

NEWSLETTER
September 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

New Displays at the Museum

Come one, come all and discover two (nearly three) new displays at the museum this month. Firstly, the permanent but versatile Brunswick River display is focusing on DISASTERS with graphic photos, and comments on flood, fire, storm and crashes just to name a few damaging historical happenings.

The second display relates to PIONEERING WOMEN of the Brunswick Valley with photos and interesting stories researched by volunteer Tosharniee.

Great work by Liz, Sarah and Nortec work experience participants for the professionalism of the two displays completed to date.

A third exhibit displaying blacksmithing in the region, including tools from The Shed, will be completed by the end of September.



BVHS Oral History update contributed by Genevieve Rose Barr

The Oral History project continues to speak with the personal experiences, observations and insights of our participants. When I began this project I realized how our participants' accumulated experiences are our 'Living History'. The interviewees give us insight into not only our history, but also our contemporary times and our future and how we all contribute to shaping our world. Understanding our history helps us negotiate our future.

Recently I have had the pleasure of speaking at length with Jan Chamberlain and Peter Barnes. Jan spoke about early settlement and the changing nature of farming in the district. The developments she has seen and how our communities change. Peter spoke about the ocean, the waterways and his time as a fisherman. Jan and Peter more recently, and our other interviewees before them, not only contribute to our understanding of our history and our world, but also bring awareness to the people around us. We are all full of stories; stories of experience, survival, celebration. Even in our human ordinariness, our stories tell the stories of everyone.

The Brunswick Valley (and the Byron Shire) may well be considered a microcosm of the changes taking place in our larger cities. Infrastructure, population, climate change, industry disruption are common themes in our local newspapers. Peter Barnes' and Jan Chamberlains' perspectives on our changing landscapes are ways to understand the past and plan for the future.

Each of our participants to date have contributed their time, their photographs, their understanding which are all now safely archived at Mullumbimby Museum. One aspect that strikes me at the end of my time with the participants is that I always feel that we have barely scratched the surface of the history and insights these people can offer us. Again, on behalf of the Brunswick Valley Historical Society, I'd like to give a big shout out thank you to our interviewees and I look forward to the continuation of the project.

AN INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EVERYDAY FUTURES WEBSITE

Humans have become a significant force influencing global environmental change. Traces of our activities will be visible in the geological record millions of years into the future. Some scientists say the Earth has entered a new epoch ... From coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef to the unexpected new birds we see in our backyards, human activities are transforming the places we live and love.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY ABOUT LIVING IN AUSTRALIA IN A TIME OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE For more information refer to the poster at the end of the newsletter.

Early Day Reminiscences.
Brunswick Pioneers and Memories.
Mr Alex Brown Corrects Some Misconceptions

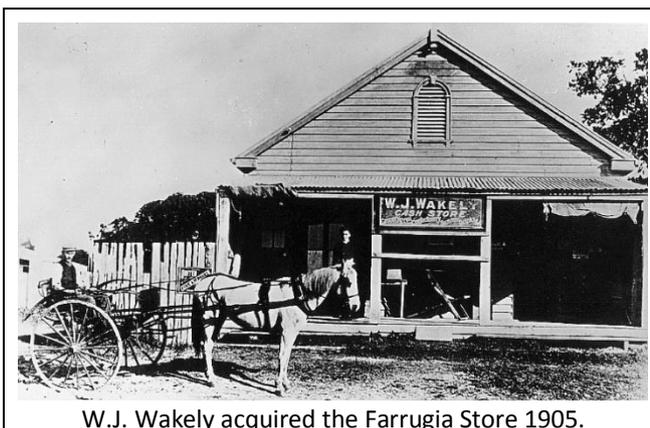
Such was the headline in the *Richmond River Herald* on 27Sep1932 and repeated in the *Mullumbimby Star* on 6Oct1932. The obituaries for Mr and Mrs **William James Wakely** of Brunswick Heads attracted a lot of interest around the region, but describing them as Brunswick pioneers was a bit much for **Alex Brown**, the nephew-in-law of **Robert Marshall**.

The final Wakely obituary, headlined *Pioneers - Late Mr and Mrs W.J. Wakely*, appeared in the *Northern Star* on 21Sep1932, summarising that *By the deaths of those two widely known and highly respected residents of Brunswick Heads, Mr W.J. Wakely on August 16 and Mrs Wakely on September 4, the district suffered a heavy loss.... Mr Wakely was aged 68. He was born at Woodford Island, Clarence, in 1864, and his early days were spent there. In 1879 the family was engaged in farming at Simes Hill (on the Brunswick Road a mile or so from Lismore). In 1882 he and his brother, Mr L. Wakely, ran the ferry to North Lismore. Fawcett bridge was in course of erection, being completed in 1883....*

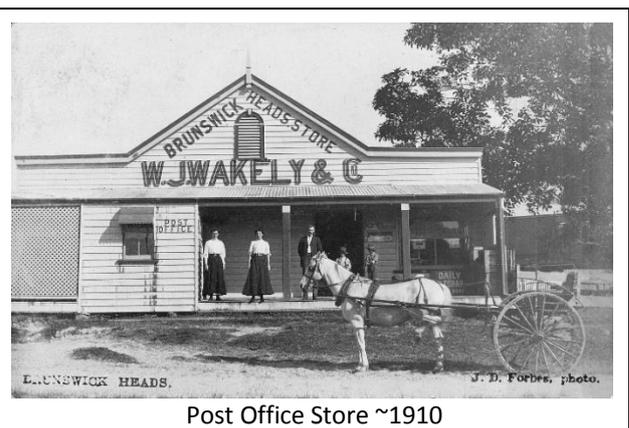
In 1886 Mr (W.J.) Wakely married Sarah Perry, daughter of the late Mark Perry, at St John's Church, Bega. In 1921 it is a coincidence that their elder son (Francis Albert, aka Frank) also married a Miss Perry (Bertha Elma) at the same spot in the same church. (Bertha, born 1899 Bega, was the daughter of Sarah's brother Joseph Mark Perry. Sarah's sister Matilda, born 1861 Eden, married W.J.'s brother, Louis Wakely, 1894 Lismore. Joseph Mark died 1943 South Lismore aged 84.)

The Patriarch, **Mr Francis Wakely, senr.**, had opened the North Lismore bakery with other sons (Jack, Joseph and Mathew) in 1886, afterwards moving to Woodlark-street where he died. [He actually crossed the Styx at Pearce's Creek 2Dec1906 aged 70, a native of Somersetshire, England. He and wife Susan, nee Hawkins, landed in Queensland 1861 and settled on the Clarence 1862. He became sole proprietor of the Terania Street bakery in North Lismore in Jan1889 after son Jack withdrew from the partnership to try ventures in Alstonville and Byron Bay until bankruptcy intervened in 1897. Later that year, coincidental with Frank's remarriage to 37yr old **Elizabeth Jane Newberry** of Pearce's Creek, (who was the sister of Maria who had married Jack in 1887), Frank opened the *Excelsior Bakery* in Woodlark Street and in Jun1901 was sued by son Joseph for wages and welshing on a partnership deal. Joe had worked for him since 1894, aged 14, but took himself off to Crookwell in mid 1905 when Frank retired and Jack took over. But the place seems to have closed after Jack became manager of *The Co-Operative Bakery* in Magellan Street, which in turn shut its doors in 1907, prompting Jack's move to North Lismore to work for W.J., and again in 1911 to run a bakery in W.J.'s building at Brunswick Heads. In 1907 Elizabeth, also the sister of **Dave** and **James Newberry** who acquired a bakery in Woodlark in 1904, remarried 23yr old baker **Thomas Crummy** who had made a public apology to Frank in 1902 *for having spoken disparagingly of him and his business.* (**Jack Wakely** was a baker in Mullum 1903-05 and again in 1919-20, while another Newberry brother, Robert, was a farmer at Wilson's Creek in 1903-18, thence 6yrs at Brunswick Heads before eventually retiring to Mullum after another stint at Wilson's Creek.)]

In the mid 1890s **Louis Wakely** acquired A.G. Robertson's grocery department in Magellan Street and added a bakery, moving to new two-storey premises next door in 1902..., while **Mr W.J. Wakely** opened up the Dunoon run which is still carried on. At this time there was no such place as *The Channon*, etc. Mr (W.J.) Wakely opened up a store business at North Lismore in 1901, later adding a bakery section in the old premises, there then being three Wakely bakeries in Lismore....



W.J. Wakely acquired the Farrugia Store 1905.

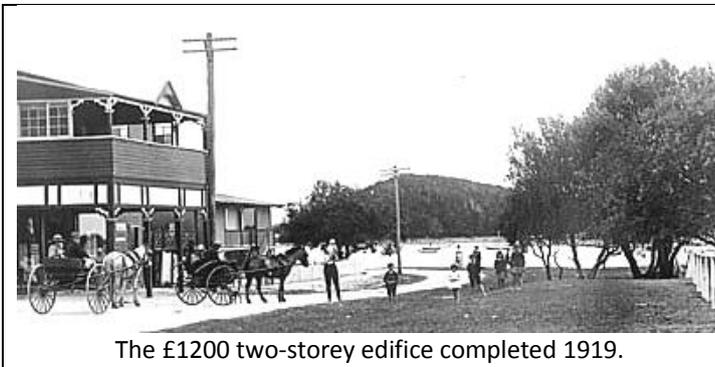


Post Office Store ~1910

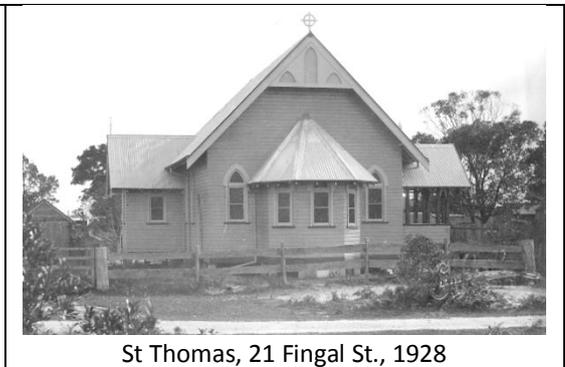
In 1905, after two very serious operations, **Mrs (W.J.) Wakely** was ordered to live at the seaside. Brunswick Heads was decided upon, a small store opened, the first day's takings being 2s 1½d, and this was the genesis of the well known family business of to-day. A receiving office was opened in 1906, Mrs Wakely being P.M., and held that position until she resigned in 1930, her son (Frank) taking her place. (Frank came with her in 1905 and managed the store, while W.J. continued with the North Lismore shop). In 1912 the rest of the family left Lismore and the Head's business rapidly grew, and after two extensions the present fine two-storey brick building was erected in 1919. The Heads then boomed, buildings arose, and at sales of allotments every block offered was snapped up at high prices.... The two sons are carrying on the business to-day.

The Manchester Unity Oddfellows Society owes much to **Mr Wakely**, who... probably did more for the Order than any other man on the coast. He was a member of Loyal R.R. Lodge, Lismore, for about 52 years, first DGM of the North Coast (which is now divided into three districts), and second Grand Master, and during his terms of office visited every lodge from Tweed Heads to Kyogle, driving a horse and trap. He opened several lodges and spent much time and money in furthering this grand work. He was a regular attender at the Mullumbimby Lodge of the Masonic fraternity.

In the Church of England, he was an active member, being a church warden and parochial councillor, and had recently lent a sum to St Thomas's in order that the interest burden could be lifted. He has for some years cultivated a bed of flowers specially to beautify his church, and those who have attended know how very beautiful this church was. His son, **Herbert**, will carry on this labour of love, and has been elected church-warden in his father's place.

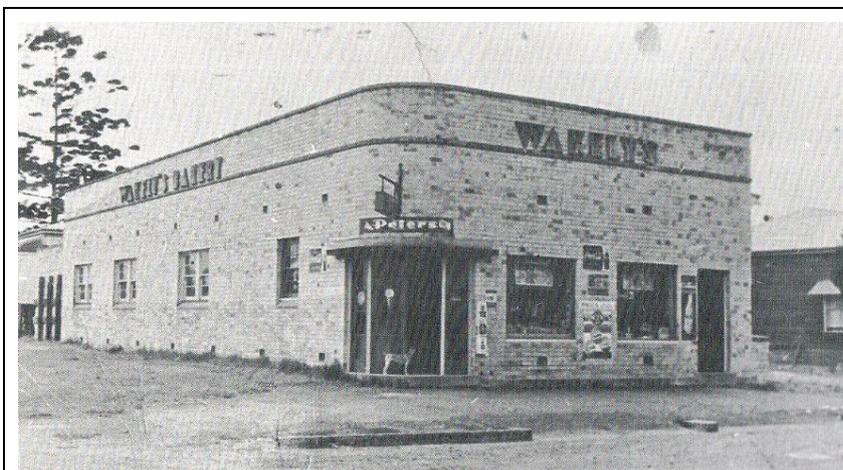


The £1200 two-storey edifice completed 1919.



St Thomas, 21 Fingal St., 1928

Mr Wakely always took an active interest in all public matters. He was president of the old Progress Association, vice-president and treasurer of the Brunswick Improvement Committee, president of the public hall, and an active worker there; Justice of the Peace for many years; secretary of the North Coast Master Bakers' Association for some time; a member of the old Lismore Half Holiday Cricket Club, and president of the Heads Club. He had been requested to stand for alderman in Lismore, and for councillor of Byron Shire, but had declined owing to age. He was a fine crib player, and was of the original members of the North Lismore club, the first ever founded on the North Coast.... He founded the famous Brunswick Heads club in 1915, of which he was captain, the other original members being: **Tom Farrugia, F.A. Wakely, J. McKenzie, J. Carson** and the late **Mr W.H. Thorne**....



Wakely Bakery Cnr Fingal and Park 1950

Eric and John Wakely, the sons of Herbert, the son of W.J., returned a Wakely bakery presence to Bruns when they erected this £2000 building in 1950. That same year Herbert's brother Frank passed the store on The Terrace to Charles Frederick Wakely, the son of Jack, born 1892 Pearce's Creek.

Ken Wakely, the son of James Louis, the son of Jack, took over the bakery in 1961.

Mrs Wakely was of a retiring disposition..., but of kindly nature.... She had been a teacher in St Thomas Sunday School since its inception, and was superintendent for a time.... Two sons, **Francis Albert** and **William Herbert**, Brunswick Heads,

and two daughters, **Mrs H. McNaughton**, South Lismore, and **Mrs N, Leis**, Tenterfield, are left to mourn their double loss. A sister **Miss N. Perry**, resides at Brunswick Heads, and a brother (Joseph Mark) and sister, **Mrs. L. Wakely**, are in Lismore....

The Pioneer Qualification

In a reference to the death of a Brunswick residence the other day, a contemporary referred to him as "a pioneer of the Brunswick" – he having gone there in 1906! As a matter of fact many of the genuine pioneers of the Brunswick were old men in 1906. For instance, Mr Alex Brown, of Coraki, who is an original pioneer of the Big Scrub, and can also claim to be a Brunswick pioneer, knew them all, for in 1885 he built the first police station established at the Heads (Const, later Sergt, Andrews was the first policeman) and there the structure stood till it was removed to do duty as a police residence at Mullumbimby, and it is still there to this day.

Back in 1885 the late Mr R. Marshall conducted the Brunswick Heads Hotel; Peter Nelson, Jack Lund (a Dane) and William (or James) Haines (**Delancy Hains**) ran three stores (a fourth established in 1886 by a man named H. French) while **Jack O'Meally**, a Grafton youth was the first post and telegraph master, and he was succeeded a few years later by S. Francis, another Grafton youth, who retired recently holding high rank as an inspector.

In the 80's and 90's quite a fleet of ketches, barques, barquentines and schooners ran to the Brunswick, bringing up supplies and taking away timber for Brisbane and Sydney. **Mr Brown** well remembers the wreck of Alex Kethel's "The Agnes," which foundered with all hands just north of the Brunswick in a terrific gale in March, 1980. The Agnes, under Capt Murphy (**Capt Patrick Power**), carried a crew of eight, also two men who were working their passages to the Tweed. On 13th March four bodies were found on the beach, and it was Mr Brown who was employed to make the coffins. "I well remember," he said the other day, "the difficulty there was to get suitable timber. Eventually I got the necessary boards from under French's two-storey house."

In those early days everyone baked his or own bread, but the Heads boasted it own butcher's shop. As for sport, there was any amount of it – at holiday times **Mr Brown** seemed to be the permanent Sports Secretary, handicapper, etc. His old minute book, with its record of starts, and entries, and protests, and rules, is with us as we write. It was a £15 handicap that used to attract the peds. of the 80's and 90's to Brunswick Heads, and it was run on Boxing Day. Some of the runner of those days were – **J. Johnson, G. Cooper, H. Chapple, R. Richards, N. McLeod, C. Richtor, J. Morrish, W. Woolley, Tom Hough, Chas Hough, Jas Jarvis, Jas Taylor, Angus Mackay, B. McGettigan, D. Wells, H. Clarke, A. Clarke, F. Piercy, M. Lynch, John Torrens, John Mackay, John Stone, Chas Baker, J. Byrnes, Chas Jarvis, W. Whitehead, J. Disney, J. Newman, E. Saville.** Amongst the lads who participated in the youths' race in 1898 were – **A. Crabbe (13 Years), W. Baker (10), W. Reilly (9), W. Torrens (10), G. Crabbe (12), W. Andrews (9), A. Andrews (8), F. Nixon (9), H. McDonald (9), R. McDonald (7), W. Gentle (7), W. Withers (9).** **Mr F.D. Dixon** was Chairman of the Committee, and meetings were held alternately at the Ocean View hotel and Court House Hotels. The finishes of the races ended in front of the post office.....And thus a Christmas Carnival tradition was born.



Anniversary Day Sports Carnival along The Terrace, 26Jan1907. [By this time the Heads was quickly rebounding. The two-storey edifice on the corner of Fingal and The Terrace is likely to be the *Seaside Coffee Palace*, a boarding house with a shop and café at street level under the management of **Miss Teresa Bradley**, in the building recently completed by '**C. Robinson**', likely to be Charles or Centennial Edward Robinson. Miss Bradley was still 'Proprietress' in the late 1920s when the place disappeared from the landscape. She was probably the Teresa Bradley who married **John E. Taylor** 1930 Byron Bay.]

Early in 1890 **Mr Brown** selected at Mooball, but a few years later the property passed into the hands of the **Saywell** family, and is still owned by them to-day. It is now part of the Saywell estate, the distribution of which, since the tragic murder of Mr Saywell a few months ago, will shortly be engaging public interest. In addition to all his other activities Mr Brown was Secretary of the first Cricket Club formed at Brunswick Heads and skippered the team in the first match ever played at Byron bay. He also skippered the team when it beat Mullumbimby at the Heads for a dinner. "Yes, we only had grass pitches those days," said Mr Brown, "but many a jolly good game we had on them all the same."....

With thanks to our tireless contributor Peter Tsicalas

Creative
MULLUM



This is the final callout for artists wishing to participate in the Ingenuity Community Sculpture Fest to be held in November this year during the Mullum Music Fest. This is a community festival and designed to accommodate the

inspirations of all community members. The fest will be a wellspring of great ideas currently sitting in the aquifers of imagination! But don't let those ideas sit there too much longer as we close this Friday.

We need to hear from you this week, before September 15 if you wish to be part of the Fest and show your three dimensional idea. Site specific and plonk sculptures are all up for consideration. This is a community event and we are looking for works that can be safely installed for the week period. We have over \$5000 of prize money for acquisitions pledged!! [Click here to apply.](#)

We are also looking for volunteers to help out before and during the Fest. All sorts of assistance is appreciated; helping out the artists with their installations, guided tours of the show, demonstrations and participatory workshops....the list goes on. [Click here to become a volunteer.](#) We are also open to ideas from the community of how we, as artist, might interact with the site.

Held on the Mullum Sculpture Walk Palm Park and Brunswick Terrace Mullumbimby, the Ingenuity Fest will be opening on November 14 and extend the four days of the Mullum Music Fest, closing on November 18. The sculptures will be attended all day each day until 5.00pm with other activities during the times including workshops & guided tours. For the artists, sponsors, friends and volunteers the opening event is Wednesday 14th at 2.00 featuring the Loveys.

We are hoping to hear from YOU
Suvira McDonald
Project Manger
Creative Mullumbimby

[Visit our website for more information.](#)

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

Cnr Myokum & Stuart Sts
Mullumbimby
P.O. Box 378 Mullumbimby 2482
02 6684 4367

bvhs84@yahoo.com.au

www.mullumbimbymuseum.org.au

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MullumbimbyMuseum

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Heritage Panel Representative
Chris Cooney
Newsletter team:
John Davis & Work
Experience participants
Public Officer: Susan Tsicalas

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
Thursday 4 Oct 2018
2.00pm
See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items
Wednesday 3rd October 2018

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

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





Humans have become a significant force influencing global environmental change. Traces of our activities will be visible in the geological record millions of years into the future. Some scientists say the Earth has entered a new epoch ...

THE ANTHROPOCENE OR 'AGE OF HUMANS'

From coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef to the unexpected new birds we see in our backyards, human activities are transforming the places we live and love.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY ABOUT LIVING IN AUSTRALIA IN A TIME OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE?

THE PROJECT

As part of a three-year Australian Research Council-funded project, *Understanding Australia in the Age of Humans: Localising the Anthropocene*, The University of Sydney, the National Museum of Australia, the University of New South Wales, and the Australian National University are collaborating by creating a website to collect and share the stories of your experience. This website, *Everyday Futures*, <https://everydayfutures.com.au/>, aims to create an understanding about what it is like to live in Australia in this time of cultural change and ecological challenge and to connect people who are enabling their surroundings to flourish.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US

We are asking you to choose an Object or Place and tell us how it expresses your personal story. Why did you choose this particular Object or Place? What does it look like? What is its history? Why is it important to you? Try to write in the first person, as if you're describing the Object or Place to someone who's never been there or seen it. You might reflect on the past and imagine what the future might bring. You might express sadness at the changes taking place, or hope about the positive steps your community is taking to care for the local environment. You might choose an Object related to how these projects got started or how you hope they might develop in the future. We don't mind what kind of Object you choose. It might be a chainsaw, a chicken bone, or a lump of coal, or you might prefer to choose to write about a particular photograph, or make a video.

HAVE A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE-IN-PROGRESS FOR IDEAS & INSPIRATION

The stories we collect will be considered by the Research Team for publication on the *Everyday Futures* website, <https://everydayfutures.com.au/>. They may also help to contribute to an accompanying book, and thus enrich an invaluable learning resource. Have a look at our website-in-progress at <https://everydayfutures.com.au/contribute/> for more information.

Please include in your submission (deadline 30 September 2018):

- Text of 300 to 500 words or a short video of one to three minutes in length about your Object or Place
- The location of your Place if it's not clear in the story
- A one sentence Biography about You (max. 30 words)
- At least one high-resolution image of the Object or Place (other images could include how the Object is used, or anything else that relates to your story)

ANY QUESTIONS?

For more information please contact marie.mckenzie@sydney.edu.au

* ARC DP160102648: *Understanding Australia in The Age of Humans: Localising the Anthropocene (2016-2018)* Iain McCalman, The University of Sydney; Libby Robin, Australian National University; Josh Wodak, University of NSW; Caitilin de Bérigny, The University of Sydney; Martha Sear, National Museum of Australia; Jennifer Newell, Australian Museum; Jan Zalasiewicz, University of Leicester; Gregg Mitman, University of Wisconsin-Madison
The project aims to undertake a comprehensive investigation of Australia as a distinctive locality within the global idea of the new epoch of humanity known as the Anthropocene. It aims to analyse and narrate how human interventions have come to transform Australian and global environments in fundamental and enduring ways, showing the history, impact and implications of human-influenced biophysical planetary change within our distinctive and vulnerable continental and ocean environments. It also plans to use print, digital, and museum environments to develop new understandings of the cultural dimensions of the 'Age of Humans.'