



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. MUSEUM

Cnr Stuart & Myocum Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

OPEN: FRIDAY 10 AM – 2 PM

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

NEWSLETTER

December 2011

Merry
Christmas

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MUSEUM NEWS

We wish all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy prosperous New Year. Our heartfelt thanks to all who have participated throughout this year; your contributions are very much appreciated. We look forward to you being involved in our museum in 2012. Have a relaxing break!

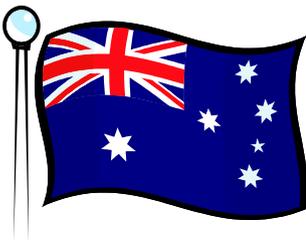
OUR CO-ORDINATOR

Rothy Benson, our co-ordinator, has completed her contract with the museum and is currently in full time work. Thanks Rothy for your interest, enthusiasm and ideas and we look forward to you continuing as a member and participating in our activities.

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS

We received a grant from Northern Rivers Community Foundation towards a new scanner so that we can help Byron Bay Historical Society scan the Eric Wright Collection.

Unfortunately we did not get the grant from Museums Australia for the silky oak/glass display case but we are going to purchase it from Mr Chorlton at excellent terms.



THE AUSTRALIA DAY PROJECT

BVHS Inc is hosting the Australia Day official function on 26th January 2012 but not in the museum grounds; it will be held at the Mullumbimby Civic Centre where we do not need to worry about the weather and for our caterers the task will be much easier. We will be displaying photos and publications for sale to promote the museum. Members are asked to come along to help set up and fly our flag.

HOLIDAY OPENING TIMES

For December and January the museum will be open from 10.00 to 2.00 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Nortec participants will staff the museum on Wednesdays and Thursdays and our regular custodians will man the desk on the Fridays.

NOTE: We will be closed for the two weeks over Christmas/New Year i.e. from Friday 23rd December to Tuesday 10th January inclusive.

PHOTOCOPIER

The photocopier is sadly on its last legs and we are pricing options for a replacement. We have 2 fundraising ventures to help with this cost. Your assistance with both is requested and would be much appreciated.

1. TRASH & TREASURE STALL at the market – please leave donations at the museum before market day.
2. XMAS RAFFLE to be drawn at the next market (Saturday 17th December) at 1.00pm. Tickets are 50c each or 3 for a \$1. It consists of a variety of things – a cheeseboard, vase, relaxation CD, book, lollies & plate.

**Help
Wanted**

**Brunswick Valley
Historical Society Inc.
Newsletter**

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

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President: Jennifer Elward

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Stephen Hall

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Bronwyn Crook

Treasurer: Susan Tsicalas

Assistant Treasurer:
Sarah Newsome

Market Co-ordinator:
Gordon Wright

Newsletter team:
Susan Tsicalas, Liz Walton &
Work Experience Participants

Patron: Frank Mills OAM.

**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

**Friday 20th January 2012
9.00 am See you there!**

*Deadline for agenda items
Thursday 19th January 2012.

MUSEUM HOURS

**Friday 10am - 2pm
Market Saturday 9am - 1pm**

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



REMINDERS

Each month

- 1st Friday – 10.00 am Executive Meeting
- 2nd Friday – 10.00 am Acquisitions Committee
- 3rd Friday – 9.00 am members monthly meeting
- 4th Friday – 10.00 am Training sessions



NOTE: There is no monthly meeting in December. The next meeting is FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2012 at 9.00 a.m. Members welcome.

There will be no newsletter in JANUARY.



SNAKE TALES

The following articles and advertisement are from the *Northern Star* & *Mullumbimby Star* to entice you to visit our exhibition at the museum where there is much more to engage you about snakes and their happenings related to our area.

"ROCKY'S" RETURN Northern Star Wednesday 7 August 1912

After a tour of a considerable portion of the tableland and part of the southern portion of Queensland in company with "Professor" Morrissey and his snake bite antidote, "Rocky" Vagne has returned to Lismore. A man who travels with an antidote and a cargo of snakes, vipers, adders, and a specimen almost of anything in the reptilian world, is bound to have his career marked by mutations and vicissitudes and ups and downs sufficient to break the heart of Captain Cook's statue. The "Professor" and "Rocky" have had a share of much hard luck. Morrissey, at any rate, so "Rocky" says, was not nearly so careful as a man should be when in the society of snakes and adders, and it was due to one of Morrissey's lapses in this direction that "Rocky", almost lost his life. Morrissey had a most conscientious regard for the comfort of two of his adders, a regard so deep-rooted that he persisted in allowing them to occupy the same bed as he and "Rocky." But there is a cussedness about adders which is inexplicable. By way of a joke, most likely, one of them took advantage of the "Professor's" somnolency, and started to explore the country under the blankets between the "Professor" and "Rocky." But that adder carried the joke too far. "Rocky's" slumber was sound; he was oblivious of everything even the playful pinch which the fangs of an adder can inflict. "Rocky" forgot to wake in time with the result that the adder's playful joke nearly cost the young man his life. Trouble arrived before "Rocky" had time to apply either a ligature or the antidote, and the young disciple nearly passed out. After most careful treatment he got through, and he and the "Professor" have now dissolved. "Rocky" came out of the partnership alright. He was always regarded, by the "Professor" as his disciple, and when, the "Professor" refused to fall in with his more sturdy views upon certain phases of the great Australian thirst, there was nothing for it but to depart. The "Professor" was generous. When "Rocky" left him at Deepwater he carried away the complete secret of the antidote. He knows it now; he has the right to manufacture it without ever having to use Morrissey's

name - not even to label the bottles containing the antidote with the discoverer's title. That is evidence of appreciation, and a practical demonstration of the "Professor's" confidence in the character and ability of his legatee to faithfully prosecute the scientific researches founded by Morrissey for the benefit of that portion of humanity which may come into conflict with adders and snakes.

Northern Star Monday 7 April 1913

A young man from Montecollum claims to have discovered another snakebite antidote which has proved very successful. He showed two punctures on his left thumb, where, he alleged, a black snake bit him, and he cured himself with his own cure. He let the black snake bite him to demonstrate to two other Montecollumites the efficiency of his cure. So satisfied were his friends with the result that they have joined him and formed a company to place, on the market the antidote. On being shown a bottle I found it was of a bright red colour and quite different to Morrissey's. Soon we will have very keen competition among snakebite curers. The person who discovered this cure is only out from the old country about 12 months.

Mullumbimby Star Thursday 11 September 1913

Those who are desirous of witnessing three expert snake-handlers at work will have the opportunity on Saturday night. Two local snake men have challenged **Rocky Vane**, of Lismore, that they will allow any kind of snake to bite them for every time he (Vane) allows them to bite him. The "biting" exhibition will take place alongside **Alf Parcel's**. Morrissey's antidote will be used to checkmate the poison from the snake. (Alf Parcel claimed to be his only agent in Mullum. He ran a billiard saloon and hairdressing business and bicycle retailing business between Wards Emporium and Railway Hotel, Burringbar St.)

Northern Star Wednesday 17 September 1913

MULLUMBIMBY

A public demonstration was given here last Saturday night to prove the efficacy of Morrissey's snakebite antidote. **Rocky Vane** was not present. Instead Messrs. **M. Callaghan** and **A. Stapleton** gave a demonstration, and, while handling the black snakes, Callaghan was bitten three times - each time by a different snake - twice accidentally and once voluntarily. Afterwards a fowl was bitten and subsequently died. Morrissey's antidote was used successfully. The demonstration was under the management of Mr. **E. J. Coghlan**. (Coghlan was a marketing genius!)



Andy Stapleton on the left

Northern Star Wednesday 26 February 1913

Morrissey's Snake-bite Antidote
(Patented)

GUARANTEED TO CURE the bites of all venomous snakes and the adder, the stings of all poisonous insects, bees, wasps, scorpions, and the like; and the stings of bullrouts, blue bottles, and jelly-fish. Invaluable as a remedy for fresh cuts from rusty or poisonous instruments.

Full directions on each bottle.

Sent Anywhere by Post. Price, 3/- per bottle; 5/- complete outfit.

Send for Testimonials. Agents wanted.

E.J. COGHLAN & CO.,
Patentees and Manufacturers,
Mullumbimby, N.S.W.
A.G. Robertson, Ltd, sole agents for
Lismore District.

Mullumbimby Star 18 September 1913:

A chap at Goonengerry got bitten by a black snake while scrub-falling not so long ago, and after being cured by Morrissey's Antidote danced all night at a ball. **Lloyd Johnston** was the chap's name.

Mullumbimby will soon be more than famous for snake-bite antidotes. Since Messrs. **E.J. Coghlan** and Co started with Morrissey's cure, another two have commenced to manufacture antidote, and seem to do well. Coghlan and Co send large quantities to India and have their agents there, and another syndicate who calls theirs the "Gunyah" cure have exported a consignment to Sierra Leone in the West Coast of Africa and have also agents in India. Now, **Andy Stapleton** is out with one too but whether he will export or stick only to the local market is not known. However, Mullumbimby is now being well advertised.

Mullumbimby Star 25 November 1915: **Nutta Singh**, one time a well-known Hindoo in the district, but is now in India, writes to Mr **W. J. Milgate** that he is making good use of a stock of Morrissey's Snake Bite Antidote he took with him. He cured one boy.... (Milgate was headmaster Mooyabil School).

The efficacy of Morrissey's antidote versus other snake-bite treatments was the subject of debate of many letters to the editors. The following Letters to the Editor were printed on Friday 26 September 1913 and Friday 3 October 1913 respectively in the *Northern Star*.

RAZOR v. ANTIDOTE

Sir.-Kindly allow me space to have a word with Mr. N. Lewis. I notice in your issue of the 17th instant, that he says he laughs at antidotes for snake-bites, using nothing but a sharp knife to make the blood run freely. Now, Mr. Editor, a bad memory often gets a man into trouble. I happen to have a copy of the "Northern Star," in which, under the heading, "Snakes In the 'Sun,' office" appears the following:- " 'Curing Snake Bite.' Mr. Lewis believes in Morrissey's antidote. He always carries a bottle with him; also a packet of ordinary table salt, a length of whip-cord, and a razor. If a snake bites him he winds the whip-cord tightly around the arm or leg, just above the bite, to prevent the blood flowing. Then he cuts the flesh about a quarter of an inch deep, joining the two punctures made by the poisoned fangs, and squeezes the sides to make the wound bleed, freely. Then he puts salt on the wound. . . . Afterwards he rubs antidote into the wound." If he believes in his treatment and really does it, that is, simply cut the wound and let the blood run freely, I will give £2 to the Byron Bay Hospital, pay his expenses to Mullumbimby, and give him a share of the house, if he will come to Mullumbimby and take bite for bite against Mick Callaghan, from the public's choice of the reptiles present. Callaghan will use Morrissey's antidote, and Mr. Lewis can use the razor, to make the blood flow, on himself. ... A big house is assured to witness this new antidote of his at work. -Yours, etc.,
E.J. COGLAN

For E. J. COGLAN and CO. Mullumbimby, 22/9/13

Sir;-Kindly allow me space to reply to Mr. Coghlan's letter Mr. Coghlan writes that a bad memory often gets a man into trouble and quotes part of an article which appeared in the Sydney "Sunday Sun" last December, wherein was mentioned my belief in Morrissey's antidote for Snakebite. Now, what appeared in the "Sun" was correct, for up to December last I invariably carried a bottle of Morrissey's antidote with me on my snake hunting trips, also my lance and ligature. From last December to the present time, is a matter of 9 or 10 months, and a great deal may happen in that space of time to alter one's opinion. Early in January last, whilst securing a brown snake, out at Long Bay, Sydney, I received a bite on the finger. The snake being a large one, I immediately applied a ligature, and cut myself in the usual way. I then felt in my pocket for the bottle of Morrissey's antidote and found that I had forgotten to bring it with me, so I was obliged to do without it.for excepting a swelled and burning finger I sustained no ill effects. Naturally this shook my faith in antidotes, and from that day to this I have never used an antidote, although I have been bitten several times by blacks, browns, tigers, copperheads, etc., only using my lance, and in some cases a ligature. ...I do not think I deserve the severe censure that Mr. Coghlan thinks is my due for stating the method I resort to when bitten by a venomous snake. I do not run down Morrissey's or any other antidote, but I can cure myself without one. ...I sincerely hope my not coming to Mullumbimby will not deter Mr. Coghlan sending the £2 - to the Byron Bay Hospital. - Yours etc.,

NOEL E. LEWIS

