



NEWSLETTER

July 2017

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

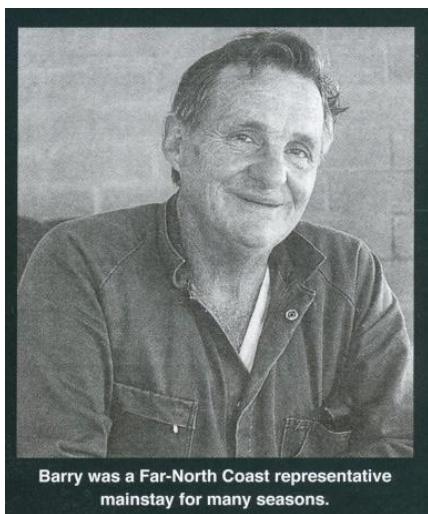
Cnr Myokum & Stuart Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

OPEN: TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 10 AM – 12 PM

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

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Barry Lomath



Barry was a Far-North Coast representative mainstay for many seasons.

I was born in Brisbane to English parents, dad a saddler in the army. After the war we moved to Byron Bay in 1945 for dad to commence a saddlery business. Realising the coast was not the ideal place, we moved to Mullumbimby in 1947, so have lived in this wonderful community for 70 years.

Attended school when both high school and primary were on the Jubilee Avenue site.

Left school after completing my intermediate, and commenced an Electrical apprenticeship with Col Watson Electrical. Also commenced my cricket career at the age of 11. Played at Country Week, District and local level for 60 years, and was privileged by having the "Barry Lomath Oval" named in the 90's, and receiving Life Membership, also having my career documented by a Melbourne

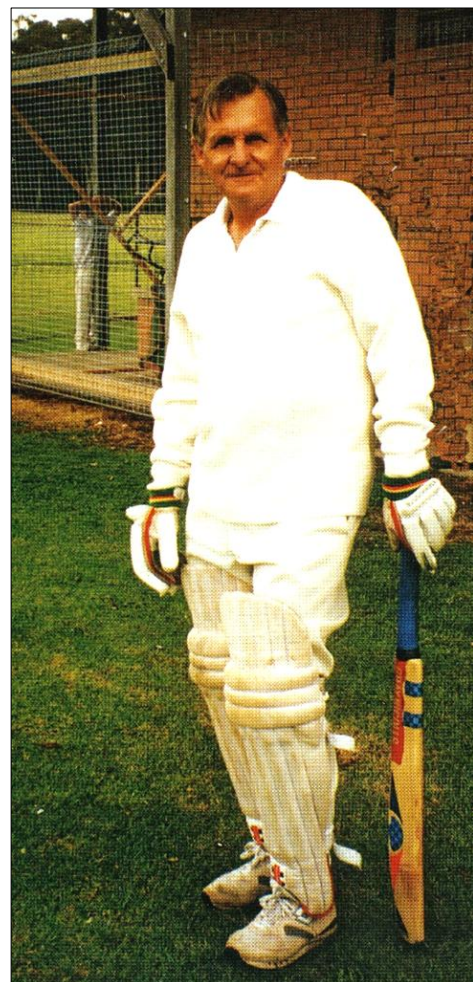
cricket historian and published in 2011.

I went to work in Brisbane upon finishing my apprenticeship, and then to Tennant Creek in the underground mine. Moved back to Mullumbimby in 1962 to start work with the Mullumbimby Municipal Council Electrical Service. Married in 1964 and had 3 children and of course became involved in P & C, Little Athletics, soccer and hockey. Became a life member of the Mullumbimby Soccer Club in the 90's.

I have been an active member of the then Methodist Church, now the Uniting Church for all of my life. We along with another couple hosted a strong youth group during the 80's and 90's, organising 4 Debutant Balls for the young people of our community. I enjoyed many great events with these young people.

In 1980 I commenced my own Electrical Repair Business as the Council Electrical Department had been taken over by the Northern Rivers County Council, which of course involved much restructuring, and they closed the Mullumbimby Council Showroom which of course took away my passion for appliance repairs. I sold my business after 20 years to my son-in-law and decided it was time to retire. We moved from Dalley Street (where we had been for 38 years) to Stuart Street which is opposite the Historical Society.

I joined a wonderful team of volunteers who maintain the history and events of this great little town. Received Life Membership of this organisation just this year. I'm sure there are many more deserving recipients for this recognition than myself.



Unreliable Memories of the Brunswick

On 21Jun1920 anonymous 'Old Cedar Getter' wrote to the *Northern Star* suggesting that *A description of what I have seen of the North Coast, from my youth to the present, may be of some interest to your readers.* At Armidale in 1865 I was anxious to see the Tweed, where an old acquaintance of the family – the late **Joshua Bray** – who, in connection with the late S.W. **Gray** (then member for Kiama), had taken up a good deal of land.... So I accompanied the Inspector of Police, Mr John Brown, on a tour of his bailiwick.

At Grafton there was not even a punt, so we had to swim the horses behind a boat.... Casino consisted of a good hotel, two or three shops, a good many houses, and a police barracks.... At Lismore was one hotel..., police barracks, and some more little houses scattered about. The Girards had a station and boiling down works, and lived in a nice big house on a hill, where we slept and were made welcome.

From there a 70 mile trip down the river to Ballina..., which struck me as a scattered little hamlet, the biggest building being a court house, which was just completed (opened Jun1865), in which we camped for the night; so I didn't think there could have been a recognised hotel in the place. Constable Henderson was in charge, and he next day guided us along the beach.... I remember well about twenty miles after leaving Ballina having to leave the beach and to climb over some sand hills to avoid a high rocky headland, which Henderson pointed out as Cape Byron. There was not a sign of human habitation to be seen. (Look at it now.) About ten miles further on we came to the Brunswick. This little river has three arms, which all join together at its mouth, so by crossing them separately they were quite fordable, being little over the girth at low tide.



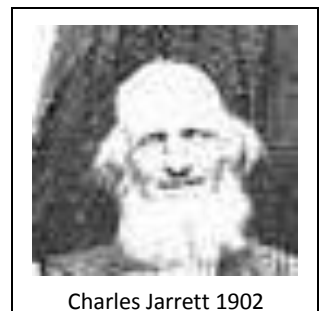
Robert Marshall 1902

[Presumably his failure to mention any sign of white life at the Brunswick River implies the cedar merchants had continued to boycott the place following shipping disasters on the Bruns bar? His mate **Joshua Bray** had come through in Jun63, similarly implying a ghost town, and a month later recording that apart from 20 cedar getters and their families at Terranora, *there is no-one else nearer than Ballina... and then the next people are at Casino and Lismore....* And if absence of evidence implies evidence of absence then it all casts doubt on the claim for the alleged arrival of **George Simpson** in 1857 to mark the whitefellas' transition from transient to permanent missionaries. So **Robert Marshall**, who led the cedar-getters' return in 1866, can reclaim his position on the pedestal. Over the period Jan-Mar1867 Tintenbar-based cedar-getter and diarist **Dick Glascott** was intermittently 'at the Brunswick' crosscutting and squaring logs for his in-law **Charlie Jarrett**. And 1867 was the year James Ainsworth Jnr was born at Brunswick Heads. His father, James Snr, and grandfather Tom, both nominally Ballina-based, could have been here since 1864, the year

James Snr said marked the revival of the cedar trade on the Brunswick, as told in his 'unreliable memories' recorded in 1922.

By Apr/May1871 a reporter with the '*Town and Country Journal*' was able to comment that *The Brunswick is now the chief seat of the cedar trade, from fifty to sixty men being employed at it....* 'The Brunswick' is probably a general area term, inclusive of the very busy camp at Tyagarah.]

He continued his story in the *Northern Star* on 3Jul1920: *My last description of the Tweed was up to about 1884. I now revert to the Brunswick, in which place I then had settled. For its history before that time I have to use information derived from the old hands generally, and from Mr R. Marshall in particular, who settled there in 1869.... Marshall tells me at that time the 'Francis George' and another little schooner traded over the Brunswick for cedar. (The 'Francis George' came to grief on the North Head rocks 8May1866, and after rebirthing by **Charles Jarrett** it foundered off the Brunswick entrance 12Mar1870 with the loss of all hands.) It must also be remembered that surfing was often done in calm weather. A schooner would anchor close to the beach; bullocks would draw the cedar log out through the surf, men would dog them together, and with a long rope the raft so made would be pulled by winch out to the vessel, and there loaded. This was often done on the seven mile beach, Tallow Beach; in fact, all along the coast in suitable places where timber was handy to the beach. It would have been about this time that a possibly unprecedented incident happened a few miles north of the Brunswick Heads. Mr **John Boyd**, brother of the T. Boyd mentioned in my last, was coming from Cudgen to the Brunswick when he came on a vessel bottom upwards. On examination he was sure he could detect answers to his tapping....* (This oft-told tale evolved from the events of May1849).



Charles Jarrett 1902

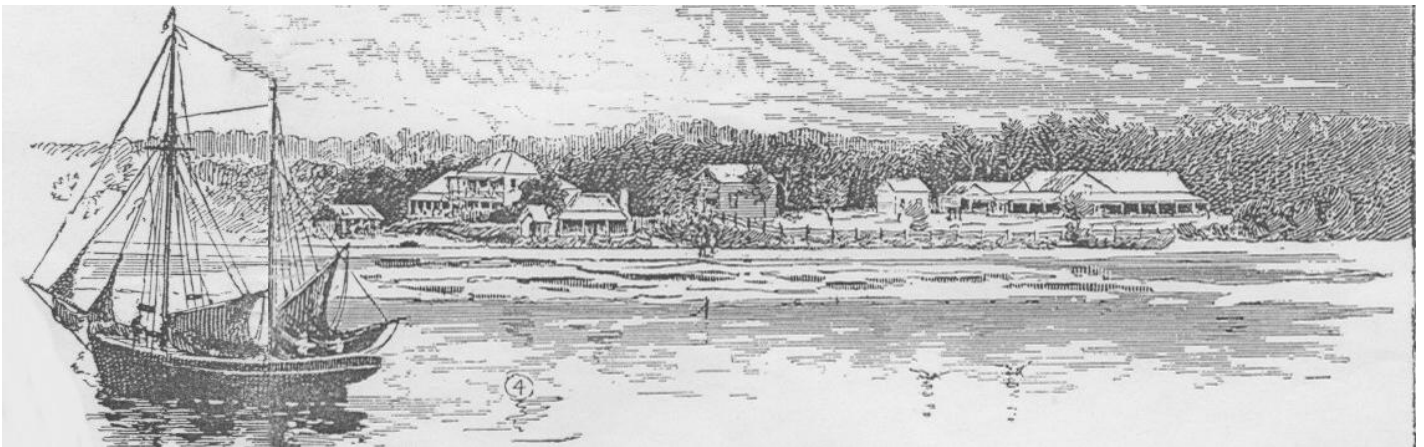
Sometime after this another total wreck occurred on the south side, and for years after parts of her hull could be seen at low water. (The next wreck was the 'Clara' 16Apr1850, a victim of the north rocks but salvaged and rebadged as the 'Emma'. The first wreck on the south side was the 'Miranda' on 29Dec1874). *The Julia (Capt Jackson) went ashore about the same place, but after a while was got off with the help of **Marshall** and others.* (Best that can be determined, the Julia made 3 trips to the Brunswick in 1871, 3 in 1872 and the last in Mar73, after which Captain Harry Jackson became a Richmond identity). *Blacks were fairly numerous, many of them proving useful to the timber getters.*



'Cudgery Jack' Johnson
1908

Sometime in the seventies a flagstaff was erected on the north head, with old Capt Simpson in charge, and a Government's boat crew. Mr R. Marshall then started a boarding house, where the boat's crew boarded; and it was very handy for all visitors and travellers, for under the able management of the then Mrs Marshall the place became popular. [The earliest reference to **George Simpson** is his 1871 enrolment in the Electorate of Clarence, along with three other Bruns residents - **Robert Marshall**, **James Smith** and '**Cudgery Jack**' **Johnson**. Best estimate is that Scotsman Simpson manned a signal station at Brunswick Heads from 1872, 2yrs after Scotsman William McGregor established a full Pilot's service on the Tweed. Simpson's post (and possible boat crew) is believed to have been a private arrangement, established by a consortium of timber merchants, until the Government created the position of 'Signal-man, Brunswick River' wef 1Sep1880, but with no boat crew on the payroll.]

In 1880 it became known that the CSR Co was erecting a sugar mill at Condong on the Tweed, and this started a lot of people from the Clarence, Richmond, and other places.... In 1881 and 1882 a lot of land was taken up.... Brunswick went ahead and became a busy place. It was the nearest outlet for many, and the schooners traded pretty regularly. **J. Mills** opened a store and butcher's shop. **R. Marshall** built a good hotel, got a license, and did a roaring trade for many years. Roads were being made, things began to improve. A court house was erected and **Constable Andrews** was the first official (May1886). Mr **H. Stone** built the two-storey Court House Hotel and **D. Haines** started another store. A school was opened, at first in a primitive little building, the teacher being Mr **John Burgess**, who brought the children on well, and through his genial and kindly ways won the respect and esteem of all. Then a School of Arts was built (opened Jan1892), the Government giving £ for £ for its erection. A progress association was formed, which did good work for the district in many ways. ('The Selectors and Settlers Association of the Brunswick River' representing Bruns, Byron and Mullum interests was formed in early 1883, but seemed to be ineffectual until a pukka 'Brunswick Progress Association' appeared in early 1887, which again became moribund around 1890 with formation of a Mullum Prog Assoc.)



Boat is either Ketch White Cloud or Ketch Dolphin anchored off Mullumbimbi St 1886

The increase of population demanded more traffic, so in about 1887 D.L. Brown and Co., of Brisbane, ran two vessels here for some time (The 'Arakoon' started in 1874, joined by the 'Kalara' in 1881). I must not forget to mention the White Cloud, or her jovial and humorous Capt Gringle, familiarly known as Moses, who had traded to the Brunswick all the time I was there and long before it. (**Alex Kethel's** ketch 'White Cloud' under command of **James Cringle** was a regular trader to the Brunswick 1884-1891. She was wrecked off Moruya 1893 with Captain Archibald Moncrief at the tiller). In 1889 three steamers and four schooners took refuge in Byron Bay from a violent southerly gale, and during the night the gale veered round to the north-east with increased violence and blew them all ashore complete wrecks, except the Agnes which being lightly loaded, was driven practically high and dry and was subsequently got off, brought to Sydney and repaired. (Four schooners and a brigantine came to grief at Byron Bay during the storm of 17Jul1889. **Alex Kethel's** Agnes was floated off late Aug89, towed to Bruns and loaded with cedar, departed for Sydney in

company with *White Cloud* 3Sep89 and arrived Sydney 11Sep89 to undergo repairs, by which time *White Cloud* was on its way back to Bruns. Agnes was back on the job by late Oct89.)

In Mar1890 'Agnes' was again sent to the Brunswick..., when A great gale sprang up on their way..., creating another bit of oft-distorted Bruns folklore. Shortly after the gale **James Mills**, an old resident (and Kethel's resident agent), coming along the beach north of the Brunswick, noticing wreckage about, picked up a bottle with paper inside, which said: "Schooner Agnes from Sydney, four of a crew, one passenger, on a lee shore. No hope – (Signed) Capt Tower." He hastened with it to the Heads when a search party at once set out, but only the bodies of the captain and two of the sailors were found.... (After the storm Capt Cringle, who had left Sydney at much the same time, found himself somewhere north of Brisbane.... He then beat back to the Brunswick....)

[**Henry French** wrote a summary of the event for **Alex Kethel**, who had it published in the *Evening News* on 1Apr1890: ...On the 10th instant, about 10pm **Wm Casban**, a selector residing at Bellie Knudgel, came to the signal station with a piece of newspaper which he said he found in a small whisky flask among some wreckage a little north of Bellie Knudgel Creek with the following writing on it: "Sunday, about March 9, schooner Agnes, of Sydney, thirteen days from Sydney, bound Tweed River, **Captain Power**. Mate, cook, three hands, two working passage, eight in all. On lee shore, blowing easterly gale." (First reports of the tragedy said A bottle has been found near Billy Nudgel, six miles north of Brunswick Heads....)]

Casban says he could not report earlier owing to the high flood in the creek and heavy sea on the beach; that he saw signs of a wreck on Sunday of the 9th, but could not approach it.... On Tuesday, 11th instant, **Constable Andrews**, myself, and a number of others proceeded along the north beach; but, previous to starting, **John Greenlees** (who succeeded Simpson as signalman) came and reported Mr **James Mills** having seen two dead bodies near at hand on the beach. (Poor old man wept like a child).... Those two bodies were only about fifty yards apart, and were at once carried to **John O'Neill's** house (on the Reading's Bay side of 'Harry's Hill').... A **Mr Campbell**, telegraph line inspector, accompanied me along the beach. We came on two of our party who had met with the third body (Captain **Patrick Power**, a Catholic Irishman).... **Joseph Mills** took Power's body in charge, and had it buried in the Roman Catholic cemetery here. There being no clergyman present, I was requested to read the Roman Catholic burial service, which I did. The other two bodies were buried quite close by, as we did not know what to do.... We continued our search to Bellie Knudgel at the creek near the Terrace on south side. We saw the fore part of the deck; also the main mast with boom, gaff mainsail, and counter all attached.... On the north side of the creek we saw the heel of the mainmast.... A little farther north was some wreckage, among which the bottle was found containing message.... On the return trip, about four miles from here we saw the keel and port side bottom up. Near the rocks on the beach was the bow.... I am of opinion the accident took place about four miles north of the Brunswick (which is about the old Yelgun/Billinudgel Creek ocean outlet above Fern Beach, but see below), on the morning of the 9th instant, before daylight.... I fear, with the heavy wind and terrific sea, the Agnes came on shore stern first, and capsized in the breakers, thus launching eight poor creatures into eternity....]

The Brunswick Correspondent for the *Logan Witness* (Beenleigh) sent in his report on 14Mar1890, saying "...A man named Cashin was driving his team of bullocks along the beach when he observed a bottle, on which one of the team had trod.... (**William Cashin's** property encompassed Billinudgel Creek's outlet to the sea at Wooyung. The Northern Star of 24Mar1888 reported the confirmation of his 320 acre selection in the 'Parish of Billinudgel', but parish maps show the selection as portion 43 in the 'Parish of Mooball', confirmed 8Mar1888, presupposing parish boundary adjustments sometime post 1888? He died 1911, aged 68 Tumbulgum, one of the pioneers of the Tweed district... and came to the river 40 years ago....)

[First mention of the existence of a 'Parish of Mooball' was 10Feb1882 via the Government Gazette advising of the availability of parish maps. Next mention was two days later advising of areas *Reserved from sale for Access; No 813. Parish of Mooball, area about 320 acres. The crown Lands within the following boundaries: Commencing at the bridge at the foot of the hill about 1½ miles from Billinudgel Camp, on the road up Burringbar Creek; AND No 812 advising of a further 320 acres Commencing at the hut on the road up the Burringbar Creek, about 3½ miles from Billinudgel Camp....* It's possible 'Billinudgel Camp' was a road-builders base, but at this time could also have been a timber-getter's compound (and probably an outpost of **John O'Neil's** Wooyung depot).

The first public exposure of 'Billinudgel' occurred in the *Northern Star* of 22Jul1876 with an advert by **John O'Neil** warning pirates off his timber at 'Billy Nudgel Creek', followed a month later by a similar advert for James Wright's timber at 'Billinudgel Creek'. In Feb1877 timber-getter **Richard Glascott** of Tintenbar referred to the place as 'Billy Mooghill'. **Henry French**, et al, at <https://transcripts.sl.nsw.gov.au/page/368878/view> reckoned 'Billenargil' was the 'Middle ground between the sea and a lake', probably referring to the swampy area around Wooyung into which flow Billinudgel, Burringbar and Crabbes Creeks, down which presumably came logs to O'Neil's camp.

O'Neil's creek lent its name to the 'Parish of Billinudgel', the first mention of which occurred in the Gazette of 31Oct1881 promulgating a 1200 acre Camping Reserve *Commencing at the confluence of Billinudgel Creek with the South Pacific Ocean....* All of which implies the word 'Billinudgel' ('Home of the King Parrott' reckoned the Australian Museum at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-5736012/>) was coined in the Mooball district and unsuitably applied to 'The Pocket' after the railway station opened in 1894.

In conclusion 'Old Cedar-Getter' said *Shortly after the railway began running the Brunswick Heads went down; in fact, collapsed altogether. The court house, Court House Hotel, School of Arts, and French's big two-story store were pulled down and shifted to Mullumbimby. The place remained deserted for some years, then gradually grew into a watering place, now much appreciated as a seaside resort.*

[PS. Presumably the sailor's graves were marked with wooden crosses, as by the time the Bruns cemetery was closed and formally declared a Public Park on 1Apr1977 only seven graves with stone memorials could be located out of the registered 68 people buried there. But Captain Power's family subsequently donated various nautical paraphernalia to the Tweed Regional Museum as a memorial to their ancestor.] With thanks to Peter Tsicalas

DON'T FORGET **AGM NEXT MONTH - Thursday 3rd August 2017 at 2.00pm**

SIGNAGE

1. Thanks to our member, John Thompson, the signs on our building which were quickly becoming very brown and unreadable have been replaced. John organised with Steve Baldwin, from Crosslink Design, to have them redone. Steve was happy to do so as he had received a batch of faulty UV film. Thanks to both for fixing the unsightly problem. It is much appreciated.
2. Another sign that has been replaced and is looking bright and sparkly is the one at Uncle Tom's corner advertising our monthly market. Well done Nortec Work Experience Project for getting the new sign done but also producing promotional materials for the museum and the markets. We are looking so good!

CROWDFUNDING

We have had support for the start of our crowdfunding appeal to help finance our next DVD on the Hippie era of Mullumbimb that Sharon Shostak is creating for us. Go to <https://chuffed.org/project/mullumbimbys-magic-the-culture-of-the-70s-80s> to check out our little video plea, donate, and share. Please help spread the news to muster support. Thanks to those who have donated. You are legends!! DVDs can be pre-ordered through the crowdfund.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Recently we were contacted by *Wallasey & New Brighton Magazine* from England. They regularly feature New Brightons from around the world. One of their regular readers wrote to tell the magazine about an impromptu visit she made in NSW. Thus the summer edition 2017 features our New Brighton. It's not on their website yet but you can check it out when they upload it at wnmag.co.uk.



Volunteers Rollie, John and Dave helping with some reorganising of the furniture for our displays.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE MUSEUM

Three temporary exhibits are under construction –

1. *Office Machines* featuring adding machines etc used in local businesses
2. *Beautiful Babies*, which has some gorgeous baby clothes recently donated as well as baby photos of some of our volunteers. See if you can match the baby photos to a volunteer.
3. The *1907 wedding dress* worn by Maud Pepper when she married Robert Rice. Kindly donated by the Rice family.

A permanent exhibition nearing completion consists of a map of the Brunswick River with historical events depicted along it.

Also a **nature cabinet** is nearing completion. It features turtle shells, snakes, birds' eggs and more.

A collection of beautiful postcards have been organised by the Nortec Work Experience Project and are available for sale at \$1 each.

Common Ailments and Home Remedies

From Neta MacKinnon's book "Fetch the Nurse, and Call the Doctor, Quick", the *Story of Medical and Health Services in the Brunswick Valley 1900-1994*, comes the following article on home remedies.

In the pioneering days of our district, almost everywhere was remote. People could be reached only by rough bush tracks and bridle paths, or even at times upriver, only by boat. The story of Miss Shearer is a case in point. She developed a serious illness, and her parents had to send for Dr. Connors, then of Lismore (later, in 1907 of Mullumbimby). He could get only part of the way in his buggy and had to continue to Shearer's place near the showground, on horseback.

Our pioneering families – without the aid of doctors – were often forced to rely on home remedies, and there was a good supply of them. Many of them were in the pantry.

The following list of common complaints and first aid procedures was found in a book titled "The People's Home Library", published in 1924, a long time after the first settlers came to the Brunswick, but no doubt many of them would have been known to the early settlers and their wives.

BURNS AND SCALDS

Lime water with equal parts of either linseed oil or olive oil is very good. The application of either cold cream, vaseline or pineoline is very good. If the skin is not broken much, brush on some baracic acid powder and then apply either vaseline or pineoline.

Cause sweating in one of many ways. Do not use a poultice or cotton jacket. It is always well in any disease in which there is inflammation to get the patient sweating at the beginning of the attack. This draws the blood from the internal organs thus relieving the congestion. It makes the skin red, warm and moist, thus getting rid of the chill or chilly feeling. A rubber hot water bottle is good when placed at the parts that are painful. Hot teas are good for an adult. Another way to cause sweating is to put hot water in fruit cans and place at the feet, knees hips and sides.

COLD AND COUGHS

Make a poultice of onions fried in lard and lay on the chest. Soak the feet in water as hot as can be borne; drink a glass of hot lemonade and a little senna tea before going to bed. Lemonade will cause sweating, senna will move the bowels, and onions will loosen the cold by drawing the congestion from the lungs.

BITES AND STINGS OF INSECTS

For stings of hornets or bees pull out the sting and apply peroxide of hydrogen. Vinegar either pure or diluted is good, so is a poultice of clay. For mosquito bites apply phenol, one part mixed with water from 50 to 100 parts.

COLD IN THE HEAD

Take one or two drops of spirit of camphor on a lump of sugar, dissolve the sugar in a half a glass of water and take a teaspoonful every two hours.

CATARRH

Table salt dissolved in water, snuffed up the nose was looked upon as the best. Borax water and carbolic acid were also recommended for sniffing.

CHOKING

Slap hard on the person's back between the shoulders. Put your finger in throat, tickle and cause vomiting. If a small child, take hold of the heels, turn it upside down and slap between the shoulders. Have person swallow a large piece of potato or bread.

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
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Experience Participants
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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 AGM Thursday 3rd Aug 2017 2.00pm

See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items
Wednesday 2nd August 2017

MUSEUM HOURS
Tuesdays & Fridays
10am - 12pm
Market Saturdays 9am - 1pm

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

