



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* 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** 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 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



W.J. Wakely acquired the Farrugia Store 1905.

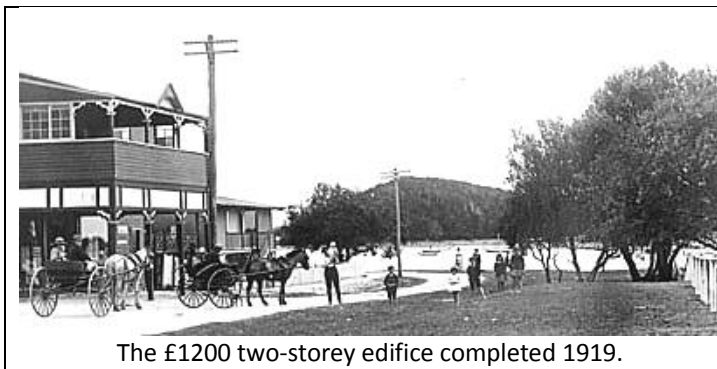


Post Office Store ~1910

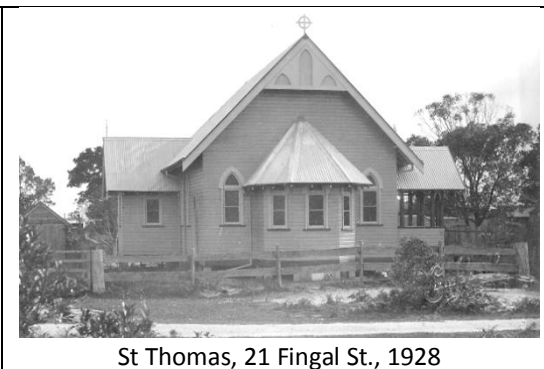
In 1905, after two very serious operations, **Mrs (W.J.) Wakely** was ordered to live at the seaside. Brunswick Heads was family business of to-day. A receiving office was opened in 1906, Mrs Wakely being PM., and held that position until she resigned in 1930, her son (**Frank**) taking her place. (**Frank** came with her in 1905 and managed the store, while **W.J.** continued with the North Lismore shop). In 1919 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 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 had 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-

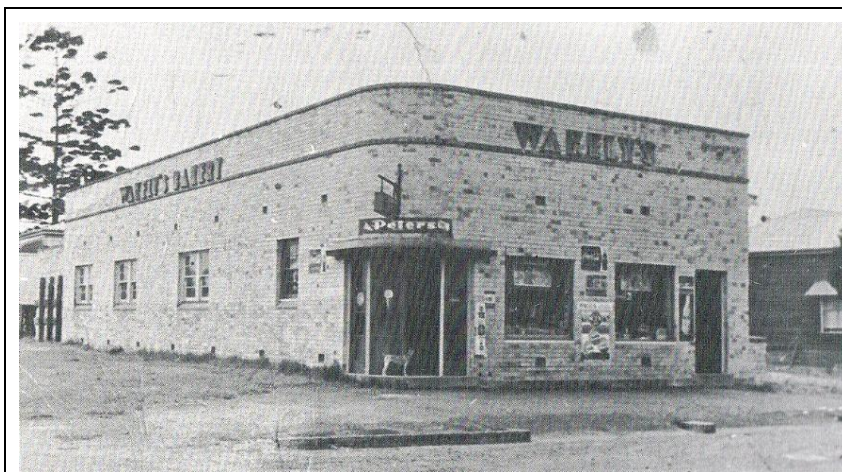


The £1200 two-storey edifice completed 1919.



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 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 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



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 **Francis Albert** and **William Herbert**, Brunswick Heads,

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

With thanks to our tireless contributor Peter Tsicalas

Creative
MULLUM



mullumbimby sculpture walk

INGENUITY

The Spirit of Place

Community Sculpture Festival

MULLUMBIMBY NOVEMBER 14-18 2018

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

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Assistant Treasurer:

Sarah Newsome

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Sadie Mudge

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

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



