



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

NEWSLETTER

September 2017

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

### John Davis



A fine example of Brit/Oz youth.

Mum was brought up in an orphanage, as Nan couldn't cope in those early years. Mum never knew her father – not sure if Nan did either as she never spoke of her early life. Mum served as a 'plane spotter during WW11 and later worked in a factory in Kent. Dad was born in Argentina and raised in the Falklands on his family's farm. He left home in his teens to go to sea and served King and Country in the Royal Navy during the war. Mum and Dad lived in the dockside town of Chatham. There, my sister and I were born and we moved to a Council house in Strood. I was less than average at school and at sport, but life was generally fine. The highlight of my sporting prowess, even to this day' was running third in the "Running Backwards" at a Butlins Holiday Camp. The certificate still retains a place on our sitting room wall. In 1960 our family immigrated to Western Australia.



The next nine years were typical for a money poor, life happy teen in the Housing Commission area of Medina, south of Fremantle. Almost everything was within walking distance. I played soccer, tried Aussie Rules, joined the Scouts, the Boys Brigade, the Sally Ann youth club, the Air Cadets, the local shooting club... The list goes on – but nothing really stuck. I left school at 15 to work at the Bank of NSW, but after a year or so realised there was more money to be made at the BP, BHP and ALCOA refineries in the growing Cockburn Sound industrial area. I was 17 when I first met Brenda in a phone box on Medina Avenue. We both knew something was happening then, but it was too early to know what and we drifted our separate ways.



Hitchhiking through Europe 1971

In October 1970 a couple of friends and I decided to travel overland to England. However, one went home from Singapore and the other from Bangkok. I decided to carry on, with help from the British High Commissioner who encouraged my endeavour plus a small, barely adequate tax return from Australia that my Mum sent by Postal order. At that time, when travelling with a rucksack and a dream one was never alone, meeting like people along the way.

I spent a year in England working in a factory making shopping trolleys, travelled a bit around Europe and returned to Oz in 1972 (repatriated from Singapore to Darwin due to lack of money - Darwin being the closest Australian Airport I had to hitchhike back to Perth.) Mum didn't want me leaving again and booked me into a crash course in meat inspection, a job I endured for eight years. Brenda and I married in 1973. The job did allow many trips for us and our 3 children to previously unexplored places around the Country. We settled in Inverell NSW. I then studied Health and Building Surveying and we moved to Dubbo in 1985. I worked for the City Council for 19 years. I left Council as Manager Environment and Health. My best achievement was being part of NetWaste, a regional collaboration of 28 local councils working together on waste management issues. It was the first such collaboration in NSW. In 2004 Brenda and I moved back to Perth. I tried my own business for a couple of years without success and finally finished my working life with the WA Government.

2012 saw us hitting the road in a camper trailer heading North then East and ending up in Billinudgel where we now live with our daughter Amy and her family. We both volunteer at the museum and I hope that by 2050 we will know enough to confidently inform our visitors.

## The Hassles of Harvesting Cedar

Protestant Irishman **Dick Glascott**, bless him, left a record of the life of a cedar-getter. He jumped ship in Sydney in 1857, aged 24, and it's believed gold fever brought him to the Richmond around 1860. But in 1863 he acquired a timber-getter's license and switched to chasing the red gold, basing himself at Tintenbar ('Tintimbaa') that same year. Between Sep1863 and May1866 he felled 161 cedars around the traps, inclusive of 12 at Possum Creek, although most harvesting was done around Skinners Creek, Byron Creek and Wilsons Creek at this time.

By early 1867 he was spending a lot of time working for his in-law **Charlie Jarrett** around the Brunswick. (Jarrett married the 15yr old daughter of **Steve King**, while Glascott married the 16yr old daughter of Steve's brother Richard.) Over the period Jan-Mar1867 he was intermittently '*at the Brunswick*' crosscutting and squaring logs already felled and drawn by contractors working for Jarrett, or logs subsequently acquired by Jarrett '*at the stump*' from licensed timber-getters, seemingly some from Glascott himself. He created 115 'planks' of cedar from 17 logs branded SA and ER totalling 75,717 super feet and was paid £75/14/- for his efforts. The largest log was 58ft long which he cut into five segments, of which the largest was pit sawn ('squared') into a 'plank' 12ft long by 34x27 inches in cross section (giving 918 suft).

'*At the Brunswick*' is possibly a general area term that embraced the very busy enterprise at Tyagarah Creek and Tyagarah Grass (aka Targara/Taggara) where a large cedar-getter's camp had formed, serving as a depot for logs from 'Boyd's Mountain', 'Corrible Creek' and 'Oppussum Creek'. It seems the squared logs were floated down Tyagarah Creek and into the south arm where they were rafted to Bruns, rather than direct launching from the beach at Tyagarah.

(It's unstated whether the Bruns 'planks' were loaded inside the bar or despatched via the surf. On 20Apr1872 Surveyor **Richard Barling** turned up at the Brunswick to select a site for the village reserve, commenting that there are *a few cedar cutters living there at present who have six or seven huts erected...*, adding that *vessels can come as far as the ballast wharf...*, presumably meaning the 'stone wharf' at 'Harry's Hill' where the schooners offloaded their dressed sandstone ballast in exchange for 'squared planks'.)

Each cedar-getter had his own hut at Tyagarah and in 1867 **Edmund Ross**, storekeeper, butcher, auctioneer, magistrate, cedar merchant and shipping agent of Ballina, saw a marketing niche and built a branch store for provisioning these blokes and those working out in the nearby scrub. (He'd arrived from London in 1855, aged 29, and initially worked for **Charles Fawcett**, supplying beef and bullocks to timber getters on the Brunswick and Tweed, before becoming postmaster at Ballina in 1858 and marrying **Elizabeth Easton**, the sister of Captain George Easton at the pilot station.)

In Jun1877 Glascott was back on the Brunswick, under contract to Jarrett, creating 19 'planks' totalling 11,245 suft for which he scored £22/10/-, paid at the rate of 4/- per 100 suft. Through early 1877 he was mainly working at Tyagarah and shopping at Brunswick Heads for his rations, recording on 11Jun77 that he *Went to Brunswick Heads for flour today. Saw Robert Smith, Simpson.... The Brilliant* (which he helped Jarrett rebirth at Belongil Nov-Dec1876) *is loading outside, the raft beat ashore this morning going out....* He paid his ration bills for flour, sugar, tea and salted beef at 'Simpson's', which has to be a store operated by **George Simpson**, doing his day job in between his signaller's duties. He first met 'Simpson' at Burns Point, Ballina, in Dec65, in which month he first mentions Robert Smith Snr., a store keeper and timber-getter of Ballina, whose sons were later Brunswick identities.

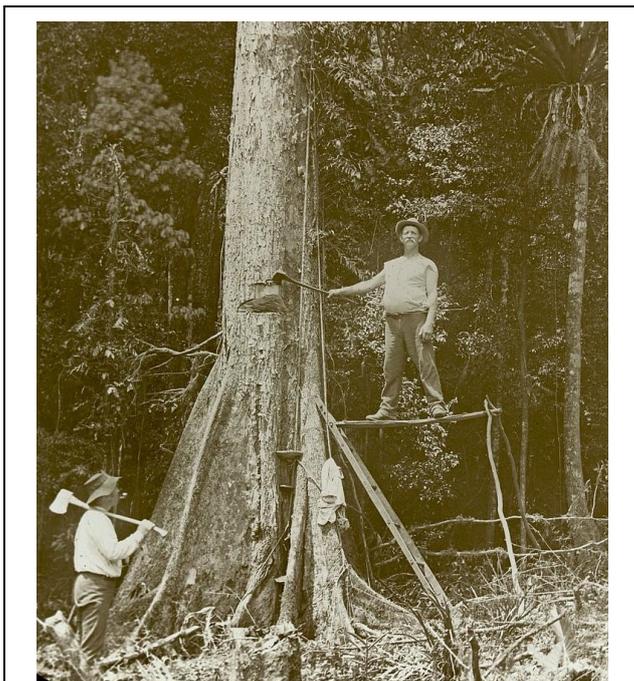
Glascott ranged far and wide tracking the cedar from his base at Tintenbar, spending up to three weeks at a time in various huts he had built round the neighbourhood. And through to the early 1870s he seems to have spent just as much time cutting roads as working cedar. On 30Oct72 he *Commenced cutting a main road from head of Oppossum Creek to the drawing roads on the Brunswick, leading on to Tyagarah Grass, for Charles Jarrett....* On 3Nov72 with his partner and Tintenbar neighbour, Scotsman **Alexander Walls**, *started for the Brunswick this morning to get blacks to help us in the road cutting, about half a mile from Tyagarah met some blacks who informed us that all the blacks about the Brunswick were employed..., but saw the Black Drumble Charley who agreed to come to us on Monday week.*

(At Tintenbar in Nov1866 Glascott also recorded '**Drumle Bob**', who is probably the same bloke mentioned by **James Thomas Jarrett**, the nephew of Charlie, in a letter to the Mullum Star on 11Jun1908, claiming that **Bob Marshall's faithful old blackfellow, Bobby Faucett, was made king...**, of some clan at some stage. Jarrett of Tintenbar selected 'Ivy Hill' adjoining Mullum in 1881, but gave farming away after his compulsory 5yrs residency to try storekeeping, timber-getting and oyster growing at Bruns, from where he settled at Mooball Creek/Beach ~1905.)

On 8Nov72 Walls & I went to Ballina, saw **Edmund Ross** & agreed with him to cut his share of main road from head of Opossum Creek to the Brunswick for £10, got £3 in advance & sent it to Sydney for a keg of rum for to pay blacks.... Five days later Walls & I started out for Opossum Creek this morning, got as far as Jarrett's road cutters' hut... but got caught in a heavy thunderstorm. Hung our swags up in the hut & came home.... On 16Nov72 Walls & I went out today to Opossum Creek, saw **James Ainsworth** & **Charles & Henry Williams** going out with bullocks to draw cedar.... found that E. Ross, C. Hammond & T. Gray had been at our hut.... The next day (Sunday) Started for Tyagarah this morning but, meeting the Black **Drumble Charley** & his gin at foot of mountain, turned back, they came to our hut & got us some turkey's eggs, had their dinner & then left. He kept road cutting until going home for a break on 27Nov72.

On 2Dec72 Walls & I... put a swag on the horse & started out for Opossum Creek, found the blacks there. Walls took the horse on to Tyagarah Grass & walked out to the hut by dark. Six days later Walls went to Brunswick for rations, got some beef, flour & sugar, left flour at Tyagarah & carried the beef & sugar out to hut, got out by dark. (The Brunswick enterprise is likely to be that of **Robert Marshall**, recorded with a store in May1871, probably managed by **George Simpson** until he bought the business, at least by 1877. All payment for contracts and purchases seemed to be handled with 'Promissory Notes', aka IOUs, which were themselves traded). On 10Dec72 Road cutting, four blacks employed. **Charles Jarrett** passed us this morning as he was going over from Tyagarah to Cape Byron Creek, saw **Bernard & Peter Gray** driving their bullocks on to Tyagarah.... On 14Dec72 Finished main road today, distance cut 2674 yards (2.45km), two blacks employed..., while Walls went to Tyagarah....

Then they took a break from Possum Creek, but on 11Apr73 were back again and through to Sep73 spent 85 days around the Creek and its feeding tributaries crosscutting, squaring and road cutting, the longest period being a 17 day stint in the hut, where Dick spent his 40th birthday on 12Sep73. On 15Sep73 Walls & I went out to Opossum Creek today, brought out a load on the horse & Walls brought the horse back again, the blacks were all at work road cutting.... He went back home for another break on the 21Sep73 leaving six black employees on the road gang.



Timber-getters encountered by ornithologist Archibald James Campbell along the Brunswick Road in 1891. (Campbell wasn't enamoured of Glascott and his cohort, saying *I was greatly disappointed at not finding a real red cedar (Cedrela Toona) – I mean a good "old man" tree, about 80ft, or 100ft high.... But not one remains.... It is a quarter of a century since the cedar trade was at its height in the district, and 10 or 12 years since it ceased, or rather was ruined by timber-fellers, over whom the Government appeared to exercise not the slightest control, and who left millions of feet of most valuable timber to rot.... Most was cut and left branded, while the fellers cleared out for another district, where they thought haulage would be more convenient....*)

On 23Sep73 Walls & I went out to Opossum Creek today... and got a lift with our swags on their truck (presumably a bullock-driven jinker) for about two miles.... And six days later we Finished squaring our contract today by dinner time then went & wound up the roads with the blacks and paid them off.... Over the years these 'roads' were worked and reworked to evolve into Friday Hut Road, which went through to Emigrant Creek, and 'The Brunswick Road', which went up and down Possum Shoot.

Over this 1872/73 period he and Walls harvested, cross cut and squared cedar logs into 75 planks totalling 56,281 super feet at Opossum Creek, branding the planks GW. At the same time they crosscut and squared logs already felled by a bloke who branded them PH, creating another 45 planks totalling 48,259 suft. On 1Dec1873 he sold the lot to Charles Jarrett 'at the stump' for £104/14/-. This figure included a component for the creation of the tracks/roads to enable access to same.

There's no record of him felling any at Coorabell Creek ('Corrible Creek') over this early period, but he mentions others harvesting there in Oct65, and in Jun74 records that *Walls went out to Coorabell Creek to hunt up some old fell cedar of his....*, and the following month that *Walls & I went out to Gray's hut on Coorabell Creek... where they commenced building their own hut nearby, spending 6 days on the project, after which Walls was crosscutting, I was clearing away & cutting tracks....* The Colonial-born Catholic **Gray brothers** Bernard, Peter, Thomas and Patrick, came to Emigrant Creek in 1849. Bernard and Peter married Chilcott sisters, the daughters of Thomas of Emigrant Creek, while their sister Elizabeth (born 1846 Grafton), married **Robert King**, the son of Steve, 1864 Ballina.

All previous references to the Gray's hut places it somewhere around Possum Creek and its many tributaries, presupposing that Glascott was earlier using the name 'Opposum Creek' as a general descriptive term encompassing a wide area of 'Boyd's Mountain'. These were the last references to Coorabell Creek, although there's an 8 day gap in the diary prior to an entry on 18Feb75 when he mentions that **Henry French** *stopt at the hut with us on the night I went out on his road to the Brunswick. Saw Bernard & Thomas Gray out there at their hut....* ('his road' is possibly that which later formed the border between the parishes of Brunswick and Mullumbimby, ie running along the base of the Montecollum-Coorabell ridge line and climbing up to meet what is now Coolamon Scenic Drive just NW of Coorabell.)

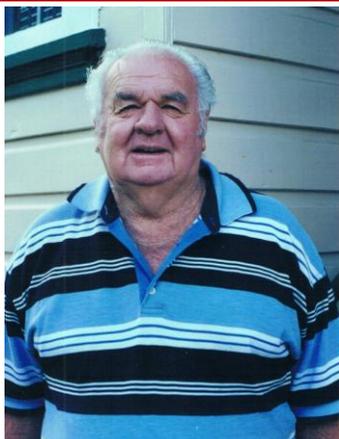
**Henry French** rates a few mentions as he wandered around the region as a cedar dealer. At what stage he took up full-time residence at Nubhoygum/Tyagarah is a mystery, but certainly by 13Apr1882 when his 608 acre selection was confirmed. It's highly likely the store he operated on the Brunswick Road at Tyagarah was Ross's original shack.

And the Boyds were back on the Brunswick. Richard was here intermittently in 1866, and in Apr67 Glascott *Saw Dick Boyd* (around Possum/Coorabell Creek), *showed him the new road over to Cape Byron Creek..., went into* (Tyagarah) *grass & returned this evening....* This was a fortnight after *some blacks came here & I went & marked a road for them to cut for me over on to Cape Byron Creek.* A fortnight earlier than that he'd *Carried rations out* (from 'Tyagarah Grass') *to hut on Boyd's Mountain* (ie, around the Coorabell ridge line, the highest point of which is now known as Scarrabelotti's Lookout).... In between he *Saw E. Ross this morning & agreed with him to crosscut & square the cedar he bought off James Boyd's fell on the Brunswick, on halves, he to draw & I to assist in road cutting and getting it down the creek....*

Other familiar Brunswickian identities noted by Glascott include **Brian O'Neil**, **Boyd McCurdy**, **Henry Stone** (who married Sarah McCurdy), **James Jarvis**, **Bernard Morrish**, **Henry O'Brien Wilson**, and on 12Feb1874 *saw James Smith, James Jarrett, Robert Marshall & some more in Tintenbar going out to the Brunswick with rations & a lot of working bullocks...*, while on 16Feb76 at 'Newrybar Mountain' he *Saw James Mills going out to the Brunswick....* On 14Aug74 *Heard today that a new cedar buyer had been to the Brunswick wanting to open trade there & offering very fair terms...*, who is probably **William Wright**. His earliest reference to a store at Bruns is 8Dec72.

There are a couple of inferences that may indicate he floated some of his Possum Creek logs/planks into Wilsons Creek, but generally they all seem to have been dragged out by bullocks to Tyagarah, probably aided by single bogie once they got down to the flats. Nor is he clear on how he negotiated his steep roads, later dubbed 'shoots'. Even so, on at least three occasions Jarrett tasked him with re-squaring planks at Tyagarah and Bruns, presumably meaning they got knocked about during towing or manhandling down 'Possum Shoot'.

The earliest reference to 'Possum Shoot' occurred in the Northern Star of 27May1882 when **George Glissan** gave his address as *Possum Shoot, Brunswick Road*. The 640 acre property was still known as 'Possum Shoot', in the hands of Glissan's brother-in-law, **J.P. Garvan** MLA, when a 10 acre 'business reserve' was carved off in 1889, half a mile from what is now known as 'Possum Shoot.' The original 'Possum Shoot' was always a 'road', serving as part of the 'Brunswick Road' on both sides of the ridge line, the steep climb from Keys' Crossing on Wilson's Creek up to Coorabell referred to as 'Possum Shoot' by **A.J. Campbell** above during his 1891 tour of the 'Big Scrub'. The road now known as 'Possum Shoot' was created in 1885 when the trek down the ocean side of the ridge was made easier with completion of a cutting across the slope. By this time the privateers had surrendered road building to the Government, the rate of activity stepping up in concert with whinges from selectors. (After marking out the Brunswick village reserve in Apr1872, surveyor **Richard Barling**'s next task was *marking the road from Bexhill to Brunswick River...*, the new pukka road generally following the existing cedar-getters tracks.) Peter Tsicalas



### **VALE LIFE MEMBER RAY O'NEILL**

Ray O'Neill came to Mullumbimby from Sydney where he was on the Marrickville Council for many years.

He joined the Historical Society in 1984 assisting in the renovations of the old post office building when it was shifted to become the museum. He also helped with the construction of the timber cutter's cottage.

Ray was the groundsman for many years, fixing things, painting the external exhibits etc.

He was a regular committee member. In 2000 Ray, along with 6 other members, was made a life member. He has suffered from ill health for some years and has been cared for by his family at Crabbes Creek.

We were saddened to hear that he passed away. His good works will be remembered.

**Note** that the above story on *The Hassles of Harvesting Cedar* was summarised by Peter Tsicalas from *The Glascott Diaries; The Diaries and Account Books of Richard Donovan Glascott, A Timber-getter on the Richmond River in the 1860s and 1870s*, edited and published by his descendant Marlene Lester, Ballina 2001. (Copy available BVHS).

## **MOVING ON**

### **ANNE BUCKLEY**

Anne has been a stalwart for the museum for the last 6 years, ensuring the cleanliness of the premises and greeting visitors at the front counter with a familiar smile, a chat and helpful advice.

Anne has decided to retire to Ballina and the BVHS wishes her every happiness in her new life.



## **Common Ailments and Home Remedies – Part 3**

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 relating to snake bites .

**PLEASE NOTE: The BVHS in no way promotes the use of these remedies. Ailments referred to hereunder should be treated by a suitably qualified medical practitioner.**

### **SNAKE BITE**

*If on a limb, tie a rope or handkerchief around the limb just above the wound. Cleanse the wound at once. Suck the wound. If the poison is swallowed accidentally, it is not very dangerous. Cut the wound open so the blood will flow freely, then fill it with salt, or if you have it, use permanganate of potash. Give full doses of this drug hypodermically about the wound. It should be diluted three-fourths with water and should be followed with full doses of brandy or whiskey. Another remedy was to suck out the poison and after cutting the wound open, apply bruised plantain leaves and give a teaspoonful of the juice from the bruised leaves every hour. Or cut open the wound, suck out the poison and apply moistened baking soda. Keep the parts wet for several hours or mix two tablespoons of chloride of lime with one half pint of water. Bathe the wound promptly and freely. Another treatment is to turn a bottle of turpentine upside down over the snake bite until relief is obtained.*

*(Editor's Note: These are no longer recommended treatments for snake bite.)*

### **RATTLESNAKE BITES**

*Cleanse and suck the wound and use permanganate of potash as directed above. Cauterise by applying a red hot iron.*



The **Museum** displays a terrific snake exhibition and provides a number of remedies used during the early days, as well as current treatment procedures.

For example: JC Morrissey's Snake bite Antidote (left) and the condy's crystals and slash kit (right)



## **Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter**

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**

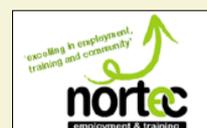
\*Please leave material with Sarah or Liz  
Wed Thur 10 am - 2 pm.  
Or email to:  
[bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au](mailto:bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au)

## **NEXT MEETING Thursday 5th Oct 2017 2.00pm See you there!**

\*Deadline for agenda items  
Wednesday 4th Oct 2017

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

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



## Mullumbimby's Magic – The Culture of 70s-80s

Our crowdfunding at chuffed is in its last days so it's your last chance to get a bargain price for the set of DVDs.

<https://chuffed.org/project/mullumbimbys-magic-the-culture-of-the-70s-80s>

Chuffed.org featured us in a special story on their blog and facebook pages.



"In 2007, I became a member of the Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc, which operates the Mullumbimby Museum, when I was researching the history of a local school that was about to celebrate its centenary. I was amazed at the local resources that the museum held and decided in 2009 to become more involved in the society and the running of the museum. I love volunteering at the museum as we have a great band of volunteers that enjoy working with and supporting each other.

The society's collection had a big gap in that there was very little information, photos, memorabilia of the alternate culture which began around Mullumbimby in the early 1970s. The arrival of the Hippies changed this sleepy

agricultural area forever. Hence we commissioned a local filmmaker, Sharon Shostak (who herself grew up with the Hippies), to make our first documentary *Mullumbimby's Madness – The Legacy of the Hippies* which documented the arrival of the Hippies and their beginnings of settling in. From this documentary, the museum was donated a wealth of photos, interviews etc.

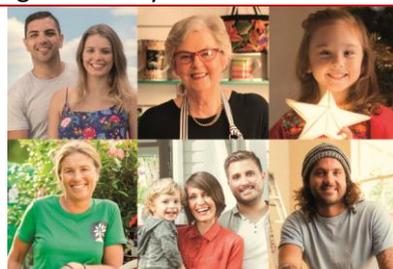
The overwhelming success of the first documentary encouraged us to commission Sharon to make a second, which is the subject of the crowdfunding, *Mullumbimby's Magic – The Culture of 70s - 80s*. We are amazed at the scale of the task which has grown considerably from our first imaginings. To cover our selected topics more and more people have come out of the woodwork to tell their stories and share their photos. Already several important people in the movement have passed on and we are so grateful to get the stories while we can for prosperity.

The alternate culture has had a profound effect on the region and we are delighted to have it documented as we move to a changing and more technological society.

*Susan Tsicalas, Treasurer, BVHS inc*

## VOTE! VOTE!

Please go to the **Southern Cross Credit Union**, in store or online at <https://www.sccu.com.au> to vote for our organisation. Three groups will be granted \$5000 each for their nominated project and our documentary *Mullumbimby's Magic – The Culture of the 70s-80s* can be voted for - look for Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. in the huge list of organisations.



# VOTE for us!

We're in the running to receive a \$5,000 Southern Cross Credit Union Community Grant.

We need your votes to win!  
Register your vote in branch or online at [sccu.com.au](https://www.sccu.com.au)



Community Grant guidelines, application details and terms and conditions available at [www.sccu.com.au](https://www.sccu.com.au). Southern Cross Credit Union LMI ABN 92 007 650 052 AFSL & Australian Credit Licence 2411001

**Repentance Creek Mystery!** The ABC North Coast is running Curious North Coast series where members of the public submit a question about something they have always wanted to know. Three questions are selected for the public to vote on and the journalists uncovers the answer to the most popular. Last week's question was: Who repented and how did this creek get its name? Catherine Marciniak from the ABC approached BVHS to help answer the question. Go to <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-13/curious-north-coast-repentance-creek/8904678> for the unfolding story.



Ken Arnett with Susan Tsicalas

