



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

# MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER  
October 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

## GRAND RE-OPENING AT THE OCTOBER MARKET

Mark **Saturday 19 October** on your calendars and bring family and friends to the Mullum Market, to witness the re-opening of the refurbished Machinery Shed and freshly painted Museum building, thanks to the grant from the NSW Government.

It was all hands on deck, as artefacts stored temporarily in two large shipping containers were gradually relocated by volunteers into the refurbished Machinery Shed and Post Office building.



Chris Park, John & Mitsuo, Dave & Susan moving the final items from the shipping containers for relocation in the Machinery Shed.

With the able assistance of Chris Park, and under the watchful eyes of Dave, Rollie and Susan (the volunteer crew), as well as Chris Cooney and Stephen, all prepared to launch the wooden canoe into the rafters. In the photo overleaf it was lift completed as Chris Park made the vessel secure before final fixing.





The bright, colourful painting of the Post Office building now complete thanks to skilful preparation work and painting by Kelvin, Tom and Alex. A stand-out result guys. Well done!!

Above: Society President Stephen was caught fighting a red bellied black snake for poll position in the photo.

Next page: The action photos below show Kel and Tom hard at work on the Post Office painting work.



# ANOTHER CELEBRATION

## AT THE OCTOBER MARKET

The Brunswick Valley Historical Society's Mullumbimby Market will be **30 years old**.

So come along and help celebrate this fine achievement. Our market is struggling a bit from the competition of the Farmer's Market and others but we are **The Original Mullumbimby Market** and it is essential to support the continuing work of the historical society and the museum.



Photo by Ken Robertson

## The Entrepreneurial John Eldeit Glasgow

By the late 1890s timber was still the main commodity keeping Mullum on life support, despite the recent rapid strides being made by the cow. The timber business had helped *'the railway from nowhere to nowhere'* becoming a complete white elephant, so much so that a month after the opening of the line in 1894 **John Macgregor** noted 12 loaded wagons sitting at the Mullum siding awaiting hauling, while logs were strewn all over the yards awaiting more wagons. Timber remained the major source of revenue for the loss-making line.

But a value-adding industry never developed and Mullum continued as a conduit for logs directly exported via Byron Bay or onforwarded to Lismore for milling until entrepreneurial **John Eldeit Glasgow** moved his sawmill from the Bay in Apr1897. Even so, it took him a while to get organized, as local harvesting remained way in excess of the mill's capacity, **John Macgregor** again reporting in Nov1898 that *our station yard is full of logs (about 200,000ft)...*, at the same time the *Northern Star's* 'Byron Bay Correspondent' (probably **Owen Wareham**) noted that *...our 'log fund' is rapidly increasing within the vicinity of the jetty...*, from where ~50,000ft of timber in log and ~1200ft sawn was being shipped per week. Twelve months later (Oct1899) a consistent 20 logs per day were arriving at Mullum station.

Mullum's benefactor was born in Sydney in 1836, rolling up to Casino in 1859 to open a saddlery, although returning temporarily to civilisation in 1860 to marry 29yr old Englishwoman **Mary Ann Lusted** in a CofE ceremony at Camden, the home of her 37yr old brother Edward. The first of a series of misfortunes occurred at Casino when sons George, aged 4, and Charles, aged 3, died within a week of each other in Apr1865, seemingly the catalyst for him to sell out to **Alex J. Simpson** towards the end of the year and return to Sydney. But by late 1870 he'd reappeared in the region as an auctioneer and commission agent based in Lismore, where he became heavily involved in community affairs, including being *the first person who taught music in the District...* He had started at Casino... without "fee or reward."



Glasgow & Son Sawmill at Mullumbimby ~1900

He is credited as Lismore's first sawmill proprietor, the plant established ~1874 on the river bank behind Molesworth Street, covering most of the area now encompassed by Glasgow Lane. He installed **Robert Knight** as his foreman/manager while he went off in pursuit of other business opportunities, part of which involved acquiring substantial property in Molesworth, where he opened 'Glasgow's Furniture Warehouse' and a suite of shops incorporating 'Glasgow's Arcade' in 1879. By this time he was also an insurance agent, treasurer of the *Central Richmond River Jockey Club*, member of the *Richmond River Cricket Club*, a player in the sugar industry, committeeman with the *Lismore Musical Union*, committeeman with the *Improvement Society and Debating Class*, Secretary of the *Richmond and Tweed Rivers League* (calling for revised electoral boundaries, railways, roads, bridges...), foundation Director of the *Richmond River Permanent Mutual Benefit Building and Improvement Society*, foundation member of the *Richmond River Masonic Lodge* (premises for which were incorporated into his 1879 suite of shops), on the committee pushing for

the establishment of the Municipality of Lismore and heavily involved in politics in general.

He was the first auditor for the Municipal Council and in his pitch to the punters in Dec1882 upon nominating for Aldermanship claimed *he was the largest ratepayer in the district.... Mr J. Barrie (Mayor in 1884)... passed a high eulogium upon the efforts of Mr Glasgow, in the past, in the promotion of public reforms and movements. This gentleman had also acted as Auditor of the Municipality for some time, and should now be promoted to the higher position of Alderman, for which his abilities as a public spirited man, and a large employer of labour, fitted him....*

He served as an Alderman from Jan1883 to Jan1884, but during his tenure was practically wiped out in the disastrous fire of May1883 that took all the buildings from Club Lane to the corner of Molesworth and Woodlark. He never fully recovered and in 1888 was forced into a sale of most of his properties, the sawmill on 1½ acres going to **George Cottee**. He then went dairy farming on a leased property at Alstonville until returning to town in mid 1890 to become manager of **Robert Knight's North Lismore Steam Saw Mill Company**. By late 1891 he and Knight were partners when they decided to open a sawmill at Byron Bay, of which Glasgow was the resident proprietor after Mar1892 when he bought the place from bankrupt Knight (who had been in trouble since late 1890). (In *"Fifty Golden Milestones; Lismore's Jubilee"*, published by Lismore Municipal Council in 1929, Glasgow was described as *A really good public man, of a most genial disposition, he, while conferring benefits on others, did not accumulate much of this world's goods for himself....*)

### **Byron Bay**

As at Lismore, he quickly became immersed in the Bay's community affairs, including sitting on the bench of magistrates after 20Apr1892 when the Bay stole the Court of Petty Sessions from Bruns. (He had been appointed a JP in 1885 and regularly attended the bench for the rest of his life.) By 1894 he was on the committee of the Byron Bay Turf/Jockey Club, and long-serving secretary of the Club by 1895, in which year he became a trustee of the newly gazetted Mechanic's Institute site.

The advent of the *North Coast Fresh Food and Cold Storage Co-operative Co* was regarded as *the inauguration of prosperity to the district...*, reckoned the attendees at the Complimentary Banquet to the Directors at the Bay on 4Sep1895, Glasgow being one of the speechmakers and subsequently appointed auditor for the creamery. In Apr1896 his community spokesman duties included welcoming Premier Reid to the region, attending the banquet at Casino and accompanying him to the Bay, where *The party went from the pier to the M'Lean Hotel, where an address was presented by Mr J.E. Glasgow, a leading Citizen....*

In Feb1897 John See, MLA Grafton and opposition Treasurer, came to town and *addressed a meeting in M'Lean's Hall, Mr J.E. Glasgow, JP, presiding....* (Glasgow had been immersed in local politics since 1894 when he was on the committee to have **David Jarman** elected for the Tweed Electorate and acted as returning officer for the Byron Bay Booth.) Between Mar1898 and Jul1898 he was in the chair for addresses by **R.D. Meagher**, **J.B. Kelly** MLA and **Alex Kethel** MLC seeking election in Tweed, the *Tweed Herald* condemning him for his *illiberal* views because he *"practically said that none of the well thinking people with cool judgement and with a stake in the district voted for Meagher, and that it was only the irresponsible who did vote for him."....*

In Mar1899 he was again in the chair when the Byronites met to discuss the form of a testimonial for Kelly, and at the subsequent 'smoke concert' and presentation of a purse of 60 sovereigns at the Great Northern Hotel *He spoke of his lengthy and intimate acquaintance with Mr Kelly, and countered many past services he had done for the district....* Glasgow was touted as a candidate to oppose Meagher at the 1901 election, while Kelly was bestman for 38yr old widowed Canadian **James Smillie** when he married 32yr old **Alice Glasgow** at Byron Bay in Feb1900.

In the meantime he figured the sawmill opportunities were greater at Mullum than busy Byron, transferring the mill and leaving a vacuum at the Bay until two opportunists turned up in 1904, **William Thomas** establishing near Norco and **Duncan & Campbell** with their own siding near the railway station. At Mullum he traded as *Glasgow & Co* but left 24yr old son **Alfred** as resident manager while he pursued his Byron interests. (The sawmill plant, incidentally, was likely transported by train from the Bay and not by bullock team as highlighted on the cover of *Mullumbimby – Foundation Events*). Five months later, 17Sep1897, he suffered his next familial blow when son **Lewis**, a 31yr old solicitor, died at Casino.

Back at the Bay patriarch John became auditor for the Bangalow A&I Society, President of the Cricket Club (Sep1898), Patron of the School of Arts (Jan1899), Trustee of Presbyterian Church land (Mar1899), trustee of the Rifle Club site (Apr1899), President of the Progress Association (Oct1899), the Byron Bay Breakwater League's delegate to Sydney to present a petition to the Minister for Works, as well as pushing for the Tenterfield-Byron Railway over the Glen Innes-

Grafton option (Oct1899), and Chairman of the Patriotic Committee to assist in raising funds for our troops *servng in the Empire's cause...* and *sympathise with our fellow countrymen in South Africa...* being bothered by bores.

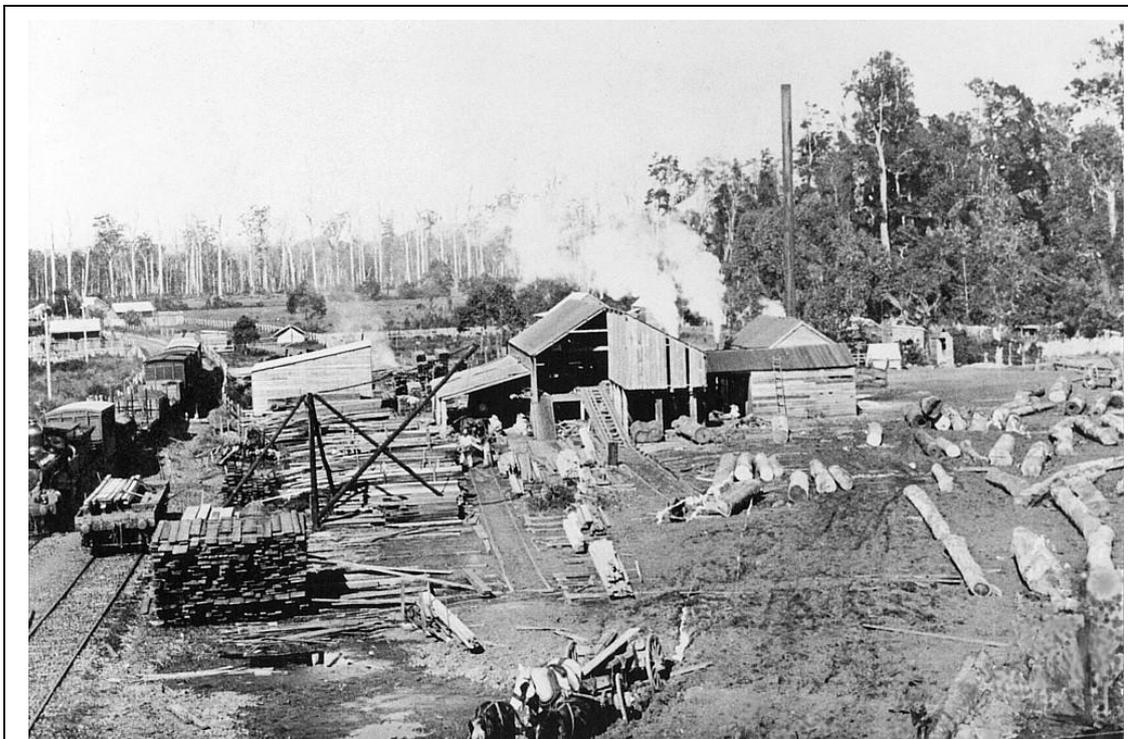
At Mullum meanwhile, *The timber business is exceptionally brisk here just now, and Messrs Glasgow and Son's mill is kept going early and late to execute orders...*, said the *Northern Star* on 13Apr1900, while over at the Bay Norco, boasted as *'the largest of its kind in Australia'*, was making weekly production records (and putting a lot of timber-getters out of work by changing over to coal for its boilers). There were extensive improvements to the mill in Oct1899, again in Jul1900, and more modernisation in Jun1903. Like his father, **Alfred Glasgow** was intimately involved in Mullum's community affairs, particularly its musical life.

In these boom times Glasgow Snr also bought himself more properties in Mullum as well as a farm on the south arm of the Brunswick. But in Aug1902 he started his withdrawal from town when he made some sort of interim arrangement with **Joe Hollingworth** to take over co-management of the mill, the sale completed in May1903 when **Ray Mallett** joined cousin Joe in partnership. The Glasgows were given a formal farewell and testimonial at the Court House Hotel on 15Jun1903, while their legacy continued to benefit Mullum for many years. Glasgow Snr had sold the Burringbar Street land on which the ES&A bank building and **W.R. Baker's** real estate



Westpac construction site foreground. Akarana background, moved on greased logs and horsepower 1906. Norris's Bakery left.

office stands to **C.R. Armbuster** of Wollongbar in Feb1903, although demonstrating a lingering connection with Mullum when he started construction of a two-storey building next to the Presbyterian Church in Stuart Street in Sep1903. But in Nov1905 he sold the block on the corner of Burringbar and Stuart, housing **Mrs Wall's** 13-room boarding house, Akarana, to the Bank of NSW. And in Aug1906 sold his farm on the Brunswick River to **Mr McGuire** of Byron Bay, by which time he was heavily into development at the Bay.

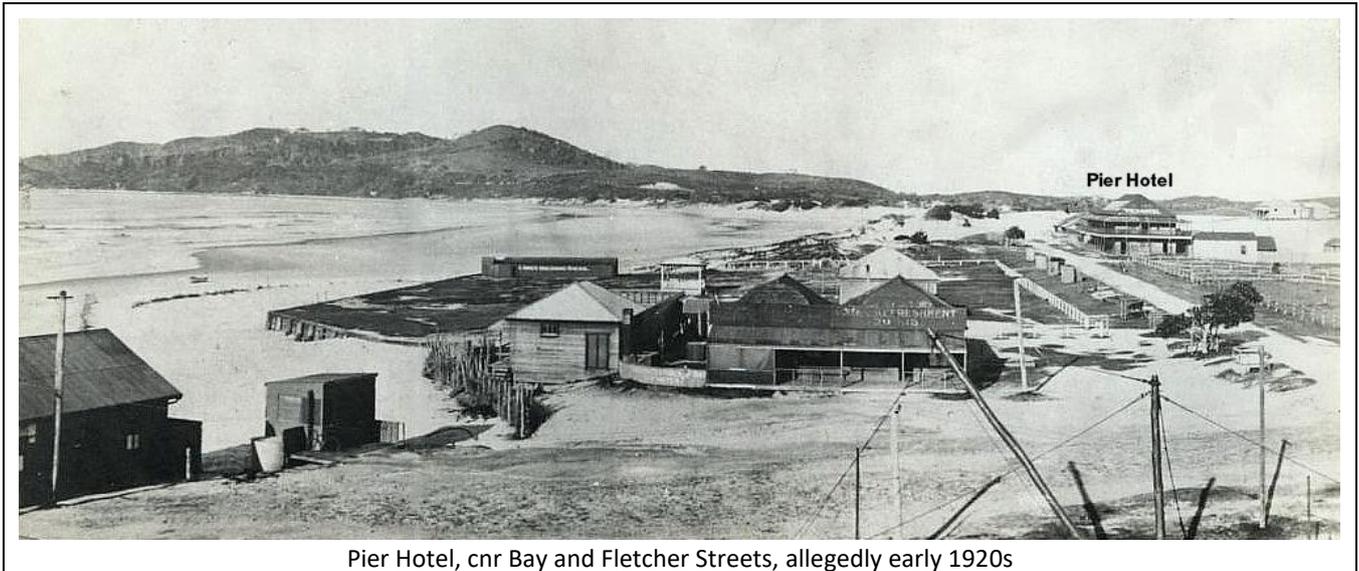


Hollingworth & Mallett Sawmill 1904

He had subdivided his property at *Byron Bay Heights* (comprising 2 acres in Browning St., and possibly including the adjoining 2 acres owned by his son-in-law **Arthur Cousins**) into 25 allotments, selling about half at an auction in Feb1903. In Aug1906 he acquired the *land and buildings known as "The Terrace"*, next the *Pier Hotel* as a site for the *brickmaking industry...* *The bricks are to be manufactured from sand under a new (German) process...* At the official opening on 29Jan1907 he boasted *that they (Glasgow and*

*Co) were the first in the Southern Hemisphere to take on the new industry...* The first bricks were used in construction of a chimney in the new building for the School of Arts, of which he was vice-president.

In between times his civic duties as President of the Progress Association saw him as Chairman of the Reception Committee for the Governor-General, Lord Northcote, in Aug1906. He was again in the chair when *Mr D. Jarman addressed the ratepayers of C Riding from the balcony of Batey's Great Northern Hotel on 17Nov1906... and great interest was manifested in the proceedings.... He officiated as returning officer... at the Byron Booth for the Federal election of Dec1906 when very little interest was taken, to judge by the number of votes polled....*



Pier Hotel, cnr Bay and Fletcher Streets, allegedly early 1920s

Shire President **David Jarman** subsequently relieved him of a lot of the 'meet and greet' duties, although he won them back upon election as a Shire Councillor following the death of Jarman 9May1908. But by this time the brickworks was looking shaky and in Nov1908 he sold more of his Byron Bay Heights subdivision, his home and *the whole of his household furniture and effects....* He then travelled to Sydney to find a new site for the brickworks, the *Byron Bay Record* noting on 15May1909 that *The brick making plant... is being shipped to Bondi. There is not sufficient demand in this district to keep the works going, it appears. The works will be a loss to Byron Bay as the employment of labor adds to the prosperity of a town....* He disappeared after chairing the Empire Day Celebrations in May1909 and being made a life member of the School of Arts.

He returned to the clean sea air of Byron Bay in Aug1911, apparently for health reasons, leaving Alfred running the 'Bondi Sand Lime Brick Co'. *Mr Glasgow..., not finding Bondi healthy he returned to his old home, and he is again in the forefront of all progressive movements for the seaside town...,* acquiring the auctioneering and real estate business of **Owen Wareham**, himself *lying seriously ill*. He rejoined the committee of the School of Arts and the new *Byron Bay and District Citizens Association*, of which he became vice president, in Sep1912. He was also a foundation shareholder of the new and *Byron Bay Co-operative Canning and Freezing Company Ltd*. And from 1915 helped provide patches for opportunists in the new booming banana industry.

**Mary Ann** died Oct1917, aged 85. She *reared a family of seven, four boys and three girls. Three of them survive their mother, Alfred (Bondi), Mrs Cousins (Neutral Bay), and Mrs Smillie (Byron Bay)....* She was *laid to rest beside her son-in-law, Mr Smillie, in the North Lismore cemetery...,* after a CofE service in Lismore. *Among the pall bearers were Messrs A.E. Brown (ES&A Bank), C. Barham (Council Clerk), J.B. Kelly, J. Mildenhall, A. Hunter, and C. McKenzie (Mayor of Lismore).*

On 3Mar1920 *our old and esteemed townsman, Mr J.E. Glasgow, passed away at his residence, Byron Bay, aged 82.... The deceased gentleman has been such a prominent and familiar figure in Byron Bay that it seems hard to realise that "the place thereof shall know him no more.".... The late Mr Glasgow's career would make history – he has officiated in nearly every prominent local office. With the late Mr O.W. Wareham he filled the position of trustee for the local Government Jetty, until the Government took it over. As a Justice of the Peace, as President of the Literary Institute, and as Chairman of many important public meetings he was always the same genial, ever ready to serve citizen....* He was interred at North Lismore *beside his deceased wife and daughter (Annie?)* after a CofE service in Lismore. *As a mark of esteem the Literary Institute was closed for the day, and flags in the town half-masted. A Memorial Service was also held at St Paul's Anglican Church at the Bay.*

**Alfred** died at Paddington in Jan1954, aged 81, and was cremated after a private funeral service. At what stage he gave up the brickworks is a mystery, but *The Bondi sand-hills were held under a lease from the Crown by the Bondi Lime Sand Brick Co., until in 1919 the lease was terminated as the result of public protest... over smoke, noise and lime dust. Two*

acres of sandhill were then devoted to a public school, and seven were purchased by the brick company.... For years, the works turned out thousands of bricks a day, until their popularity resulted in the manufacture of 16,000 every 24 hours..., and unpopularity saw the factory demolished in Mar1922. On 12Apr1924 the Daily Telegraph reported the *auction of the Glasgow Estate, Bondi Beach, adjoining the public school, comprising 27 choice building sites*. Bondi now boasts 'Glasgow Avenue' near the beach.  
Peter Tsicalas

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

**Annual General Meeting:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
@ 10.30am

**Monthly Meetings time are a-changing** to 10.30am as from second Tuesday in October

At the Market Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 8am-2pm

- Museum open 9am-1pm
- Grand Re-Opening of the Shed 11.00am
- Celebrating Markets 30 years old
- Cutting of the Celebration Cake 12.30 ish



Another tricky hanging exercise – Chris and Dave winching up the motor bike to display on high. Great team work! Thanks to John Thompson for the loan of the scaffolding which made it a much easier job to hang the boat and the bike.

## Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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Treasurer: Susan Tsicalas  
Assistant Treasurer:  
Sarah Newsome

### Committee Members:

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Shed Manager Roland Sjoberg  
Market Manager:  
Sarah Newsome  
Heritage Panel Representative  
Chris Cooney

### Newsletter team:

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Experience participants  
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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](mailto:bvhs84@yahoo.com.au)

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019**  
**10.30pm**  
**Remember! Remember!**

\*Deadline for agenda items  
Friday 8 Nov 2019

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

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

