



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

# MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER  
August 2018

Cnr Myokum & Stuart Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482  
OPEN: TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 10 AM - 12 PM  
MARKET DAYS (3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH) 9 AM - 1 PM

## PROTECTION FOR THE NEW AIR CONDITIONER

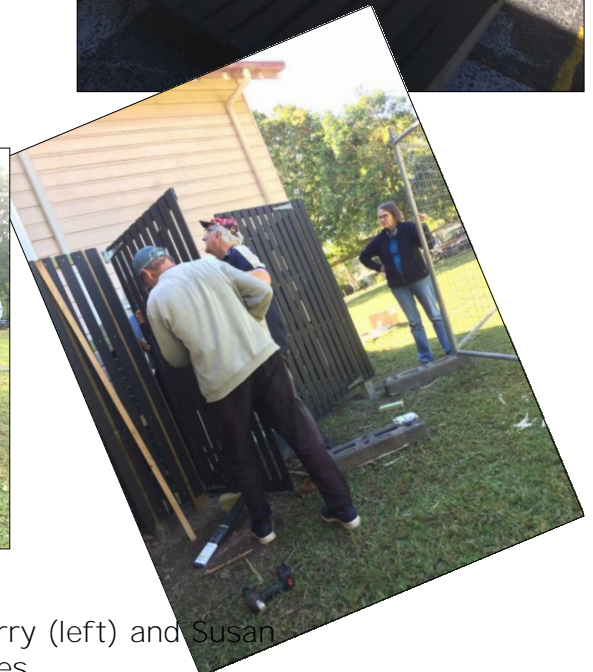
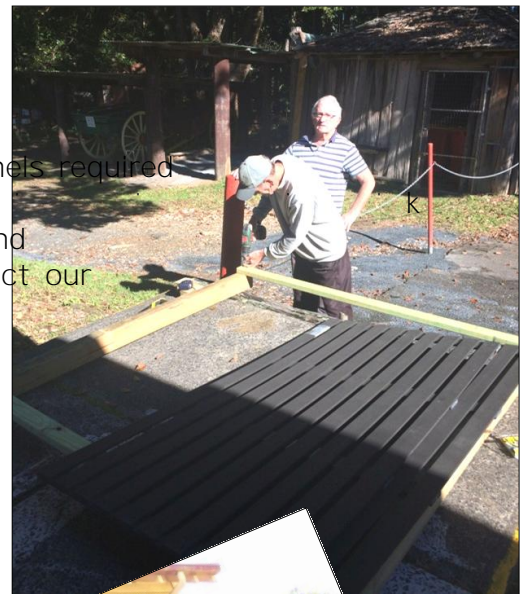


Big rock and numerous bricks from the old tip site on which the stands made digging post holes a difficult task for the boys. Unfortunately no treasures were unearthed, but after hours of back-breaking labour by members of the team the posts were finally concreted into place.

Left: Volunteers Dave and John take a well-earned break as Society President Stephen gets into his work with the crowbar.

Building the frame to support the prefabricated screening panels required

Society again acknowledges and thanks Byron Bay for its kind support in this project. Byron provided the panels to help protect our asset with minimal cost to the Museum



A job well done

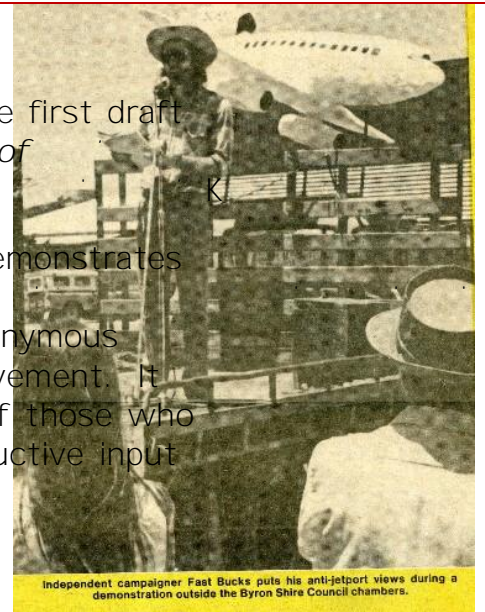
Much appreciated construction advice was provided by Barry (left) and Susan (right) as they worked on installing the gates.

## DOCO UPDATE

Filmmaker Sharon Shostak gave an impromptu showing of the first draft of the second movie in the trilogy *The Culture of the 70s & 80s*.

The doco covers the issues of activism and politics. It demonstrates how residents relive the moments that led to our area becoming synonymous with the start of the global environmental protest movement. It embraces the challenges and successes through the eyes of those who were part of the experience. Sharon appreciated the constructive input from volunteers.

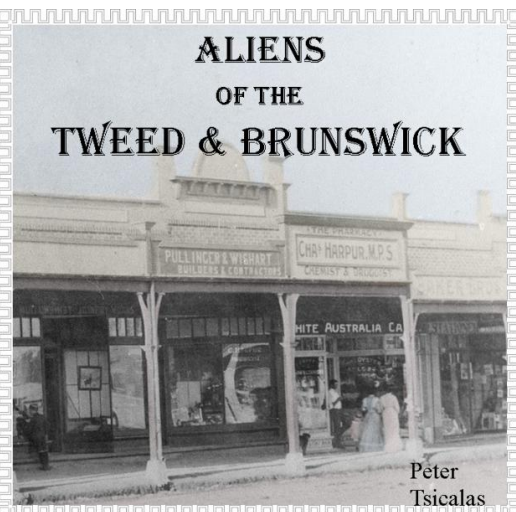
Watch this space. The doco release date is to be advised



Fast Bucks railing against the proposed airport at Byron March 1981

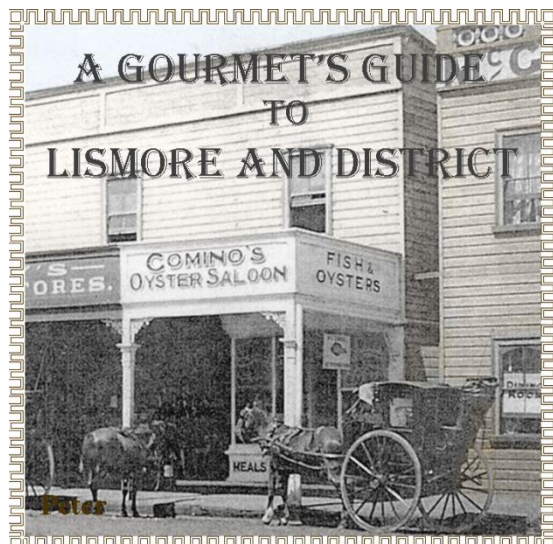
## ALIENS OF THE TWEED AND BRUNSWICK RELEASE

Peter Tsicalas has been tirelessly working and finally gotten round to putting his rich Greek story into publishing order via two CDs. A hard copy of the Brunswick tale is available at the museum for perusal. The CDs will sell for \$10 each.



This is a story about the consequences of colonisation for the Indigenous of the Brunswick, contrasted with the fun and games around Murwillumbah and Mullumbimby. The cover depicts the *White Australia Cafe* opened in Mullumbimby 1909 and winning the town the distinction of hosting the first café in NSW. It became a Greek possession in 1915 and remained in business until 2007.

Also available at the museum is the CD



#1, aka *The Sydney Oyster Saloon* on Woodlark Street, Lismore, was the first Greek feedlot on the North Coast, opened by Peter Cominos in early 1903. Greek Cafes followed at Grafton in 1904, Grafton, Coraki and Murwillumbah in 1905, Mullumbimby in 1906, Ballina 1907, Brunswick Heads in 1908, Woodburn 1916, Tweed Heads 1918, Nimbin 1920, Alstonville 1921, Byron Bay 1923, Wollumbong 1929 and finally Evans Head and Lismore in 1935, at which time the Greeks controlled the majority of the Richmond Tweed region, certainly all the posh ones.

These will soon be available for purchase from our website as well as the museum.



## Resurrecting Robert Marshall with thanks to Peter Asical

Robert Marshall first comes to notice in this finger of the forest in Dec 1865 when he and his brother were cutting timber without a license on crown land near Grafton. In Apr 1868 it happened and Daniel Hughes Shaw out on bail were recharged with stealing cedar on the Richmond River

The odds favour him being the Robert Marshall who eloped to Sydney with Elizabeth Mary Malone and married according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church in Nov 1869, both stating they were 31 yrs old and intended to settle at Brunswick Heads, where Marshall probably resided intermittently over the intervening years, and in Oct 1886 he told a friend that he was certainly a full-time resident by 1870 when he was the only Brunswickian to be granted a timber license as the Brunswick had become the new epicentre of the cedar gold rush, as well as the most popular staging post between the Richmond and Tweed.

In reminiscing to the SMH on 27 May 1922 Archibald Meston said *The only cedar cutter of Brunswick when I passed there, as a youth, in 1870, was a man Marshall who practically cut out all the cedar behind Cape Byron. He had then two millions of feet cut in the Scrub, and waiting by haulage to be taken to the town and country journals* able to record that *The Brunswick is now the chief seat of the cedar trade, from fifty to sixty men being employed. The dwellings are on the south bank, just inside the Heads, where are also to be found a store and an accommodation house kept by Mr Marshall* On 20 Apr 1872 Cassin's surveyor Richard Barling turned up to reserve a site for a village, reporting to the Surveyor that *There are also a few cedar cutters living there* But that year Robert Marshall, George Simpson, James Smith and John Johnson (aka Cudgery Jack) were the only Brunswickians to do their civic duty and enrol to vote in the Electorate of Clarence.

James Mills Bray, Crown Land Agent on the Tweed, who was concerned that the cedar rush would follow Robert Marshall's lead, became the Byron Shire, designated Portion 1, Parish of Brunswick, in 1881 when it was in James Mills Bray had urged *lay out village and other necessary reserves before the spots adapted for such purposes are pounced upon...*

Cedar had suffered a downturn by the time that *For the Town and Country Journalist* updated on 6 Jan 1874, *There were fifty cedar men on the Brunswick in 1871, but as they nearly all left it, I must conclude that standing cedar is to have left it also, though a considerable amount of timber lies in the scrubs or on the river banks* A month later diarist and timber getter Dick Glascock of Tintenbar saw James Smith, James Jarrett, Robert Marshall and some more in Tintenbar going out to the Brunswick with rations & a lot of working bullocks

Glascock had been visiting the Brunswick since at least Oct 1861. The first indication he was shopping there was on 8 Dec 1872 when his partner Alex Walls went to Brunswick from Possum Creek for rations. The Brunswick enterprise is likely to be the Robert Marshall recorded with a store in May 1871, probably managed by or leased to George Simpson as his day job in between his signaller's duties. Glascock was paying bills directly to Simpson Town at least early 1873. Shortly after which the Northern Star those to *Marshallville*

The Rellies

@ Ocean View Hotel introducing Alexander Brown, Annetta Josephine Mitchell/Bowen, Janet Marshall and Robert Smith to the story. Annetta, born 1863 Sydney, the daughter of Henry and Janet, went as a young woman, then Miss Mitchell, to Brunswick Heads where she managed the domestic arrangements of the first hotel built and conducted by her uncle Robert Marshall. Alex, born near Newcastle in 1859, the son of Thomas and Isabella, initially settled at Alstonville in 1879 and after a school education at Mooball (in 1889) where he lived for a number of years, after which he managed the Brunswick Heads

He was also a carpenter and in 1885 built the police station at Brunswick Heads, which was removed to duty as a police residence at Mullumbimby, and it still stands there today. Annetta and Robert married at Ballina in 1886, she mysteriously using the name Bowen. As well as captaining the Brunswick Cricket team, Alex also fe

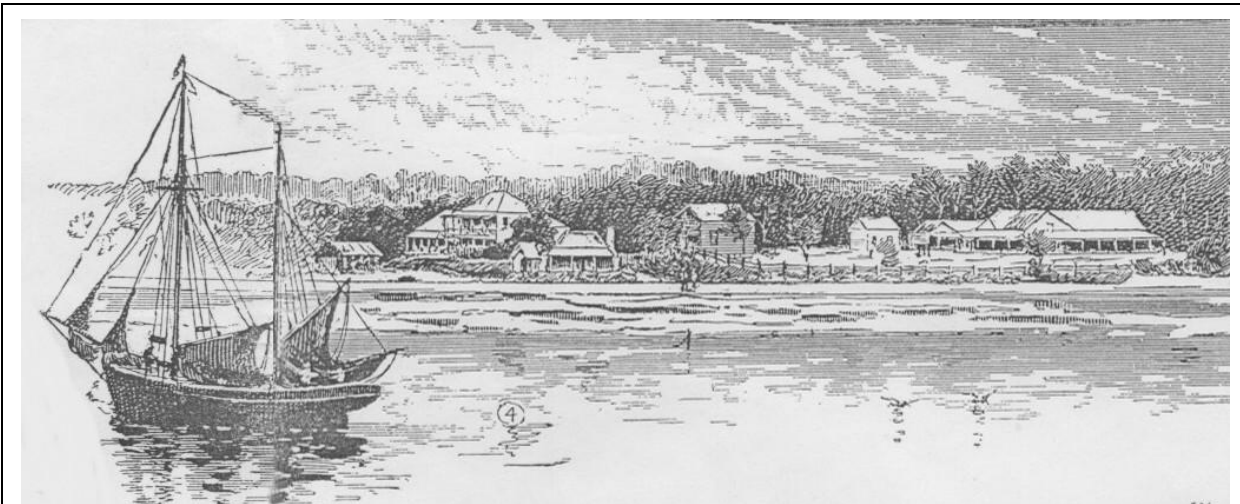
Robert and James Smith were born at Ballarat, 1855 and 1856 respectively, coming to the region with the the early 1860s. Robert married Janet Malone, the Catholic daughter of James and Janet (nee Dunlop) and the Mrs Robert Marshall in a Presbyterian ceremony at Brunswick Heads in 1883, while brother James and Kate Eyre Appleton, the daughter of Robert Appleton and Caroline Marshall at Brun in 1884, formalising their relationship in a civil ceremony in Sydney in 1891 after 3 more births.

In 1881 Smith & Luhrs started advertising a General Store and Butchery at Brunswick Heads, followed by Smith & Webber as Family and Carcass Butcher's Molebunblein 1882, in which year Robert Smith selected two blocks between Richard Webber and James Mills in the Saddle Ridge Kings Creek area, while brother James scored two blocks on Mullumbimby Creek, on the southern boundary of what the Municipality. Lund was trading as Lund & Nicoll at the time he sold out to James Mills in 1883, but within a year was advertising a General Store and Butchery at King's Creek, adjacent to which Robert Marshall's bark roofed boatshed that went up in flames in Nov 1883.

All became involved in community affairs. Robert Smith and Robert Marshall amongst the organisers of the

1885. Marshall had become the second largest land owner in the embryo village when he acquired 500 acres in a sale in Oct 1883, at which time Brunswick Heads was still in the ascendancy as the major population and centre in what became the Byron Shire. But thereafter machinations saw Byron Bay break away to form its own Association (to which Robert Smith was part of the unsuccessful Brunswick delegation to help mend fences) followed by the Bay winning approval for the Mullumbimby and putting paid to any chance of a harbour scheme for Brunswick. Then Mullumbimby usurped its position as capital of northern Brunbyronia.

In the meantime the Marshalls were winning a growing reputation for hospitality. In 1884 a couple of Travellers commented that Mrs Marshall was an excellent hostess and a landlady of the Brunswick Hotel. Her husband, a few months previously, had the misfortune to break his leg, and is not yet sufficiently recovered.... A testimonial to her residence, and the post



Mullumbimby Street from the South Spit in 1886, Ketch White Cloud anchored in the South Arm. A team from the Town and Country Journal published this lithograph/etching and their Brunswick observations on 16 Oct 1886, recording that the southern side they found the township to consist of Marshall's little wooden post and telegraph office, a store, the house which had only just been finished, another hotel in the course of construction.

In early 1890 an impecunious journalist with the Sydney News commented that Brunswick is not a huge

Brunswick is that you can get the most splendid whiting that can be obtained in the colony with the hotel that is usually patronised is kept by a very old identity Marshall. u  
# remove these and the township is wiped off the face of the earth. If  
sixpence Exorbitant costs the effect of the bad and unsafe entrance....

And that entrance continued Robert Marshall In Oct 1890 a public meeting was held at the Heads with

the object of considering what further steps should be taken to induce Government to carry out the entrance...Mr Marshall said that he had just returned from Sydney, and had several conversations with the b But apathy had set in by this time and meetings of the Brunswick Progress Association have been held for several months, and the Society is to a certain One reason is ony to the fact that several members have attached themselves to the Mullumbimby Assoc

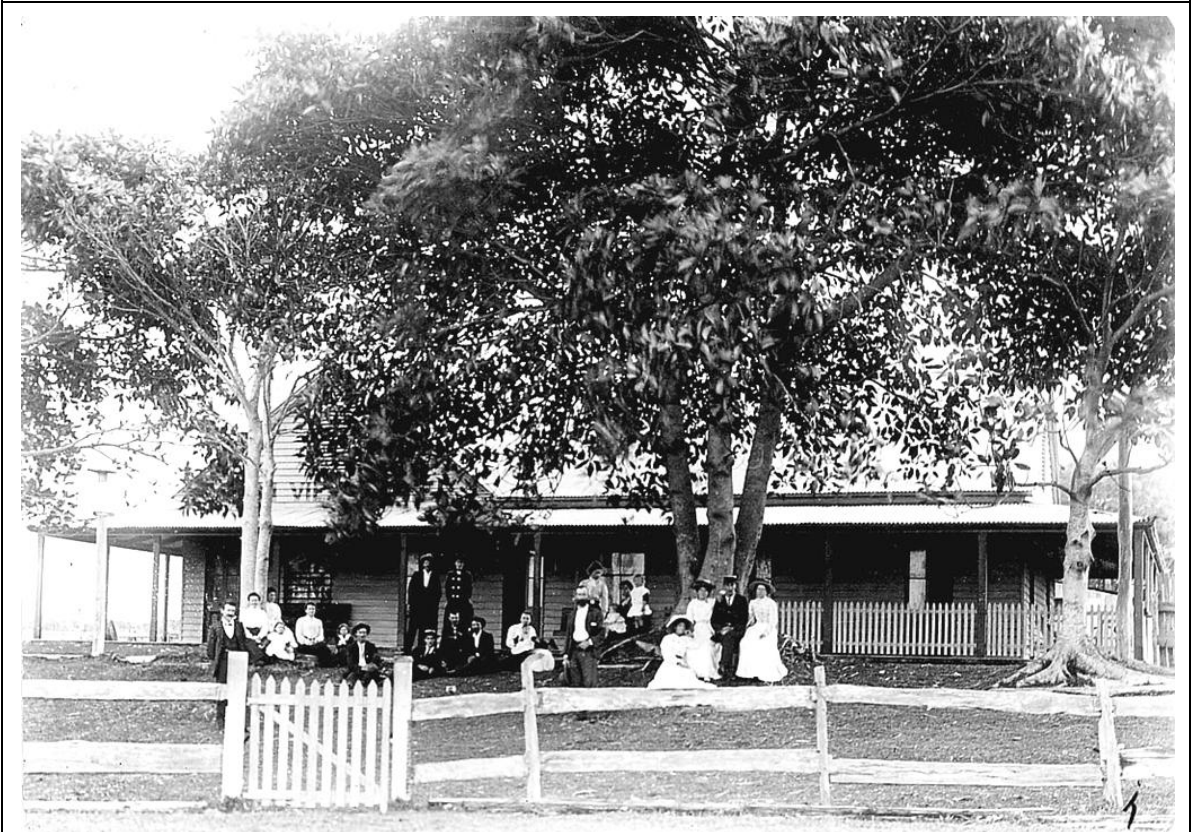
Depression

The devastating 1890s Depression, which saw a collapse in the cedar market, followed by the whamm the Intensive Care Ward.

Looking for another way of getting his timber to market, and perhaps indication of his vocation prior the SMH on 27Feb1891 PRIME LOG CEDAR For SALE, to arrive by the schooner Annie C. Lyne from the Br River, a cargo of very superior CEDAR, in ROBERT MARSHALL Skipper Hemade another attempt on 4Mar189 when Messrs Thos. Gollas (Sydney) and R. Marshall (Brunswick) have purchased the coasting schooner "Anna The recently stranded in Byron (Feb 91) If successful in getting the vessel off, it is the intention of the pur place her in the timber trade of the Brunswick River. Unfortunately they did their dough, as 2wks later Anna bec complete wreck due relentless gales.

In Jul1891 W.R. Baker, real estate agent and newspaper baron of Mullumbimby, had later prominent in Mullum affairs, had of Robert Smith's properties, 60 acres and 40 acres, and 3 of his James Thomas selections, totalling 130 acres all described as the Pick of the Brunswick in his books. And a month later Robert Marshall as 'mortgagee in possession', had James Thomas Jarrett's 1889 selections of 2 x 50 acres just west of Durrumbul, which and Smith was still a Brunswick resident when he was declared bankrupt in Nov1892.

The Apr1891 census had found 70 people at Brunswick Heads, 30% of them (15 males and 6 females) Ocean View Hotel. But the subsequent havoc wrought by Depression and loss of the train, now delivering the " Ocean View going into mothballs in 1897. It was resurrected as a boarding house 2yrs later by Robert Smith, the of Billinudgel, who needed a change in employment after losing half his jaw in a kick from a horse.



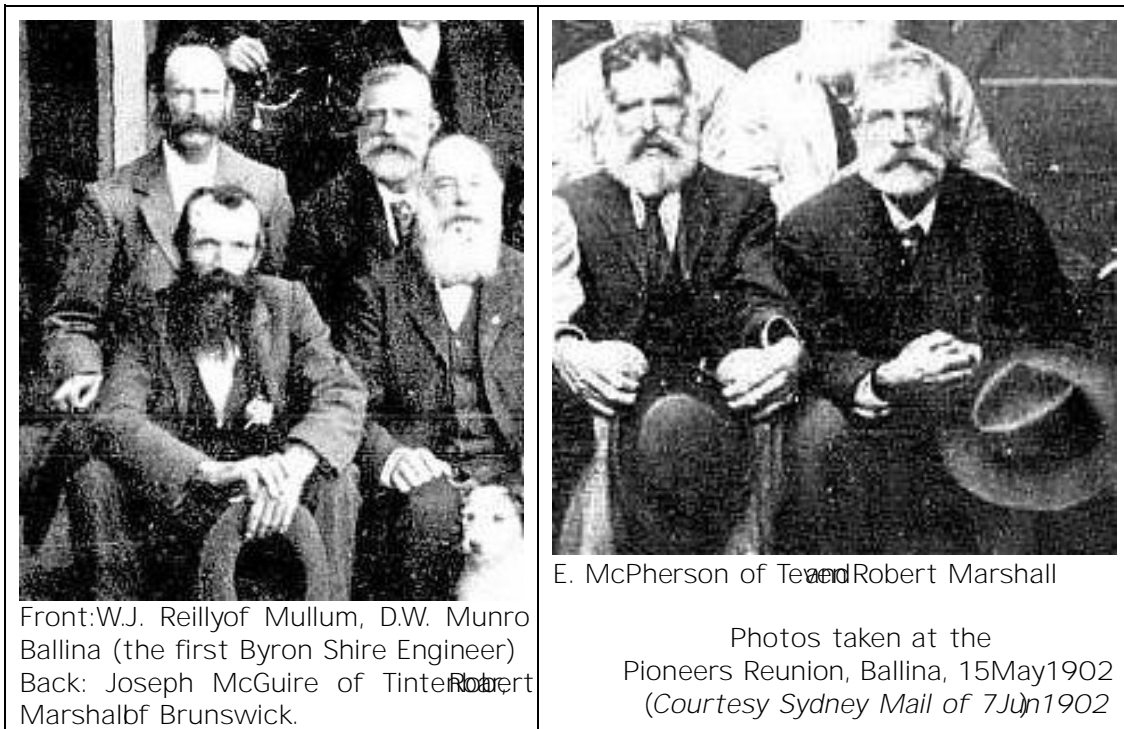
Ocean View Boarding House ~1900.

Robert Marshall who somehow found the cash to purchase and dismantle the Henry French 3-storey store and residence and use the salvaged materials to erect the Hotel Mullumbimby. He commenced the exercise in 1896, but the job turned out to be a bit of a completed in Jul 1898. In the interim he seems to have been in trouble all over the place as an unlicensed timber dealer declared himself bankrupt in Jun 1899, at which time his nephew Alex Brown was licensee of the Court House while Smith was still lessee of the unlicensed Ocean View.

### Mullumbimby

Elizabeth Marshall died at the Court House Hotel 15 Oct 1899. The SMH recording that the funeral was the largest seen here. She resided on the Brunswick River for a period of 32 years and was well known as the hostess of the Ocean View Hotel for many years. She latterly resided at Mullumbimby, where she stayed at the Court House Hotel. Much sympathy is felt for Mr Marshall and his wife who lived somewhere in the Catholic portion of Mullum cemetery.

Six months later widow Robert Marshall and new wife Louisa appear as manager of the hotel and new licensee and landlord Charlie Simpson who had acquired the place from a Sydney mortgagee in early 1900. His wife, Sarah Louisa Jennings, born 1849 England, married the Dane Jurgen Henrick Ferdinand Soll 1878 London 1890, aged 39, and she migrated to Australia the following year, marrying Marshall under the name Soll 1900 Sydney.] Charlie installed Fred Gully of Casino as licensee in late 1900 and the Marshalls disappeared from Mullum. The woodwork, and while Robert was still listed as a carpenter of Mullum on the 1903 Commonwealth Electoral Roll, by that time he and Louisa were probably ensconced at Byron Bay.



Front: W.J. Reilly of Mullum, D.W. Munro Ballina (the first Byron Shire Engineer)  
Back: Joseph McGuire of Tintinara, Robert Marshall of Brunswick.

E. McPherson of Tweed and Robert Marshall  
Photos taken at the Pioneers Reunion, Ballina, 15 May 1902 (Courtesy Sydney Mail of 7 Jun 1902)

Meanwhile Alex Brown had become secretary of the committee planning grand celebrations to mark the opening of the Federation Bridge, which, on 24 Mar 1901, saw him open festivities in Mullum with the Byron Bay Band and a procession of 700 people. The celebrations lasted into the wee hours at the Court House Hotel, the license for which was taken over by Mark Perkins of Tweed Heads in Jan 1902. He went off to run the Mayfield Hotel at Eltham, thence a short stint with the Ocean View in Brunswick before taking over the Pier Hotel in the Bay in Oct 1904.

In mid 1906 the Browns moved to Broadwater to run the mill near the ferry, which went up in flames on 1 Mar 1907 forcing their move to Wardell. They resettled at Coraki in Jun 1909 after contemplating taking a new house in Mullum where they still owned a block in Dalley Street. Annetta died at Coraki 28 Jan 1936, aged 78, and Robert died 28 Feb 1950, aged 90.

Robert Smith appeared in Mullum shortly after the arrival of the Great Wheel of Byron Bay became mine host of the Ocean View in Mullum. He was a prominent figure in the timber industry or a new vocation as manager (and owner from Aug 1906) of the Mullum Railway Station Street.

where he had horses, Buggies and Sulkeys always on hand and offering a local taxi service with drivers and coach service to Bruns every Sunday. (There were two Robert Smiths in town by at least 1906). In 1906, Robert Smith took over the property opposite his Court House Hotel. In 1911 they moved to Sydney, where Robert died 20 Jul 1914, aged 62, and Janet in 1936.

### Byron Bay

At some stage Louisa Marshall had acquired two quarter acre blocks on the corner of Fletcher and the Bay, originally selected by David Jarman, but the first evidence that Marshall had taken up residence was in Feb 1900 when she opened the 'U' k o = ' O O ' on the property, offering 'the Only Tea Rooms in the Bay' in the Pier Hotel (built by Jarman) and across the road from the future Council Chambers (owned by Jarman), is known to have contained six stables, coach house and chook pens. In Aug 1903 she opened 'The Nursing and Maternity Institute' on the site, with 'Doctor in Attendance' more than likely the doctor Delph Singh of Mullum.

In mid 1908 she acquired a boarding house in Lismore. She also ran an employment agency from the place. But on 19 May 1908 she announced that Mrs R. Marshall having returned to Byron Bay, open a Second Hand Furniture Shop in Fletcher Street.

In Apr 1910 she introduced Mrs R. Marshall's 'U' k o = ' O O ' - ' # Croup, Burns, Scalds, Sprains, Bruises, White Swellings, Stings and Bites of Insects. Prices 1/6 and 2/6 per Bottle. Large Bottle 5/- Apr 1911 she opened an up-to-date business stressing that Mrs Marshall is starting this work on account of Mr Marshall being unable to work through breaking his arm.

All the while Old Bob 'U' had been operating a General Carrier and Cartage business and apparently a buggy taxi service around town (and further afield on the occasion ferrying Delph Singh around the Tweed). In May 1908 he was advertising in May 1912 that Robert Marshall, of Byron Bay, can guarantee to Cure Horses and Dogs of Magnetic Embration Wonder Cure, Backs, and all Sprains a valuable Liniment.

Louisa branched out into breeding dogs for sale, taking in boarders and advertising in 1908 Excursionists, Byron Bay, that in Mrs R. Marshall's inn accommodate the public with Hot Water and the of a comfortable shelter for teas. Also accommodation for horses after they were both frequently in and out of hospital.

On 24 Dec 21 the Byron Bay Record recorded that Mrs Robert Marshall, a very old resident of Byron Bay, and whose husband is also an inmate of the hospital, passed away at the Lismore District Hospital. Mrs Marshall was an Englishwoman, both she and her husband always displaying a sturdy patriotism without anything definite being known of the great wealth she dreamed of, trouble her. On 19 Dec 1903 the Record had reported that two sisters have already left for England to press their claim.

A week later the Record advised that Mr Robert Marshall passed away at the Lismore District Hospital (24 Dec 21), and was buried beside his late wife, having survived just over a week. He was one of the oldest residents of Byron Bay in the early days when means permitted was known for his good and generous disposition. No other newspaper noted his passing, inferring his place in Bruns/Mullum had been forgotten or deemed inconsequential.

He and Louisa lie in unmarked graves in the Anglican portion of Lismore Cemetery. Death certificates completed by hospital Matron certify that Robert was born 1837 Plymouth, England, to Alexander Marshall and Susan Ryder, and Louisa 1849 London, to Carriage Painter Jennings and Ellen Allen.

### Marshalls Creek

Whilst he died in obscurity, in Feb 1972 he was resurrected by the Brunswick Heads Progress Association when proposing new names for the North and South Arms of the Brunswick River that the tributaries be named Simpson



River (North Arm) and Marshall's Creek (South Arm). The names were selected because of their association with early Brunswick history. Simpson was the first cedar boat pilot at Brunswick Heads (known in the early days as Simpsonstown.) Marshall was the first proprietor of the first store. The names will be submitted to the Geographical Names Board by Byron Shire Council... wheresomething got lost in transmission, as the Names Board finally stamp of approval in May 1974. The North Arm will be officially known as Marshall's Creek and the South Arm as Simpson's Creek standsthis day.

Creek in the parish of Billinudgel, delineated on edition 4 of the earliest parish map (drafted Aug 1893). It ran into Wilson's Creek about a mile from Billinudgel Station and was more than likely named after our settler Marshall presupposing he had staked a claim with establishment of a camp/depot somewhere along its length at some time. The first mention of the so named creek occurred in the SMH of 5 Nov 1886, the evidence taken by the Water Conservation Commission at the Brunswick Courthouse, viz *Marshall, hotelkeeper, twenty years resident*. The principal creeks were *U (sic) Rangè..* Nowadays the whole stretch from Brunswick Heads to Main Arm is 'Marshalls Creek', while 'Wilson's Creek' has been consigned to history.)

## OLDFARM EQUIPMENT

After consultation with the donors we sold off most of the outside old farm equipment as the deterioration from living outdoors and equine use meant that the machinery became a Health & Safety issue. They have gone to two good homes in the Exhill area for display on the owners properties.

The area bordering the creek, because of the great work with plant regeneration, is looking terrific. The Byron Shire Council now needs the creek and it will be a very pleasurable area to walk and linger beside.

## 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 contributions for the newsletter with John, Tues or Fri 9am to 12 noon.  
Alternatively email to:  
[bvhs84@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bvhs84@yahoo.com.au)

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday 6 Sept 2018**  
**2.00pm**  
**See you there!**

\*Deadline for agenda items  
Wednesday 5th September  
2018

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

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

