



NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 2010

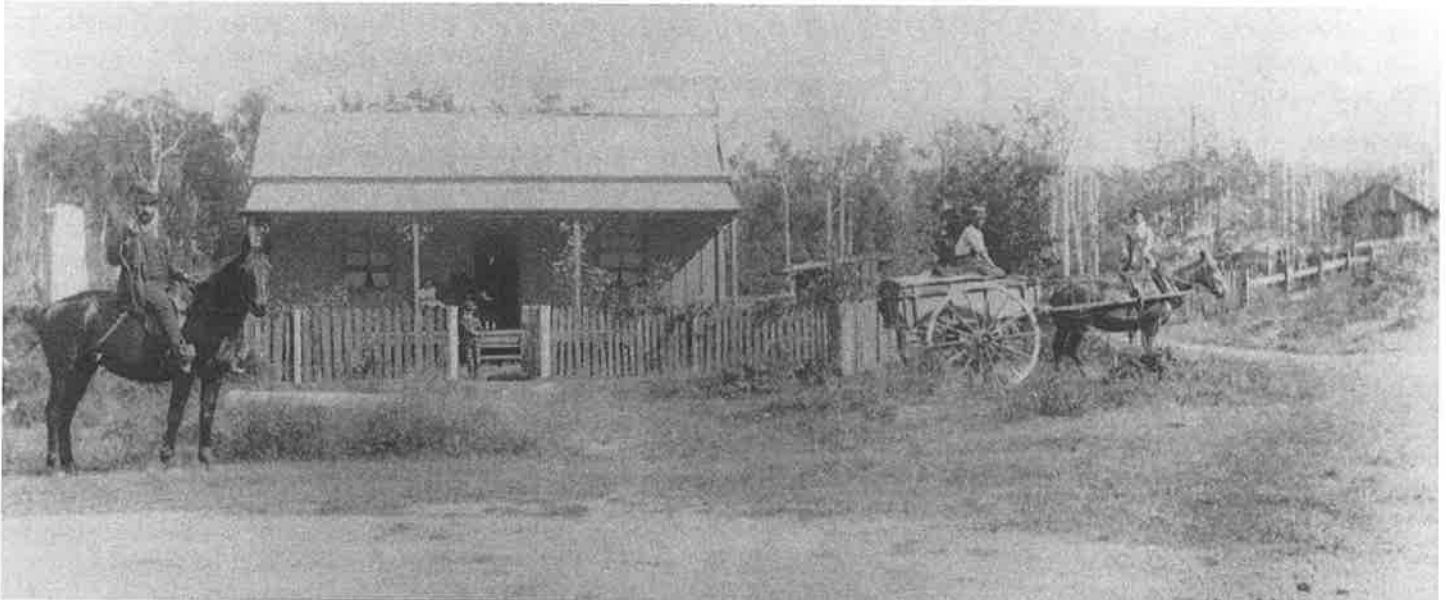
# Brunswick Valley Historical Society MUSEUM

Cnr Of Stuart & Myocum Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

OPEN: FRIDAY 11 AM - 3 PM

MARKET DAY (3RD SAT OF THE MONTH) 9 AM - 12 PM

## MOLEBUNBIE



'Residence of Mr T. Torrens'. Cnr Myocum and Wilson's Creek Roads.  
Mr Torrens is the one on a horse in the foreground.

In 1881 'Smith & Lund' started advertising as a 'General Store and Butchery' at Brunswick Heads (offering *Complete Outfits For Selectors*), branching out as 'Family and Carcass Butchers' at 'Molebunbie' in 1882 in partnership with **Richard Webber**. **John Gerhard Lund**, who also had a weekly job as the postie between Tintenbar and Brunswick, was trading as 'Lund & Nicoll' at the time he sold out to **James Mills** in 1883 to have a go at extracting a quid from the growing community at 'the Byron'. But, whatever the subsequent machinations, in 1884 Lund was operating stores at both Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads, while Mills advertised himself as a 'General Store and Butchery' at Kings Creek, the end of which meanders around the golf course into Mullum Creek, perhaps suggesting that

'Molebunbie' was the name of the inland settlement growing at the 'Myokum' end of the golf course, aka 'Mullumbimby Grass'.

In 1881 Mills had selected 2 blocks (40 acres and 50 acres) somewhere in the 'Parish of Brunswick' and in 1884 was the unlucky investor in the current 'Riverview Motel' site in the first sale of Brunswick Heads allotments (14 speculators snapped up 44 lots.) **William Nicoll** was identified as a 'butcher of Brunswick River' in 1883, and **Richard Webber**, another selector in the 'Parish of Brunswick' in 1881 (1 x 40 and 2 x 80 acre blocks), became mine host at the *Court House Hotel* at 'the Heads' in 1887. Lund's 'Smith' partner was either **Robert Smith** who was floating around the neighbourhood

until selecting and forfeiting 100 acres in the 'Parish of Billinudgel', or **James Smith**, who had been chopping down trees since at least 1871 but was now attempting a career change to farming, having won himself a more manageable 40 acres of scrub on Mullum Creek, at the northern end of the golf course, in the great land rush ballots of 1881.

The golfing end of Kings Creek (believed to be named after cedar-getter **Richard King**, born 1844, the son of Steve of early Bruns folklore), ran through the property of **Thomas Torrens Snr** and is possibly the site for the Webber/Mills enterprise, and, drawing a long bow, is possibly the same establishment where **Thomas W. Torrens** was spotted demonstrating his abattoirial skills in a store/

## Brunswick Valley Historical Society Newsletter

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

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Market Co-ordinator  
Gordon Wright

Newsletter team  
Liz Walton

Patron: Frank Mills OAM.

**All members are invited to  
contribute to this newsletter**

\*Please leave material with Sarah or  
Liz Wed - Fri, 10 am - 3 pm.

Or email to:

[bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au](mailto:bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au)

**NEXT MEETING**

**Saturday 20th November 2010  
1pm. See you there!**

\*Deadline for agenda items  
Friday 19th November 2010 .

**MUSEUM HOURS**

**Friday 11am - 3pm**

**Market Saturday 9 am - 12pm**

BVHS Newsletter is produced  
by NORTEC Work for The Dole  
participants and BVHS

**PUBLIC FORUM** e-news

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butchery in 1895. Thomas Snr came from the Clarence in 1881 to make a 160 acre Conditional Purchase at the southern end of the golf course, but sometime after the death of his wife Ellen the property was acquired by or forfeited to his father-in-law, **Cornelius O'Brien**. Thomas W of Kiama, the son of William and nephew of Thomas Snr, turned up from the Tweed with cane-growing skills ~1890 and subsequently claimed ownership of 3 adjacent blocks (8, 40, and 60 acres.)

Unless **Dan Withers** of Bexhill was suffering a senior's moment or being mischievous in the Great Flooding Debate of 1891, it looks like the golf course was favoured ahead of the fishing resort as the site of the first white settlement between Terranora and Ballina. In a desperate letters-to-the-editor campaign by the Bruns residents predicting a disaster for the Mullum rail line, he temporarily settled the argument in saying *...allow me in fairness to all parties to state that in 1847 I went there ('Mullumbimby Grass') from the Tweed with a team of bullocks to draw cedar for James and Thomas Boyd, which was sawn in the scrub now occupied by Thomas Torrens. I was there again in '63 drawing for Mr Yabsley (cedar dealer, sawmiller and ship builder of Coraki), when there was a big flood.... But in '47 there was about 3 or 4 feet of water, but not reaching to the hill (now 'Doran's Hill' where they presumably camped, an 'old hut' still extant).... (Withers, together with Stephen King and Robert Boyd, became a legally licensed timber-getter in 1851.)*

[Three months later, in Aug 1891, Withers along with **Thomas Torrens Snr, Thomas Torrens Jnr, John Torrens, Alex Torrens and Thomas W. Torrens** were amongst the 31 blokes who signed the manifesto of the subversive and mischievously named *Central Mullumbimby Association*, while some of

their '*Mullumbimby Grass*' neighbours (including **Thomas Doran** up the 'hill' on the western side of Thomas W) remained loyal to the *Mullumbimby Progress Association*, most however, moving out from under the umbrella of the moribund *Brunswick River Association* as the *Byron Bay Association* continued to flex its considerable pecs. (Mullum was foundered in an entertaining clash of egos, but that's a big story.) 'T. Torrens Jnr' (allegedly Thomas W.) and 'J. Torrens' were listed amongst the 18 blokes who acquired 42 allotments between them in the first sale of lots in 'new' Mullum in 1888. The following year 'Thomas Torrens' became the first postie between the 'receiving office' on the property of his neighbour, Anglican Englishman **Robert Walter Reddacliff**, on the eastern side of the O'Brien property, and the pukka Post and Telegraph Office at Bruns (£15pa for a once per week horseback service), at least until Mullum dumped Bruns and wooed 'Corabel.']

And by-the-bye, in 1883 Thomas Snr's wife, Ellen, became the first person to be buried in the newly proclaimed Brunswick Cemetery, where the feral chooks are now trustees. In the absence of a minister, 'Mr Rily', probably Catholic Irishman **William J. Reilly**, conducted the service in front of 60 neighbours who had made the trek from Mullum (or Molebunbie). Presbyterian Irishman Thomas was left with five young children (John, Thomas, Margaret, Alexander and William), two of whom, Maggie and Bill, were amongst the first pupils of Catholic **Lizzie McGettigan** of St Helena at the school erected on 'Mullumbimby Grass' in 1886, the same year the Great Sectarian Riots in Lismore attracted Proddies and Micks from all over the place. No doubt Byron Shire, very conscience of its history, will erect a monument at the 8th Tee to commemorate these foundation events (and no



Cottage of Tom Doran's.  
Wilson's Creek Road.

doubt decorated five minutes later by the Shire's loveable graffiti artists.)

[As for William Reilly, apparently his Catholic credentials weren't impeccable, as he was passed over as a trustee of the RC portion of the cemetery in favour of three outsiders; surveyor Joseph Bede Kelly, a selector at Tyagarah in 1881 (also foundation President of the rival Byron Bay Association in 1883, foundation Chairman of Norco 1894 and the district's MLA 1894-98), Robert Campbell (sacked from the Byron Association and credited as the founder of Bangalow), and Edward Boyle of St Helena (appointed to the Provisional Byron Shire Council along with Thomas W. Torrens in 1906.) A cemetery at Mullum wasn't dedicated until 1892, with Messrs W.G. Law, M. Chisler, W.G. Shearer, N. Campbell and J. Tyrrell as trustees for the General burial ground (all members of the faction led by Catholic **Hugh Campbell**), and Messrs J. Ford, M. Dawson, J.W. Reddacliff, J. Boxsell and J. Davidson guardians of the Wesleyan bit (all members of the clan led by Campbell's nemesis,

Presbyterian Scotsman **John McGregor Jnr**, the southern neighbour of Torrens/O'Brien). The following year McGregor and indeterminates A. Gillies, H.McD. Livingstone, J.M. Baird and W.D. Shearer became protectors of the Presbyterian plot.]

[Apologies to Peter for the corruption to his last story; the Gremlins got into the computer. Editor]

### COMMITTEE NEWS

- Tickets for the raffle for the beautiful patchwork quilt will be on sale on Friday 29th Oct October in Burringbar St Mullumbimby from 9 to 1. Any assistance would be welcome. Tickets also still available at the museum. The raffle will be drawn at 12.00 at the November market.

- The October market was one of the smaller ones held this year due to the rain in the preceding weeks. However, the sun favoured the market drawing a good crowd.

- BVHS will be represented on the Australia Day Project Reference Group. More news re Australia Day events next newsletter

-BVHS has a copy of Family Tree Maker Deluxe 15th edition (for Windows XP) - very cheap. If any members are interested contact Susan (66841188) otherwise it will be advertised on Ebay.

### Notice of Motions for November meeting:

1. The Model Constitution under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 requires associations' financial years to be from the 1st July each year to 30th June of the following year. The motion is: BVHS's accounts be audited in January 2010 as per normal and then again in July 2011 so that they then confirm to the financial year rather than the calendar year.

2. That the Annual General Meeting be held at the July monthly meeting each year.

3. That the position of Co-ordinator of Volunteers be advertised as a paid position and the proposed contract be approved.

### New Publications Received:

*Forest Bountiful* – Nullum Publication  
*The Log Book* – Tweed Heads Historical Society