



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

October 2016

Cnr Myokum & Stuart Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

OPEN: FRIDAY 10 AM – 12 PM

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

Volunteer Profile

BRENDA DAVIS

I was born in New Brighton in Northern England, one of seven children. As a big family we immigrated to Fremantle in Western Australia 1966. The small timber town of Wilga was a far cry from the hustle and bustle of Liverpool.

After twelve months we moved nearer to Perth and my working career started as a shorthand typist at Watsonia in Spearwood WA. I met my husband John at that time and married the 'Man of My Dreams' before moving to Inverell NSW to follow his work. We have three beautiful daughters.



In 1985 we moved to Dubbo NSW and I spent the next twenty years with Dubbo Family Day Care as an educator, then child development officer and finally Scheme Co-ordinator. We then moved back to Perth where I spent 10 years as Director of a Long Day Care Centre.

A trip around Oz found us here in Billinudgel enjoying a relaxed lifestyle, hence leading to my volunteer work at the BVHS, and also the Brunswick Heads Visitors Centre. Both of these activities provide me with a greater knowledge of the history and features of my new environment.

My projects at the museum have included the preparation of the

Mullum Showgirls exhibit, the Mullum Gallipoli Centenary exhibit and I am currently working with other volunteers and 'Nortec' personnel on the preparation of 'The Brunswick River' display. On Friday's and Market days I work the front desk at the museum. My projects here are keeping me busy and I enjoy the company of the other volunteers and workers at the museum.

REMINDERS

Next Market: Saturday 15 October 2016. Museum open 9-1.
Member submissions to the Newsletter warmly accepted

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

"Take your feet off your body."

"A hand like a foot and a foot like a hand and a face like a howey-doodle."

"Dandy grey russet – the colour of a field mouse's tit."

"Going to see the man with the velvet nose."

Correction to the 'Whitefella' story in September's Newsletter:

The first time the wider public got to see the name that Captain Rous had bestowed on his 'small river' was via the SMH on 3Feb1849, advising of the departure of the 100 ton Schooner 'Louisa' with 'sundries' for the Boyd's cedar camp at 'Brunswick'. (Not the *Midas* of 31Jul1849.)

And further to last newsletter's take on the part convicts played in the discovery of the Brunswick are some stats from historian Mamie O'Keeffe of the Oxley Library, who said *Of the approximately 2062 men who passed through the Moreton Bay penal settlement through to its closure in 1842 (or 1839?), 504 are known to have absconded....* Whilst Mr Google and Mrs Trove provide a range of figures to contradict Ms O'Keeffe's stats, the number of the bounders making it through to civilisation at Port Macquarie to claim the prize of 100 lashes remains a mystery. Most would have crossed the Brunswick, but in their debriefs at Port Macquarie it seems the authorities were more interested in extracting information on large rivers that provided safe harbours than recording the existence of insignificant streams like the Brunswick. As a result, our mighty waterway hardly rated a mention as one of the 'Northern Rivers' until its cedar started to look promising in the late 1840s.

Nevertheless, on 17Dec1835 *The Colonist* published *Copies of Statements made at different times before the resident Police Magistrate, Port Macquarie, by runaway Prisoners of the Crown from the Penal Settlement at Moreton Bay...*, a couple of whom implied the existence of our anonymous anchorage.

The most prominent was Richard Craig, credited by many with discovering *The Big River* (Clarence) and probably the *Black Rock River* (the Richmond). *The Northern Star* went out on a limb on 11Oct1902, stating that *The first European to set foot on the Richmond River was, without doubt, Richard Craig....*

The most detailed was John Ellis who states, *that from Point Danger, about four miles southward, he came to a small creek affected by the tide... opposite Turtle Island (Cook Island off Fingal Head); six miles farther on the sea coast he came to a river very narrow at its mouth, but very deep, with rocky hill and quicksands on its northern side, and on its southern, hard sand (probably Cudgen Creek, Kingscliff, but); it continues narrow for about half a mile; and then branches off in three directions; the southern was wide, and led to a large lake about three miles across.... Ten miles further on the sea coast he came to the **Half Moon River** (probably Cudgera Creek, Hasting's Point), having an entrance similar to the former, the country near it flat and swampy. Three beaches from thence, that is, from point to point, he came to another river, which from the vast quantity of pine trees in its neighbourhood is called **Pine River**; the entrance is about twice the width of the former, but shallow, the country very hilly....*

Is Pine River the Brunswick? After Cudgera Creek, the only crossing worth mentioning before the Richmond is the Brunswick, discounting Mooball Creek at Pottsville, Billinudgel Creek at Wooyung, Yelgun Creek at Fern Beach, the Belongil, Tallow Creek and Taylor's Lake. But at some stage after 'Pine River' it seems he went inland, getting 'bushed' and eventually striking the Richmond 3hrs canoe-time from the entrance.

[*The Sydney Herald* carried a reference to the probable Richmond alias of the **Black Rock River** on 30Apr1832: *In October 1831 the disease ('Eruptive Febrile Disease') was conveyed to Port Macquarie by means of a prisoner, who had absconded from Moreton Bay, and on his way met with a tribe of the Aborigines at **Black Rock River**, a great number of whom were labouring under symptoms of Small-pox....* The wider public was first alerted to the existence of a '**Richmond River**' when *The Sydney Herald* of 16Aug1841 gave an update on the *Progress of Discovery and Occupation of the Colony of New South Wales* in publishing a *Report by the Deputy Surveyor-General on The Clarence River, June, 1839.*

As for the Clarence, *The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser* of 13Feb1830 was the first to report that the **Clarence River** was a river near Port Macquarie, so named by Captain Rous RN. But no other paper took it up, and the *Sydney Gazette* itself again referred to the '**The Big River**' in its edition of 8Dec1838 when reporting Captain Butcher's exploration of 120 miles of the wide waterway. 'Clarence' entered popular usage after *The Australian* of 28Nov1839 was the first to notify the public of the Governor's decree that *The Big River* will henceforth be called the *Clarence River*.

But, as corrected per paragraph one, the newspaper-reading public had to wait another 10yrs to learn of the existence of a Brunswick River.]

NEW BOOKS

**AVAILABLE at the
Museum for only \$28**

Burn My Letters: Tyranny to refuge

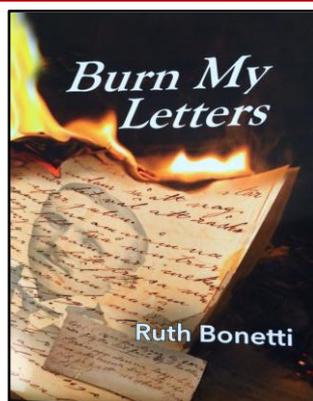
By Ruth Bonetti

At the end of the 19th century Finland is a dark and repressive place.

Pacific and political dissenter Karl Johan Back is conscripted to fight for the Russian despots that occupy his country. In 1899 he flees to an untamed land on the far side of the world. Finding refuge on ridges overlooking the Byron Bay lighthouse in northern New South Wales, he grows orchids and lush tropical fruit.

Intrigued by her 'black sheep' great-uncle, Ruth Bonetti pieces together the motives that propelled his flight. Finnish relatives share a treasure-trove of letters that provide answers to the many questions raised by Karl Johan's quest for freedom.

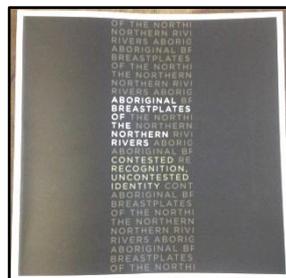
Why did Russian military police pursue him as far as Suez? Why did he publish under a pen-name? And, most intriguing, why did he implore his family to burn his letters?



**CURRENT EXHIBITION at Tweed Regional
Museum, Murwillumbah**

Aboriginal Breastplates of The Northern Rivers: Contested Recognition, Uncontested Identity

By Ian Fox



The book is available for borrowing from the Museum and copies can be purchased at Tweed Regional Museum, Murwillumbah.

Ian has a section on Drumble Charlie, King of the Brunswick Blacks and his breastplate has been loaned to the Tweed Regional Museum for the exhibition. A visit is highly recommended.



The Hayward Family from What They Did by Neta McKinnon

John William Hayward was born on 11 November 1906 and married Mabel Irene Chawner on 18 June 1927 at the Billinudgel school residence. Mabel was a daughter of Thomas Henry and Margaret Chawner who taught at the school for many years.

John Hayward worked on the land for a short period at Piffs dairy, but later was engaged as greenkeeper at the Mullumbimby Bowling Club, and in the late 30s was an usher and bouncer at the Empire Picture, at the time Mr Starr was running the reels.

The Haywards lived at 53 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby, and whilst there John was involved with the town band, the scouts, and enjoyed his tennis. He left Mullumbimby during the war years and was in Darwin at the time of the bombings. An allergy to khaki led to his discharge from the army.

Mable Hayward remained in Mullumbimby with their five children.

John William, born 22 April 1928, went to Sydney as a fitter and turner at Chullora and worked on the railway for 44 years. In July 1950 he married Thelma McLeod of Casino and they had two children, Robert James, born 23 July 1951 and Nelda Irene, born 22 July 1957. John died 4 February 1992.

Thomas Henry, born 27 April 1930, worked as a plumber for R.A. Pidd in Mullumbimby. He married in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Mullumbimby on 9 April 1955 and two children were born, Susan Anne on 14 September 1959, and Kenneth James on 2 November 1961. His second marriage to Lorraine Corbett took place on 29 July 1978.

Dorothy Jean, born 16 March 1932, worked in the early 1940's after school and at weekends at the Empire Café then run by Mrs L.E. Blyth. She also worked at the Blue-Bird Café opposite in Burringbar Street, run by Eric and Pearl Bailey. From 1948 until 1959 she worked at Budds in Mullumbimby and then in Murwillumbah for six months before she married.

Dorothy was married in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Mullumbimby on 23 January 1960 to Ralph Robert Ledwidge from Paddington, Sydney. They had three children Robert, Carol Ann and Margaret Joan.

Dorothy and Ralph returned to Mullumbimby in April 1973, bought Bert McDougall's house at 32 Dalley Street and Ralph worked at Budds in Murwillumbah. Dorothy was a primary school Assistant Librarian in 1975 but in time they moved away to seek other work. Ralph died on 26 March 1996, aged 64.

Donald Robert, born 26 October 1936 was a high school teacher.

Colin James, born 28 May 1939, married Jan Percy on 5 October 1963. They had two children, Dianne and Steven John.

Source: Dorothy Ledwidge, daughter of John and Mabel

Tall Tale or True?

Moving the Cedar

Peter Tsicalas in his book **"Mullumbimby – Foundation Events"** described the trials of the cedar getters in getting it out.



'In Apr1850 50 ton Clara got under weigh from the anchorage inside the bar of the Brunswick.... In crossing the bar the keel of the schooner caught the ground ...causing the vessel to swing broadside on the rocks, where she remained fast. The wind increased to half a gale, and continued for three or four days, sending in a very heavy swell, which knocked the bottom of her completely out.... The entrance to the River Brunswick is reported to be the most dangerous on the coast. Captain Morgan had got complacent after managing to take Clara and 34,000ft of cedar across the Bruns bar 2mths earlier.

Over the 37yrs to 1886, the Brunswick sacrificed 11 ships on the altar of the bar to appease the gods for the extraction of ~3.3 million superficial feet of timber for Sydney/Melbourne consumption. Over the 19yrs to 1886, Byron Bay waved goodbye to ~6.6 million feet using the surfing technique, 9 ships suffering a wipe out on the beach. Loading through the surf was a tedious business, the whim of Neptune causing the Atlantic to take 4mths to bring on board 117 logs in early 1871, in between times sailing to Brisbane and back for revictualling.

*In May1871 a 'Town and Country' journalist passed through and commented that ... The Brunswick is now the chief seat of the cedar trade, from fifty to sixty men being employed at it. The dwellings are on the south bank, just inside the Heads, where are also to be found a store and a comfortable accommodation-house kept by Mr **Marshall**.... Cedar logs scattered along the sea beach indicate the approach to the river; these logs being recovered and shipped by a process known as surfing, in which men, bullocks, ropes, and boats co-operate and sharks look on. The Brunswick bar is rather favourably spoken of as having from seven to ten feet of water, of a shifting character, but narrow across, and soon passed. Navigation for vessels only extends to just inside, but arms are navigable six miles by boats. The Julia loads inside, and two vessels load outside - all three belonging to Mr Wright of Sydney.... (The Julia turned up in Sydney 10Jun71 with 37,000ft of 'Brunswick cedar').*

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

Cnr Myokum & Stuart Sts
Mullumbimby
P.O. Box 378 Mullumbimby 2482
02 6684 4367
bvhs84@yahoo.com.au
www.mullumbimbymuseum.org.au
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/MullumbimbyMuseum

Patrons: Frank Mills OAM
Basil Cameron
President: Stephen Hall
Vice President: Gordon Wright
Min .Secretary: Brenda Davis
Cor. Secretary: Susan Tsicalas
Treasurer: Susan Tsicalas
Assistant Treasurer:
Sarah Newsome
Committee Members:
Sadie Mudge
Jennifer Elward
Roland Sjoberg
Market Managers:
Kim Pedersen
Sarah Newsome

Newsletter team:
John Davis & 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
November 2016 at
2.00pm
See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items
Wednesday 2nd Nov 2016

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

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



WORKING BEES



Stephen, Mitsou and Roland

Last Friday and this Monday members have been beavering away working on improving the grounds of the museum aesthetically and safety-wise.

As the post and rail fence currently on 2 sides of the museum grounds is rotting out we are preparing to replace it with a post and chain fence to help improve the layout of the market stalls.

Bunnings at Byron Bay have very generously donated the posts and chain for the fence. We are very appreciative of this donation. Members are currently painting them ready for planting. Thanks Dave, John D, Mitsuo, Stephen, Roland & Brenda. Looking good!



John D

The huge camphor laurel on Stuart Street has become a problem for some of the market stalls because of its long low overhanging branches so members have lopped, chopped and loaded branches onto a ute for disposal.



John T., Susan and Roland

Special thanks to John T. for the use of his ute and for taking the pruning debris to his property to later dispose of. Thanks to Peter for special ladder & chain saw entertainment and Roland for preventing a possible disaster.

Thanks Stephen for brush cutting the corner which had become a jungle and dumping ground harbouring goodness knows what nasties along with heaps of morning glory vine.

Hopefully, in conjunction with the community gardens we might be able to get the creek banks cleaned up and the area looking attractive.



Susan and Peter