



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

Cnr Myokum & Stuart Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

OPEN: FRIDAY 10 AM – 12 PM

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

NEWSLETTER

Dec 2015 & Jan 2016

BVHS INC NEWS

Merry Christmas

Happy NEW YEAR

MULLUMBIMBY'S MADNESS – The Legacy of the Hippies

What a fantastic response we have had. Four sell out screenings with clamours for more and over 300 DVDs sold since the first screening.

Our heartfelt thanks to Denise Nobbs at 'The Bookshop Mullumbimby' for handling the ticket sales, which was not always easy with people swapping and demanding tickets.

Our members did a great job setting up the halls, checking tickets, selling DVDs and books, taking photographs and clearing up afterwards. Great team work. Thank you. Huge thanks to Sharon. What a legacy!



BVHS members enjoying the screenings at the Civic Centre and the Drill Hall

From top left: Susannah, Jacqui, Liz & Sarah; Neil & Blossom (aka John & Brenda); Alexandra

Roland & Dave; Gordon, Stephen & Susan; Michael & John; Brian

Basil; Sarah & Jacqui selling DVDs; At the Drill Hall Wednesday waiting for the patrons to arrive.



Just a fraction of the Happy Crowd at the World Premiere

REMINDERS

Next Market: Saturday 19th December. Museum open 9-1.

The museum will close after the market on Saturday and reopen Friday 8th Jan 2016. Nortec participants will man the museum on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 12th till the 28th January except for Australia Day.

Next General Meeting: Thursday 4th February 2016 2.00pm.

Your membership subscription for 2016 is now due. See the form at the end of the newsletter.

Next newsletter and meeting will be in February.

HIPPIE EXHIBITION

In conjunction with the documentary, we invite you to the launch of our permanent Hippie Exhibition, titled 'BACK TO THE GARDEN', at the museum at **11.00am on Saturday 19th December** at our market.

Sarah Newsome and Jacqui Marks with the assistance of Nortec Work Experience Participants have created a terrific exhibition on the 'Alternate Lifestylers', who arguably had a significant impact on our way-of-life.

Our patrons, Frank Mills and Basil Cameron, will be attending with the latter opening the exhibition.

AUSTRALIA DAY AT THE POOL

BVHS, Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and Petria Thomas Mullumbimby Pool have combined to hosting an Australia Day event at the pool from 3pm-6pm. There will be a band, barbecue and activities. A family fun afternoon is planned. Check out the flyer at the end of the newsletter for all the information.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

On sale this week: The DVD of *Mullumbimby's Madness – The Legacy of the Hippies* at \$25 a copy, \$20 to members.

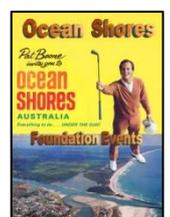
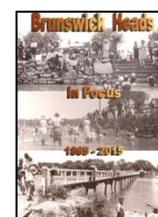
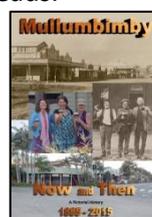
3 new publications compiled by BVHS members and Nortec Participants:

Mullumbimby Now & Then: a pictorial history \$20

Brunswick Heads In Focus: a pictorial history \$18

Ocean Shores: Foundation Events 1968-1988 \$15

All are available from the Museum, The Bookshop Mullumbimby, Mullumbimby Newsagency, Brunswick Heads Visitor Centre and Park St News at Brunswick Heads.

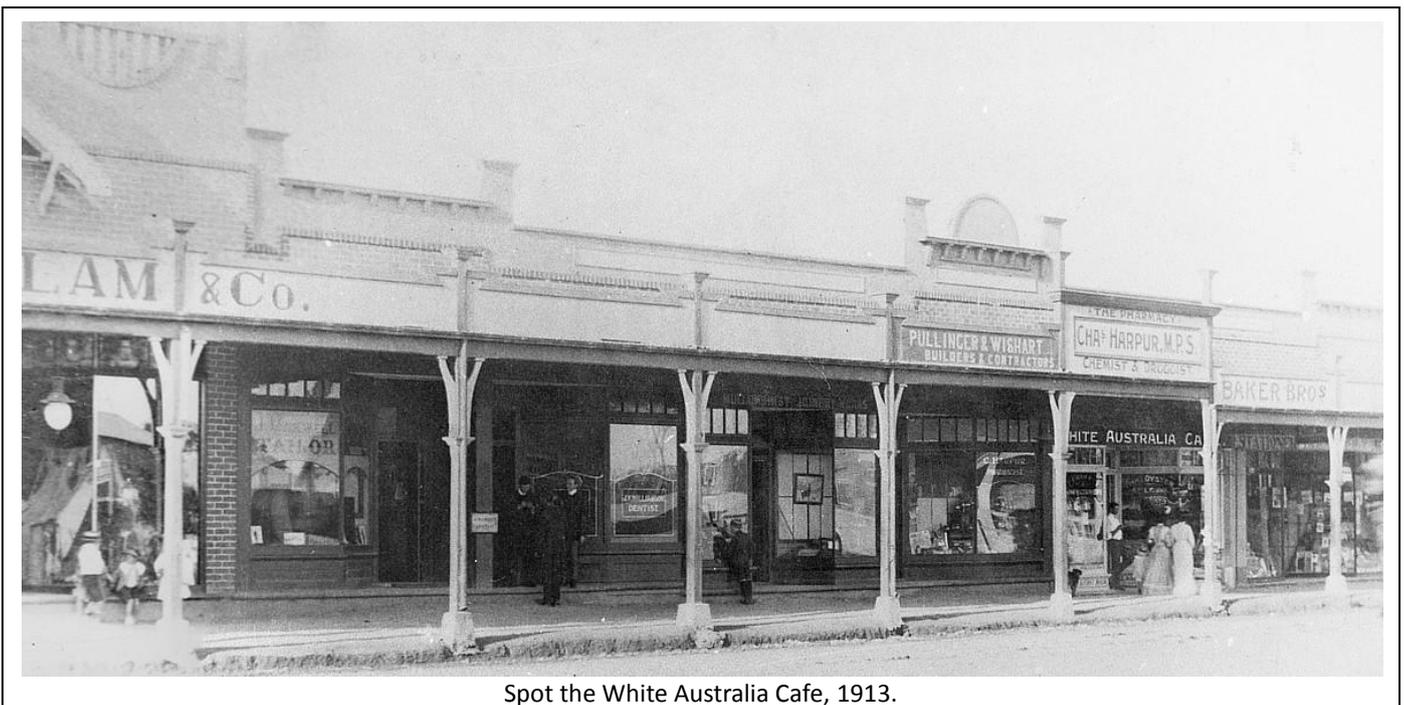


Mullum Curiosities

Hosting a community of socially progressive hippies from early 1972 was just the latest in a long list of Mullum firsts, although this time around it coincided with the final rending of the town's socially conservative rural fabric. The pride in 'Tidy Town' awards became overshadowed by the dubious fame of becoming marijuana capital of the country, a huge cultural shift from the days when it enjoyed the status as the second town in Australia to be blessed with a "*White Australia Cafe*". (Using Trove as a guide, the only other cafes so christened opened at Kalgoolie in 1906, Narrabri 1913, Inverell 1914, Wagga 1926, Grenfell 1932 and Tenterfield on 4Dec33, its proprietor, Alderman Archie Miller, heading his adverts '*Advance Tenterfield*').

Even so, has the impact of the hipsters been overblown through confusion of cause and effect? Notwithstanding their timely arrival with a pharmaceutically enhanced economic rescue package for the moribund town, their part in the cultural revolution is harder to quantify. They turned up at much the same time as the winds of social change were blowing across the country and Saint Gough was preaching that it's time for renewal. There was a new spirit into the air that helped His Holiness lead the left out of 23yrs wandering in the conservative wilderness. But Doug Anthony was rewarded with a safe return in the Mullum subdivision, which remained a Country Party stronghold into the 21st century despite a couple of electoral aberrations. (Mullum is a peculiar place and working through the contradictions will earn some sociologist/anthropologist a PhD one of these days.)

Tracking back to watch the drama unfold, the white ocker was opened by Baker Bros in Mallam's Building on 8May1909 and went through the hands of a couple of owners (including Mayor Hollingworth's sister) until the *Feros Bros* administered the *coup de grace* in mid 1915. Their cafe, eventually dubbed *The Popular*, retained an olive-Greek tinge through to its dying day in 2007.



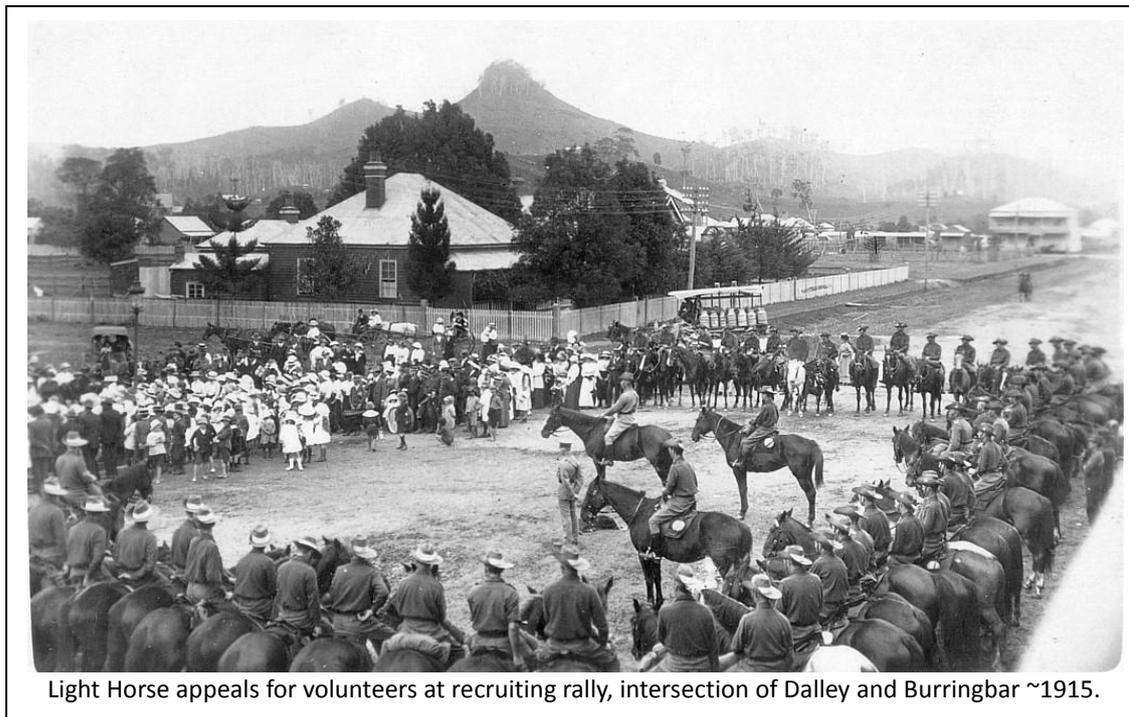
Spot the White Australia Cafe, 1913.

'White Mullumbimby' also featured in the formation of the Municipality in 1908, a letter writer named '*Cornstalk*' probably spokesman for the silent majority when he said let's *show the other councils on the North Coast that the motto of Mullumbimby Municipality, the latest addition to their ranks, will be 'White Australia' right from the start, as from experience it has been proved to be undoubtedly the best.*

Another peculiarity occurred 15mths after the death of the Ocker when Mullum joined the rest of the Richmond electorate to say Yea in the 'Conscription Referendum', the only country electorate in NSW to show solidarity with the five Sydney electorates so inclined. (NSW voted 57% No, Richmond 60% Yes, Mullum sub div 65% Yes. At the re-run in 1917 it was NSW 60% No, Richmond 56% Yes, Mullum 64% Yes.)

The voting pattern showed a close correlation with religious distribution, Mullum Municipality being below the regional average in Anglicans but above average in Catholics and Presbyterians. The Catholics led the anti-conscription argument,

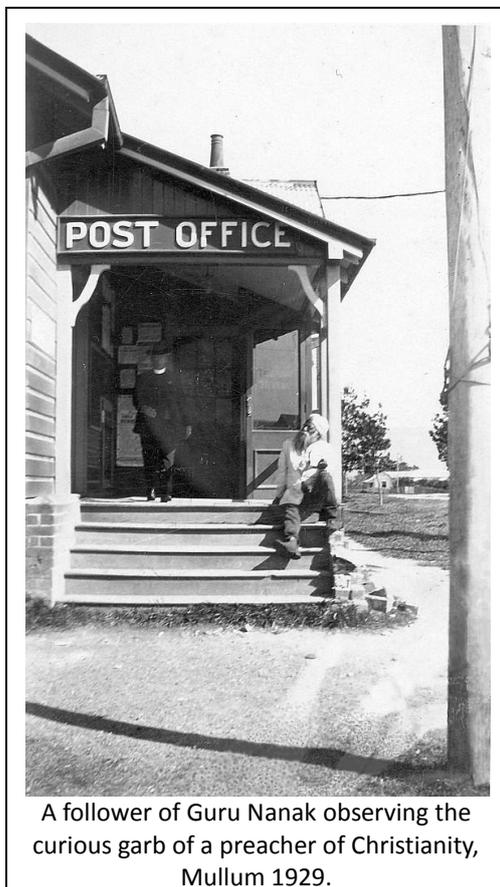
the existence of such a group of shirkers belatedly acknowledged by the pro-conscriptionist editor of the Mullum Star, Presbyterian Scotsman George Cameron, who simply said *There is now no benefit to go over the arguments that were used... and none will be given....* Conscription and sectarianism were also features of the following 1917 Federal and State election campaigns and second conscription referendum, at which Richmond and four loyal Sydney electorates remained steadfast.



Light Horse appeals for volunteers at recruiting rally, intersection of Dalley and Burringbar ~1915.

By 1933 the Mullumites enjoyed the distinction of having the proportionally largest Presbyterian enclave in the Richmond-Tweed region, double the state average, and, combined with their close relatives the Methodists, on the verge of challenging the Anglicans numerically. Moreover, the Presbyterians were over-represented in Mullum's civic and business affairs. Through to WW2 Mullum had 8 mayors, 4 of whom were Presbyterian, 3 Methodist and 1

Anglican, very disproportionate to Mullum's population of ~18% Presby, ~13% Meth, ~38% Anglo, ~23% Cath, ~8% Other/Unrecorded.) (By the 2006 census there was a dramatic turnaround, Mullum boasting 30.7% of its brethren professing 'no religion', the second largest 'religious' group across the Richmond-Tweed region after the 34.7% godless congregation of Bangalow, verses a NSW average of 14.3% for such non-believers.)



A follower of Guru Nanak observing the curious garb of a preacher of Christianity, Mullum 1929.

Paradoxically, the municipality's foundation mayor, Presbyterian Joe Hollingworth, was foundation president of the Mullum branch of the *Political Labor League* and President of the *Byron Electorate Council of the Political Labor League*, which Catholic Bishop Carroll of Lismore preached to his diocesan flock as *one of Australia's greatest achievements against the entrenched strength of Capitalism....* Joe's brother-in-law, Scotsman Donald McAndrew Ross, an ex-Mullum storekeeper, became mayor of Lismore, a leading member of the New Guard and a driving force in the sacking of Labor Premier Lang.

Moving on from religion and politics, Mullum's next point of distinction was to host the largest enclave of Chinese in NSW outside Sydney, which occurred during the post WW1 banana boom when the 'Hindoos', the second largest 'alien' group in the hills around Mullum, could also claim their community of Sikhs and Muslims from the Punjab was the largest in NSW, inclusive of Sydney. Unfortunately the Mullumites ungraciously suspended the rules of hospitality during the occupation.

More acceptable were the communally inclined Finns, who were amongst the largest alien cohorts in the district by the 1930s, building an enclave that evolved into the largest Finn community in NSW outside Sydney and Newcastle. Their main base at Upper Main Arm earned the colloquial name of '*Finn Village*' and in a nice piece of serendipity became a haven for hippie refugees in the 1970s.



Harry Nyland and family, Finn Village, Main Arm, 1960s.
(Harvesting bananas made easier with a Bren Gun carrier)

During the post WW2 banana boom Mullum continued to be a gracious host by forming a 'New Settlers' League' to help the largest group of Greeks and Macedonians in NSW outside Sydney ease into the community. But like the other groups, including the hippsters, their impact on Mullum's way-of-life was negligible. The subtle and incremental changes wrought by the continuing arrival of 'tree changers'

seeking sanctuary has been the major force in reshaping Mullum's corporate culture.
Peter Tsicalas



Mullum's United Nations Soccer Team (first formed 1957).

Standing L to R: Neil Ostring (Finn), Chris Vlahos (Greek), John Goldsmith (English), Rudy Valzan (Italian- Captain), Johnny Gassner (German), Louie Terresi (Italian), Earl Cochrane (Australian).

Front: Bill Apostoloff (Macedonian), Winfrew Klepp (Austrian), Harry Thornley (English), John Zefferro (Maltese). Ballboy: Nephew of Bill Apostoloff....

(Waldemar Melen, a Finn, was the captain of Mullum's first soccer team in 1933)



BRUNSWICK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

MUSEUM

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP 2016

Membership Fees	Payment Options	
Adults \$15 Students \$5 Printed mailed copy of newsletter \$5 p.a.	<i>Cheque/postal order payable</i> Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc PO Box 378 Mullumbimby 2482	<i>Direct deposit</i> Bank: Sth Cross Credit Union BSB: 722-744 Account No.: 150163 Reference: Your name

Name

Address:

Email

Phone No.....Mobile:

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

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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Brenda Davis
Market Managers:
Kim Pedersen
Sarah Newsome

Newsletter team:
Susan Tsicalas & Work
Experience Participants
Public Officer: Susan Tsicalas
All members are invited to contribute to this newsletter

*Please leave material with Sarah or Liz

Tues Wed Thur 10 am - 2 pm.
Or email to:
bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au

NEXT MEETING
Thursday 4th February
2016 2.00pm
See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items
Wednesday 3rd Feb 2016

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

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





Australia Day

26
JANUARY

AustraliaDay.com.au



CELEBRATE



AUSTRALIA DAY 2016

TUESDAY 26TH JANUARY

chill out! at

PETRIA THOMAS POOL
MULLUMBIMBY

3.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Lots of Family Fun!

Pool Inflatables

Barbecue Kebabs

Live Music by Broadfoot

Thong throwing Competition

Inflatable thong races

