



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

July 2016

Cnr Myokum & Stuart Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

OPEN: FRIDAY 10 AM – 12 PM

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

REMINDERS

Next Market: Saturday 20 August 2016. Museum open 9-1.

Please Note: Annual General Meeting: 11 August 2016, 2pm.

Membership subscriptions are now overdue. A big thank you to those who have renewed.



Year 4 Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School Invade the Museum

June's school visitors included 23 enthusiastic students, their relief teacher Ben, teacher aides and parents from the Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School.

Students were treated to activities in the museum building, including writing and posting letters with volunteer Brenda in the Post Office foyer and investigating the Hippy, Bullock, Hydro Power and Indigenous Cultural exhibits with Susan.



Pictured left are a couple of likely lads getting into the Mullumbimby Hydro Electric Power Station exhibit

To the right a group of fascinated students discover the Indigenous Culture exhibit with Susan and class teacher Rosina.



Meanwhile in the shed, Dave and John challenged other groups of students to find photos machinery and other artifacts in the printed catalogs and then relate them to the actual exhibits. Students were invited to write down the names and uses of the artifacts, and to draw them, with some interesting interpretations.

Gordon shared his vast knowledge of the dairy industry and enthralled the groups of students with his embellishments of cattle branding. At the same time Rollie guided students as they learned the skills of rubbing to record and reproduce textures using crayon on sheets of paper laid over local cattle brands.

All in all a great visit enjoyed by students and volunteers alike.

Volunteer Profile

Michael Adams



If you haven't visited the shed in recent months please take the time. You will be pleasantly surprised!!

There you will find the wonderful restoration of grimy, rusty and oily tools, machinery, dairying items and farm implements, and currently underway the restoration of the bullock/banana exhibits.

The revitalised displays are almost solely the work of one man with a self-confessed passion to restore these artefacts back their original condition.

Michael works in the shed voluntarily for three hours, twice a week and his achievements over the past 18 months are extraordinary.

This month the Society salutes you Michael Adams.

Here Michael shares with us a little of his life story

I was born in Blacktown, an outer western suburb of Sydney, NSW Australia. My mother (originally from Northern Ireland, UK) lives in Suffolk Park near Byron Bay. When I was a child my family moved around a lot, so I changed schools a fair bit. My favourite subjects at school were always history and art. I do like the Byron Bay relaxed lifestyle – with the beaches and nature and it's kind of culture (although sadly it is no longer the Byron Bay it used to be and it appears to be changing for the worse).

Since 2012 I have consistently and proactively undertaken voluntary work with three museums (Ballina Naval & Maritime Museum, Cape Byron Lighthouse Maritime Museum and most recently with the Mullumbimby Museum). As a volunteer I was acknowledged in 2015, with my being awarded the National Parks & Wildlife Award for Outstanding Achievement in Volunteering at the Cape Byron Lighthouse Maritime Museum.

Unfortunately, employment opportunities in the museum/ heritage sector here do not exist to my knowledge and I have been actively networking for 4 years. Work opportunities are limited to only volunteer work in the Northern Rivers area. I have always had a positive outlook. However I cannot be certain that this situation will change at any time in the near future.

From Jan 2014 to present- I had taken my own initiatives to branch out into voluntary - virtual/ remote work and I am now working with 3 different museums in the UK (Tyne & Wear archives & museums, British Museum and with the National Holocaust Centre and Museum) – involving ongoing digital archival/ social media projects [crowdsourcing] and research/ writing projects. This provides to me the kind of work opportunities that I could not obtain here.

I have always been very drawn to the UK/ to its unique heritage and history, as I have strong English/ Irish roots. In 2013 (after I obtained British citizenship) I made the decision to seek employment opportunities in the museum/ heritage sector in the UK and for more than 3 years I built up/ maintained a network with museum professionals there, applied for many positions online and had numerous interviews by Skype/ phone. I had been shortlisted numerous times and came very close to reaching my goal.

On a personal level, I do have a good relationship with someone that I value very strongly. Whilst I have always been supported in my endeavours, I came to realise later in 2016 that I needed to reconsider my direction in life. I then decided not to go this path any further. Although it may still be possible someday in the future to live and work in Europe – if circumstances change. In the meantime I will be trying to find a suitable paid work platform here that can come closest to what I have been searching for. Although at the present time – it seems more likely to be in the land care sector (it is not really the direction I wanted to take but for the time being it may have to be until I can get that ultimate breakthrough in the museum/ heritage sector).

I have always loved history and heritage and to bring stories of historic places and objects to life and through my work sharing those stories with others.



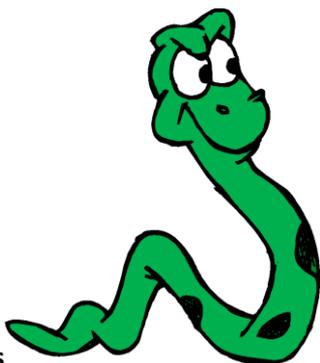
Above are examples of Michael's excellent restoration works in the Dairying and Farm Machinery Exhibits.

Great Turnout for "OLD and GOLD"



It was wonderful to see BVHS volunteers manning the Museum's Hydro Exhibition at this year's Brunswick Heads "Old and Gold". Great work Rollie, John, Brenda, and Gordon (pictured), Susan and Dave (off searching for treasures and bargains).

Tall Tale or True?



Snaky Encounters

Although Morrissey might have been given the impression that the only snakes in the district were deadly, there were plenty of carpet snakes around which apparently liked a varied diet. From the 1920s comes the story of Mr B.C. McCartie, who was going for a swim in a creek near Billinudgel. While making his way through the bush to Hopkins Creek in January of 1921, he was shocked to find a huge reptile under his right foot. So shocked was Mr McCartie that he threw down his towel and the cake of soap he was carrying. Probably even more shocked, the carpet snake struck faster than the McCartie eye could follow, swallowed both articles and made off towards the creek at top speed. "It's to Mr McCartie's credit," Editor McDonald wrote, "that he continued in the same direction and had his swim in the same creek."

From Nancy Keesing's book "Lily On The Dustbin" comes Slang for Australian Women and Families.

"My stove cooks slow as a wet washday."
"All piddle and wind like the barber's cat."
"White leghorn day." (Ladies day at bowls)
"Muscle bound behind the ears."

2 Things you can learn from your dog

- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

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

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**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 - AGM
Thursday 11th August
2016 at 2.00pm
See you there!**

*Deadline for agenda items
Wednesday 10th Aug 2016

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

BVHS Newsletter is produced
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Participants and BVHS Inc.

