



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

April 2017

Cnr Myokum & Stuart Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

OPEN: FRIDAY 10 AM – 12 PM

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

At our meeting on Thursday we had the great pleasure of conferring Life Membership to the Brunswick Valley Historical Society to three of our stalwart members. **Frank Mills** and **Cr Basil Cameron**, our patrons, were delighted to present the recipients with their certificates.



Unfortunately **Sadie Mudge**, whose award was very overdue, was unwell and couldn't make the ceremony so instead Frank, Basil, Ruth Fox (a long time friend of Sadie) and Susan went to her place to present her certificate. Sadie has been a volunteer at the museum for 25 years. In that time she has been particularly responsible for accessioning our acquisitions which can be a tedious and arduous task though an interesting one. Also for at least the last 10 years Sadie has been an executive member on the board. Being Brunswick Valley born and bred she has been a source of invaluable information for the newbies in the area trying to do their best to get up to speed on the valley's history.

Basil, Ruth, Sadie and Frank.

Gordon Wright took over the management of the markets from Gerard and Jenny Verroen and helped to grow the markets to what they are today. Gordon was market manager for over 10 years and has been either President or Vice President of the Society for at least the last 10 years. His market experience has been invaluable for the following market managers and his expertise is still called on in times of doubt. His ongoing membership of the board has enabled it to move smoothly through the many changes that have occurred.



Gordon and Frank



Our third member is **Barry Lomath**. Since moving into his home opposite the museum over 15 years ago, Barry has taken a very caring interest in the museum: mowing the grounds, brush cutting, keeping an eye on the building, checking toilets are locked, fixing sirens that go off, and generally being our guardian angel. It is such a relief!

Basil and Barry

Congratulations to our new life members. It is so well deserved, and a huge thank you for your commitment to the society, which is greatly appreciated.

MUSEUM REMINDERS

NEW OPENING TIME: From Tuesday 11th April, the museum will be open on Tuesdays from 10am to 12pm as well as Fridays and market Saturday.

Next meeting Thursday 4th May

N.B. Memberships for 2017 due. Thanks to those who have renewed.

Next market: Easter Saturday 15th April. On the day the museum will be open from 9am to 1pm.

More Brunswick Visitors

A reporter from the *Sydney Mail* discovered the place in early 1885, taking a buggy ride from Lismore with four companions and recording that *Through the settlement of Bex Hill, where the principal business places are Mr Bryant's hotel and Mr Withers' accommodation house, past Mr T.T. Ewing's fine property, and from thence to Clunes, the road alternately led over hilly and level country.... At Clunes Messrs T. Moses and Co. have a store and post-office, and with a view of opening up the district, Mr Jarvis, a local hotel-keeper, intends putting on a coach to Byron Bay. The latter is distant from Lismore 30 miles by the nearest and 35 miles by the longest, but better road of the two. In expectation of a visit from the Ministerial party, this was repaired at some considerable cost, the average per mile for the whole distance being £150. Cuttings were made round sidelings, gullies bridged, and scrub cleared.... If the railway to the Tweed be constructed, every landholder here should with judicious management be wealthy in a few years....* (Alas, the Ministerial party, consisting of Colonial Secretary Dalley, Colonial Treasurer Dibbs and a bunch of ministers, bypassed Byron, Brunswick and the Tweed, returning home exhausted after banquets at Woodburn, Coraki, Lismore, Casino and Ballina 16/17Apr1885, disappointing the Byronians under the leadership of J.B. Kelly, who had gone over-the-top in planning effort, forming separate 'Reception', 'Escort', 'Transit', 'Decoration' and 'Banquet' Committees.)

The road divides the watersheds of Wilson's and Cooper's creeks, the proposed railway line running almost through the Big Scrub. For tortuous windings, acute angles, and dangerous-looking slopes, I do not think that this road could be equalled by even the Zigzag over the Blue Mountains....

About 25 miles from Lismore we reached Taggarah (aka Targurah and other variations, meaning "A stopping place or camping ground"), the farm of Mr J.B. Kelly, a gentleman who takes every opportunity of furthering the importance of the district. His farm contains 640 acres, and is situated on the main road to the Brunswick, the Tweed, and Byron Bay.... Deeming it prudent to ride from Taggarah, we procured horses... from Mr Kelly... and pushed on to the bay, which was four miles distant by the nearest route, but eight miles by the road we travelled.... An abrupt turning-off from the Tweed-road led us through the skirts of the Big Scrub.... Then came a stretch of heath; and after crossing a couple of creeks, and mounting a sand ridge the full expanse of Byron Bay burst on our view. A rapid gallop... along the beautiful stretch of beach... ended with a swim in the surging waters of the bay....

Mr Jarman's house of accommodation is at present the only business place at the Bay; but, as a proof of the settlement in the district, I was informed that fully 300 persons were present at the races held on the beach a few weeks since; where they all came from is difficult to say....

Shortly afterwards he ventured onto the Brunswick. *Except the route across the terrible but picturesque "Nightcap" range, there is no other road to the Tweed River and Queensland than by the Brunswick River. This is distant from Lismore about 33 miles, and a coach runs from the last-mentioned town every Saturday, returning the following Monday.*

A township is slowly but surely being formed at the Heads. At present there is one hotel, two stores, the ferryman's residence, and the post and telegraph office. The latter is to be shifted this week from a ramshackle old building, which also acts as the pilot station, to a new one on the opposite or south side of the river. It is here that the township of the future will flourish. Mr Marshall's commodious and comfortable hotel... is the only business place at present – but a new hotel is, I understand, shortly to be built, and already a courthouse and police station are in the course of erection.... (Henry Stone eventually opened his Court House Hotel in Fingal Street in Aug1886). The stores, one of which is on either side of the river, belong respectively to Messrs Lund and Haines; and another store at Nubhoygum, five miles south, is kept by Mr French. The post and telegraph office is in charge of Mr J. O'Mealley (transferred from Casino as the first 'Telegraph Station Master' in May1884), who certainly leads a lonely and uneventful life within view of the ocean highway from Sydney to Brisbane.

The road from Lismore traverses the "Big Scrub" for nearly 20 miles, and then runs out on the beach, finally ending at the Heads. Here the main stream must be crossed if the traveller wishes to proceed to the Tweed, and the south arm if the Brunswick district be the destination. At present an ordinary boat is the only means of crossing the river, horses having to be swum behind the boat, the distance varying from 20 to 70 yards. At certain times and tides horses have considerable difficulty in crossing, owing to the looseness of the sand. No punt can be worked in this spot, but higher up it is said that one will someday be placed across the main stream (where 'McCurdy's Wharf Ferry' was operational in 1887, while H. Rogers had scored the 'Brunswick Ferry' contract at the Heads in Dec1885). Even in the event of this occurring, wheeled traffic could not go through to the Tweed, or rather to Murwillumbah, the principal town on that

river, owing to only a bridle track existing for the first 10 miles after leaving the Brunswick. Conveyances can, however, get through to Cudgen, five miles from the heads, by travelling for several miles along the beach – an unpleasant journey at high tide....

Large quantities of cedar were exported from the Brunswick fully a quarter of a century ago, but the industry was subsequently almost abandoned in consequence of the low price ruling for the timber..., coupled with the high freight charges, due to the hefty insurance costs as a result of the risk associated with the dangerous bar. Nothing but the opening of the channel will save the district from going steadily down hill. There is no market for produce but Sydney, and this is shut out by the want of proper means of communication.... So a breakwater is urgently required, and/or a jetty at Byron Bay. The tracks (roads would be a misnomer) into the interior are simply execrable....

The common phrase of "living in hope" will very shortly and truthfully describe the condition of the selectors on the Brunswick and surrounding country. Farming does not pay.... Why, then, it may be asked, was the ground ever selected, or what inducements were there for people to settle in the district?.... Farming, in the proper sense of the word, would pay if there were only an outlet for produce....

After a visit to 'Mullimbimbie' and district, he then proceeds to the Tweed, a distance of 25 miles. There are two roads or rather tracks in this direction, one following the beach to the Tweed Heads, and the other running through the back country to Murwillumbah.... Swimming our horses across the Brunswick River, Mr R.C. Ewing and another friend, whom I was fortunate enough to fall in with, accompanied me along the beach for nearly six miles, when we struck the turn for Burringbar..., the home of Mr **R. Campbell Ewing**.... The main road to the Tweed, the telegraph line, and the railway has been surveyed through the selection, so that altogether Mr Ewing may be regarded as fortunate in his choice of locality....

From Burringbar, The road to the Tweed, formerly a bridle track, is now being widened, so that it will soon be available for wheeled traffic. That, however, to the Brunswick, a distance of nine or ten miles, is as yet only a bridle track, and badly requires forming....

And down that bridle track in late 1884 came a SMH journalist, commenting that *There is no coach, for the very good reason that from the Tweed to the Brunswick and from the Brunswick to near Lismore there is not a road upon which a coach or anything in the shape of a conveyance could be driven....* In coming from the Tweed the heroic horsemen struck 'the pocket' (Billinudgel) and here we leave the main track which leads to the river bank, and is continued on the other side (where the rail line will cross near M'Curdie's wharf). No boat having been placed there..., they head for the coast and seem to have gotten 'bushed'. As we ride along the beach with the swirl of the waves washing our horses' hoofs, we see two solitary rocks... named by the blacks Wollumbingill (~2km south of Pottsville).... We soon after reach the mouth of the river and swim our horses from sand-bank to sand-bank.... (So why didn't they try that at or near McCurdy's Crossing?)

(The Sydney Mail serialised a yarn, 'By a Northern Beach', by **Thomas Ewing** MLA 29Aug-24Oct1896, the edition of 2Sep96 recounting a bit of aboriginal folklore: "All their legends," said the protagonist, "are about personal strength. For instance, the giant fighter from the Richmond, after hacking his way through the weaker men to the north, beset at last by overwhelming numbers, climbed to the top of Wollumbin, and in his death agony seized a great basaltic fragment and hurled it away to the sea, where it lies to-day abreast high water, under the name Wollumbin-gil.")

Courtesy of Peter Tsicalas



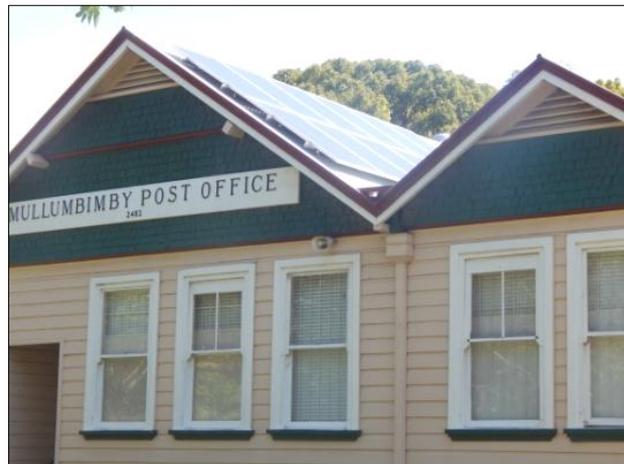
**BRUNSWICK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. MUSEUM
RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP 2017**

Membership Fees	Payment Options	
Adults \$15	<i>Cheque/postal order payable</i>	<i>Direct deposit</i>
Concession \$10	Brunswick Valley Historical Society	BSB: 032 583 (Westpac)
Students \$5	Inc	Account No.: 201192
Printed mailed copy of newsletter \$5 p.a.	PO Box 378 Mullumbimby 2482	Reference: Your name

Name I wish to receive the newsletter by: email post pick up at museum

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

March has been an exciting month at the museum. We have had 22 **solar panels** installed, thanks to our collaboration with COREM. We now have a 7.69kw system which should handle air-conditioning in the exhibition rooms comfortably. The contract was organised by Heinz Solar and their installers have placed the panels very sympathetically. We were fortunate to have a fine day for the installation.



100 Years 3 & 4 **Ocean Shores Public School** students, their teachers and parents visited our school. Ruth Fox entranced them with stories of growing up on a farm at Myocum. It was a terrific visit thoroughly enjoyed by students, teachers and museum volunteers. It was delightful to see the children so engaged and asking great questions.



Thanks to Ruth and the volunteers for sharing their experiences with the children.

In the museum with Ruth, Brenda and Susan



Continued page 6: In the shed

NEW ACQUISITION

Mullumbimby RSL, in the refurbishment of the cenotaph, recently donated to BVHS Inc the sculpture that had been designed and made by **Kevin Brereton**. The sculpture is 183cm high and constructed from sheet bronze. *Entitled "Heritage," the sculpture is designed to express in a simple symbolic way, the thought underlying the words "Lest We Forget," that the sacrifices made by our war dead have given all Australians a proud yet challenging heritage....* The lower section of the sculpture in dull corroded metal suggests the savagery and destruction of war with its twisted and jagged shapes. The upper portion, a single shaft of bright metal symbolises the heritage of freedom. A spotlight was directed on to the end of the shaft at night. It was unveiled Anzac Day 1964 by S.T. Stephens, MLA.

*The sculptor, **Kevin William Brereton** (1933-2008), was at the time, an art teacher at Mullumbimby High School. He trained part-time at the National Gallery School, Victoria (1951-52), and as an art teacher at the Prahan Technical Institute (1952-54). Beginning with portrait and landscape painting he branched into sculpture and ceramics, establishing together with his wife, fibre artist Janet Brereton, a gallery and pottery at New Brighton NSW ('Brunswick Art Centre' 1965-1970s)*



Kevin was most active as an artist in the 1960s & 70s, when he conducted workshops and exhibited ceramics and sculpture at the Brunswick Art Centre and at solo exhibitions in Brisbane, Newcastle, Sydney and Canberra. He was involved in the Craft Association of Queensland and was a delegate to the 1972 World Craft Council conference study tour of Europe. His largest work is the facade of the Library Building at the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education in Rockhampton (1976-77). Another example of his work is the Stations of the Cross at Saint Joseph's Church, Tweed Heads.



*Kevin also created a new trophy for the Blessing of The Fleet at Easter at Brunswick Heads (March 1967). A contest was held to select the best decorated trawler in the harbour. *The trophy, a sculptured model of a crowing rooster, was presented for the first time to the skipper of the winning trawler....The trophy is the work of Mullumbimby High School Art Teacher Mr K. Brereton and was pre-engraved with the names of the winners of the two previous ceremonies: 1965, "Betty", skippered by J. Storey and owned by A. Vidler; 1966, "Jubilee", owned and skippered by R. Redman.. ..The award went to the "Omega," jointly owned by Messrs A J Millican and Dunstan and skippered by Ron Adams.**

(N.B. If anyone knows of this sculpture and/or its location Kevin's son, Kurt, would be delighted to see it or a photograph of it)

As a mature age student, Kevin went on to qualify as an Architect (1984), winning the University Medal. He then largely disappeared from the public arena to support his invalid wife. During this time he became involved in croquet, putting his skills to the manufacture of mallets and producing coaching videos.

The later years of his life saw a return to landscape and portrait painting, some of which were exhibited in Melbourne in 2004 and in Wollongong together with his son in 2005.

Sources: www.daa0.org.au/bio/kevin-william-brereton/biography/

Brereton Art Gallery <http://kwbrereton.weebly.com/>

The Brunswick Byron Advocate April 1964, March 1967

MARKET MANAGER



On a sad note, at our April meeting, we farewelled Kim Pedersen, one of our market managers. She is moving to Queensland after the April market. Thank you Kim for your friendship, enthusiasm and great attitude while managing the market with Sarah and for being a member of the board. We will miss you and wish you all the best. Hope you find heaps of sapphires!

Sarah and Kim, market managers, at our Market's 25th celebration.

CYCLONE DEBBIE

We hope that our members were safe and dry during the cyclone. The museum experienced flooding which came in under the back of the museum, through the slab hut and over all the outside exhibits leaving one almighty mess. Fortunately the ride on mower was up high enough but not so the lawn mower. Big thanks to Roland for taking it home, cleaning it up, drying it out and getting it working again. Much appreciated.

The grounds were inundated with sticks, logs, a washing machine, drums, rubbish bins etc. Thanks to the members who cleaned up the mess and to Fergus, a work for the dole participant, for assistance with sorting out under the museum.

Thanks to Peter and Susan for cutting up the tree that came down and to Ken for carting it away to the tip.

Thanks to Byron Shire Council for carting away the mess accumulated from the flood. All is looking spic and span again.

OCEAN SHORES PUBLIC SCHOOL Cont.

In the Shed with Gordon, Stephen, Dave & John



BVHS Inc wishes all our members a safe and happy Easter.



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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Sarah Newsome

Newsletter team:
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Experience Participants
Public Officer: Susan Tsicalas

All members are invited to contribute to this newsletter

*Please leave material with Sarah or Liz
Wed Thur 10 am - 2 pm.
Or email to:
bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au

NEXT MEETING
Thursday 4th May 2017
2.00pm
See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items
Wednesday 3rd May 2017

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

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

