



NEWSLETTER

March 2014

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

Cnr Myokum & Stuart Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

OPEN: FRIDAY 10 AM – 12 PM

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

MUSEUM NEWS

SCHOOL VISIT

Lorrie, our Education Co-ordinator, organised a visit for children from Year 4 Shearwater recently. The children met our 'local treasure', Frank Mills, who chatted to them about industries in the valley. Gordon Wright explained the outside exhibits in which they were interested. Ashley Moran, a local aboriginal descendant from the Office of Heritage & Environment, was also invited to speak to the children.

He told about initiation ceremonies and how the tools and weapons in our collection were used. A very interesting morning was had by all. Thanks Frank, Gordon, Ashley and Lorrie.

Left: Frank and children in the shed

Right: Ashley Moran far right with teacher, Michael Lester, and children in the museum



ABC OPEN invites members & friends to an 'Object Story' series of workshops in the museum in April.

If the objects around us could talk they would tell fascinating stories about our lives. Object Stories is a joint project between ABC Open, Radio National and the National Museum of Australia which invites **you to choose an object** that has a **great tale to tell** and **contribute its story** to a virtual museum of Australian objects.

Some objects have a particularly local story, while others tell stories from far away. Some are about the way people work or live, while other objects hold stories about changing attitudes and lifestyles of Australians.

This project invites regional museums, historical societies and individuals to be part of a collection of objects which together tell the story of Australia. **Selected stories contributed to the Object Stories project will be featured by the National Museum of Australia and through a series of ABC Radio National programs.**

Workshop 1 - Wed 9 April 9.30 – 1.00

This workshop will introduce the project, allow contributors to reveal their historical objects, learn the basics of interviewing and recording stories, then record the stories as written or audio stories.

Workshop 2 – Wed 16 April 9.30-1.00

We will hear some of the stories of the historical objects created last week, take photographs that represent the objects and learn how to put them into slideshow and upload them to the ABC Open site.

What to bring:

- Your object of significance (see notes below)
- A camera to photograph the object.
- A laptop computer or pen and paper to write and edit the story of the object
- A mobile phone that can record sound to do an interview about the object.



Object Story Project Rules

1. Choose an object that you, or the person telling the story, really knows about. We're after specific stories about particular objects.
2. Choose a single object. A pair or small set of objects which go together is fine, but this project is not for collections.
3. Your object needs to tell us something about Australian life, history or culture. It's great if your object has personal significance as well, but objects with sentimental value alone will not be accepted.
4. For this project we're not including photos as objects.
5. The object must be something that can be physically moved. No public monuments.

6. The object can be either privately or publicly owned. If you are not the owner of the object, you must have permission from the owner to submit a contribution about it.

7. By uploading your Object Story to ABC Open you give permission for the National Museum of Australia to use your story on their website. This is in addition to the permission you give ABC Open to share your story on ABC platforms. Read more about it in our [Terms and Conditions](#).

8. Find out more here: <https://open.abc.net.au/projects/object-stories-29ff4ez#/about>



PLEASE ADVISE US BY TUESDAY APRIL 8 IF YOU ARE ATTENDING – THE MORE THE MERRIER!

REMINDERS



Membership fees are due for 2014.

Thanks to those who have renewed. Please see the form below if you have yet to renew.

Monthly meeting – 1st Thursday of the month at **3.00pm**

Acquisition meeting – 2nd Tuesday of the month at **10.00am**

Please note the day/time changes.

Monthly Market: Saturday 15th April 8am – 3pm



The Leaning Loo of Mullumbimby has been righted and stabilised; thus it is no longer a threat of toppling over on to some unsuspecting visitor. Thanks heaps to Roland, David and Stephen.

Birth of the Public Library

Byron Shire got a bargain when it contributed £150 to Mullum Municipal coffers as an entry fee to the Free Public Library Scheme in Feb55, while the Bay's Literary Institute library continued to run in tandem, charging 10/- per head per year for those who couldn't afford the new recreational outlet of watching the creation of gourmet sashimi at the Whaling Station. At this time Mullum could boast 38 Shire subscribers, probably long-term users from the immediate vicinity of 'A' Riding, who had continued to pay 3d per book.

Then the State Library Board came sniffing around and suggested that *A contribution by Byron Shire equal to 1/6d per head of population per year could result in the building up of a joint Mullumbimby-Byron Shire free public library that could serve the four towns in the area.... "It seems a pity however, that the Shire Council is not prepared to adopt the Libraries Act and spend the amount which would qualify it for subsidy...."* The Council debate of Apr55 saw Crs **Harrison** and **Taylor** objecting to the scheme on the grounds that it wouldn't benefit the whole Shire.

In Jul55 the Library Board assessed the region's requirements and developed a long-term plan of management, concluding that *the shire was getting a service "on the cheap".... Mr H. Hungerford said that although the regional plan has merit, it also had disadvantages in placing books under central control. "Smaller centres tend to fight against centralisation, which tends to absorb them," he said..., in remarking on the proposed establishment of a central committee at Lismore which would control purchases and distribution of books.*

Secretary L.J. **Bourne** of Mullum Council's Library Advisory Committee said in late Jul55 that *Membership of the Municipal Free Public Library has shown a steady increase.... At the end of June the library had 778 member readers..., 170 of whom were Shire residents, numbers having risen rapidly during May and June when the free service to Shireites came into effect. The library shelves now hold 2874 books. The stock has been built up from a nucleus of 1653 reconditioned volumes taken from the old School of Arts library's 3000 volumes. When the library opened on March 24 last year the total on the shelves was 1802.... While the library had been adequate for the 75 to 90 members of the old School of Arts..., it is now not large enough and building extensions will start shortly.*

In Jan56 Mullum hinted that it would like the Shire to chip in £300, but *The Shire contribution will now remain at £150..., was the decision after debating the Shire Clerk's recommendation of £275. The cut was made on the motion of Cr W.C. Taylor. It was opposed by Crs T.M. Mott (of Brunswick Heads) and E. Giles (of The Pocket)...., while Clerk Brownell pointed out that one-third of the library members were shire residents....*

Mullum took umbrage and wrote back that *£150 was considered insufficient to meet the pro rata cost of shire participation.... But despite their threat to exclude Byron Shire residents..., the shire remained firm in its attitude... following a brisk debate during which the president, Cr E.W. Hatfield, and Crs T.M. Mott, R.W. James and E. Giles spoke*

in support of an increase.... Moving that no action be taken, but that the offer of £150 should stand, Cr D.W. **Harrison** claimed that the majority of books in the library were fiction. He said the shire did not contribute to picture shows and there was no reason why it should help to pay for entertainment by way of fiction reading....

Disgust at the attitude adopted by some councillors... was expressed by members of Mullumbimby High School Parents and Citizens' Association last night (27Feb56)...., in view of the fact that it is known that two-thirds of the children attending the High School are using the library.... Mr **Stanhope** said it would be "impossible to plumb the depths of the cultural development of persons who opposed the library."... President **Uren** said it was difficult to believe that Cr **Harrison**, who was formerly the Editor of the local newspaper, would make the statement attributed to him....

Anonymous letter writer 'Ratepayer' sided with Harrison. Why encourage the "grabbing of something for nothing" attitude? This is not a poverty-stricken country, and the people who desire to use a library can well afford to support such without seeking financial aid. Let us be thankful that we have some councillors of the shire who are logical thinkers....

And Cr **Harrison** said Mr **Stanhope**, of Mullumbimby Creek, is "disgusted," the school Headmaster, Mr **Pearce**, is "disgusted," Mr **Uren** is "disgusted," and doubtless sundry others are "disgusted" over my attitude.... Of course, I am shattered and upset, as may well be imagined after such an onslaught by so many "disgusted" people.... I would like to state that the decision of the shire council was based on its financial position, not on our attitude to libraries or readers.... Shire moneys were never intended to provide entertainment... and fiction reading is, in the main, for entertainment....

Mayor **Smith** said "It would be a pity to see the matter of whether the shire increases its contribution or not, become one of public controversy.... "However, I feel I would like to answer some points made by Cr D. **Harrison**.... Mullumbimby is providing nearly 350 residents of the whole of Byron Shire with a service, for £150 a year - equal to less than 9/- per head per annum for each borrower. That figure is not economical.... "I am personally sorry that Cr **Harrison** has seen fit to make an issue, particularly when the contribution asked for is such a very minor amount in the budgeted estimates of his council. I was rather hopeful he would be one who would support the idea of a good local library, to combat the idea of a regional library situated at Lismore."

In a report on the progress of the library, the librarian, Miss N. **Selwood**, said there had been a rapid increase in the lending of books during the last few weeks.... The number of members enrolled to February 29 totalled 1134, consisting of 501 adults and 552 juniors..., of whom 372 are from Byron Shire..., Brunswick Heads having the biggest representation with 38 and 42 respectively.

The community continued to participate through letters-to-the-editor, K.L. **Long** of Wilson's Creek reckoning that a library catering mainly for adult needs does not to any marked degree, assist in cultivating commendable reading habits amongst those adults... or have any noticeable effect upon cultural development. These qualities are best developed at the primary school level.... And Cr **Harrison** said It gives me no pleasure to find myself at cross purposes with my friend, Ald **Smith**, and his colleagues... but he and they are wrong, for it is public money we are dealing with... in providing frivolous titillation for fans of sex, drugs and Mills & Boon.



Civic Centre 1958

(The NSW Chief Secretary and Minister for Co-operative Societies, Mr C.A. Kelly MLA, officially opened the £15,000 Civic Hall supper room extensions, Public Library extensions, Electrical Showroom and connecting colonnade on 20Jun56)

The Shire reopened the debate in late Mar56, but When the presidential minute was presented, Cr D.W. **Harrison** immediately moved an amendment that no further discussion take place on the matter..., pointing out that it had been well-argued on two previous occasions. However, this time the Councillors appointed a committee to investigate proposals for the expansion of the Mullumbimby Free Library to give greater cover to Shire residents by the establishment of branch facilities at Byron Bay and Bangalow in conjunction with the

Byron Bay Literary Institute, and to supply books to schools in the lower section of the shire....

In Jul56 the Byron Bay P&C got upset that the Literary Institute had discontinued its juvenile section..., forcing them to link up with the Byron District Council of Parents and Citizens Associations circulating library, which has its headquarters at Mullumbimby High School.... And shortly afterwards Mullum High decided that To enable Byron Bay, Bangalow and country pupils who attend Mullumbimby High School to make use of the local free public library, a bus will in future convey them to the Civic Centre during lunch time each Friday at a cost of 3d return. The English master at the school, Mr A. **Cameron**, believes that the service will greatly extend the use of the library by pupils....

[And then in Aug56 Children whose parents could not afford the additional cost forced upon them by the recent 20 per cent cut in bus subsidies, would stagnate in rural primary schools until they reached the leaving age of 15 years, members of Mullumbimby High School Parents and Citizens' Association claimed at the meeting this week..., while the Chamber of Commerce worried about the viability of the bus companies.]

At the Aug56 AGM of the Byron Bay Literary Institute the secretary said *Despite the expenditure of £237 on the purchase of new books during the past year, membership of the institution - 147 - has remained at a low level for a town with a population higher than 2000.... Mr Hackett said the amount spent on books during the 12 months was larger than that for any previous year since the establishment of the institute.... He said the... issue of only 49 books from the Sydney Public Library was very disappointing.*



Public Library 1958

(The new awning was completed in Jul53 at a cost of £392 to the School of Arts. Rotary's £300 electrically-driven Clock was built by Hilton Ainsworth and switched on by Governor Sir John Northcott on 2Nov55.)

A couple of weeks later Clerk **Bourne** said *Expansion of Mullumbimby Municipal Council's Free Public Library continues at a satisfactory pace..., with 1259 registered users wef 30Jun56, an increase of 481 for the year..., while 3951 books were on the shelves.... During the 12 months just ended a total of 21,082 borrowings had been made..., and the Main growth was in the adult section.... Shire members now represented one-third of total membership, the number being 447.... Meanwhile boxing tournaments were again a feature of the public hall, probably causing some old School of Arts committeemen to turn in their graves.*

During debate over the estimates for 1957 the Shire Councillors agreed to double their contribution to the library service, probably made easier by the resignation of Cr **Harrison**, and for the year ended 30Jun57 Clerk **Bourne** was able to report that *the Mullumbimby Free Public Library has expanded to a stage where 635 Shireites now make up the total membership of 1543 and almost five thousand books are available.... Mr Bourne said discussions had taken place with Byron Shire Council and representatives of the Byron Bay Literary Institute regarding the possible expansion of the free library service by provision of centres in parts of the shire....* (Decline in membership of the Literary Institute had stabilised at 148 by the 65th AGM in Aug57).

In Jan58 Mayor **Uren** thought that *Figures disclosed in a report to the Mullumbimby Municipal Council by the Library Committee were staggering.... He was commenting on a statement which showed the circulation of books for the past 12 months at 22,389 (adults) and 11,702 (junior). The figures showed an increase of about 50 per cent over the previous year.... The report stated library membership at 951 adults and 917 juniors.*



Civic Centre ~1966

(Second story addition to Council Chambers completed and 'Civic Centre' sign moved to colonnade/breezeway roof)

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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Jennifer Elward
David Roupell
Market Managers:
Kim Pedersen
Sarah Newsome
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 3rd April 2014
3.00 pm
See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items
Wednesday 2nd April 2014.

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

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



A month later *Byron Shire Council* has cut its contribution towards the *Mullumbimby Free Public Library* for this year from £300 to £200... on the motion of *Cr A. Kibblewhite* (member of the Byron Bay ALP branch who favoured work-for-the-dole schemes), *who said he had intended to seek complete deletion of the contribution from the estimates. He had changed his view after studying the position...* with regard to the increased number of Shire High School students using the library. *Seconding the motion, Cr W. Noble said that if the library did something about catering for small schools in outer areas he would favour a larger contribution....* Cr Elvin **Giles** claimed the library was providing a service second to none in the district. *"I consider we are going to be very stingy if we cut the contribution lower.... The motion was carried, Crs Mott, Giles and James dissenting.* (The Shire was again in financial trouble and, on the motion of Cr Anthony Kibblewhite, had voted to sool the lawyers onto the recalcitrant ratepayers owing a collective £10,000.)

At the 66th AGM of the Literary Institute in Aug58 President Kibblewhite reported a growth in membership to 160, but a slight decrease in book issues for the year, from 10,751 to 10,397.
Peter Tsicalas



Mullum library ~1966
Can anyone identify the library patron?



BRUNSWICK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. MUSEUM

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RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP 2014

ANNUAL FEES	PAYMENT OPTIONS	
Adults \$15 Students \$5 Printed mailed copy of newsletter \$5 p.a.	<i>Cheque/postal order payable to:</i> Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc	<i>Direct deposit</i> BSB: 032 583 Account No.: 201192 Reference: Your name/s

Please indicate how you wish to receive a newsletter:

Email (free) Printed copy pickup from museum (free) Printed mailed copy (\$5)

Name.....
Address.....
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Phone No..... Mobile.....

Boat Cruise

Saturday 22 March

Ballina to Wardell

(return) on the Richmond Princess.
8.30 am - 2 pm (approx.)

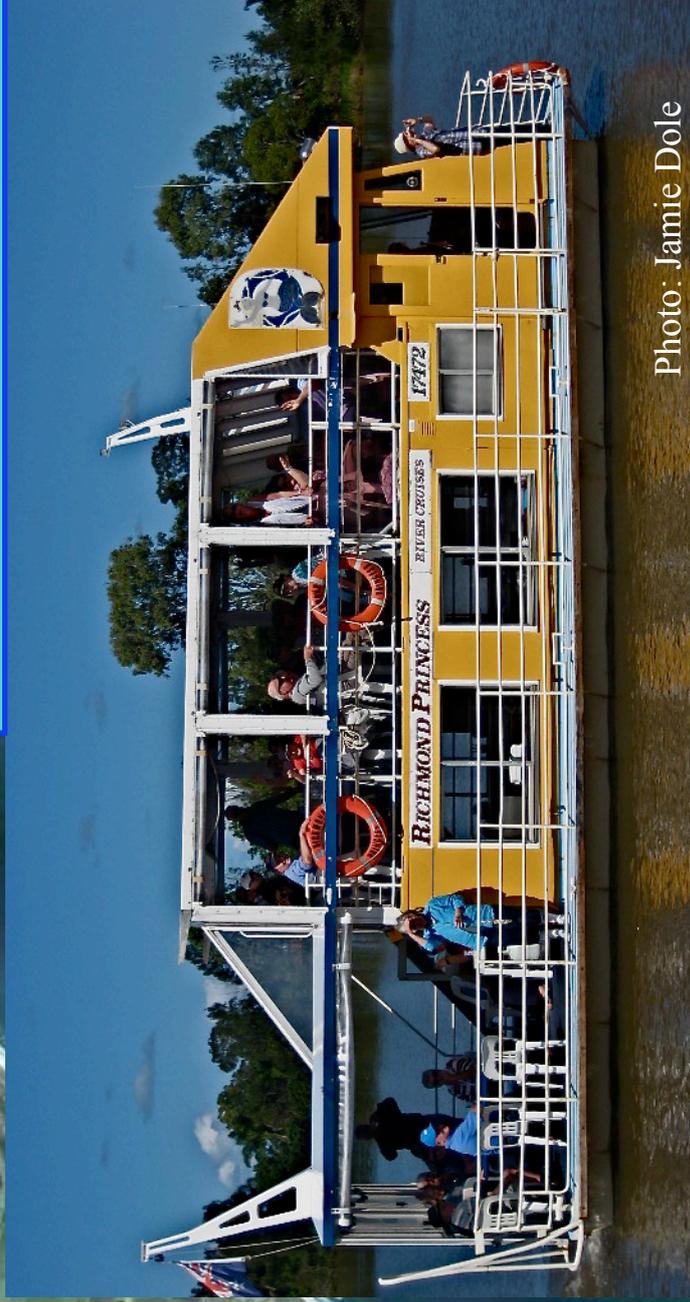
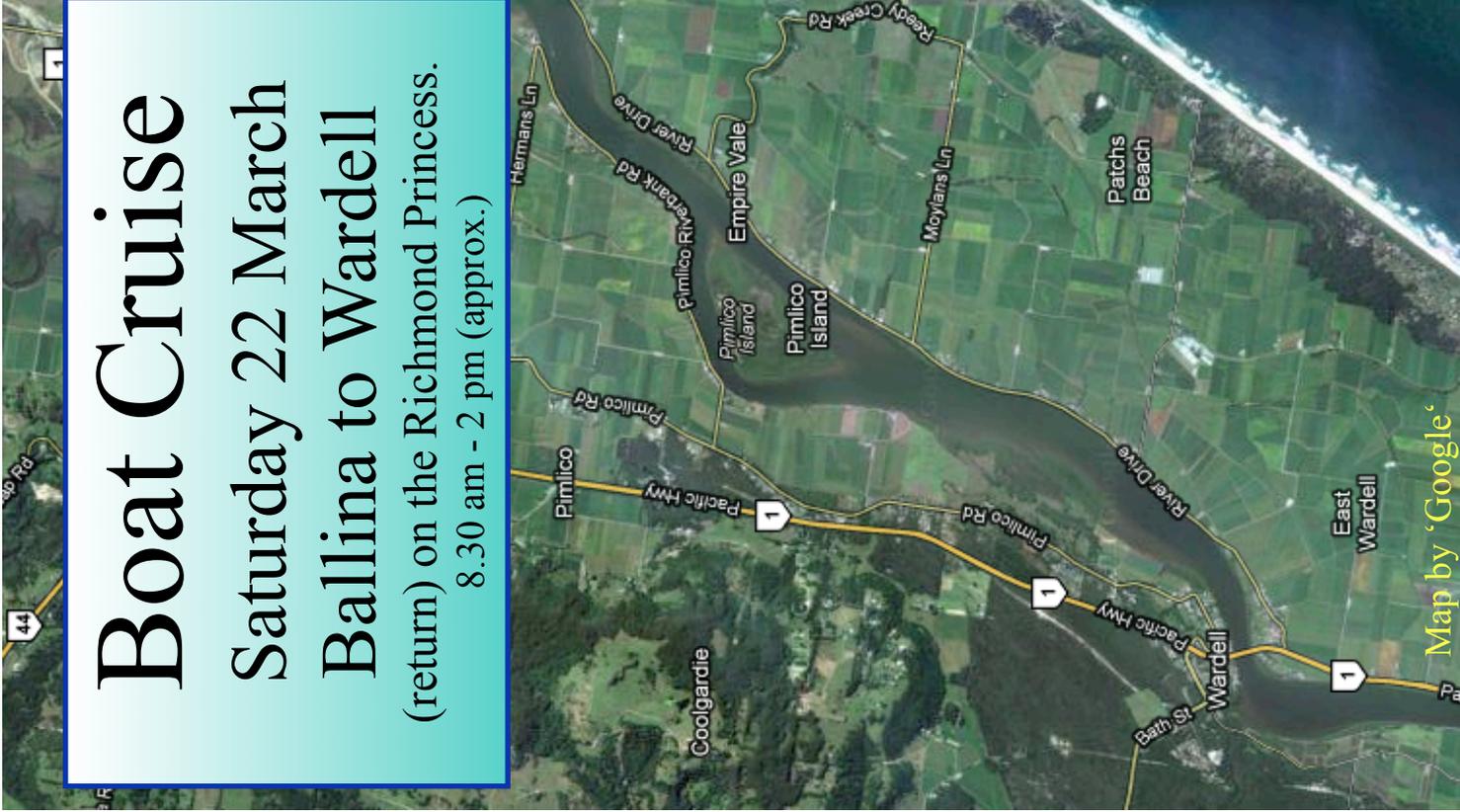
Enjoy our River and learn some of its pioneering history. Morning tea and light lunch provided.

Tickets from Ballina Visitor Information Centre - telephone **1800 777 666** or - Sue at the Wardell Post Office - telephone **6683 4101**

\$55 p.p.

Book early!

Blackwall Historical Society Inc.
Wardell & District Progress Association Inc.



Map by 'Google'

Photo: Jamie Dole