



## NEWSLETTER

Dec 2017 & Jan 2018

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

## 2017 - What a Year at BVHS

### January

Historical Society volunteers Susan, Brenda, Erika, Rollie, Dave, Chris, Sarah and John did a wonderful job of setting up the Mullum Ex-Services Bowling Club and hosting this year's Australia Day celebrations and citizenship presentations.



Following the Ambassadors' presentations Mayor Simon announced the Byron Shire Australia Day Awards for 2017. And here we shone. Volunteer of the Year for 2017, our very own Susan Tsicalas



### March

March was an exciting month at the museum. We 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 of Ruth and museum stalwart Gordon Wright.

**At left: Ruth enthrals the students with stories of days gone by.**

### April

At our April Committee meeting we had the great pleasure of conferring Life Membership of the Brunswick Valley Historical Society to three of our stalwart members, Sadie Mudge, Gordon Wright and Barry Lomath. 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.



## May

### A Jam-Packed Day at Lismore for Stephen Hall

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May Stephen was privileged to represent the BVHS at the Northern Rivers Historical Societies Zone Conference at the Richmond River Historical Society, Lismore.

Stephen reported that the first half of the day began with a talk by Helen B. Smith who shared insights into molecular epidemiology and genealogy. After a scone-filled lunch, he awoke to the various regional historical societies providing reports, some of which elicited spirited discussion. Stephen reported to the Conference on the new hippie doco, the solar panels, air conditioning and markets.

## June

We had reasonable support for the start of our crowdfunding appeal to help finance our next DVD on the Hippie era of Mullumbimby. Good work Susan to get this going.

Photo at right: Volunteers Rollie, John and Dave helped with some reorganizing of the furniture for our displays.



## July

Thanks to member, John Thompson, the signs on our building, which were quickly becoming very brown and unreadable, were replaced. John organised the replacement with Steve Baldwin the printer. Another sign that was replaced and is looking bright and sparkly is the one at Uncle Tom's corner advertising our monthly market. Well done Nortec project participants for preparing the new sign and for producing a new range of interesting postcards to promote the museum and our market.

## August

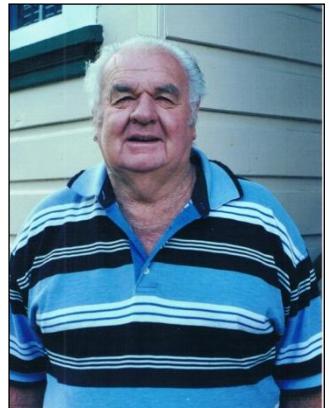
### The New Nature Cabinet – Volunteers in Action



Volunteers Rollie and Dave spent an interesting morning separating and arranging blown bird eggs that were kindly donated to the museum by Patrick Cairns. The eggs had been collected from the banks of the Brunswick River and Devine's Hill.

### Vale Life Member Ray O'Neill

Ray O'Neill joined the historical Society in 1984 assisting in the renovations of the 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.





### Anne Moves On

Anne volunteered at the museum for many years, ensuring the cleanliness of the premises and greeting visitors at the front counter with a familiar smile, a chat and helpful advice.

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

## **September**

### New Addition to Snake Exhibit

Volunteer John Davis donated a 2.1 metre brown snake skin, found at his property at Billinudgel. His wife Brenda (pictured with the skin) claims to have wrestled the snake out of its skin in a life and death struggle. The RSPCA was contacted and she was not fined.



### Chincogan Charge

Volunteers Susan and Rollie set up an historical display of past Chincogan Fiestas and Charges at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club.

Susan and President Stephen worked the display late into the evening of the event.

The Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club was a major sponsor for the Charge and after the event many competitors and visitors attended the club, enjoying the BVHS display which brought back memories for participants in previous races and parades.



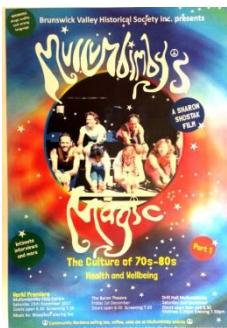
## **October**

Continuing the Museum's policy of changing exhibits in a timely manner, Susan, Liz and Jacqui put together a colourful display for the Mullum Music festival, including posters and photos from years gone by.



Startlingly new posters adorn the eastern wall of the Museum building, A big thank you to the NORTEC 'work for the dole' participants who visualised and undertook the printing project and to Troy Bunting for erecting the posters over our unused windows.

## **November**



### Launch of Mullumbimby's Magic – The Culture of the 70s-80s Part 1

25<sup>th</sup> November witnessed the World Premiere of the much anticipated second instalment of Mullumbimby's more modern history. Produced by Sharon Shostak, this doco takes a look at the alternative culture of the 70s to 80s relating to Health and Wellbeing. A full house was delighted with the new doco. This was followed by 3 more screenings 1 at Byron and 2 at the Drill Hall. A very enthusiastic response from all.

As the year draws towards a close we also acknowledge the wonderful contributions of our other, silent volunteers.

**Sadie Mudge** has worked tirelessly over the years to acquisition our donated treasures and provides valuable local insight at our Committee meetings.

**Gordon Wright** donated much of his valuable time to sell books on behalf of the museum. Those books were kindly donated by the estate of the late Alan and Kaye Johnston by their daughter, Jennifer, and raised \$607.65 for the Society. Our thanks also to **Peter Tsicalas** for his informative, interesting and at times humorous contributions to the news letter throughout the year.

We also acknowledge the work of **Barry Lomath** who, with the assistance of his wife **Gill**, continues to maintain the Museum grounds in preparation for every monthly market

And our Research Officer, **Robbie Wright** who visits the museum every Friday to collect research requests and follow up with reports for the benefit of our visitors.

We also acknowledge **Chris Cooney** keeping developers honest as our representative on the Heritage Consultancy Panel. **Ken Robertson** for his work to maintain our computers. **Mitsuo Hanafusa** for his work to restore and enhance old and faded photographs.

We acknowledge **Lorrie Cruikshank** for organising museum visits by local schools and again thank **Michael Adams** for his work in the Shed. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

We are delighted to welcome **Tosharnee Heartsong** to our happy tribe of volunteers.

## December

It's that time of year again and here we take a fun look at Christmas's past from Chris Grey's '*The Brunswick Notebook*'



## SUGGESTIONS FOR XMAS

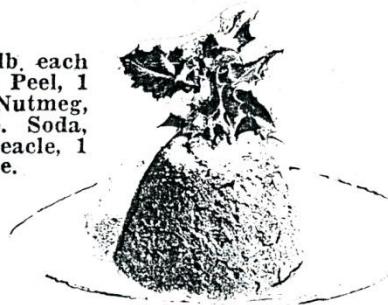
'The "Christmas dinner" truly seemed to me a most odd and anomalous affair. Instead of having won a seasonable appetite by a brisk walk over the crisped snow, well muffled in warm winter garments, I had passed the miserable morning, half-dead with heat, on the sofa, attired in the coolest muslin dress I possessed, sipping lemonade . . .'

Mrs Meredith, *Notes and Sketches of New South Wales*, 1844.

### XMAS PUDDING

1½ lbs. Suet cut finely, 1½ Cups Sugar, ½ lb. each of Raisins, Sultanas and Currants, 2 oz. Peel, 1 Cup Flour, 1 Cup Breadcrumbs, add Nutmeg, Cinnamon and spice, 1 Teaspoon Carb. Soda, Pinch Salt, 4 to 6 Eggs, 1 Tablespoon Treacle, 1 Tablespoon Brandy or any other Essence.

Mix all together and boil 4 hours.  
(Mrs. C. J. Latter)



RECIPES FOR AUSTRALIAN DISHES.

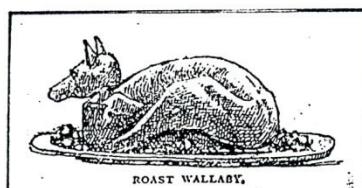
2860.—FRICASSEED OR CURRIED KANGAROO TAILS.

The tail and tongue are the only parts of the animal that are eaten, the former made into soup

FRICASSEED KANGAROO TAILS.

or fricasseed, or curried in the same manner as an ox-tail. The tongue is pickled as that of sheep or oxen.

CURRIED KANGAROO TAILS.



### AVOCADO AND OYSTERS

2 ripe avocados  
12 fresh oysters  
2 hard-boiled egg yolks  
4 tablespoons olive oil  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
salt and pepper  
lemon wedges for garnish

## Motel Brunswick RESTAURANT

PACIFIC HIGHWAY — BRUNSWICK HEADS

TELEPHONE 85-1353

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

SERVED 12.00 - 2.00 AND 6.00 - 9.00

CHRISTMAS DAY

#### MENU

CHICKEN SOUP

+ PRAWN ENTREE

ROAST TURKEY & HAM  
with  
GREEN PEAS  
BAKED POTATOES  
STUFFING & SAUCE

+ CHRISTMAS PUDDING  
with CREAM or ICE CREAM

+ COFFEE or TEA

\$4.00 per person

1971

### PARROT PIE.

INGREDIENTS.—1 dozen paroquets (a small, long-tailed tropical parrot), 6 thin slices of lean beef, 4 rashers of bacon, 3 hard-boiled eggs, ½ a teaspoonful of finely-chopped parsley, ½ teaspoonful of finely-grated lemon-peel, salt and pepper, puff-paste, flour.

## Railway to the Rescue

In a sermon to the Murbahians on 12Apr1890 **Bruce Baird Nicoll**, (a coastal shipping magnate who won the Brunswick vote in 1889 to become one of the three Protectionists representing the Richmond River Electorate, along with **Thomas Ewing** and **John Perry**), seems to have been the first to start giving some local press to unemployment and *the depression in trade throughout the colony*, reckoning that *In Sydney the depression was greater than for the past thirty years....*

A fortnight later the *Northern Star* registered the impact on local trade, particularly the *Timber market*, which *from the beginning of the year has been exceedingly depressed....* So there was much rejoicing throughout the land when news arrived in Jun1890 that **Thomas Ewing** had managed to get *The Lismore-Tweed Railway Bill*, *The Byron Bay Breakwater Bill*, and *Entrance Richmond River Improvements Bill* through the lower house (and was rewarded with yet another *Ewing Testimonial Fund*).

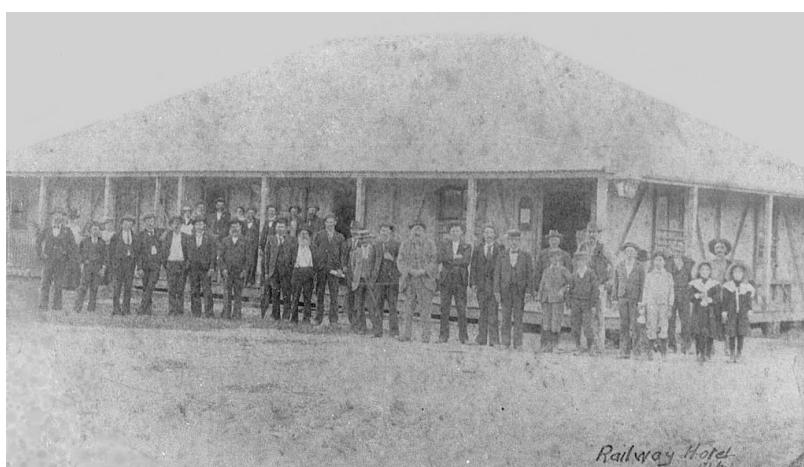
In Mar1891 The Hon **Bruce Smith**, Minister for Works, arrived in Lismore for the 'turning of the first sod' to formally launch the railway. Eight thousand people turned up for the parade and at the banquet afterwards he was toasted as the saviour of civilization. His party *left Lismore on Monday morning for the Tweed, via Bex Hill, Clunes, Eureka, Byron Bay, and Brunswick.... Banquets and luncheons were waiting at every centre, and so far did the enthusiasm extend, that as the party passed the workmen left their avocations to cheer the Minister. The party met with ovations everywhere, great parties of horsemen assembling day by day, and proceeding with them almost the whole of the journey... said the accompanying SMH reporter. The *Northern Star* said over 100 horsemen escorted the visitors to the Bay. The town was decorated with bunting and triumphal arches. Fifty persons attended the banquet in the evening....*

*The gathering at the Brunswick... was the largest ever witnessed. About 50 school children also took part in the proceedings.... On approaching the Brunswick the Minister and party were met on the beach by the leading residents.... At the Ocean View Hotel the following address was read by Mr H.L. Thompson (Mullum schoolteacher) on behalf of the settlers: We, the committee appointed to receive you..., think you should be canonised as Saint Bruce the Beneficent. Finally, we hope that you shall long be spared to give the colony the benefit of those services which hitherto you have rendered so well. Signed on behalf of Committee - F.D. Nixon (Brunswick), John MacGregor (Myocum Flats), H.L. Thompson (Myocum Ridge), G. O'Connor (Billinudgel).*

The community leaders must have mustered most of the district populations of Brunswick and Byron. A couple of weeks later the Apr1891 census got underway, Collector **Matthew Chisler** counting 349 destitute souls (225 males and 124 females) in the Parishes of Brunswick and Mullumbimby while Collector **David Jarman** managed to find 366 (226m, 140f) in the Parish of Byron. Many distressed selectors had deserted the district upon completing their 5yrs compulsory residency, while many others had surrendered their properties to the banks. The count also included Native Australians, and over the whole area of what became the Byron Shire only 10 could be located - one male living with **George Johnson** at Tyagarah (probably '**Geelong**') and 3 males and 6 females living in a bark hut at Brunswick Heads, where '**Kitty**' was nominated as the 'Head of the Household', presumably implying '**King Charlie**' had moved on.

Oddly, no one was identified as living in the newish 'Village of Mullumbimby', but the developers and speculators were

quick to sense a new ball game and by Oct1891 **Donald McGougan** of Lismore had opened the *Mullumbimby Hotel* on the northern corner of Tincogan and Dalley. He had won bragging rights as the first licensee over **William House**, whose proposal for the 9 room *Railway Hotel* was knocked on the head because at that time *The Licensing Bench considered that one hotel is sufficient for Mullumbimby....* Entrepreneurial Scotsman **Hugh McDiarmid Livingstone** came from Bexhill to open the first general store on the corner of Tincogan and Gordon in Dec91, just after **Joseph Yates** had completed the *School of Arts* on the opposite corner.



Railway Hotel ~1895. (It was eventually opened by Joe Yates Dec92 and passed to McGougan 1894. And built from timber pit-sawn by the Fisher Bros from a sawpit about where the Argyle/Station roundabout now sits.)

In Sep1891 **Thomas Ewing's** brother-in-law,

**Robert Palmer Allen**, had paid an extraordinary £600 for **William House**'s 50 acre selection adjoining Mullum's proposed railway station, 2mths before **William Grant Law** and his 20-man team won the Government contract to clear the jungle and find the place. Allen had a chunk of it subdivided into 264 lots by surveyor **Joseph B. Kelly** of Tyagarah and by mid Jan1892 Murbah auctioneer/real estate agent **R.C. Ewing** had sold 75 to speculators for a nice return of £929/5/-, while leaving the legacy of Station Street as a private road. (At the same time House and fellow speculator **William Wardrop**, storekeeper of Murbah, took the opportunity to create 60 house-sites on their separately subdivided allotments in the Government Village, still bordered by Stuart Street as per Surveyor **Barling**'s 1872 plan.

In the meantime the unemployed were flocking to the region from all over the country to jump the queue for a railway job, quickly followed by boat people, economic refugees from Europe, the Northern Star reporting that *on 11Jul91 36 foreigners, said to be Austrian navvies, arrived in Lismore, evidently in search of work. None of the party being able to understand a word of English.... Without waiting to interview their consul, they were "shipped" by some "friend" straightaway for the Richmond.... They are destitute and there is a waiting list for railway work and at the sugar mills....* The first contracts, for bridges and track laying as far as Nashua, had been let in Feb/Mar1891.

In Oct91 **Martin Danaher** won the contract for section 3, covering the 23 miles from Nashua through Byron Bay to Mullumbimby, at which time the Bay's *Northern Star* Correspondent said *There is quite a township springing up here, in addition to one of a temporary nature near Cooper's Shoot, on the route of the Railway. There will shortly, I believe, be some 20 carpenters at work upon two buildings - the Court House, &c., and a large hotel upon the allotment laterly purchased for £500 in the low ground.... A baker from Melbourne has erected a shop..., also a saddler and butcher have established themselves close by. Messrs M'Clean's fine store and private residences, at the corner of Johnson and Shirley-streets, are well known, and the Pier Hotel in Bay-street, needs no comment; good stables have of late been added, and I believe further accommodation shortly to be provided.... A sawmill is in the course of erection, and a good order for timber has already been given....*



Building the bridge over Cooper's Creek near Bexhill, 1892. (By this time the wide swath carved from the Big Scrub had reached Byron Bay.)

By Dec91 the *Northern Star* was exclaiming *What a change! Everything here (Byron) is bustle and buzz. The railway works are advancing at a rapid rate, burning off, embankments and cuttings the whole length of the line of route. Mr Danaher and his co-partners (Messrs Taylor and Britton)... complain that axe men are scarce, but that plenty of pick-and-shovel men offer their services. All across the Belongil Heath many men are employed raising embankments, and work at Cooper's Shoot is being pushed ahead. There are several camps on Byron Creek, and also others upon the Byron-Mullumbimby portion.... The local saw mill is taxed to its full capacity, in fact many complaints are made that the local wants cannot be supplied.... Buildings rise up in a day or two like mushrooms. Mr Jarvis has started*

*running coaches from Lismore twice a week (only to have the train kill his business in 1895).*

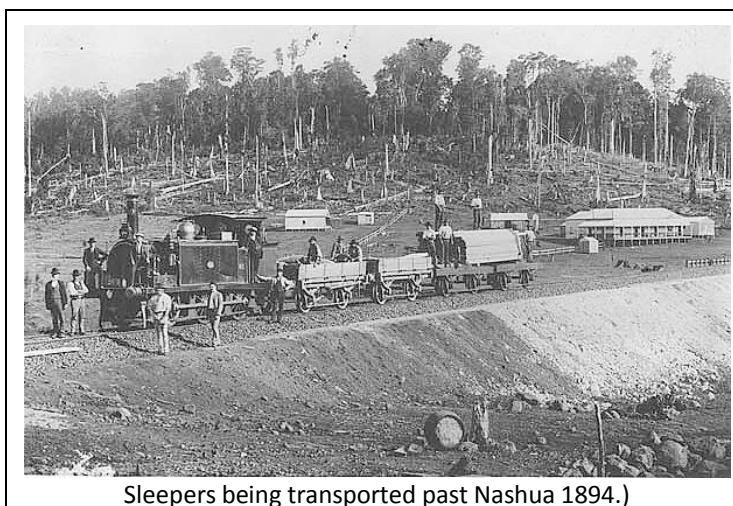
In Jan1892 a SMH reporter said *The men are at work at different points along the Lismore contract, in all some 700 being employed.... Byron Bay is about the centre of the second section, and labourers are camped here in large numbers.... There are about 500 men engaged, and they are employed from one end of the contract to the other.... At Coorabell Creek a settlement is being formed....*

*The navvies find themselves in the bush, a dozen miles from civilisation. Their work is laborious; and their fare is of the most frugal character. Their "houses" are of the most rough and ready kind. They build "canvas towns"; but really good tents are few and far between. The majority are made up of calico, combined with old sacks, and bagging of any kind. Most of them are just large enough to crawl into.... Some of the tents are larger, and contain whole families – husband, wife, and perhaps, half a dozen children.... Then there are larger tents still. Canvas or rough wooden houses are furnished with tables and benches. These are "eating" houses, and probably if the truth were known some of them are "drinking" houses also. Here and there along the route of the line stores have been "run up" by enterprising traders, and fairly good supplies appear to be kept. Byron Bay boasts of the largest number of camp followers, and a good deal of business appears to be going on in the temporary township that has formed. In some of these "centres of population" there may be 50 navvies, in others 100, whilst occasionally one or two tents only will be found dotted amongst the scrub.... Most of the navvies, by the way, come from Queensland, having been granted free passes by the railway. There*

are also a good many New Zealand men amongst them, but New South Wales labourers are few and far between....

And all contributed to the outbreak of Typhoid Fever in Lismore, 47 cases recorded by Mar1892, including 5 deaths. The Chief Medical Inspector of the Department of Health reported that *Large numbers of men either employed or expecting employment first began to accumulate in and near the town in March, 1891...*, eventually forming an unsanitary camp that had peaked at 500 in North Lismore before dispersal.

The navvies, support trades and camp followers also had made a dramatic impact on the Police workload. The population of the Police Patrol District of Brunswick, which stretched from Burringbar to Byron, housed 800 residents wef 1Jan1892, an increase of 180 in 12mths. As numbers continued to grow a new Patrol District of Byron was created by hiving off bits of the Brunswick, Ballina and Lismore Districts. By 1Jan1893 it accommodated 1200 residents, while Brunswick was now home to 1164, despite its southern boundary retreating to Tyagarah.



Sleepers being transported past Nashua 1894.)

Things were looking so promising that **James McNamarra** saw a niche for a newspaper, launching *The Byron Bay Ensign* in Jun92 after carting his plant from Murbah where he had unsuccessfully competed as the *Tweed Express* against the *Tweed and Brunswick Advocate* of **William Robert Baker**, a Main Arm selector and later influential in Mullumbimby and Byron affairs. A week later Auctioneer Baker managed to sell 60 allotments in the new Burringbar subdivision adjacent to the proposed railway station, realising £450.

The great goings-on with the railway brought a reporter from the *Town and Country Journal* to have a sniff around, recording his observations on

29Jun1892. Approaching Brunswick from the Tweed he saw *All along the road the land, where at all valuable, has been taken up at various periods, but 9 selections out of every 10 have been abandoned by the struggling pioneers.... They laboured hard..., getting short spells of employment from the other wealthy selectors, or obtaining work from the Government upon the roads to help them along..., but a large percentage were eventually compelled... to mortgage their holdings. As soon as their term had expired the houses were abandoned, but the interest due to financial institutions had to be met, or else forfeiture... ensued....*

*The upshot of the whole business is that the great majority of the selected areas have been abandoned for years at a stretch until the fences and improvements are completely fallen into decay.... Travelling along the road in the direction of the Brunswick River it is pitiable to look upon these deserted homes.... Here and there can be found a selector struggling along by the aid of road work, which is the only method by which he can exist on his property and keep possession of it in the state that is required by the Land Act....*

*There are very few people on the Brunswick River who live from farming. In fact, they could all be counted on the fingers of one hand, and these strugglers exist by the sale of maize to the navvies.... There is a small township at the Heads on the southern side, which rejoices in bearing the distinction of being larger in population than Mullumbimby, but as the railway will cross the river at the latter place... it's doomed. These settlements are mainly supported by the timber trade.... If the road from the Heads towards the head of the river be followed it will be seen that all the selections met with have been deserted, and the land, which had been cleared, is now grown over.... A little above Mullumbimby a few persons are growing maize, and cane is now being experimented with....*

*Frequently the outcome is that the whole property can be purchased for what it has actually cost the holder, without any consideration to the increase in the value of land by the approaching advent of the railway. The cases are numerous where ruination stares men in the face, and they threw up the sponge in disgust..., but a lot have taken the opportunity to sell up. Two months prior to William House achieving £12/acre for his undeveloped property, real estate agent **W.R. Baker** managed to extract £7/10/- per acre from **H. Hansen** for **W. Longstaff**'s 80 acre selection at Billinudgel, described as having 'much regrowth'. At the same time Baker had 2 of **Robert Smith**'s properties, 60 acres and 40 acres, and 3 of his neighbour **James Mills**' selections, totalling 130 acres, all described as 'the Pick of the Brunswick', with frontage to the Main Arm and King's Creek respectively, on his books. And a month later the Australian Joint Stock Bank had two of **John Brook Restall**'s selections, 50 acres and 40 acres in southern Myocum, up for auction, while **Robert Marshall**, as*

'mortgagee in possession', had James Thomas Jarrett's 1889 selections of 2 x 50 acres just west of Durrumbul, on the auction block.

Then it looked like the Government was going to wile away on the Mullum-Murbah portion of the line, rumoured to preserve the Treasury coffers in the face of the worsening Depression. By Sep92 *A great number of men, women, and children are camped on the last section... anxiously waiting work. Numbers continue to arrive from all parts of Queensland..., while over at the Bay The Public School is unable to accommodate the children seeking admission.*



Jack Restall's Hainsville Butcher Shop

*At a public meeting at Murbah in Oct92 The School of Arts was crowded by men who are awaiting employment on the railway, and it was stated that many of the men camped along the line are almost starving.... At the same time it was observed at the Byron/Mullum end that Several hundreds of people are without employment, and some are destitute.... Some have large families, and their condition is pitiable.... A week later A Public meeting was held at Brunswick..., which sympathised with the Numbers of men camped along the line as far as Burringbar..., and many are said to be destitute.... The district is suffering from the depression which appears to be nearly universal.... And a week after that at Byron Bay A crowded meeting was held in the Lincoln Hall..., as there are scores of families who are waiting and in dire want.*

The public meetings and protests finally prompted the Government to dispatch the new Minister for Works, William Lyne, (Saint Bruce had ascended to the Treasury in Aug1891), to Murbah in Dec92 to turn the first sod for the last section of the line where *a deputation of citizens, accompanied by a brass band, welcomed the minister, whilst the presence of five mounted police added additional honour to the occasion. Mr Lyne was received with ringing cheers. He was conducted to an arch of evergreens, bearing the word "Welcome", and surrounded with bunting.... Already land adjoining the station site is being cut up into eligible town lots, and houses are going up in the neighbourhood.... There are six iron and steel bridges to be constructed, the longest of which crosses the Brunswick River, and will involve a cost of £7000.... Work has already been commenced at both ends of the section. There are about 400 men engaged in the cutting and clearing... and when work is well advanced it is expected that 2000 men will find employment. The contract price of the section is £243,000, and the contractors are Wilcox and Firth, of Queensland.*

The Mullumites were also gearing up for the influx of more men and money. By Dec92 Joseph Yates had opened the Railway Hotel and *There will be no less than 10 stores and ~4 pubs from the Bridge at the Pocket (Billinudgel) to the end next the Brunswick River. To feed the multitudes the farmers, particularly Messrs Williams, Cameron, Dawson and Livingstone of Myocum are ploughing..., a good augury of a new era for the Brunswick.*

The largest camp on the line developed around where the road from Mullum met the Brunswick-Murbah Road (or where Coolamon Scenic Drive now terminates at Ocean Shores). It fell partially on Herbert Williams 100 acre property 'Mountainview' and was initially called 'Williamstown' where John Clifford ran the 'Mountain View Hotel'. But most of the camp fell on the 42 acre property of his northern neighbour, Maria Haines, and as she ran the Post Office Store the name 'Hainsville' quickly superseded 'Williamstown'. Her property was also the home to Patrick Smith's 'Pine Valley Hotel' and Jack Restall's butchery. On her northern boundary was the 39 acre property of Donald Munro who built the 'Kiora Hotel'. All these pub licenses were granted in Oct92, along with one for Henry French for the Coorong Hotel on his Tyagarah property. In Nov92 Mrs Jane M'Guire scored the license for the Railway Hotel on Gerald O'Connor's property at Billinudgel.

The 'Brunswick River Report' in the Northern Star of 11Jan93 said *The railway contractors are snagging the North Arm, and, I hear, intend laying a tramline from the head of deep water to a point on the line where the work is exceptionally heavy, and where there is already a primitive township of some magnitude, consisting of four hotels, half-a-dozen stores, bakers, butchers, saddlers, blacksmiths, &c., with a multitude of tents and huts of every description.... The following week it added that the road from the port at Byron Bay to the Brunswick is lined with carriers laden from here. An immense quantity of merchandise is landed weekly for the last section of the Tweed Railway, and the jetty approaches are blocked with teams wanting their turn....*

And the police workload continued to escalate. In Mar1893 the Tweed Advocate, in commenting on trouble at

Dunbible, said *To say that many of the navvies engaged on the railway line..., are a bad lot, is to put it mildly - far too mildly. They are a lawless crew, having no respect for God or man. They appear to live and labor wholly and solely for the purpose of getting drunk, and when drunk are comparable only to a band of fiends let loose. They wrangle, swear and fight in a matter which beggars description. If they are refused a drink they abuse the hotelkeeper, break windows and doors and terrorise until their demands are complied with; and then they fight with sticks and stones, and kick and bite worse than savages....* (At the same time a Billinudgel resident wrote to the *Northern Star* to call the attention of the Police Department to the necessity of police protection at Williamstown. There are about 500 railway people here, with three hotels, and about a dozen shanties. It is a regular pandemonium on pay week and Sundays.... Constable **William Caleb Andrews** of the Patrol Districts of Brunswick (1886-92) and Byron (1892-93) was credited with discovery of the largest whisky still ever found in NSW during the building of the Tweed-Byron Bay railway, and several wagon loads of whisky and beer....)

*A large and representative meeting was held at Clifford's Hall, the Pocket, on Saturday evening (8Apr93). The hall was crowded, fully 500 being present. Mr P. McGrath, storekeeper, was chairman. The meeting was called to take into consideration the Brunswick River bar improvements..., because 1100 railway workpeople and tradesman located on the southern end of the fourth railway contract... obtain supplies through the Brunswick Heads, and that great inconvenience is experienced owing to the present haphazard steamer service, which is attended with danger and difficulty in navigating the present entrance, the roads being impassable and too costly for cartage from Byron Bay, a distance of over 20 miles.... But the minister refused to fork out for any more projects, including parting with the bananas for the Byron Bay Breakwater.*

Nor was he alone in suffering pocket pain, the '*Brunswick River Report*' announcing on 16Aug93 that *The district is not wholly exempt from the depressed state of business which appears to be so general. Two failures of business men have been announced lately, and a keen competition exists to secure trade.* (One was probably **Delaney Hains** who came to an arrangement with his creditors in Mar93, while **Henry French** joined the bankruptcy ranks in Nov93). *It is rather an unusual thing to see an ocean-going steamer at Mullumbimby. The Cairo discharges cargo there now, chiefly material for the bridge and railway.... Mr Fenwick* (of Ballina) *is making arrangements to ship a large quantity of Pine from Mullumbimby to the Richmond.* In Nov93 the BRR advised that *The work of constructing the railway bridge over the Brunswick at Mullumbimby has been commenced..., precluding any tall ships from venturing up river.*

In Jan1894 the region learnt that *The night after the sports held on Boxing Day at the Pocket, Clifford's hotel there was burnt to the ground.... The three hotels which remain are even too many for the trade of the place..., and after every pay large sums of money are transmitted through the Brunswick money order office to Queensland. It would appear that most of the money spent in the construction of the line in wages goes to our sister colony to the north, as nearly all the men employed are Queenslanders.... Numerous enquiries are being made for farms to rent or lease for cane growing. This is especially the case among the workmen on the line, who, seeing a termination to their present labour in the near future are anxious to engage in profitable farm work.....*



Tramlines, believed to have finished somewhere near 'the Brunswick River Wharf'. (The writer of the cryptic note on the photos in the BVHS collection left no clues, but these lines could be those laid to transport materials and provisions to Hainsville from the Mullum or Brunswick wharf.)

The formal opening of the Lismore-Mullum portion of the line took place in May1894, and *On reaching Mullumbimby station (39 miles from Lismore), which was decorated with sugar cane, &c, grown locally, about 300 people were assembled, and the visitors were received with cheers. Mr H.L. Thompson read the following address of welcome and petition combined:- Dear My Lyne, You are a great bloke but..., we now want tramlines and better roads.... Signed on*

*behalf of the residents by J. McGregor, W.G. Shearer, M. Chisler, P. Olson, John McLeod.... Mr Alex. Carr then presented the following from the residents of Brunswick Heads and vicinity:- Dear Mr Lyne, You are a great bloke but..., we now want breakwaters and better roads.... Signed on behalf of the residents by R. Marshall.*



The Pocket (aka Billinudgel) 1894. (L to R: 'Haynes Hill' Tunnel, station in front of pile of logs, various tents, and McGrath's Tramway Hotel defended from arsonists and forest giants by tall palisade.)

Bay. A few of the leading residents of the Brunswick were invited and took part in the outing. The dinner and supper were provided in a scrumptious manner..., and the evening will live in the memory of a good many for a long time. Over 200 persons attended the picnic, and the whole number were able to be seated at one time at host M'Lean's hotel. In point of magnitude it was probably the largest of the kind ever given in the district. A special train conveyed the guests from and to Murwillumbah....

The formal opening took place on Christmas Eve 1894 at Murbah. Visitors were struck with the apathy.... There was no display of bunting, no banners or mottoes to bid the visitors welcome, no band with enlivening strains to greet their arrival, or when departing...; merely a few people, numbering probably a score, attracted apparently from mere curiosity.



Hainsville store and Post Office, established 1891. (Maria Hains seated centre with children and friend. Husband Delaney died 1897. She continued to live at 'The Pocket' until ~1920 when she went to live with daughter Mabel in Toowoomba, dying there in 1924 aged 71.)

closed in May95. Hainsville continued as a location name, the spot housing a roadside fruit stall by 1937 and subsequently evolving into the 'Salad Bowl Caravan Park' opposite the entrance to Ocean Shores. And the tunnel under the old Brunswick-Murbah Road is still formally designated 'Haynes Hill Tunnel'. The last vestige of 'Hainesville' went with the renaming of the remaining portion of the 'Hainesville Ferry Road' as Warrambool Road in 1970.

Last word goes to Mr Harper, of the Railway Department, who, interviewed at Murwillumbah by residents in Apr95, said in regard to a daily train to and from Murwillumbah..., the answer is an emphatic NO, as it's gonna cost an extra £600 per annum to run a daily train, and the line is losing enough money already.... But the cow was riding to the rescue.

By Oct94 Most of the camps along the line are deserted, and at every pay numbers of men are being discharged.... There are many miles of second-hand rails along the line for sale by the contractors, very suitable for the surveyed tramlines.... The long-promised punt for the river at Mullumbimby is now in its place. There is no one yet to work it. The reduction in the number of trains to Mullumbimby to three per week instead of daily as formerly, has been adversely criticised here.... A fortnight earlier the Station Master had been withdrawn from Byron Bay due lack of traffic, the guard on the train now doing the duties at all stops along the line.

The Mullum-Murbah line was finished by Nov1894 and A very enjoyable picnic was given by Mr Wilcocks (railway contractor)... at Byron

As an opening day, and completion of a line, it was perhaps the coldest ceremony ever witnessed in the annals of New South Wales railway openings.... Of nearly 500 acres resumed for the purposes of this (section of the) railway, fully three-fifths of the area was acquired from private estates. The vote for the whole line from Lismore to the Tweed was £911,850, and the cost of this railway to date has been £805,110.

In Mar1895 the Tweed Advocate's 'Wandering Reporter' had lunch at Patrick McGrath's Tramway Hotel at Billinudgel where he learnt that the recently formed Progress Association wanted to have the station's name revert to 'The Pocket'. After lunch he passed through Hainsville, where but a few months ago several hundred people resided..., while there is no additional settlement.... The store, now in the hands of William Child, who had come from Bexhill in late 1893 to relieve Maria Hains,

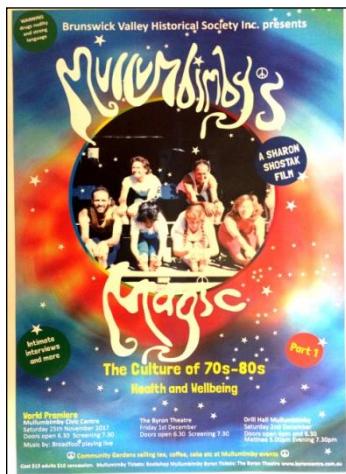
Peter Tsicalas

**Please note: 1. The museum will close on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec and reopen on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

**2. There is no newsletter in January**



Looking for a great Christmas present. You can't go past our new DVD - \$25 each. Enquire about the special price for members.



We leave 2017 with this Christmas Ad from 1941?

**BVHS Wishes all our members and readers a very merry festive season and we look forward to another interesting, event filled, stimulating and fun year in 2018.**

## 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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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  
Wed Thur 10 am - 2 pm.  
Or email to:  
[bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au](mailto:bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au)

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday 1 Feb 2018**  
**2.00pm**  
**See you there!**

\*Deadline for agenda items  
Wednesday 31 January 2018

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

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

