



NEWSLETTER
April 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

REMINDERS



Membership fees are due for 2014. Thanks to those who have renewed. **If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter you need to renew by the end of April.** See form at the end of the newsletter.

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

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

MAP OF BYRON SHIRE

Our large MAP has returned from the paper conservator in Brisbane and looks beautiful. The following work was carried out:

- Dry and light moisture surface clean both recto and verso
- Consolidation of lifting paper areas, and detached areas from the linen backing.
- Support of damaged edges on the verso.
- Fill of the damage areas on the recto with Japanese paper.
- Construct archival roll and dust cover.

We had good coverage in the local papers which hopefully will assist us in getting another grant later in the year so that we can have it scanned and a copy made on rag paper to put on permanent display. The conservator commented that the map is too fragile to have on display for any length of time and she suggested having a copy made as it is popular with the public.

MONTHLY MARKET

This year our market falls on **Easter Saturday, 19th April**. Our market managers are using their ingenuity to attract festival and holiday makers to our market as well as encouraging our stallholders to attend.

So enter the **Fancy Dress Competition** and win a great prize - \$50 worth of market vouchers.

Also check out **Stewart's Menswear window** for a display on things that are available at the market. Also the items on display are in a raffle. Tickets \$1 each. Thanks Gerard & Sue for your fabulous support.

OBJECT STORIES WORKSHOP

5 people took advantage of ABC Open's workshop at the museum. Each had an object that told an Australian story. Jeff Licence encouraged us to write the story of the object and our connection to it, then each participant recorded their story orally. Photos were taken of the objects. Next week each will be shown how to edit their oral stories and then it will be added to the photo. When finished it will be uploaded to the site to add to the virtual museum. There are some great stories on the site.

"Land Girl" memento



Stephen recording his story with Jeff



John and Roland preparing their stories



Roland's steam paddle model

The Uglification of Mullumbimby

Another step towards the modernisation of Mullumbimby was taken at the last meeting of the Municipal Council (8Jan51) when it was decided to give property owners two years in which to remove verandah posts in the main shopping streets. In his report the town clerk said the posts in the business area were in bad shape, unsightly, and a danger to the public. The collapse of whole verandahs and even balconies appeared possible because of constantly recurring damage by cars and trucks over the years.... Replying to Ald **Starr**, Town Clerk **Bourne** said the Council could not permit further general repairs to be carried out. The owners must replace the posts with cantilever awnings....

A big change at the Shire Council was the draconian administration of new Health/Building Inspector Roy **McDonald**, also contracted as Mullum's part-time inspector. He caused angst amongst the Byron Shire Owners and Ratepayers' Association (re/formed in Jun51) and got up the nose of builder S.M.R. Cross, who reckoned that *If the authority of the council has passed out of the control of the elected councillors we may just as well scrap the expensive farce of local government....* But the Councillors backed their inspector, and on his recommendation followed the lead set by the local government authorities in Mullumbimby recently by insisting that all awning posts should be removed within two years..., one of the biggest edicts in changing the look of all regional towns (except Bangalow).

By mid 1952, 6mths away from the Mullum deadline, there were still many recalcitrant shop owners ignoring the directive, causing the Council to get hairy-chested with threats of prosecution. But come December the Councillors backed off and *granted a six months extension of time for the removal of shop awnings in respect of five applications...*, including the School of Arts which couldn't find one contractor to tender for the job. Similar goings-on occurred at Byron Bay where hard-line Building Inspector **McDonald** was overruled.



Commercial Hotel and Wards Store 1921



Commercial Hotel, Bridgland Electrical and Uren's Store 1958

Roy **McDonald** commented to the Byron Councillors in May53 that *"The great improvement in the appearance of the street when all such verandahs have been replaced can be visualised by the pleasing effect produced in the Mullumbimby main street where similar work is well advanced.... Mr McDonald said that although the resolution was passed by (the Shire) council about two years ago only a couple of property owners had done anything about it....*

At Mullum the good Roy reluctantly approved G.A. **Slogrove's** cantilever awning in Jun53, *pointing out, however, that unless major repairs to the building were carried out in the next year or two it might be condemned....* At the same time extensions were granted to 3 others and some were threatened with legal action, while the pubs were left in limbo awaiting the outcome of court actions elsewhere. In Aug53 a 3mths

amnesty was given in view of the major structural problems involved with some shops, particularly Uren's General Store (still owned by the Wards), which had pleaded for 9mths grace. At Byron the Councillors generously granted a 2yr amnesty.

In his yearly review Mayor **Smith** referred to the improved effect in the business centre created by the removal of verandah posts..., but was disappointed with a few stubborn standouts who kept on asking for extensions, notably the Wards in Burringbar St and **Rummery Bros** and Alan **Gibson** in Dalley St. And in Apr54 during the protests over Mullumbimby Inc moving into electrical appliance retailing, Mr Clive **Mallam** claimed that *ratepayers money was being used against private enterprise. He said the council had forced owners to spend money on cantilever awnings for shops against which it now planned to compete....*

The Shire shop owners were also dragging their feet and in Jun54 Inspector **McDonald** turned his attention to Bangalow

and Brunswick Heads, talking the Councillors into ordering the removal of all verandah posts and verandahs.... In making his recommendations, Mr McDonald drew the council's attention to the "delightful appearance of the eastern side of Byron Street, Bangalow, with its modern buildings and cantilever awnings," and to the "antiquated and unsightly view presented by the old-fashioned balconies and verandahs, some of which are in urgent need of repair, on the western side of the street."

Almost 12mths later Orders for the removal of awning posts at Byron Bay and Bangalow.. will be enforced..., said Councillors at a meeting on 10May55. Progressive Cr **Harrison** (who proposed the original motion back in 1951) said "The day of the horse and buggy has gone... He suggested that some property owners were not putting anything back into the towns to keep them going.... "It is unfair for a few people to retard the progress of small towns.... Cr S.J. Denning said "I am definitely not in accord with the motion. So far as Byron Bay is concerned there would be no improvement in the appearance of the town.... Crs Tate and Armstrong supported Cr Denning.... Cr R. **James** referred to the improvement at Mullumbimby since cantilever awnings were erected..., while Cr Tate reckoned that the awnings on the western side of Jonson Street are worse than those where there are posts.



Railway Hotel 1940

Inspector **McDonald** was still nagging in Nov55, figuring that Property owners at Byron Bay and Bangalow were "cutting their own throats" by deferring removal of posts..., as construction costs had doubled since the notices were issued two years ago.... But he was again over-ruled by the councillors who granted another 12mth extension. Cr Denning claimed that removal of the posts would effect no improvement at Byron Bay.... "I think the whole matter should be dropped,".... Mr McDonald claimed that Byron Bay and Bangalow were 20 years behind the times.



Railway Hotel 1958

Lest people were again getting complacent, at a meeting in Feb56 council reaffirmed its previous decision to enforce orders for the removal of awning verandah posts at Byron Bay, Bangalow and Brunswick Heads. The council decided, on the motion of Cr D.W. **Harrison** to authorise its building inspector to take the necessary action against property owners in cases where instruction to remove posts have not been carried out by March 31.... "For four years the owners have known that the work had to be

done," Cr Harrison said. "If council does not enforce the instructions now, it may be called a 'jelly-bone' council."... Opposing the motion, Cr **Denning** said... "if looked at in a proper light, I think it will be realised that the work will not improve Byron Bay. I think people will put up cantilever awnings when rebuilding is undertaken."...

Cr J. **Armstrong** also opposed the motion and said he would hate to see the day when Bangalow had to comply completely with the instructions.... Cr W.C. **Taylor** said he felt that the project had not come from the people. He claimed that people generally at Bangalow did not want new awnings.... Replying to Cr Armstrong, who referred to new buildings being erected with awning posts on the "Gold Coast"..., He referred to the improvement at Mullumbimby created by cantilever awnings.... The motion was carried by five votes to four.

But then more requests for extension began to roll in, most approved despite outrage from Cr **Harrison**, while Inspector **McDonald** implemented prosecution procedures on others. By 1957, following the departure of David Harrison, there were still many recalcitrants pleading hardship, prompting the Shire Council to throw up its hands and finally revoke the 6yr old directive. The decision also means the withdrawal of a prosecution late last year against a Byron Bay property owner. The motion was carried 6 to 4, Crs **Mott, Giles, James** and Noble against. Moving the rescission motion, Cr Reid claimed that if the order for the removal of the posts was enforced great hardship would be caused to property-owners... and besides, the stays for cantilevered-awnings have a poor track record due corrosion, but the ordinance should remain in place for new buildings. Cr Kibblewhite instanced a boarding house at Byron Bay in which a balcony over the street formed part of the living quarters....

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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Sadie Mudge

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 1st May 2014

3.00 pm

See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items

Wednesday 30th April 2014.

MUSEUM HOURS

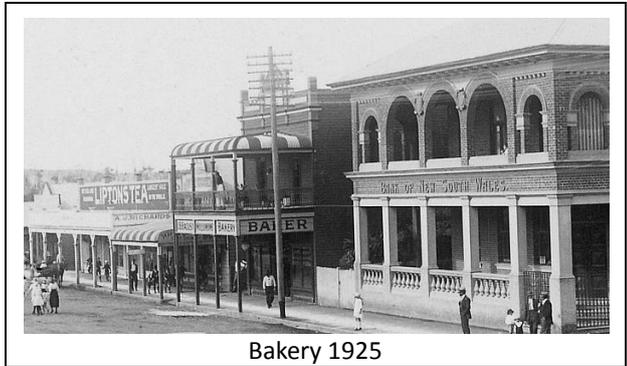
Friday 10am - 12pm

Market Saturday 9am - 1pm

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

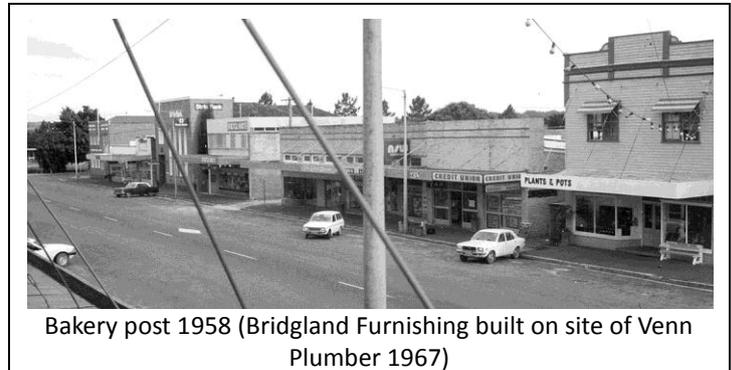


And Cr Jackson said "Bangalow businessmen are going through the same torrid times as the council as far as finance is concerned... Some businesses are carrying up to 75 per cent of their customers, and I think if council forces the issue it will cause hardship. If we force



Bakery 1925

the issue I think the awnings will be taken away and nothing left there."... Opposing the motion Cr T.M. Mott said... at Brunswick Heads greater trade was going to the most modernised section.



Bakery post 1958 (Bridgland Furnishing built on site of Venn Plumber 1967)

The same would apply at Byron Bay and Bangalow. After referring to the removal of posts at Mullumbimby, Cr Mott said: "As councilors, we should be out for progress. We should see that our towns advance as other towns advance."

Cr Wagner (of Bruns) said he had driven around Byron Bay and what he had seen had convinced him that many of the shop buildings were not worth hanging an awning on. "I like to see a town without posts..., but now's not opportune due to the economic climate. Cr Giles was against, not for aesthetic or financial reasons, but because Council would appear wishy-washy in changing its mind. "We will look like a lot of fools.... No one would deny that the policy for the removal of the awning posts is a progressive policy.... Cr R. James opposed the motion and claimed that if it was carried, Byron Bay and Bangalow would be put back 20 years.... If the posts were left there, he said, more trade would go to Lismore....

And so poverty preserved Bangalow's agreeable ambience. But Mullum pressed on with modernisation, and with completion of vandalism to the Middle Pub in Mar58 the only place offering refuge from the progressives was the Top Pub (at least until 1971). Roy McDonald was sacked in May58. Peter Tsicalas



BRUNSWICK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. MUSEUM

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RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP 2014

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

Please indicate how you wish to receive a newsletter:

Email (free)

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Name.....Phone.....

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