



NEWSLETTER

August 2013

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

Cnr Stuart & Myokum Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

OPEN: FRIDAY 10 AM – 12 PM

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

MUSEUM NEWS

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** was held on Thursday 1st August with a small attendance. A plaque in memory of John Scarborough was unveiled in the shed by his friend, David Riley, prior to the meeting. Thankfully, the committee members all agreed to continue in their positions for another year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome friends, members and volunteers to the BVHS 2013 Annual General Meeting. Thank you for attending and participating.

Firstly I would like to acknowledge the committee; in particular Susan and Sarah for the never ending effort and soul they demonstrate in keeping the society happy and productive.

It has been a year punctuated not only by tragedy and difficult developments but by significant achievement and accomplishment. I would now like to summarise these for you and thank some of the people.

Two significant new publications have been completed this year - Peter Tscalas' *Mullumbimby Boom and Bust-1908-1928* and Nick Hollingworth's *The Mullumbimby Sawmill*. Thanks must go to Susan for her skill and patience in facilitating these projects. Susan Tscalas & Jennifer Elward also gave successful talks to U3A and Rotary.

An honourable mention must also go to Peter Tscalas for his well researched and entertaining monthly newsletter contributions.

Earlier in the year we hosted the Northern Rivers Zone Conference of RAHS which was well received and attended, not just because of our special guest Kerry O'Brien, but also because of a fascinating presentation by members, Harvey Gardner and Ian Fox.

We participated in the annual Brunswick Heads Old and Gold Festival again and our display of photographs, films, information and books was hugely successful. The BVHS display in Stuart's Menswear window provides an engaging exhibition space in town thanks to the support of Gerard and Sue Walker.

We hosted a very colourful Byron Shire Relay for Life launch as well as meetings of the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce, Public Art Group and LETS.

Numerous improvements to the museum building include the completion of the storeroom, painting, signage, bookshelves, work desks, improved wheel chair access, smoke alarms and the laminating of display cabinets to comply with safety standards.

Two new exhibitions featuring Trains and Bullocks have also been completed and an improved indigenous section allows the objects greater visibility. Photographs from the museum were included in an exhibition at the Lismore Regional Gallery on Northern Rivers Architecture.

The Machinery Shed has continued to be refined by Roland and David who have taken over the duties after the passing of the 'General' (John Scarborough).

Condolences also for the passing of members Barbara James and Janelle's mother, Em Harkness.

Work has been done on the grounds, dismantling dangerous exhibits and repairing water damage. Special thanks to Barry and Simon Lomath for ongoing mowing and other expertise.

The bad weather has meant reduced markets and revenue and the council threatens future income with extra charges. We have a great new market manager, Rusty, who has taken over now that Gordon has stepped back. We also have a new market logo and website. Both Facebook sites have continued to grow engaging thousands of interested people. Membership numbers are down but acquisitions are up. Our new storage spaces have been well utilised. Special mention must go to Sadie for her work accessioning new items. Thanks also to Robbie for dealing with constant research requests. Other worthy volunteers include our Education Coordinator, Laurie, for facilitating a handful of successful school visits. Special thanks also to Anne for opening the doors and manning the desk every Friday morning rain or shine.

Nortec also deserve thanks for continuing to fund our work for the dole programme and introducing us to so many capable workers: Sundah, Kim, Luke, Alex, Lisa, Richard, David 1, David 2, Roland, Ian and numerous others, mentored so well by Sarah and Liz. Thank you everyone, Stephen Hall. 1-8-2013

Depression Deliverance

Looking back upon 1935 we cannot help but appreciate the headway which Mullumbimby achieved during that period.... More money was available, due largely to the financial assistance rendered by the State Government for the relief of the unemployed, Norco's better pays and the income from bananas (sic).... The Municipal Council was not dormant during the year.... The essential services have been rendered, work provided for the unemployed, and many valuable improvements accomplished.... If the business people and public unite in an effort to maintain local trade and enterprise, more employment will be given to the many youths who will be available for work this year, town values will improve and the people generally will benefit....

Along with that wishful thinking, the vested interests at Brunswick Heads again asserted record holiday crowds, prompting the Progress Association to re-form in Jan36 with W.J. **Peoples** as President, F.A. **Wakely** as Secretary and A.P. **O'Meara** as Treasurer. Conversely, Mr Hallett, the Byron Shire Health Inspector, said *There was a decided falling off in visitors to the local camping grounds....*

Bureaucratic bean counters were also happy, so *The State Government has decided to abandon grants to local councils for relief of unemployment. It is considered that sufficient employment is available at full rates for workers desiring employment.... They are now employed on footpath construction from the Council Chambers to the Police Station, and it is expected that this will be completed before the present grant expires....*

But Budd MLA told Council that the lifting of Lang's Unemployment Relief Tax was a non-core promise, while *the reason for discontinuing relief was due to industrial improvement in many centres and because many men refused farming work in preference to relief work.... Ald Freeman remarked in reply to Mr Budd that he knew of many instances where men refused private employment. Mr Budd added that the Government would not stand for such a thing.... Mr Freeman thought that the abolition of the relief scheme would be a blow to aged men. Mr Budd replied that prior to the introduction of the relief scheme and during pre-depression days, these men got along alright....*

At a Council meeting on 13Jan36 Ald W.D. **Bryant** stated that *the Government, just prior to election time had promised that large sums of money would be released to the councils free of charge. Though the Council had gone to much trouble in preparing plans and specifications of various works that money had not been seen.... It was just an election dodge. He was sorry he had not been present when Mr Budd MLA addressed councillors (sic) last week. He would have given utterance to what he thought of the present administration. It was worse than a Labor Government.... Though the number of men employed on the scheme had shown a decrease recently it had been subsequently increased following the dismissal of men on the Main Roads Department's works on the Burringbar Range. Temporary employees and canecutters also came on to the labor market at this time of year.... (By the end of the year the Government had found the money to restart the Burringbar Project, giving employment to 300 pick-wielding coal miners from Cessnock/Maitland, the area of the worst dole riots where unemployment was recorded at up to 37% at the 1933 census.)*

*Over twenty of the Mullumbimby Unemployed met last night (21Jan36) in the Court House, to discuss the position since the Government ceased granting Unemployment Relief work through the local Council. It was decided to form a Relief Workers' Association.... A vote of thanks to Sergt **Stewart** for the use of the Court House was recorded; also appreciation to the two Constables for the courtesy given relief workers. Mr Arthur **Gannon** was deputed to communicate with the Minister for works... and said... We feel sure that you are familiar with the whole of the circumstances which prompts this letter being written to you. At present many of them are out of work and foodless.... The vicious dole system does not appeal to the unemployed. Several of them are returned soldiers.*

These men want work. Something different to filling in a form, headed "Application for Unemployed Food Relief" and to answer 32 questions. This is mere existence. It does not make provision for rent, fuel, clothing, lighting, the doctor, chemist or dentist.... Throughout the district banana farming is in a sad state, and may I ask what sort of a position a dairy farmer could offer a married man with three, four, five or six of a family.... At present the prospects of work in that quarter are negligible. Local men are not in a position to go further afield to receive a pittance which would necessitate keeping two homes....

But it was Mayor **Arnold** who got results, managing to extract a grant of £200... for the relief of unemployment in this town..., from the Minister for Local Government (Mr Spooner) at Grafton, on Friday last (24Jan36).... He also made requests for a £25,000 water scheme..., a number of rural electricity extensions, a £3000 loan to meet the increased load, and got an intimation of the contribution that would be made by the Government for concreting footpaths.... Ald

Arnold hoped that by the time the present grant was absorbed some other works would be in operation to find employment for those out of work.

Encouraged by what he thought was luck with his pen, Arthur **Gannon** wrote another guilt-trip letter to Budd MLA in Feb36, saying that the Water Scheme ...*may or may not eventuate. The whole project sounds too 'Gilbertian' to these toilers, who are daily tightening their belts awaiting your decision. These men are not wastrels. They want work and can work. Are they to be refused sustenance.... The Sergeant of Police is not authorised to issue "food relief," notwithstanding the fact that Mr Spooner MLA definitely informed Ald Arnold (Mayor) in the presence of others at the recent Grafton Conference that if work was not available, food relief would be. The minister added "nobody would starve." I am much afraid I will have to affirm that they are on the equilibrium of starvation....* Within the week Budd's private secretary had advised that the food voucher problem would be sorted out asap.

In early Apr36 the Minister for Labour and Industry confirmed that the Emergency Relief Scheme would not be reintroduced as there is *a fair amount of work available...*, while Clerk **Inch** said nonsense, *...there were about 17 men in need of urgent relief...*, prompting Council to again write to the Minister. Two weeks later *The Mullumbimby Relief Workers Association held its fortnightly meeting...*, at which *There was a representative gathering of unemployed which fully indicated that men were not being absorbed in private employment, and that the position was just as acute as ever. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the "sacking of one of the relief workers by the Council's ganger" and the subsequent refusal of food relief for the said relief worker and his family. It was decided to point out to the Council that the wife and little children were being penalised for misdeeds attributed to the father, and that the Council be asked to review this pathetic case as mercifully as possible.... A deputation consisting of Mr A. Larkin (president), Mr W. Keehn (Secretary) and Mr Arthur Gannon was appointed to discuss unemployment matters with the Minister for Works, etc, on his arrival.*

At the next Council meeting they learnt that Minister Dunningham had relented and approved a restart of relief work for Mullum *...provided the Council will submit to this Department as soon as possible, a list of suitable works to be carried out under the Emergency Relief Work Scheme...*, which Council duly supplied, forwarding plans for a wish list of roads and footpaths. And *The Mullumbimby Relief Workers' Assn wrote requesting the reinstatement of an employee sacked by the foreman for alleged loafing on his job. The letter stated that the man had been unable to gain food relief on account of his dismissal.... Ald Arnold moved that the action of the overseer be endorsed....* (Nor did council change its stance on the question of work preference to ex-servicemen, complained Arthur **Gannon**, an ex-Officer of the NZ Expeditionary Force, who subsequently got a job with the Mullum Star.)



Crabbes Creek Bypass 13Oct1937



Yelgun camp (bottom right) 13Oct1937

In May36 Council was informed that their programme for £740's worth of road/footpath work had been approved and that *Men will be engaged at the discretion of the Police department.* But in Sep36 the Department of Labour and Industry advised *...that in view of the nature of the national works at present proposed (which for Northern NSW was mainly the Pacific Highway), it was impossible to reinstate the Relief Work Scheme in Mullumbimby....* A month later *Approximately 200 men will be at work on the Burringbar Range section of the State Highway by to-morrow (14Oct36). Bound for Crabbe's Creek, a second batch of 100, drawn from the Kurri district, passed through Mullumbimby last night in special carriages attached to the North Coast mail train. The first contingent of men commenced work on the range earlier in the month....* In late Nov36 Main Roads extended its highway work south of Burringbar and started to pick up single men registered with the Mullum Labour Exchange.

Meanwhile noises were again being made about a water supply, the Council revisiting the dam in Mar36 after the Government advised that it *desired councils to proceed as early as possible with constructive works so that the men now out of work could be placed into employment at full*

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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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 - AGM
Thursday 5th September
2013 1.00 pm
See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items

Wednesday 4th September 2013.

MUSEUM HOURS

Friday 10am - 12pm

Market Saturday 9am - 1pm

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



award rates.... They engaged Mr A.E. Harding Frew, Consulting Engineer of Brisbane, who delivered his report in May36 proposing 2 schemes - Gravitation flow through the existing hydro-electric works at an estimated cost of £22,677, and a Pumping Scheme from Mullumbimby Creek near the old golf course, at a cost of ~£23,666. Frew's assessment had been based on a demand of 45,000 gallons a day and a need for a 200,000 gallon reservoir sited at *Withers' Hill, in proximity to the golf links*. The Government subsequently approved the Gravitation Scheme.

The Mullum Star editorialised that *It seems that at last Mullumbimby is about to have a further opportunity of saying Aye or Nae in respect to the installation of a reticulated water supply.... The greatest weakness in a vote of ratepayers is the fact that the younger generation, who ultimately have to pay the bulk of the cost, are deprived of the privilege owing to being outvoted by the older generation who, in many cases, are not prepared to make a sacrifice at this stage in their life.... There are those sceptics in our midst who will endeavour to belittle our present form of local government, and we may even hear that sinister suggestion that we should revert again to Shire Council.... We must be as proud of our municipal independence as we are of our British heritage....*

In Sep36 Mayor **Arnold** stated that with the Governmental outburst concerning the Unemployment Relief Question, and the desire of the House to provide national work at full-time wages, there is every indication of the Council receiving generous support when the matter of the grant is re-considered. It was considered possible that the grant which now stands at £4735, may be substantially increased.... Ald **Bryant** stated it was well known that he was opposed..., and vehemently declared that he would not sit at the Council table and support a move for the Alderman to make the decision on their own. But The Mayor then moved and Ald **James** seconded that the Council decide to go ahead with the scheme, without referring the scheme to the ratepayers....

Ald **Freeman** opposed the motion..., and added that he was astounded at the sudden reversal of Ald **Arnold** who has recently stated that he would not propose action on the matter without reference to the electors. Ald Freeman also declared that even after the spending of approximately £5000 in wages, the unemployment question would not be defeated; the taxpayers would still have to carry the burden.... So on the vote of Aids Bryant, Starr, Freeman and Walker the revised £20,610 Gravitation Scheme went to a poll of the punters, who were told that rates and charges were based on 350 occupied blocks at a minimum charge of £2/12/- each (ie whether you use the stuff or not) and 100 vacant blocks at £1/6/- each....

Anonymous 'Ratepayer' sided with Bryant, rejecting Frew's vision of water bringing industry and progress and stating *Mullumbimby will never be anything but a pleasant little country town in a dairying district, whose centre is Lismore*. But this time the majority of his fellow ratepayers overwhelmingly thought otherwise, 153 of the 292 property owners voting 116 to 37 to give the go ahead to Council, which subsequently appointed Alison Frew as its consulting engineer for the project. In Nov36 a deputation of Ald **Freeman** and new Clerk **Miles** went to Sydney, but couldn't squeeze any more money out of the system as the original grant of £4735 was based on a rigid formula and represents the labour cost for 69 men for one year on a rationed basis (average weekly earnings per man being taken as 24/-) plus 10 per cent for contingencies. The local labour agent has 63 men registered at present. So they went begging to the Commonwealth Bank for a loan to cover the balance.

By Peter Tsicalas

**BRUNSWICK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC****FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2013**

1/7/2011 - 30/6/2012	INCOME	1/7/12-30/6/13
\$ 24,590.00	Market	\$ 26,775.00
\$ 780.00	Membership	\$ 695.00
\$ 55.00	Postage of Newsletters	\$ 35.00
\$ 1,794.79	Donations	\$ 1,458.55
\$ 3,573.60	Book/DVD Sales	\$ 5,058.85
\$ 340.00	Research	\$ 210.60
\$ 1,379.10	Photocopying/Prints/Postcards	\$ 539.60
\$ 37.25	Interest - Cheque A/c	\$ 19.74
\$ 238.53	Interest - Business Cash Reserve A/c	\$ 326.42
\$ 1,976.58	Interest - Investment	\$ 1,851.03
\$ 10,500.00	Other (Refunds- Nortec)	\$ 5,000.00
\$ 11.34	(Reimbursement/Refund - QBE	\$ 122.97
\$ 5.97	Dividend Mullum Rural Co-op	
\$ 711.30	Fund raising - Raffle/Market Stall	\$ 170.70
\$ 635.00	Grant - Scanner/ Sale of printer	\$ 40.00
\$ 46,628.46	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 42,303.46
	EXPENDITURE	
\$ 5,494.00	Market Manager/Assistant Fees	\$ 6,033.50
\$ 1,181.82	Market Other - shades, line marking etc	\$ 405.45
	Market Entertainment	\$ 1,210.00
\$ 563.49	Market Garbage	\$ 586.01
\$ 831.94	Market Phone	\$ 822.40
\$ 600.00	Advertising	\$ 1,638.50
\$ 2,790.33	Printing/Photocopying	\$ 6,241.32
\$ 2,062.39	Display/Collection	\$ 780.67
\$ 843.75	Postage & Stationery	\$ 1,030.48
\$ 1,169.24	Museum Phone & Internet	\$ 1,152.62
\$ 1,736.67	Services - Electricity	\$ 2,129.77
\$ 206.79	- Water/Sewerage	\$ 236.40
\$ 352.25	- Garbage	\$ 360.00
\$ 403.70	- Security	\$ 402.60
\$ 464.00	- Pest Management	\$ 470.00
\$ 8,423.26	Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 4,306.56
\$ 3,239.00	Plant & Equipment	\$ 3,115.30
\$ 4,750.71	Legals - Insur/Workers' Comp/Fair Trad	\$ 4,356.34
	Subscriptions/Conferences/Courses	\$ 482.30
\$ 683.79	Consumables	\$ 570.26
\$ 385.80	Other (Broken car window /Ad for Johnno)	\$ 60.00
\$ 14.25	Online Banking fees	\$ 8.50
\$ 10,500.00	BVHS Filemaker - Tide over	\$ 5,000.00
\$ 2,464.00		
\$ 49,161.18	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 41,398.98
-\$ 1,048.48	NET GAIN / LOSS	\$ 904.48

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2013****Cash Flow Statement**

Brought Forward 1 July 2012	Cash Book Balance	\$	9,193.89	
	Business Cash Reserve	\$	10,238.53	
	Term Deposit	\$	35,578.48	
	Cash Float on hand	\$	150.00	\$ 55,160.90
Add Net Gain from Financial Report				\$ 904.48
Closing Balance as at 30 June 2013				\$ 56,065.38

Financial Assets as at 30 June 2013

Westpac Community Solutions Cheque Account	\$	7,699.92
Summerland Credit Union Term Deposit	\$	37,429.51
Westpac Business Cash Reserve Account	\$	10,564.95
Cash Float on hand	\$	150.00
Debtors	\$	221.00
Reconciles to Cash Flow Statement	\$	56,065.38

RECONCILIATIONS FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2013**Cash Book Reconciliation**

Cash Book Balance as at 1/7/2012		\$	9,193.89
Total Receipts - Banked Amount	\$	32,557.90	
- Additional Market Cash	\$	7,408.50	\$ 39,966.40
			\$ 49,160.29
Total Expenses - Bank payments	\$	34,051.87	
- Market Cash	\$	7,408.50	\$ 41,460.37
Cash Book Balance as at 30/6/2013			\$ 7,699.92

Bank Reconciliation (Westpac Cheque A/c)

Opening Bank Balance as at 1 July 2012	\$	9,193.89
Add Deposits	\$	32,557.90
	\$	41,751.79
Less Payments	\$	34,051.87
Closing Cash Book Balance 30 June 2013	\$	7,699.92
Add outstanding deposits		0
Less unrepresented cheques		0
Reconciles to Bank Balance as at 30 June 2013	\$	7,699.92

Bank Reconciliation (Summerland Credit Union)

Opening bank balance as at 1 July 2012	\$	35,578.48
Add Interest	\$	1,851.03
Closing bank balance as at 30 Jun 2013	\$	37,429.51

Bank Reconciliation (Westpac Business Cash Reserve)

Opening bank balance as at 1 July 2012	\$	10,238.53
Add Interest	\$	326.42
Closing bank balance as at 30 June 2013	\$	10,564.95