



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

June 2019

Cnr Myokum & Stuart Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

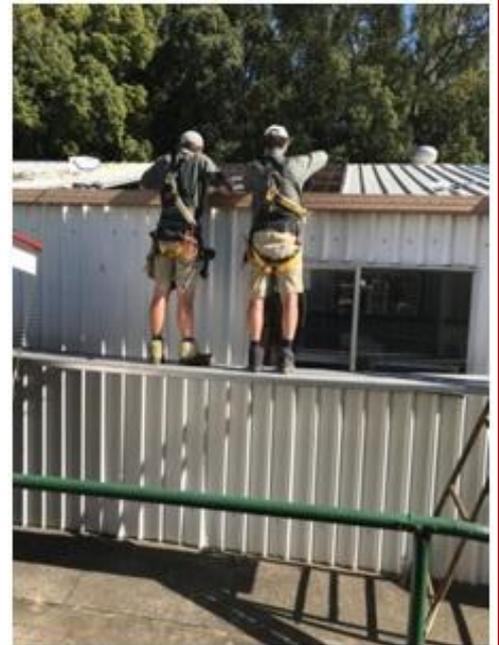
OPEN: TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 10 AM – 12 PM

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

Shed Work Commences



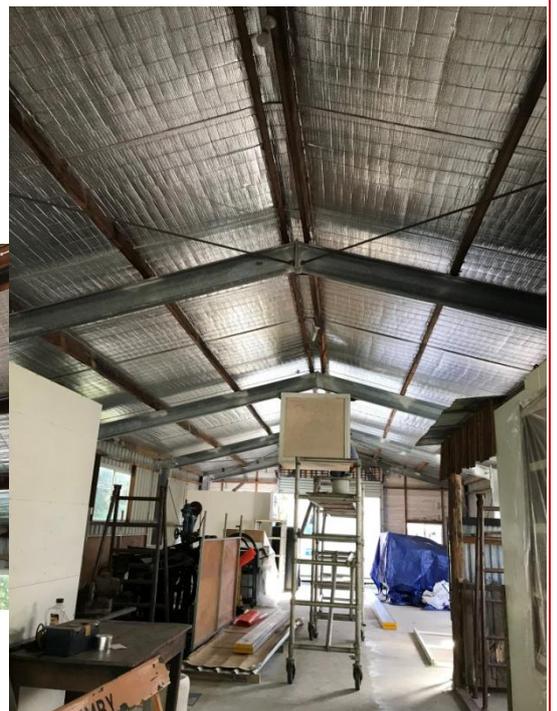
During May, contractor, McHugh Design P/L, started work on the \$50k refurbishment of the Machinery Shed. The first job was to install insulation to the underside of the roof, a task that required the removal of roof sheeting, replacing skylights sheets as required, installing the insulation and refitting the sheets and capping. In the photos adjacent workmen, appropriately shackled with safety harnesses, prepare to remove roof sheeting,



The photos below show the underside of the roof before, during and after the installation of the insulation.



New power board and wiring is underway too



***A Strange Will, A Singular Will, A Curious Will,
A Peculiar Will, An Interesting Will, Remarkable Will...***

Those were some of the Australia-wide headlines that the Will of **Henry Tyler** of Myocum attracted in mid 1906 when his detailed instructions for disposal of his body *after I am done with it...* became publicly known. The actual parting of the ways had taken place on 5Apr1905, but the belated publicity had come about because his executors, **William Thomas White** and **Henry Crossman**, had summoned his beneficiaries, the Salvation Army and the trustees of the Lismore and Tweed Hospitals. The estate was estimated at £500 in mid 1905, equivalent to ~\$74,000 in today's money.

Henry was born in Weld, Franklin County, Maine, USA, in 1830, the son of **Isaac** and **Mary Ann** (nee **Moore**) and qualified as a carpenter before making his way to Australia in 1853 via a gold-mining stint in California. (Isaac was a successful merchant in Farmington... before settling at Weld. He was county clerk and commissioner, town clerk, treasurer and selectman, and a state representative from both towns... says "*The Tyler Genealogy; the descendants of Job Tyler, of Andover, Massachusetts, 1619-1770*" by Willard L. Tyler Brigham, published by Cornelius B. Tyler of Plainfield, N.J. 1912.) Henry spent nearly 30yrs years wandering the wilderness of Victoria, Queensland and NSW until his 1882 arrival at Myocum, where he died a bachelor with 'senile decay', aged 74.

Testator left the following memo for the executors respecting the cremation of his body:- "As I have always been an advocate for cremation as being the best way of disposing of all dead bodies, both animal and human, I feel that I am consistent in wishing my own body to be burnt after I am done with it. As there is no crematory convenient, I wish hereby to give my executors some suggestions as to the methods which I wish to be adopted in fulfilling my wishes as above expressed, that is in burning my body and afterwards. First measure off 12ft each way from the fence in the north-east corner of my land, and let the intersection of these two lines (marked as on the margin).... Then lay my body, wrapped in one of my bagging threshing clothes (no coffin) lengthwise on these cross sticks.... Now, after reading the 23rd Psalm, put fire to the small wood underneath the body. After 48 hours, or after the fire has quite burnt down, pull all the ashes and cinders into the trench, and fill it in level. When the season comes for planting, I wish to have a young teak or fig tree planted over my ashes, and make no other mark or sign. My ashes will rest peacefully beneath the tree. As I wish to show and make known as widely as possible how much better the system of cremation is than that of burial, I would like as many as care to do so to witness the burning.... And for this purpose I would like the date of the cremation to be made public; and to have this paper and also my will read either before or during the burning as you may think best. And, now, wishing you all a last goodbye, and asking a kind forgiveness from anyone whom I may have offended by word or deed, and hoping that we may all meet again in a happier world.... NB – I have no objection to Hindoos being employed at my cremation, if white men object to doing it.

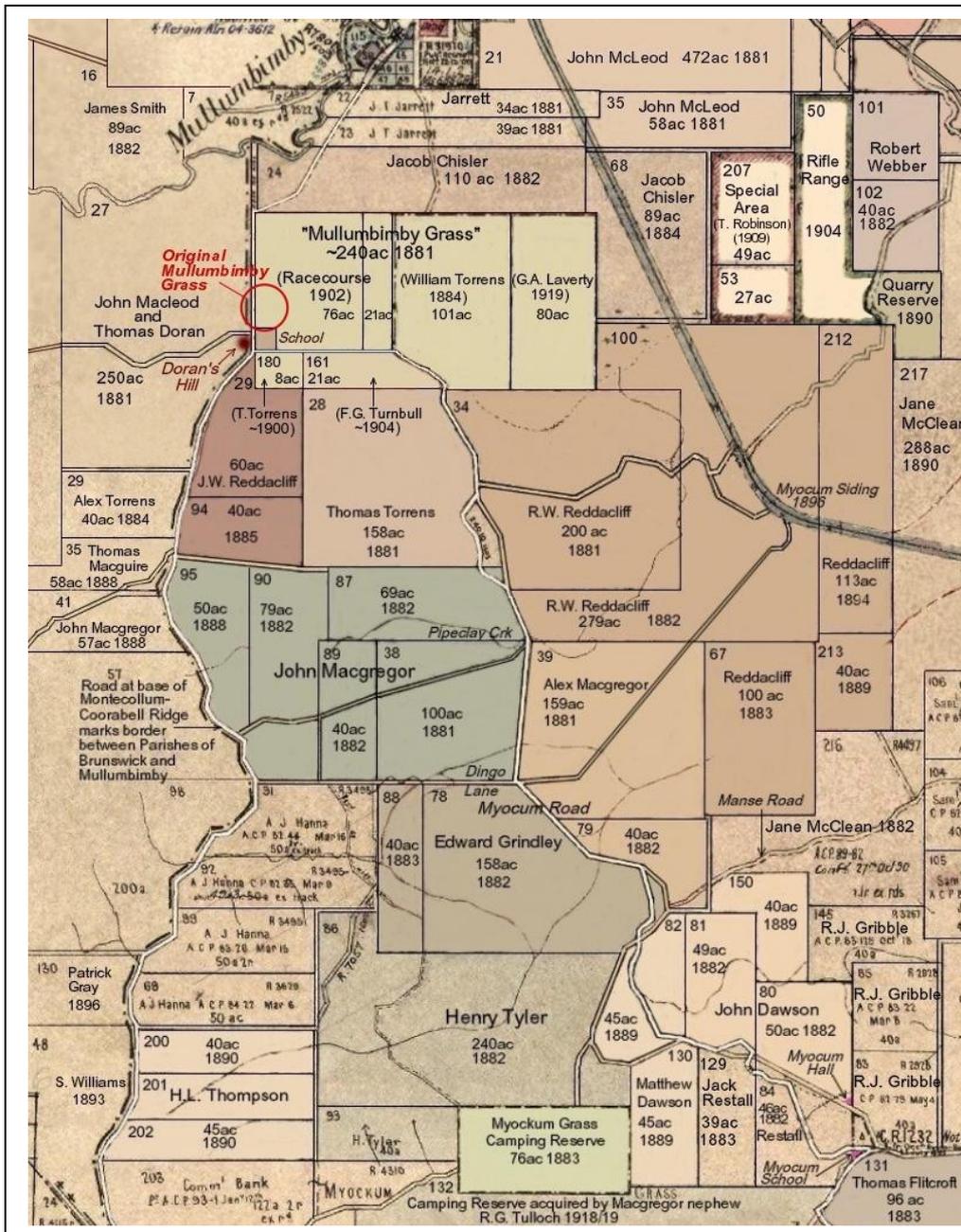
No cremation ever took place, as *an adjacent farmer objected on religious grounds, and he threaten that, if they did not abandon the idea, he would bring action for damages against them...* so he was buried in the ordinary way in the Methodist section of Mullumbimby cemetery by undertaker **James Crossman**, the son of executor **Henry Crossman**. He still lies in the unmarked grave, the executors presumably adhering to at least one provision of the Will.

Mr Justice Owen was tasked with determining whether the plaintiffs were entitled to the legacy of £50, bequeathed to each of the executors of the will; whether the directions in the will as to planting a tree would be carried into effect, and, if so, how, and by whom; and whether the devise to the commissioner of the Salvation Army of the acre of land upon which the testator ('s body would have) resided, was valid, and effectual....

Subject to the bequests to his executors testator also devised one-third of the residue of his estate to the Salvation Army Commissioner upon trust to be used solely for such charitable purposes.... He bequeathed the final residue of his estate to the Lismore Hospital, and the Tweed Cottage Hospital. He expressed a wish that anyone who had any trouble or care in connection with the disposal of his body to be liberally paid therefor.

His Honor said it appeared to him that the only condition imposed by the testator was that the Salvation Army should allow the cremation to take place and the tree to be planted. They did not seem to have made any objection.... In the circumstances he did not see there was any necessity for the tree planting to take place. He found that the bequests were valid and effectual.

Mullum solicitor **Harold Walter Weigall**, *Proctor for the Executors*, despatched the final bank draft of £132 to the Tweed Hospital in Apr1907, on the same day he was farewelled to Bathurst. Solicitor **Nathaniel Stephen Powell Moriarty** made the final payment of £1/19/8 from the estate to the Lismore Hospital trustees in Oct1907, supplementing the £132 they had already received. Presumably the Salvation Army got its *one-third of the residue of the estate*, along with the one acre of land, and executors White and Crossman got their £50 legacy.



Portion of 5th Edition Map of the Parish of Brunswick, in use 1896 to 1906.

(Myockum Camping Reserve *on the Lismore and Brunswick Road now in use, under 'Possum Mountain, was originally 160acres, gazetted 10Oct1881. It was reduced to 120ac via the Gazette of 8Jan1883, then sometime before 1896 reduced to 76 acres, and sometime after that cancelled and converted to freehold. Lots 200,201 and 202 acquired by Mullum School teacher Hugh Thompson Jul1890-Jun1894. They were in the hands of W.J.C. Bird by 1897.*

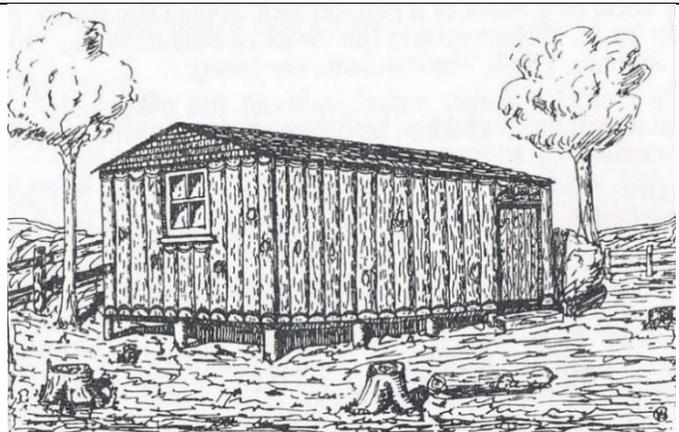
It's understood the school site was originally a cedar-getter's camp, possibly the spot referred to as Molebunbie in the early 1880s. The site was home to the *bloodwood tree marked broad-arrow over R, close to the hut at Mullumbimby Grass...*, used as the datum to mark out the ~240 acre Camping Reserve.

Presbyterian **William Thomas White** sold his Myocum farm in 1907 after 11yrs residence and died 2yrs later, aged 69, and scored a headstone in Mullum cemetery. Myocum neighbours **James Crossman**, **Rev Richard Dill-Macky**, **Matthew Dawson** and **John** and **Alex Macgregor** were amongst the speech makers at his farewell to a new house on the nearby property of his son-in-law **Job Flitcroft**. **Henry Crossman** is more than likely the retired father of Methodist lay-preacher and Myocum farmer James Crossman. Presbyterian Henry came from Devonshire in 1856 to settle at Kempsey, retiring in 1904 to live with various sons before returning to Kempsey, where he died in 1924 aged 88. James came from Kempsey in 1904 to take over the undertaker and cabinet making business of **James Smart**, but acquiring his Myocum farm by at least mid 1905, while spending his spare time as lay-preacher on the Methodist circuit. He sold up in Jul1918 and moved to Sydney, where he died Oct1951, aged 84. In the meantime he had chaired a Salvation Army meeting in 1905, served as secretary of the Myocum Church (built by **Henry Tyler**) from 1907, and built the Myocum Hall in 1913.

Henry Tyler had selected two adjacent blocks, 240 acres and 40 acres, on Myocum Road in 1882, across the road from **Matthew Dawson** and **Alex Macgregor**, and about a mile south of **John Macgregor**. The north-east corner adjoined the property of Methodist Englishman **Edward Grindley**, the brother-in-law of Methodist Englishman Matthew Dawson. By 1885 Henry had acquired another 120 acres somewhere in Myocum, while his property portfolio expanded to include 4 lots in Mullum acquired at the first auction in 1888 and 2 blocks at Brunswick Heads in 1892.

(The southern portion of Henry's Myocum selection bordered a camping reserve on the original 'Brunswick Road', which traversed the spur linking the Montecollum-Coorabell ridge line with Tyagarah Reserve. This road formed the boundary between the 'Police Patrol District of Brunswick River' and that of Byron Bay. In 1897 the Bruns Patrol became the *Mullumbimby Police Patrol District*, covering the area from Tyagarah to Crabbes Creek and inland to Rosebank. The

Brunswick Road was re-routed down Possum Shoot in 1885.)



Molebunbie School 1886, as sketched by Robert Argue. It was of sawn slabs and comprised one room... 18ft x 14ft x 9ft, and sited on about 2 acres on what is now the 16th green of the golf course. (Until its official opening in Feb 1886 the nearest school was at Clunes).

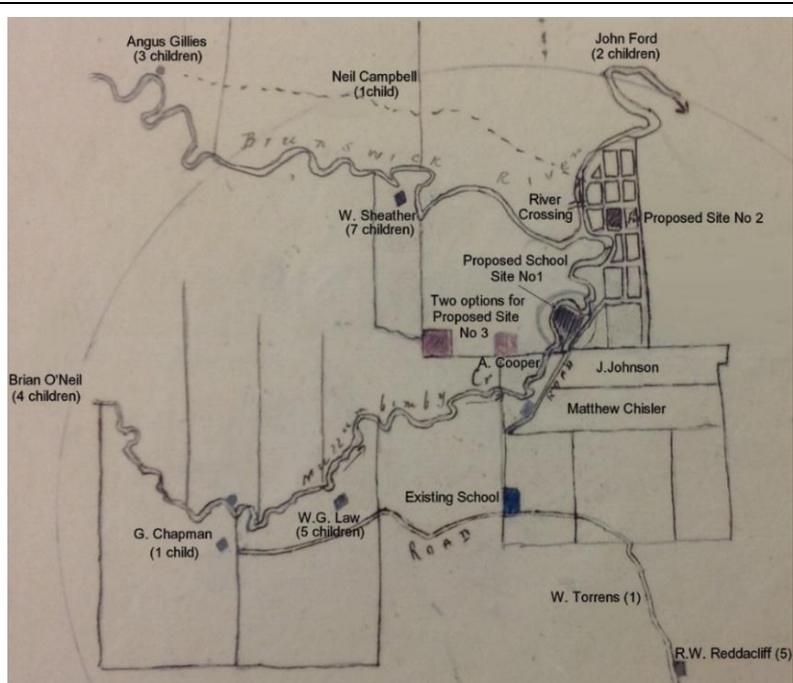
Henry was credited as the builder of Mullum School by the *Northern Star* in a 50th anniversary article 23May1936, adding that *Mrs S.H. Johnson* (nee **Mary Ellen Reddacliff**) remembers that the playground at the old school took in the hillside near Mr **Bob Wiley's** home of to-day, then being known as *Doran's hill*.... But State Archives documents simply state that it was built by local volunteer labour under the superintendence of **William Grant Law**, who was subsequently presented with a £60 cheque from the Department of Public Instruction for distribution as he saw fit. **Henry Tyler** took possession of the building for £5 upon the opening of the new school on the present High School site in May 1892.

Henry also was credited with building the first church in the Brunswick district. In reminiscing to the *Mullum Star* on 2Jul1933 **Matthew Dawson** said *The Myocum Church was built in the year 1890 by the late Mr Henry Tyler, and was opened by the Rev George Reave, Methodist minister of Lismore, on the third Sunday in October, 1890, adding on 18Oct1934 that all the timber used was hand sawn.*

In mid 1892 he subdivided 280 acres of his farm/s into three blocks, likely to be from the original 1882 selection, and acquired by Messrs **John Dawson**, **William Geddes Shearer** and **Charles H. Caswell** (railway surveyor camped at Mullum).

The following year Henry got caught up in the controversy over whether the Progress Association of Brunswick Heads or Mullumbimby was best positioned to champion the interests of the district. **John Macgregor** of Myocum, secretary of the Brunswick Association, figured his organisation was all-encompassing and that priority should be given to Brunswick bar improvements, making the Heads the major outlet for the district's produce. But **Stan Woodrow** of Mullumbimby Creek, secretary of the Mullum Pro Assoc, which had split from the Bruns Prog Assoc in 1889, reckoned the Heads was a lost cause and the spending priority should be an access road to the jetty at Byron Bay, and that the rail line should run through Mullum.

Of this Mexican Standoff, **William Robert Baker**, owner-editor of the *Tweed Advocate*, an absentee Main Arm selector north of Woodrow but later a major player in the Mullum ego contests, reckoned in 1891 that *It is with feelings of the deepest regret*



Sketch of Mullumbimby School District by School Inspector 1891. (But in Apr 1891 **Matthew Chisler**, Census Collector for the Parishes of Brunswick and Mullumbimby, found 30 Households within the school catchment area, viz, **R. Reddacliff** 6m 4f; **T. Torrens** 3m; **J.W. Reddacliff** 2m 1f; **J. Johnson** 3m 2f; **J. McGregor** 3m 2f; **E. Grindley** 1m; **J. Dawson** 2m; **M. Dawson** 1m 2f; **S. Hanna** (uninhabited); Meth Church (uninhabited); **Jane McClean** (uninhabited); **J. Restall** 1m; **J. Flitcroft** 1m 1f; **T. Flitcroft** 3m 2f; **D. Cameron** 8m 4f; Provisional School House (Household 37, uninhabited); **M. Chisler** 3m 2f; **A. Cooper** 1m 3f; **J. Johnson** 1m 3f; **A. Torrens**, 1m 1f; **J. McGuire** 1m; **T. Torrens** 2m 2f; **J. Hanna**----- (uninhabited); **J. Bourke** (new building, absent); **W.G. Law** 4m 2f; **W. Lawrence** 1m (camped in tent); **T. Doran** (uninhabited); **J. Tyrrell** 2m 3f; **G.H. Chapman** 1m; **B. O'Neil** 5m 3f.

that we note the spirit of antagonism manifested towards each other by residents in different parts of the Brunswick district. No matter what may be urged to the contrary, it is patent to the unbiased observer that this jealousy, antagonism, selfishness, or whatever it may be called, does exist, that it underlies most of the so-called public movements....

Macgregor's solution was to form an umbrella organisation. On 5Aug91 **Thomas Torrens**, **John Reddacliffe** and **J. MacGregor** placed a notice in the *Northern Star* advising that *A meeting of those in favour of forming a NEW*

ASSOCIATION at Mullumbimby, will be held at the Post Office (Mr R.W. Reddacliffe's) on Saturday, 15th August at 2.30pm, the results of which were that ...those present unanimously resolved to form themselves into a progress association, to be called the "Central Mullumbimby Association." The following officers were appointed:- President, **Mr H. Tyler**, Vice-Presidents, **Messrs T. Torrens, and M. Dawson**; secretary, **Mr J. Macgregor**; treasurer, **Mr R.W. Reddacliff**. (All Myocum-centric.) Twenty-one residents enrolled themselves as members of the association....

The Woodrow faction thought it was a practical joke, declaring that **Mr Tyler was not present...**, while **Thomas Doran, Hugh Campbell, R. Argue, W.G. Shearer, N. Campbell, M. Chisler, J. Tyrrell, J. Corcoran, A. Gillies, J. Yates, Peter Olson, T.B. O'Neill, A.B. O'Neill and W. Thailer**, signed a letter saying *We, the undersigned, residents of Mullumbimby, beg to state that we were present at the new Association meeting...* and the above report is all trumpeted-up fake news.

On 21Oct91 **R.W. Reddacliff, A. Torrens, Matthew Dawson, Thomas Torrens snr, Vivian Boxsell, Robert Marshall, Alex. H. M'Gregor, John Donaghy, Patrick English, Herbert Clarke, Joseph Boxsell, Peter Nelson, H. French, W.F. Bonnell, Thomas Torrens jnr, W. Reddacliff, James Watterson, Chart Roubson, G.H. Chapman, T. Torrens, J. Johnson, J. Stanton, John Torrens, T. Johnson, J.W. Reddacliff, Duncan Cameron, Thomas Jarvis, D. Withers (jnr), Robert Smith, A.F. Wallis and J. Flitcroft** said *In reply to the letter which appeared in your issue of 30th ultimo, signed by a few of the residents of Mullumbimby, which has evidently been worked up to damage, if possible, the new Association, we the undersigned, land-owners and residents of the Mullumbimby district, desire to state, that we approve of the formation of the new Association, and we accord it our hearty support, believing that in the best interests of the district the formation of the "Central Mullumbimby Association" was not only justified, but necessary.* **Henry Tyler** was noticeable by his absence and silence.



Torrens' Residence, 'Rockdale', junction of Myocum and Montecollum Roads, (known as 'Torren's Corner' and 'Doran's Corner'), 1896. (Thomas W. Torrens on horseback. He acquired the blocks of J.W. Reddacliffe ~1891, adjacent to portion 28, selected by his uncle, Thomas Torrens Snr. About 1898 he formally absorbed portion 180, 8acres carved off 'Mullumbimby Grass, where he started a butchering business ~1895. Moved into town 1900 and became builder, butcher, auctioneer, and Foundation councillor/alderman on both Byron Shire and Mullum Municipality.)

Woodrow's mob eventually won the day and the Centralists became the *Myocum Progress Association*, of which **Henry Tyler** eventually became a vice-president along with **William White**, while **John Macgregor** served as secretary and treasurer and **William Shearer** as President. At least one meeting is known to have been held at Tyler's place. Henry also became secretary of a short-lived *Byron-Tyagarah Progress Association*.

In the meantime the local farmers were getting excited about the prospects for sugar cane, and in an article on 6Aug1892 the *Northern Star*

reported *A special preliminary meeting of intending sugar cane growers along the railway line, Byron Bay to the Tweed, which was attended by representatives from various centres along the railway line and the proposed feeders thereto, was held in the School of Arts, Mullumbimby, on Saturday, 23rd ultimo.... An interesting paper by Mr Henry Tyler was also read on the subject of tramways and cane plantations – horse power versus steam....*

Henry kept a low profile until Jul1898 when his place was home to *the largest political meeting ever held*. With **Matthew Dawson** in the chair a brave Catholic candidate **Richard Meagher** ventured into the Proddie enclave to give *a long account of the American civil war....*

Henry's last major contribution to Myocum affairs occurred in Dec1902 when *A public meeting of the dairymen of the Myocum district was held at Mr Tyler's residence... to consider the black labor question.* **Mr Shearer** stated that *the meeting was the outcome of general conversations amongst the dairy farmers on the black labor question, which was first discussed at the recent meeting at Byron Bay. He thought that if the Indian races were employed – and he heard on good authority that in some cases they were – it would prove damaging to the dairy industry in the future.* **Mr H. Tyler** was here voted to the chair. **Mr J. Macgregor** moved, ---*"That this meeting disapproves of the employment of Indians in the milking yards or dairies."* He said that *it was currently reported that the Indian races were employed in some places milking cows.... His motion was only an expression of moral sentiment, and although it had no binding effect, he was sure that it would stimulate other centres to take like action. The motion was seconded by Mr White and carried unanimously.... Then some humour. Another farmer thought that a fair thing would be a bonus of 3d per lb from the Federal Government for all "white" butter....* Norco subsequently took up their concerns. Peter Tsicalas

OLD AND GOLD



The BVHS stand was again popular at June's Old and Gold whole-of-town garage sale in Brunswick Heads. Volunteers Susan, Stephen, Gordon, Rollie, Dave, Brenda and John gave up a few hours of their time on Saturday 8th.

Susan prepared an excellent display, detailing the history of the Mullumbimby Hydro Electricity Plant coupled with the electronic savvy of Stephen to the fore with two computer displays in operation. The BHVS movie *Mullumbimby's Magic, The Culture of 70's and 80's - Activism and Politics* was screened on the main stage of the Memorial Hall, while running in the foreground was *The Changing Mouth of The Brunswick River*, a photo DVD developed by BHVS volunteer, Mitsuo, in 2018.

Stephen, Gordon & Susan manning the store.

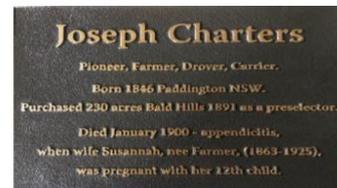
Descendants of **William Henry Farmer and Sarah Melanaphy,** married 1859 in Armidale and early settlers at Hernani.

Their descendants are many:

Marshes,
Millers,
Rosses,
Charters,
Jacksons,
Farmers and
more.



**Join us Saturday
10 August 2019
on the Dorrigo
for a reunion tour
of family sites.**

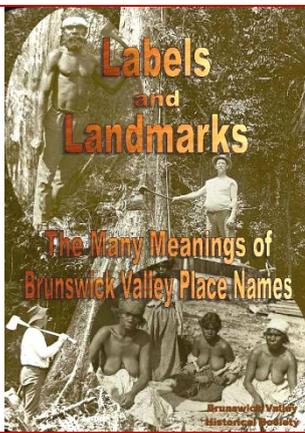


ITINERARY

9.30am Meeting at the *Sip a While Café* at 16 Cudgery St, Dorrigo to share stories and photos.
11.00am Visit the Dorrigo Museum around the corner.
Noon Lunch in Dorrigo—choice of venues
1.00pm Drive out to Guy Fawkes old township site beyond Ebor
2.00pm Visit *The Pines* farm, the property that William Henry (Harry) Farmer bought on Conditional Purchase in 1887 and the land attached. Then, visit *The Willows* where William and Sarah Farmer and family lived and where their youngest daughter Sarah Elizabeth was born in 1885.
3.00pm
Descendants of Susannah (nee Farmer), and Joseph Charters
 Visit Bald Hills, now owned by Mr Turnbull, and attach the new Memorial Plaque to Joseph Charters' old headstone, a large rock, on the land he Conditionally Purchased and worked for years before his death by appendicitis in 1900.
Descendants of Sarah (nee Farmer) and George Ross visit Sunnyside Farm at North Dorrigo where Sarah Malanaphy Farmer spent her later years.

PLEASE Contact Judi email judigeggie@hotmail.com or SMS 0407439991 OR
 Erica email: ericaybutler@yahoo.co.uk or SMS 0431155422
 if you would like to join us, or if any of your relatives may be interested as well.

DORRIGO - A ZOO-ZUMER



NEW PUBLICATION BY BVHS

Labels and Landmarks: The Many Meanings of Brunswick Valley Place Names should be on the shelves later next week. It consists of 94 pages with photographs and maps. The tentative price is \$22 each.

40th ANIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Commemorative

Environmental Protection Activism Expo Day

Northern Rivers

in conjunction with

The Historic Terania Rainforest Logging Protest

40th Anniversary Commemorative Celebrations

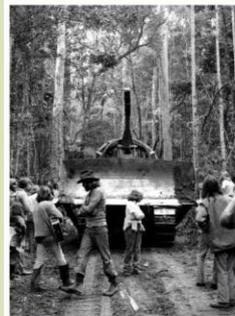
Sunday 11th August

At the famous Channon Markets

(Home of the original 1979 Terania Protest March)



Photos Courtesy of David Kemp



Bring your Environmental / Community Organisation

Join the Festive Expo - Erect a Display Gazebo
Special Market Celebrations Day Area

Displays – Speakers – Music – Presentations – Screenings

Children's Book Launch

The First Rainforest Warriors – Terania

Sunday Market Hours

Contact the Market Managers

(Robyn or Jo)

The Channon Markets Inc.

Email - admin@thechannonmarket.org.au

Phone - 0266886433

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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Patrons: Frank Mills OAM
Basil Cameron

President: Stephen Hall

Vice President: Robby Wright

Min .Secretary: Brenda Davis

Cor. Secretary: Susan Tsicalas

Treasurer: Susan Tsicalas

Assistant Treasurer:

Sarah Newsome

Committee Members:

John Davis

Shed Manager Roland Sjoberg

Market Manager:

Sarah Newsome

Heritage Panel Representative

Chris Cooney

Newsletter team:

John Davis & Work

Experience participants

Public Officer: Susan Tsicalas

Shed Project Manager: Dave

Sharonowitz.

**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

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9 July 2019

12.30pm

See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items

Friday 5 July 2019

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesdays & Fridays

10am - 12pm

Market Saturdays 9am - 1pm

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

