



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

NEWSLETTER

November 2014

## MUSEUM NEWS

**BRUNSWICK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**

*Celebrates* **30**

*the moving of the Post Office*  
*30 years ago*

*On Saturday*  
*15th November 2014*  
*10am to 1pm*

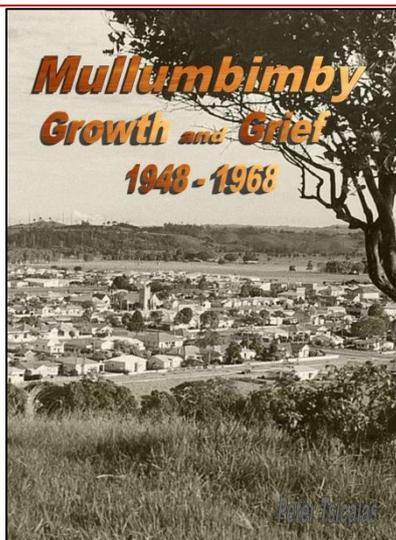
**Join us for**

- \* Morning Tea in Museum Reading Room for past and present members and guests —10am
- \* Launching of Peter Tsicalas's new book *Mullumbimby Growth & Grief 1948-1968* —11.00am
- \* Cutting of the Anniversary cake—11.30am

RSVP by 13th November 6684 4367

We would love to see you at our **30<sup>th</sup> celebration**. We have sent invites to a lot of people but if you know of any who were involved in the moving of the Post Office and they have moved from the area please let them know that they are most welcome to attend OR let us know so we can send them an invitation.

RSVP 13<sup>th</sup> November for catering purposes for morning tea.



Peter Tsicalas's next book *Mullumbimby Growth & Grief 1948-1968* is now available for sale at the museum, Brunswick Heads Visitor Centre and soon in the bookshop and newsagency in Mullumbimby. Cost is \$30. If you want a copy posted please add \$14.

### NEW PATRON



Welcome to Basil Cameron who has generously agreed to become a patron of the Brunswick Valley Historical Society, joining our current patron Frank Mills in the prestigious role. We are delighted to have Basil on board as he has already helped us navigate our tenure of the site with Council.

*Basil at our market 25<sup>th</sup> celebration with the winner of the headband competition*

### CHRISTMAS PARTY



For our end of year bash/celebration BVHS members and Nortec participants are having an outing to Murwillumbah to visit the new museum in the morning and the art gallery (particularly Margaret Olley addition) in the afternoon on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**. A catered picnic lunch in the park is being investigated. If we get enough takers we will hire a bus. We need to have numbers confirmed by **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November**. It will be a fun day so come and join us. It is planned to leave the museum at 9.30am and be back by 4.00pm. We are trying to keep costs to a minimum so the more the merrier and the cheaper.



### Meeting Times

**Monthly Meeting:** First Thursday of the month at 2.00pm

**Acquisition Meeting:** Tuesdays following the monthly meeting as needed at 10am

### Reminders

**Markets:** Third Saturday of the month 8am-3pm.

**Museum opening times:**

Fridays 10am-12pm Market days 9am-1pm

## Cultural Contamination

*Five people were charged at Byron Bay on Monday (16Sep68) with having been in possession of marihuana and utensils to smoke marihuana. Each of the five - four adults (ages ranging from 19 to 23, one of whom was American) and one juvenile - was remanded to appear in Byron Bay Court of Petty Sessions and allowed bail of \$1000.... But it seems that ultimately only one was charged when, on 23Jan69, A Byron Bay surf board manufacturer was convicted on two charges relating to the drug Indian hemp. He was fined a total of \$1200.... In evidence, Det Sgt H.R. Fredericks (later mayor of Lismore) told of a raid on a house in Lighthouse Road....*

A group of dropouts calling themselves 'surfies' had staked a claim to Palm Valley at the Bay in the early 1960s, upsetting the traditional owners and eventually dobbing them for *fouling of The Pass Beach by carcasses of big fish being left there....* But the Council took no action against the messy fishermen, who had claimed land rights to the place back in the mists of time.

*War on 'Surfies'?* was the headline on 18Feb70. *Byron Shire Council has decided to take action to enforce a "no camping" restriction to the Palm Valley Picnic Ground.... "Ninety per cent of those using the area are all right," said Cr Hargreaves, "the others probably should be in gaol anyhow."* Shire President Cr R.B. **James** said "surfies" had been attracted by wide publicity given the surf in the area. "It seems," he said, "that the people who follow the surf and the sun have come here, and now that we have them we want to get rid of them."...

The following week 'Onlooker' in his editorial column was *intrigued by all this talk about drugs, free love, surfies and Palm Valley.* Surfies aren't exclusive to Palm Valley.... *Why, we've even seen them curled up in their cocoons on tables in the Esplanade park shelter shed right along Byron Bay's own Memorial Centre.... So we... went along to ask one of Byron Bay's broadminded citizens. "Ah," he said, "they're a product of modern times and there's nothing much you can do about it. Suppose you do shift 'em out of Palm Valley? Why, they might even take to the hills like the Viet Cong and the Abos....*

And the week after that 'Long Haired Bum' of Byron Bay took the mickey with an exclamation that *It's a gas! Byron Shire to wage war on surfies!... Me and my pals have been doing as we like in Byron Bay for years now, so don't think you'll change things by putting up a few signs.... We took over the place years ago and its certainly ideal for us. We have only to lounge around in gutters and shop doorways all day, picking up the odd wallet or knocking off the shop at the basketball court. We live like kings.... Also, at least one prominent businessman has been heard to say the town can't do without the surfies. So that shows the oldies aren't all stupid.*

*As far as the Palm Valley area is concerned, it is well known to surfies far and wide as a free camping and love-in spot. About the only annoying thing there is the boat fishermen and their noise at all hours and complaints about our cars being in the way. Let them go somewhere else.... But if they leave stuff lying around in locked cars they must expect to lose it. Don't they know it is a permissive society now....*

*I suggest you resign yourselves to the inevitable and go all out to further the image Byron Bay already has. I suggest a sign on the highway for a start, along the lines of: "Turn off, turn on, turn in - Byron Bay, the easiest town in the east. Amenities include free petrol (bring own hose);... A mecca of surf, sand and sin." With planning along such lines Byron Bay could develop into a gathering place for hippie-surfie culture to rival anywhere in the world. Of course all the oldies and squares would have to get out. They don't appreciate the place as we do....*

'So Sorry' of the Bay replied: *First, what would you know about Vietnam? I'd guess it is a name you have heard spoken,*

as you probably don't read a paper from one year's end to another. You and your pals are still wet behind the ears.... You are very right in saying Byron Bay has unique attractions. Throw a net around you all and toss you in a few tins of "pot" and that would keep the tourists interested longer than the other goats at the lighthouse....

As far as Palm Valley is concerned, I have news of you. You Blokes haven't started anything new you know. Twenty-five years ago it was a lover's haunt.... Anyone would think the long hairs invented sex and are dead scared it will go out of fashion.... You fellows go bull-headed, burn yourselves out and die young. Think it all over - Captain Cook had long hair, tight pants and snuff for kicks and didn't wash. You blokes have long hair, tight pants, smoke pot and don't wash....

In Jun70 Byron Shire will launch prosecutions for illegal camping on reserves against 15 persons. The decision was made by council following a report by health surveyor Mr N.A. Booth alleging that 17 people were found to be camping at Palm Valley Reserve and one person at the Captain Cook Memorial Lookout on May 14..., but 3 have since returned home to New Zealand.... Campers at Palm Valley were recently the subject of publicity in a city newspaper....

Then attention shifted from surfies on the sand to hippies in the hills. In Apr71 The view that marihuana was the worst of all drugs was expressed by a member of the Queensland Drug Squad at Mullumbimby. He is Detective-Sergeant Lou **Rowan**, a former Mullumbimby resident, who was guest speaker at a dinner organised by local service clubs. He said his view was not based on the strength of marihuana as a drug but on the fact that it was used to condition young people to the use of hard drugs such as heroin and LSD which they would not otherwise use.... "There is no real need for drugs, yet people resort to them to escape reality, but there is no escape from reality in this life."... "There is no cure.... "Their morals go by the board," he said, "and they lose interest in such personal things as hygiene. With their morals gone they quickly join the ranks of demonstrators....

Byron Shire Council yesterday (8Jun71) directed its health surveyor to investigate reported occupation by young people of shacks in the hills near Byron Bay to determine whether the structures are fit for habitation.... The decision stemmed from a recent article in the "Sydney Morning Herald" relating to the lives of young people said to inhabit the shacks. The article referred to persons leaving the city to occupy the shacks, as well as disused farmhouses in the area. A Byron Bay estate agent was alleged to have said the buildings were available for rent from \$2 per week. It was claimed that at some of the shacks marihuana was cultivated....

### **Mullum's Hippsters**

Closer to home, the new settlers were a bit more concerned about not frightening the locals. Mr Colin **Scattergood**, principal of the Lama Trading Company, of Main Arm, addressed a meeting of Rotary in Mar72 dressed in a grey suit, conventional shirt and tie. Mr Scattergood is also a leader in the commune colony which has taken over a 400-acre tract of Main Arm country purchased from Cr Frank **Mills** (who was relieved to give up the shaky farming game for the new sport of bulldozer contracting.) On the property members of the commune are producing leather goods, pottery, jewellery, perfume, clothing, incense and art works. These are being marketed through large retail organisations operating from Adelaide to Brisbane.



Main Arm 'hippies' Colin **Scattergood** (left) with **Wayne Stewart** and **Mick Collins** look with pride over part of their 400-acre holding where they plan to build a permanent future. Most of the 'hippie' commune are at present quartered in the buildings of the old 'Finnish Village', off the Upper Main Arm Road....

Mr Scattergood said the commune, comprising 15 people at present, was preparing for farming operations which would provide their own food supply.... That was in line with their belief that all living things were entitled to live their normal lives. He said when it reached full strength the commune would house 35 "hippies."... An official body had been formed (through democratic elections on 1Mar72) to deal with internal problems such as limiting the number of domestic animals within the commune. The committee also set rules for the commune, one of which stipulated that no member should draw social security service benefits.

He said each member was expected to do two days' work a week for the commune. For the rest of the week each was entitled to the fruits of his or her own labour. Mr Scattergood said the commune code of ethics was a strict one..., and already one member has been requested to leave for a minor theft from a service station. Telling why, after travelling the world, he had become a Main Arm "hippie," Mr **Scattergood** told of dissatisfaction with the pollution of cities and with present-day government and formal living.... He's now importing national peasant clothing made in village communes in India... and made a motza selling the stuff in Sydney,

the enterprise growing until they were supplying 120 stores from their Bondi Junction HQ.

He travelled Australia in search of a place to form a commune. He saw a signpost to Mullumbimby and turned off the highway. "At Mullumbimby we found the friendliest people we had ever known," Mr Scattergood said. "We were accepted as we were and we found the land at Main Arm the most beautiful we ever saw." Referring to suggestions that "hippies" had no ambitions, Mr Scattergood asked 'What ambitions are these - are they ambitions to go to Sydney and live in a suburb or are they ambitions to live together, help each other and grow crops for food?'. Replying to a question Mr Scattergood said the Main Arm Commune members were mainly couples, but their lives did not involve a commune of sex.

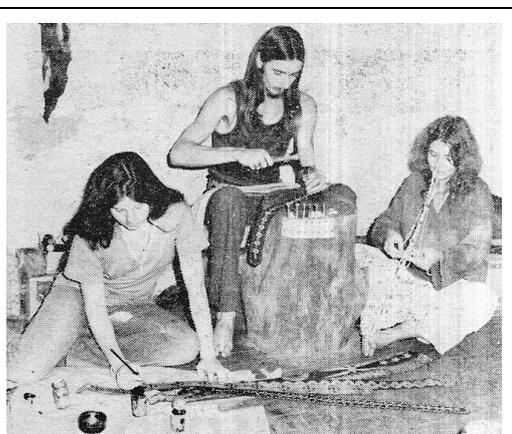


Knitting circle Finn Village, Upper Main Arm, 1972  
L to R: Valerie Jeffs, Carol Collins, Alison Mitchell, Nancy and Shelly Scattergood.

The following week 'Onlooker' commented that *Whether or not one approves of the "hippie" way of life, dress and point of view, the residents of this district must appreciate the claim of Main Arm leader Mr Colin Scattergood that here he has found the friendliest folk he has known....* And the week after that were photos showing the 'hippies' living in pastoral bliss.

In the meantime they'd found a local outlet for their handicraft, when entrepreneurial Mangleson's of Mullumbimby (65-67 Burringbar St) Wanted to purchase - hand made Goods. We would like to buy good hand-made articles of any kind, provided they have been made by residents of the area. We have opened a small Handcraft Shop within our store. We hope to attract buyers from the many tourists who visit the area.... Open Saturdays to 12 noon (Jim Mangleson was the only dissenter in a vote by

the Chamber of Commerce to cease Saturday morning shopping due new prohibitive award rates.)



Leather workers Carol and Mick Collins with macrame master Valerie Jeffs

And in Jun72 Rotary, the worthy organisation that played a leading role in welcoming the aliens of the mass migration scheme into the community, kept up the good work when Rotarian P. Sheaffe presented a Rotary Youth Leadership Award certificate to Michael Collins of Main Arm... (and Colin Christian of Tandy's lane). Rotarian Sheaffe said the awards were made in recognition of ability of young people to work amongst the youth of the district.... (Mick Collins opened a screen printing business in the old Norco building in mid 1976, shortly after which a mate from Main Arm, Chris McIlraith, established the 'Santos' vegetarian bulk foods business in the same building.)

Still anxious to reassure the locals that the counterculture community of Main Arm was no menace to Mullum's mores, in Dec72 Mr Colin Scattergood gave a talk to a well attended Red Cross meeting.... He is... a New Zealander by birth and was educated in England... and has spent many

years wandering the earth studying self-supporting communes, particularly in India. Since 'discovering' Mullumbimby 12 families from all walks of life have joined the group. Among the residents are an engineer, school teacher, librarian and an electrician. A Macquarie Street physician often escapes the "rat race" and pollution of the city for the casual and healthy life at the commune. He said residents pay for their land. They are vegetarian and grow most of their food requirements....

In the meantime the Advocate carried an advert from a bloke named Graeme Dunstan seeking a site for a love-in. Aquarius is the cultural foundation of the Australian Union of Students, a body which affiliates nearly all of the national universities and tertiary colleges. Every two years Aquarius organises a festival of arts which is assisted by government grants and attracts some 5000 participants. Traditionally this festival has taken place on a city campus but for the 10 day festival scheduled for May 1973 it is proposed that Aquarius seek an isolated outdoor setting somewhere on the north coast of NSW.... So subsistence farmers wishing to supplement their Norco cream cheque are requested to submit tenders by 11Sep72.

## Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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David Roupell  
Kim Pedersen  
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**  
**N.B. Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**November 2014 2.00pm**  
**See you there!**

\*Deadline for agenda items  
Wednesday 3rd Nov 2014

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

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



[Mea Culpa: Lest there be any misunderstanding over the comment - *And perpetrating yet another act of vandalism on Mullum's heritage* - in the caption accompanying the photo of the removal of the Presbyterian Church in the last newsletter, I was referring to the barbarians running church affairs who decided to demolish one of the last of the community's Christian heirlooms. May the Sweanys gain a high place in heaven for their rescue of the church and its sympathetic relocation and refurbishment, and to Dianna Ewing for her continuing care and maintenance.

(And it was the typo gremlins who changed the opening of the Catholic Church from May 1900 to 1901.)

Peter Tsicalas

### MULLUMBIMBY SHOW

The Mullumbimby Show is on this weekend 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> November. BVHS will have a display in the pavilion of the history of the Showgirls 1971-2014. So check it out, particularly if you were one of the girls. Several generous past winners have lent us their sashes, dresses and photos for the exhibition. Thanks to Brenda & John for the many hours they spent going through newspapers to find all the contestants and setting up the display



1971 contestants – Nerida Siwicki the winner

### FOR VOLUNTEERS – Free Movie

The next private screening at the Byron (Community Centre) Theatre for hard working Byron Shire volunteers is on **Monday November 10 at 5.30 pm**. It's Martin Scorsese's masterpiece *The Age of Innocence*. **No need to confirm you are coming** - just turn up and you are welcome to bring a friend. Please if you are late come in quietly.

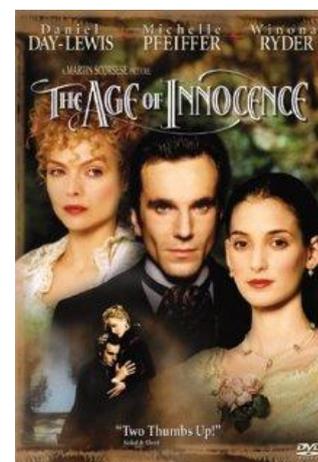
#### Peter Thompson's blurb about the film:

Martin Scorsese's *The Age of Innocence* was released in 1993, after *Cape Fear* and *Goodfellas* had reinforced his already towering reputation as an orchestrator of extreme screen violence. The film has almost disappeared from view — few people I know have ever even heard of it. If you have seen it, it is well worth looking at again which is why we have chosen it for you.

Scorsese made no apology for stepping outside his usual time frame and contemporary locale. *The Age of Innocence* is set in the New York of the 1870s but, as he says, the cruelty and violence of American society, arguably of all human society, is just as strong in the lavish drawing rooms brought to life in Edith Wharton's novel as it was in the Little Italy where he grew up.

And Wharton, like Scorsese, was a fiercely moral artist. *The Age of Innocence* is about the repression of the human spirit in the name of public order and conformism. The rich, immured in their palatial homes and wreathed in silk, think little about the lives they destroy to maintain the smooth surface of their world. But it isn't all without hope. In its last moments, the story invites us to contemplate the nature and the power of love.

*The Age of Innocence* is one of Scorsese's most accomplished films, fabulous to look at and perfectly crafted. Of course, the principal performances are brilliant. Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer and Winona Ryder are at their best. A film to be treasured.



## World War 1 Commemoration Celebrations

The Centenary of World War One is being commemorated this November in special exhibitions which have reached out to descendants and Mullumbimby community members.



### **Re-Membering Our ANZACs**

**Nov 11 - 17**

**Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club, Mullumbimby 2482**

As part of the Centenary of WWI Commemorations, local ceramic artist Deborah Gower is proud to present *Re-Membering Our ANZACs*

An exhibition commemorating the sacrifices made by our local community in World War One.

**Opening 11:30 am November 11, 2014**

Thank you to the Mullumbimby RSL Sub Branch, Mullumbimby RSL Women's Auxiliary, Ex-Services Club Mullumbimby, ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program - Department of Veterans Affairs, Australian War Memorial, 41st Royal NSW Regiment Lismore, St John's Catholic School, Mullumbimby Public School, WWI descendants and the Mullumbimby community for support with this project.

**Re-membering Our ANZACs** November 11-17 Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club - An exhibition commemorating the sacrifice made by our local community in World War One opens directly after the Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph, Mullumbimby.

Under the direction of local Ceramic Artist Deborah Gower, the exhibition will have artworks inspired by the memorabilia of descendants/relatives of Mullumbimby soldiers who fought in the First World War and one special artwork made from wooden crosses. The crosses supplied by the Australian War Memorial have messages of commemoration written by descendants of veterans of WW1 and local Year 6 students from St John's Catholic School and Mullumbimby Public School. Workshops with students and descendants outlined the role and sacrifices of local men and their families in the First World War and participants learnt more about our local ANZACs putting faces to names normally written in stone, before writing messages of commemoration.



"I am honoured to be part of this project. It brought to life the names of veterans who are commemorated at the Cenotaph in Dalley Street and gave character to the faces on the photographs that appear in the gallery of the Ex-Services Club."

The crosses will be hung as an artwork in the Ex-Services Club at Mullumbimby before being returned to the Australian War Memorial for distribution on the graves of fallen soldiers overseas.

Funding has just been granted under the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program for the *Re-membering Our ANZACS* November 11 – 17 Ex-Services Club Dalley St Mullumbimby 2484. Opening 11am on 11/11/14 – All welcome.

Other exhibitions in Mullumbimby in November include:

**An Explosion of Memory - Our ANZACs** 1 November 2014 – 30 November 2014 at The **Art CUBE**, Foyer, Byron Shire Council, Mullumbimby "Poppies explode in the form of a cross as we commemorate the fallen soldiers from our local community." Deborah Gower

### **Scouting Out Our ANZACs**

**1 - 30** November 2014, **Richmond-Tweed Regional Library** Station St., Mullumbimby NSW 2482 An exhibition commemorating our local ANZACS.

To commemorate the Centenary of World War One and to respect our local veterans, PAN (Practicing Artists Network) artists Angele van den Heuvel, Deborah Gower and Ros Collins have mentored the 1<sup>st</sup> Mullumbimby Scout Group to research the effects of World War One in our local area. Inspired by the research together they created *Scouting Out Our ANZACs* – an exhibition of painting and sculptures commemorating local ANZACS.

Opening on 1 November at 10:30am Mullumbimby Library