programme and estimates, by increasing the rates by 1d in the £, he was voted down, Ald Bridgland, one of his own clique, saying ...that the council was £200 worse off this year than last with the rate of 5¾d. Another penny increase would make the position worse....*

By Peter Tsicalas