



NEWSLETTER

June 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

MAY MADNESS

May was a very busy month, starting with

The Brunswick Valley U3A meeting at the museum on Tuesday 13th May. The 30 attendees enjoyed viewing our DVDs, exploring the museum and partaking of a delightful morning tea.

ABC Open's workshop, 'Object Stories', has produced two films which have been uploaded, while two more remain in production <https://open.abc.net.au/explore/06ik9ye> <https://open.abc.net.au/explore/11tu9ow>

Local ABC Radio has presented two stories - Morrissey and his snakebite remedy and the history of our building.

An appearance before Council to explain our position regarding charges on our Crown Reserve site. The draft Trust Licence Agreement requiring us to pay rental has travelled to and fro between us, the Council and the Lands Department, culminating in Treasurer Susan addressing the Councillors on the 22nd May to resolve some of the more contentious issues - which included the clauses requiring us to pay the licence preparation cost and valuation cost of \$1597.50; the provision of a certified audit (at a quoted cost of \$1000), which was not a requirement of Fair Trading NSW; and the new imposition of land, water and sewerage rates, charges previously paid by Council. Fortunately the Councillors were sympathetic and unanimously voted to exempt us from these levies. While we couldn't get the rental waived, it has been heavily rebated at \$456 a year and will be subject to annual adjustments. It is now in the hands of the Lands Dept for ratification. Thanks to those members and friends who rallied at the chambers to support our case.

The Mullumbimby Big Picture Show was held on 31st May at the Civic Hall. Many local organisations participated in the discussions and planning of Mullum's future direction. Susan gave a 9 minute presentation on the evolution of Mullumbimby and Frank led a story-telling session with Malcolm Price, the convenor of the day.



JUNE JOGGLING

June is shaping up to be just as demanding -

On 5th June a group of **High School** students visited to research local veterans for an RSL-sponsored essay competition. They were guided through various artefacts, websites and oral history sources.

On the 7th June we once again mounted our display at the Brunswick Heads Memorial Hall for the annual **Old & Gold** Festival. Thanks to those members who came along and helped. We also attended the dedication of Frank Mill's 'History Chair', which was designed and constructed by Suvira Macdonald. Thanks to technology, you can hear Frank whilst lounging in his chair.

On 16th June **Olive Spedding** is celebrating 100 years young at the Services Club, for which the museum is providing a slideshow of early Mullum photos.

On Saturday 21st June BVHS Inc will be celebrating 25 years of hosting the

Community Market in Mullumbimby. Maurie Summers' original inspired idea has been developed over the years by many dedicated members and hard-working market managers, such that today the market is an integral part of the Mullum fabric. Special attractions for the 25th anniversary include 2 new exhibitions in the museum ('Ward's Emporium' and 'Frocked Up'), performances by **Spaghetti Circus** and **Mullumbimby's Biggest Little Town Choir**, cutting of a **BIG Cake** by the present and past managers, a **raffle** of stallholder goods and the '**Grooviest Headband**' competition. Come along and celebrate this milestone.



You Don't Know What You've Got Until It's Gone

A Brunswick River Historical Society has been formed at Mullumbimby with the object of collecting and preserving records and relics of the early history of the area. A committee to undertake the task was formed, with Mr P.H. **Sheaffe** as president, at a public meeting last week (3Mar61). Mr Sheaffe said that 60 district organisations had been invited to be represented at the inaugural meeting.... The following officers were elected: Patrons, Messrs S.T. Stephens MLA, C.M. Ebert (Area Director of Education); president, Mr P.H. Sheaffe; vice-presidents, Dr L.W. **Alderman**, Messrs A. **Finnie**, W.W. **Walker**, O. **McPaul**, J. **Cregan**; secretary, Mr W.B. **Lawrence** (motel owner South Golden Beach); treasurer, Mr D. **Hollingworth**. Other members of the committee are Messrs N. **McClelland**, F.M. **Uren**, H. **Richards**, L.J. **Bourne**, R. **Lomath**, F.R. **Tandy**, R. **Lindsay**, J. **Sheehan**, E. **Stanhope**, J. **Pearce**, C. **East**, M. **Richens**, Rev N. **Bell**, Mesdames A. **Frost** and O. **McPaul**.

Mr **Lawrence** said yesterday (5Jun61) that when a list of names of district pioneers had been received, the society would select a group of about 30 of the oldest and would entertain them at a dinner at the Capricornia, Golden Beach.... (How a recent arrival became one of the society's driving forces is a mystery, but perhaps he was after some PR for his poorly patronised Capricornia Motel/Restaurant, which was probably a bit too upmarket for Bruns tastes. Coincidentally, he also started re-advertising the delights of the Capricornia, the most sophisticated restaurant north of Melbourne, right on your doorstep, better than the Gold Coast or anything in Brisbane. No kidding.... Wal was gone by late 1962 and the place closed for ~12mths until Host Erwin took over, advertising 'continental meals', including Nasi Goreng, Hungarian Goulash, Beef Stroganoff... and a road map to get to the place.) Mr **Sheaffe** said the society planned to set its members the task of recording the history of the district..., to provide records of inestimable value....



The revitalised South Golden Beach development 1974. (Looking North West)
Capricornia Canal under construction to drain the floodplain into Marshall's Creek.
Capricornia Restaurant was the headquarters for Ocean Shores developers 1965-66.

On 14Oct61 28 pioneers were honoured at a dinner in the Capricornia..., and were welcomed by Rev N. **Bell**, president of Mullumbimby Rotary Club, which sponsored the formation of the society, and were delivered to the restaurant by the Sheaffe bus company. Shire President **Giles** spoke, as did Stephens MLA, who said "There is no shadow of a doubt," that we live in the greatest country of the world, and we must be ready to reflect on how that had come about....

Messrs George **Bate** and James **Campbell** responded on behalf of the pioneers. Oldest of the pioneers present was grey-bearded 91-year-old John **Johnston** who has lived for 79 years on the same farm at Eureka..., which his father Andrew, foundation chairman of Norco, selected Jul1881. Next on the list was Mrs Rosalie **Kennedy** (nee Nixon) of Tyagarah, the selector of New Brighton in 1889, but 5th place getter, George H. **Bate** of Bruns, could claim to be the oldest locally-born pioneer. He came into the world at Federal in 1886, the son of William J. Bate, foundation Shire Councillor for 'B' Riding and credited as the founder of Federal. William was guided to 500 acres on the Federal-Goonengerry track in Mar1882 by the legendary cedar-getter Dan **Withers** of Bexhill. The property, 'Beechgrove', remained the centre of civilisation in that neck of the woods for many years.

At a meeting in Mar62 A committee comprising Messrs P.H. **Sheaffe** (president), D. **Hollingworth** (treasurer) and R. **Maslen** (acting secretary), C. **Morrow** and R. **Lindsay**, was appointed to manage the society's affairs. It was decided to ask Mullumbimby Municipal Council whether it could provide space for the storage or display of records.... Mrs I. **White**

and Mr D. Hollingworth were invited to read papers at the next meeting.

In Aug62 it was announced that *Byron Shire Council will offer to co-operate with Brunswick River Historical Society in preserving the scrubland on and around Harry's Hill, at North Beach, Brunswick Heads.... The request was linked with a project to create a virgin scrubland memorial to Brunswick district pioneers. Engineer Cook... said that it was the only piece of scrubland left in that area..., but it had been "taking a bashing" since the Department of Public Works had built the road to North Beach to create the seawall. Shire clerk Mr R.T. Brownell said the area had been a flora reserve since 1904....*



Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve surrounding base of Devine's Hill (aka Lions Lookout and possibly Reilly's Hill) ~1963. (Jack Devine's farmhouse foreground.) Foreground road, now Warrambool Rd., was the 'lane' that gave access to H.J. Bower's farmhouse 'Ocean View', the later site of 'Ocean Shores' Roundhouse. It was the original road to Billinudgel, curving left at 'Tongarra Drive' and meeting the Highway from Mullum at Hainesville.

A month later they changed their minds and went for 90 acres of scrubland on the eastern side of the Pacific Highway just north of the traffic bridge. It extends along the northern bank of the river and up the hill on each side of the lane which serves farms near the top. The area is considered to be the only worthwhile virgin scrubland area in the district.... Messrs P.H. **Sheaffe**, C. **Morrow** and R. **Maslen** were appointed honorary rangers. If the application to take over the area is successful the society will add interest to its project by naming native trees and giving publicity to the venture....

At a meeting in May63 an original copy of the constitution of Norco Co-operative Ltd containing the names of the 12

original directors was displayed. The relic was donated to the society by Mr Craig Morris..., and the Society will endeavour to obtain a suitable site for storage and display of historical relics in the proposed pioneer scrubland park, while the Richmond River Historical Society will seek to have *The site of an early separating factory in the township of Federal... preserved as a historical landmark.* And that was the last mention of either venture.

But things historical continued to grip the Mullum Star in reporting on the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Brunswick Heads school in May63, which *developed into probably the most significant ever held at Brunswick Heads. Speakers traced the history of the town from the time of its first settlers..., two of the descendants of whom were in the audience - Mrs Matt Devine (nee Jessie **Mills**, whose sisters Amy and Maud married her brothers-in-law William and Thomas Devine) of Lismore and Mrs O. McCormack (nee Miriam **Haines**) of Toowoomba. The Area Director of Education, Mr C.M. Ebert of Lismore, outlined Brunswick's own history from the crossing of the local hills and the river by Richard Craig, an escaped convict, about 1830.... He appealed to anyone possessing articles or records of historical value to pass them on to the Brunswick River Historical Society for preservation. Mr S.T. Stephens MLA referred to the great problems of early education..., while Mr J.D. Anthony MHR said the deeds of the pioneers had inspired a sense of patriotism in the younger generation....*

At the AGM in Jul63 President **Sheaffe** announced that *The Municipal Council has agreed to allow the Brunswick River Historical Society to use the Free Public Library premises for its monthly meetings. And you guessed it: Although the committee of the Brunswick River Historical Society had made progress during the past 12 months towards compiling a history of pioneering on the Brunswick, there had been little evidence of public enthusiasm for the project.... A feature of the meeting was the presentation of a paper compiled from information given by the late Mr Walter **Reddacliff**, dating from 1882, when the Reddacliff family arrived from the Clarence and selected land at Myocum.... It was announced that the Richmond River Historical Society had made available a "History of early Brunswick River Pioneers."*

Mr **Sheaffe** was re-elected president for a further term. Other officers were elected as follows: patrons, Messrs S.T. Stephens MLA, J.D. Anthony MHR, C.M. Ebert, Ald F.M. **Uren**, Cr E.C. **Giles**, Dr L.W. **Alderman**; vice-presidents, Messrs C. **Morrow**, J. **Graydon**; secretary, Mr R. **Maslen**; treasurer, Mr R.J. **Lindsay**; auditor, Mr R. **Collins**; committee, Mrs I. **White**, Mrs A. **Frost**, Messrs D. **Hollingworth**, I. **White**, N. **McClelland** and the executive.

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 July 2014
3.00 pm
See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items
Wednesday 2nd July 2014

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

BVHS Newsletter is produced
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Then the enthusiasm waned or the Mullum Star figured things historical were no longer of any interest to readers. Over the next 2yrs the Society only rated 3 mentions - its research of the 'The Old Coach Road' via the Nightcap Range in Oct63; the planting of a memorial cedar tree at Wilson's Creek in Oct64; and sponsoring the Feb65 visit of Salvation Army Brigadier William Charles **Ford**, a Mullum resident of the 1880s. Thereafter the society faded away and wasn't revived until 1983 under the driving force of Mrs Robyn **Gray** (nee Harkness).

And it took an outsider in the Wal Lawrence mould to launch *The first history of the Northern Rivers district... at a ceremony at Lismore on 2Dec66. The book, "Men and a River," has been written by Mrs Louise Tiffany Daley after many years of research....* and will be on sale for \$3.50. She was *born and educated in New York and settled at Alstonville with her Australian husband after World War II to work a pineapple plantation... and became the leading figure in the revival of the Richmond River Historical Society....*

The only Mullumite remaining active on the historical preservation front was high school agricultural teacher David **Marrinon** who had been obsessed with *building up the High School Agricultural museum for several years...*, said the Advocate in Apr68 after he managed to find *A veteran farm tractor, believed to be a 1914 model John Deere... at Caniaba... to become a major exhibit at the High School Agricultural Museum.... It was brought to Mullumbimby last week by Messrs G. Lavery and A. Mortlock aboard a truck owned by Mr J. Garrard.* But the yobbos struck in Jul68 when it was extensively damaged by a thief who has stolen the copper radiator....

A more dodgy preservation act occurred in Jun68 when stones from two spiral rings found at Tyagarah during sand mining operations were taken to Kingscliff where President Whittle of the Tweed River Historical Society *recommended that the stones be set in concrete in the same order as they were found, and placed on public display... and considered the Tweed Square Park near the Greenbank tourist centre to be the best spot....* Thankfully Rus **Maslen** rode to the rescue and had them set in concrete in Mullum's Heritage Park.

A 'Pioneer Centre' sounds like a good name for a Historical Society, but it turned out to be the new home for the Autumn Club when it was proposed in Nov69 that it be built on railway land at *the eastern end of Burringbar Street, as Mullumbimby's permanent contribution to the Captain Cook Bi-centenary on 29Apr70.* A month later it was decided that *The building is to be erected on the land between the CWA Rooms and Mr J.A. Garrard's residence. Council will charge the Autumn Club rental sufficient to cover repayment of a loan required to finance the project...*, originally estimated at \$4000 by Rotarian Rus **Maslen**. [Byron Shire's project for a 'Captain Cook Memorial Park' attracted Government finance to the tune of \$3000. *The project ('a scenic lookout and tourist park'), suggested by Byron Bay Apex Club, was designed for a site overlooking Byron Bay's surfing beach on Lighthouse Road.*]
Peter Tsicalas



Monthly meeting – 1st Thursday of the month at 3.00pm
Acquisition meeting – 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10.00am
Notice of AGM - Thursday 7th August 2014 at 3.00pm