



NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2011

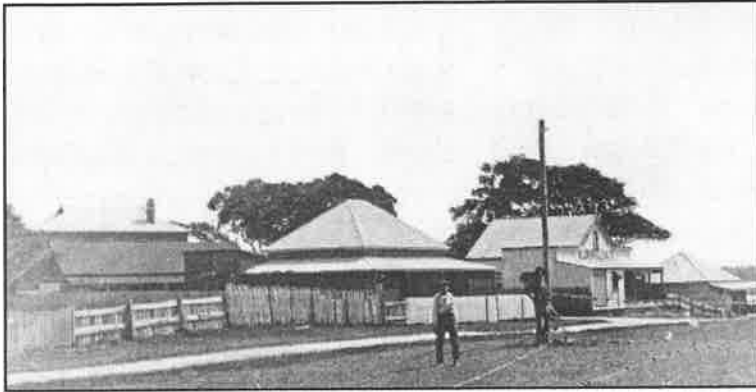
Brunswick Valley Historical Society MUSEUM

Cnr Of Stuart & Myocum Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

OPEN: FRIDAY 11 AM - 3 PM

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

BRUNSWICK V BYRON



Brunswick Heads Circa 1900. Wakely's Store & Post Office.



The Township of Byron Bay Circa 1900.



Mullumbimby Main Street - 1890

By 1885 the *Northern Star's* 'Brunswick River Correspondent' had gone AWOL and its 'Byron Bay Correspondent' (probably Owen Wareham) was getting all the press. ...*If our "roads" were fit to take drays over, many, if not all, of the selectors would grow corn and other produce for shipment per "White Cloud" or any other vessel that might put into port - no bar here to contend against;....* But despite all the subsequent lobbying most of

their development applications weren't approved and at the Progress Association meeting in Sep85 **J.B. Kelly** ...*after criticising severely the action of the Government in neglecting to erect the proposed jetty, expressed in pretty plain terms his opinion of our Member, asserting that he (Mr Gray) had neglected his duty. ...Mr Garvan* (Denis of Bangalow) *was particularly "rough" upon our Member, the Government*

in particular.... the proceedings were very animated...

[Pioneer Tweed squatter, Samuel Gray MLA, wisely decided not to contest the election 2mths later, allowing Thomas Ewing to start his long run. At the Byron rally, defacto mayor Kelly introduced his fellow surveyor Ewing to the punters, who obstinately gave their vote to Patrick Hogan, a shipper and agent of Sydney and landowner at Newrybar, while the

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Newsletter

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

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Liz Walton WFD

Patron: Frank Mills OAM.

All members are invited to contribute to this newsletter

*Please leave material with Sarah or
Liz Tue Wed 10 am - 2 pm.

Or email to:

bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au

NEXT MEETING

**Friday 18TH FEBRUARY 2011
1pm. See you there!**

*Deadline for agenda items
Thursday 17th February 2011 .

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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mob at Bruns overwhelmingly went with Ewing. As it was a two-member seat they were both elected, one or the other (or both) getting a firm contract for the jetty by Christmas. (Catholic Joseph Bede Kelly won the new electorate of Tweed in 1894, defeating Catholic John Patrick Garvan, the brother of Denis and brother-in-law of James Glissan.))

Then in early Nov85 **Henry French**, a selector of 600 acres at Tyagarah and Vice-President of the Byron Association, called for a Public Meeting to be held at the *Ocean View Hotel* at Bruns to work out ways of reviving that place's moribund Association and presenting a united front. Two weeks later at the Byron Association meeting ...*The Chairman (Kelly) explained at a considerable length, that, at a public meeting held at the Brunswick, it was proposed to amalgamate the Brunswick Association with ours; and that representatives had been appointed to lay before this committee certain proposals by which a union might be effected if we could come to terms.... Here a long discussion took place, in which Messrs Kelly, Graham, Boyle, Wareham and French, took part; and it was agreed not to alter the name of our Association or add thereto. It was also decided (should the Brunswick representatives' proposals be accepted) that the committee would make some concessions.... Messrs Smith, Nelson and Law... were then marched in ...and asked to explain upon what terms they*

desired to amalgamate their Association with ours.

r Nelson (who was the chief spokesman) said that it was desired that the Association when amalgamated, was to be called "The Byron Bay and Brunswick Association"; and that every alternate meeting was to be held at the Bay and Brunswick.... He fully admitted that the Byron Bay Association had done much good, but unless the committee would agree upon the above terms, nothing could possibly be done.... And it came to pass that they sailed away on separate courses (and 125yrs later are still navigating with different maps, praise the cartographer.)

The Bay was in the ascendancy. Kelly's strong leadership and his valuable connections, particularly with Ewing MLA, coupled with the salesmanship skills of secretary Wareham and the flowery advertorials for the auction of town lots in Simmons' freehold subdivision coming up at Christmas, gave Byron continuing prominence over Brunswick, which was already on its way out with the tide. Mover and shaker Lund had sold his Byron store in mid 1885 to George H. Daniel, an ex-school teacher of Lismore, while his Bruns store probably went to **Fred D. Nixon** (allegedly the interim caretaker of the Byron store until relieved by Daniel), at least until Nixon took over as licensee of the *Court House Hotel* in late 1891. By the end of 1885 all Bruns business adverts in the *Northern Star* had ceased, including the longest running of the lot, **James Mills** of the Store

and Butchery at Kings Creek.

Mid 1885 had also marked the departure of the foundation President of the Bruns Association, **Alexander G. Anderson**, to Lismore to become a real estate agent, while his surveyor/road maker brother James, a selector at Anderson's Hill/Uncle Toms, remained until 1889 when he too moved to Lismore, but remained the Bruns delegate to the Alliance of Progress Associations, of which Byron Kelly was President.

Paradoxically, **Henry French** JP moved the other way to become a Bruns storekeeper, reviving the 'Brunswick River Progress Association' in early 1887, when heavy rain had quagmired the roads and isolated the place from any coach traffic for a couple of months. He got himself elected as President, with **Stan Francis** as his Vice-President, **John McGregor Jnr** as Secretary and **Peter Nelson** as Treasurer. Messrs **Haines, Doran, Marshall** and **Chisler** were amongst the revivalists when long dormant proposals were resurrected, particularly doing something about the perennial problem of the Bruns bar, expanding post office services and organising a petition... for a boat and crew at this river, in order to render assistance to the vessels trading to this port, a task long carried out by Robert Marshall and his boat with any available volunteers.

Presbyterian auctioneer/cedar merchant **French** was a storekeeper at Tyagarah until switching to Bruns where he'd purchased 3 blocks in

the allotment rush of 1884, but going bust at the height of the Depression in 1893. Anglican Dane **Nelson** acquired 2 lots and played hard for the place, but transferred to the Mullum club after Bruns could no longer muster a team. Presbyterian Scotsman **McGregor** had landed with his father and brother in 1880, selecting at Myocum and going on to become a force in the wider region. His father, **John Macgregor Snr**, an ex-school master of Glasgow, died at his property 'Glenlyon' in 1888, the same year John Jnr became a trustee of the public reserves at Bruns, along with **Matthew Chisler, William Law** and **Robert Walter Reddacliff**, further redefining the Brunswick River Association to embrace members from rising Molebunbie.

While resentment of 'the Byron' continued to grow, a further blow closer to home occurred in 1889 when a few dissatisfied customers went shopping elsewhere and formed the *Mullumbimby Progress Association*, followed by more dissent in the ranks with the formation of the *Central Mullumbimby Association* (ie Molebunbie) in 1891, at which time new Associations were emerging at Byron Creek, Eureka, 'Eureka to Coorabell Creek', 'Jasper and Possum Creek' and Newrybar competing for development money. (At this time Progress Associations were akin to Shire/Municipal Councils, all giving 'the Members' a huge headache in deciding whose competing demands got priority.)

Factional interests dominated the next few years as the Brunswick

took to its sick-bed, while over at 'the Byron' David Jarman arose from his to make very loud noises, furthering the perception of the place as the lively capital of the region. By the mid 1890s Bruns had sailed into the doldrums, while its stolen train arrived at Mullum station to signal a new capital of the northern district. The *Ocean View* went into mothballs in 1897 until resurrected as a boarding house 2yrs later by Mrs Marshall's nephew-in-law, **Robert Smith** of Billinudgel, who needed a change in employment after losing half his jaw in a kick from a horse. The *Court House* pub was purchased by **W.J. Reilly** in 1899 and moved to Mullum to become his new residence opposite the School of Arts. The Bruns School of Arts was carted off in 1898 to fulfil the same function at Billinudgel. And the school took a long sabbatical in 1896 until reopened in 1903, a year after Byronite Gerard Wheat relicensed the *Ocean View* and the Reddacliff's opened a boarding house, at which time most of the running for Bruns was being steered by the Byron Bay Progress Association, still blessed with the competent hands of the Warehams on the tiller. By Christmas 1903 Bruns was promoting itself as a 'health resort' and was totally booked out, serviced by diesel-powered launch 'Edith' from Mullum.

By Peter Tscalas

MEMBERS' HAPPENINGS

1. We wish Nick Hollingworth, who has not been having a run of good health lately, a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him again at the museum very soon.
2. Congratulations to Cara Maku who received The Byron Shire Council's Young Citizen of the Year at the Australia Day Awards – a very worthy recipient. We wish Cara all the best for Year 12.
3. Wow! We have received from Estelle Philips her compilation, "Mullumbimby Municipal Council Land Sale Records 1932-1980" in both hard and digital copies, a fantastic effort! Her next project is a record of occupancy.
4. Barry Fischer has researched his family, tracing them from Germany to Australia, and detailing their lives in his book, "Fishers from 1850; from the Black Forest, Germany to The Big Scrub Australia". Thanks Barry for kindly donating a copy to our library for members to peruse.

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Membership fees for 2011 are due – please find attached to the newsletter the renewal notice.
2. After advertising for a Volunteer Coordinator we were extremely pleased to have had 16 enquiries for the position and 9 applicants, all of a high quality. The meeting elected an interviewing panel who interviewed 3 candidates and then appointed ROTHY BENSON. Rothy will be at the museum every Friday and would love to meet the members, so drop in and introduce yourself.
3. The North Coast Zone of RAHS Affiliated Societies Conference is on 7 May 2011. The guest speaker will be Lesley Muir and her team from the RAHS presenting a Land Title Workshop. They are demonstrating how to find and use the information that is now up on the Web, especially maps and land title information. Sources of information include the Lands Dept., the Land & Property Management Authority, the National Library, State Library and Google Earth. There will also be a presentation on 19th century rural land laws and how to work out where the ownership records are. If you wish to attend please advise us as we have to register by 31 March. Observers are welcome.
4. The treasurer presented the financial report; the society had a profit of \$10,497.10 for the year 2010. This is the last report to be

compiled for a calendar year. As of July 1 the accounts will be presented over a financial year. The report is available at the museum if you wish to peruse. The accounts have been audited for 2010 and found to be a true and accurate record.

5. BVHS Inc has taken out Worker's Compensation to cover Sarah & Liz in Nortec's 'Work for The Dole' program and it will also cover our Volunteer Coordinator, Rothy.
6. 'Work for the Dole' Program has moved their operating days at the museum running from Tuesdays to Thursdays this year. The museum is open Fridays and is the responsibility of the members – volunteers needed.

PRESIDENT REPORT

We have every reason to be excited about 2011 here at Mullumbimby Museum and that is because of all the hard work we put in in 2010.

Last year was a big year for us in terms of ground work. We completed our blue print for the future (strategic plan) giving us a working document which we can use as a map to show where we are headed and how far we have yet to travel. This is about to become very useful as we invite new members in, they will be able (with the help of our volunteer coordinator) to see where they can assist and know that their efforts are contributing in a meaningful way.

Our Market and Work for the Dole Project were as usual our solid base and kept the doors of the Museum open. We attended the Zone conference, participated in Old and Gold and had a successful raffle. The front computer is up and running with the Family tree software and we are well on our way to having proper storage which will allow us to rest some of our more delicate artifacts and plan new exhibitions.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed in 2010, the members for their continued interest in the history of the Brunswick Valley, the Work for the Dole participants, for the many large and small things they do at the Museum. Without them we would not have a photodata base, which is one of our greatest resources. And last but not least the Volunteers who have given their time to Museum in all sorts of ways. You are the people who are ensuring that our little Museum will continue now and in the future to tell the stories of the people who lived in the Brunswick Valley and what they did here.

Jennifer Elward
President