



NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 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

SIMPSON TOWN



Bob Marshall's Ocean View Hotel, built 1884 Mullumbimbi Street. Second hotel built on the site in 1909. Situated where the Brunswick Hotel is now.

The land rush of 1881 had a dramatic impact on the sleepy Bruns settlement, referred to as 'Simpson Town on the Brunswick River' and 'Simpson's Town at the Brunswick Heads' by the *Northern Star* in the late 1870s, implying **George Simpson** at the Pilot Station on the northern headland was the only clearly identifiable permanent resident associated with the place, while **Robert Marshall** and crew were transients out in the scrub

grubbing cedar most of the time. (George passed on in 1887, aged 78, and his shack inherited by Captain **John Greenless**, while his executors, **Robert Crabbe**, immortalised by Crabbes Creek, and **Henry Stone**, long associated with the Bruns as a Ballina-based cedar merchant, tried to find heirs to his personal estate.)

George's remote hideaway was discovered and renamed by alternate lifestylers, assisted by

the ubiquitous **Charlie Jarrett** of Ballina who, sensing a paradigm shift, advertised in 1881 that he *will act as guide to Selectors, Capitalists and Other Parties requiring land in the Big Scrub... 30yrs experience... in the area ...north to Brunswick Heads..*, subsequently scaling back his timber business to enter the real estate market big time. Over the same period his fellow Ballinarian in the timber business, **James Ainsworth**, *begs to inform Free*

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Newsletter

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

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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

NEXT MEETING

**Friday 21st January 2010
1pm. See you there!**

*Deadline for agenda items
Thursday 20th January 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
mullumbimbymuseum@gmail
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*Selectors and Others that he
is now prepared to receive at
Ballina and forward to Brunswick
in any quantity... with his horse
and bullock teams.*

Things started to move along in
early 1883 when recently landed
Scotsman **Robert Morrison
Crabbe** (later foundation
Vice President of the Murbah
branch of the Political Labor
League) initiated the formation
of a Progress Association *for the
purpose of memorialising the
Government in regard to effecting
the improvements required by
the place....* Fifty people duly
congregated in the dining room
of Marshall's boarding house to
hear **Alexander Kethel** drum up
business for his proposed new
steamship service. Chairman
Alexander G. Anderson, a
road contractor who became the
owner of 4 village lots, added a
touch of hyperbole, stating ...*'that
for some time past all their stores
had to be brought in through
the surf'...* and **Neil McInnes**,
selector on the South Arm, got
a little carried away with the
assertion that *'this meeting to-
day does not represent one tenth
of our population'...*, perhaps
subscribing to the definition of
'the Brunswick' as that area
from Byron Bay to Burringbar.
After a few words from **Angus
McSwan**, McInnes's Tyagarah
neighbour, and **James Mills**,
settler on Saddle Road (and
later Kethel's timber agent), the
meeting unanimously accepted
the proposals and pledged to
support the endeavour, rewarded
when the steamer was launched
at the end of the year and
christened '*Brunswick*' by John
See, who subsequently became
the owner and wrecked her on
the Manning River Bar in 1886.
(John See, MLA for Grafton
and later Premier, favoured
Clarence harbour schemes and
Glen Innes-Grafton rail lines

over respective Byron Bay and
Tenterfield-Casino, making him
an unpopular bloke around here.)

They kept up the momentum
and formed the '*The Selectors
and Settlers Association of the
Brunswick River*', the secretary
of which was **John Lund**, who
wrote to the Colonial Secretary in
late 1883 asking for a copper to
be stationed at the lawless place.
Colsec agreed, but didn't deliver
until 1886 when Constable
William Caleb Andrews was
posted in, saving Constable Taylor
a trip from Cudgen whenever
someone went berserk with an
axe. (The new Brunswick Patrol
District within the Richmond River
Police District extended from
Newrybar to Burringbar, the area
planned as the aborted Shire of
Brunswick in 1895 and again
in 1898. Andrews, a selector at
Tyagarah, was based at Byron
Bay by 1892 and subsequently
lost an argument with Garvan
MLA, suffering a disciplinary
move to the Clarence.)

Joshua Bray, Police Magistrate
of the Tweed, began hearing
cases at the new Bruns Court of
Petty sessions in 1886, but most
of his time was spent adjudicating
land/timber disputes rather
than hanging axe murderers or
'*Troublesome Blacks*', a subject
raised with the *Northern Star* by
'*A Selector, Brunswick River*' in
late 1884 ...*Some six weeks ago
our publican (Mr R. Marshall),
gave notice to the police, of two
blacks of unsound mind, who
were continually pilfering and
making themselves generally
obnoxious to the public at large.
The police came and took them to
the Tweed, and both Mr Marshall
and Mr Nelson had to go also to
prove the charge. From there
they were sent to Lismore, and
from the medical testimony, the
gin was proved insane, but the
blackfellow was discharged. On
his way back to the Brunswick,*

he entered two different houses where there happened to be only women and children, and being in a nude condition... caused an attack of the vapours..., to which an editorial comment was added, presumably taking the mickey: *As the authorities do not appear to care to have much to do with these cases, we think the best plan would be to adopt the Queensland plan of dealing with troublesome blacks, namely, to shoot them.* - Ed. 'Star'. [In fact *An aboriginal girl* ('Cranky') was brought up on a charge of being of unsound mind..., but the police argued that she had responded well to 'treatment' after 3 weeks in the 'Lock Up' and was discharged. Her sartorially splendid companion never wore a nametag.]

By Christmas 1884 they were all playing happy families and getting socially organised, with **Peter Nelson, John Johnson, Thomas G. Hough, Frederick D. Nixon, James Mills, Robert Smith** and **R. Mansfield** prominent amongst the 'Brunswick Athletic Sports Carnival' organisers, which was such a success that they had a repeat performance on 'Anniversary Day', 26Jan85, and the names of **Robert Marshall, John G. Lund** and **F. Allen** were added to the honour board. Missing was **John Sherry** who had been selected to be the Bruns champion at the 'Anniversary Handicap' sponsored by the Richmond River Athletic Club, and 18yr old **James Coleman** who qualified for the Ballina Athletic Club's '£30 handicap.'

As well as the sale of subdivided village lots, the year 1884 marked a big jump forward in permanency with the upgrading of **Robert Marshall's** 'Half-Way House' into the *Ocean View Hotel*. Things were still looking promising in 1886 when entrepreneurial

Henry Stone was prompted to build the *Court House Hotel*. Catholic Stone, born 1852 Kiama, had branched out from a timber buyer and shipper to become a Prince of Pubs in 1884 when he built the *Ocean View Hotel* in Ballina, but passed to mate **Charlie Jarrett** later in the year to return for a reassessment of Bruns. However, he offloaded the *Court House* to **Richard Webber** in 1887 and returned to the timber trade for a while before settling down on a dairy farm at Ballina. Jarrett also had a love affair with pubs, building the *Royal Hotel* in Tintenbar in 1882, but selling/leasing it in 1884 to take on Stone's Ballina Ocean.

Ominously, in congratulating the 1883 Brunswick meeting on its constructive actions, the *Northern Star* added ...*With regard to another rising locality a little further on, to wit, Byron Bay...*, it rose to the fore 3mths later with a public meeting held at **Eli Hayter's** place at Cooper's Shoot. It was ...*a largely attended meeting of Sugar-growers, Farmers, Selectors, and others.... Mr H.C. Fraser* (a selector/speculator of 200 acres at Newrybar in 1881 and a political mover and shaker in Sydney), *very ably filled the Chair...* **Henry French** and **Matthew Lee** expounded on the need for a railway (which ended up passing through both their selections), **James Glissan** wanted the jetty started asap, seconded by **Owen Wareham**, who added ...*we lose a great deal of time going to and from Tintenbar, or the Brunswick, for every morsel we consume... and a ... shipping port for this district, must, in every way be preferable to any river trade, for... a great deal of time is lost in awaiting the tides before boats may enter the bar-bound... Brunswick River; and in rough weather, the river*

vessels and others actually put into Byron Bay for shelter. The village necessity was argued by **Thomas Skelton** and **Alexander McKinnon**, the mail service by **Denis G. Garvan** and **Edward Boyle**, who though ... *the mailman instead of keeping the main road along from Tintenbar to Brunswick, got upon the beach as soon as possible....* Finally, **Joseph Bede Kelly** of Tyagarah, long claimed by the Bruns mob as one of its own, called for the formation of 'The *Byron Bay Association*'; carried unanimously.

While Brunswick Heads remained the Bruns/Byron epicentre for a few more years, seismic rumblings from Byron Bay eventually led to a regional split into two fiefdoms, the Principality of Mullum subsequently winning the turf war with the Dukes of Brunswick and Marquis of Molebunbie to claim sovereignty over the northern territory.

In the meantime, John Lund was granted dual citizenship in both Upper and Lower Brunbyonia. In mid 1884 he was an organiser of a *Petition from the Residents, Selectors, and Sugar-growers of Byron Bay...* for a harbour scheme, and in 1885 was appointed to the 'Reception Committee' and 'Escort Committee' (along with divided loyalist Henry French) in the Bay's over-the-top lobbying of the Minister for Works on his visit to town (there were also separate Transit, Decoration and Luncheon Committees.) While they never got their breakwater, winning the jetty put paid to the competing harbour scheme of their Bruns rivals, who came down with a severe case of Relevance Deprivation Syndrome.

Stay tuned; after the break it all starts to fall apart.



NOVEMBER MEETING

Motions

At the November meeting the following motions were passed unanimously that:

- ▣ the Annual General Meeting will be held in August of each year starting in 2011
- ▣ the financial accounts will be audited in January 2011, again in July 2011, and then every July after that.
- ▣ monthly meetings, as of January 2011, will be held on the third Friday of each month commencing at 1.00pm at the museum

Australia Day Project

A representative of the BVHS attended the meeting for the planning of Australia Day at the Council offices at which it was agreed that Byron Bay would host the official ceremony in January 2011 at the Byron Bay Services Club. BVHS looks forward to hosting the ceremony in Mullumbimby in January 2012. The Council and the Australia Day Project committee members wish to see this important ceremony hosted by a different area of the shire each year.

Volunteer Co-ordinator

The contract is in the process of being drawn up for the employment of a co-ordinator of volunteers. A meeting will be held on 10th December at the museum to finalise conditions in the contract. Any interested member is invited to help with this process.

Raffle

Huge thanks to Janelle Barram for her beautiful quilt which she donated for the raffle that was

drawn on Saturday at the market. The lucky winner was Jennifer Moore. Second prize, a selection of BVHS's publications, went to Matt Mayall. Thanks to all who supported the raffle by selling and/or buying tickets. The raffle raised \$505.

Market Rumbblings

BVHS is joining the chorus of dissenters re Byron Bay being allowed to trial an extra market each month for 6 months. We are particularly affected as the Mullum Farmers' market on Friday morning and then Byron on the Sunday is squeezing the stall holders and supporters of the museum. A letter is on the way to the Council outlining our concerns re the Council allowing contraventions of its own rules.

New Member

Welcome to new member Brenda Bartlett.

HELP!!!

Lisa, who handles our front desk at the Saturday markets each month, is unavailable for the January 2011 market. We need two volunteers who can help out that Saturday morning, PLEASE!!!

BOOK BLOGS

New publications for sale

75 years of Brunswick Surf Club includes the first 50 years and the next 10 years which were written by Reg Byrnes plus the last 15 years written by Ray Linabury. \$20 each

Book Review

Forest Bountiful: settlers' use of Australian Plants by Penny Watsford

Brief Review by Frank Mills

This book brings together a massive amount of knowledge about our local plants, which

haven't previously been documented. References to the Tweed's unique environment can also be applied to the Brunswick Valley in most instances.

Therefore this comprehensive study can be used by plant researchers in Tweed and Byron Shires

Its illustrations give a real life appearance of the plants also and the index gives easy references to the contents.

Overview – I think it's a must have book for me.

Forest Bountiful: settlers' use of Australian Plants by Penny Watsford, published 2010 Nullum Publications.

Available for borrowing at the museum, email mullumbooks@gmail.com if you wish to acquire a copy.

Also available at our library

Ramblings of the Timber Industry by Pam & Doug Campbell. This was launched at the Timber Worker's Reunion on 25th September at the Kyogle Memorial Hall. It features several locals involved in the timber industry such as the Hollingworth Family and Nick gives it his seal of approval.

THANKS to all members & Work for the Dole participants who have been involved at the museum in 2010. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

On Wednesday 22nd December from 2.00 to 3.00 p.m. Work for the Dole participants and members of the BVHS are invited to the museum to share some Christmas cheer and celebrate a very productive year. Please bring a plate to share.