



NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2011

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S INFO

A reminder - the great "Olde-Fashioned Picnic" is on the Queen's birthday public holiday, Monday 13th June, and everyone is invited. Plans are well underway, so get going with your 'theme hat' and dig out those old favourite marbles. You might even like to start training for the 'race events' and I'll give you some clues. There'll be egg'n'spoon, wheelbarrow and sack races to start with, plus a few others still to be decided.

We held the **Jumble Stall** again at the last Market, but it wasn't such a goer. If you want to help, please call me or leave goods at the Museum. We'll give it another try, but it needs to be a 'team' effort to be successful.

Always ready to welcome new volunteers, so if you find you've got a few spare hours on a Friday especially and would like to support your Museum, call or come on down. Many hands make light work, and there's a really good crew shaping up. Improvements are obvious in the Shed, and the BVHS website is well underway. The PO is receiving much-needed TLC, and many small tasks are being undertaken regarding tidying and maintaining sections and old objects.

Until next time, warmest wishes,  
Rothy.

# Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. 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



An example of a labyrinth that will be set up at the picnic

## COMMITTEE NEWS

**RAHS Northern Zone Conference** – 2 of our members attended the conference at which Dr Lesley Muir, Vice President RAHS, gave a presentation on Land Titles. She outlined what is available on the Department of Land & Property Management website <http://www.lands.nsw.gov.au> explaining in detail the links PIXEL, SIX, Parish Map Preservation Project, & GNB (Geographical names board). Dr Lesley at the end of her talk then generously shared a copy of her PowerPoint presentation with each society. So if anyone wishes to find out how to obtain parish maps, Torrens titles etc they are covered in her PowerPoint which is available at the museum. A very informative morning!

BVHS Inc is in for a busy weekend on the long weekend in June as we will have a stall at the Old & Gold at Brunswick Heads on the Saturday (anyone wanting to come and help for an hour or so is most welcome) and then there is the Volunteer Picnic on the Monday at the museum. See Rothy's news and flier for information about the picnic.

BVHS Inc has increased its efficiency in the handling of finances through the use of Business Online Banking. Not only can accounts be paid online but in future members can pay their subscriptions by direct deposit if they so wish.

## Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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Market Co-ordinator  
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Newsletter team  
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 17th June 2011  
12.30pm. See you there!**

\*Deadline for agenda items  
Thursday 16th June 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  
mullumbimbymuseum@gmail  
password - mullumbimby



## Clash of Egos - Round 1

In Mar1891 The Hon Bruce Smith, Minister for Works, arrived in Lismore for the 'turning of the first sod' to formally launch the railway. Eight thousand people turned up for the parade and at the banquet afterwards he was toasted as the saviour of civilization. A couple of days later ...over 100 horsemen escorted the visitors to the Bay. The town was decorated with bunting and triumphal arches. Fifty persons attended the banquet in the evening, chaired by **J.B. Kelly** of the well-disciplined and highly organised Byron Bay Progress Association.

Their competitors for the public purse had also got their act together for a change: *The gathering at the Brunswick to welcome Mr Bruce Smith was the largest ever witnessed. ...On approaching the Brunswick the Minister and party were met on the beach by the leading residents..., who grilled him on the need for bar improvements. At the Ocean View Hotel the following address was read by Mr H.L. Thompson (Molebunbie schoolteacher) on behalf of the settlers: We, the committee appointed to receive you... think you are a top bloke. Finally, we hope that you shall long be spared to give the colony the benefit of those services which hitherto you have rendered so well. Signed on behalf of Committee - F.D. Nixon (Brunswick), John MacGregor (Myocum Flats), H.L. Thompson (Myocum Ridge), G. O'Connor (Billinudgel).*

A few days before the Minister's visit, the Mullum Progress Association had debated ...the advisability of advocating the expenditure of public money for the improvement of the Brunswick River entrance..., the majority deciding ...If the Brunswick people had erected their buildings in the wrong place, that was no reason why public money should be wasted to force the growth of a village there. One town was sufficient for the Brunswick district, and Mullumbimby was the most central place.

In May1891 the *Tweed and Brunswick Advocate* gave an unflattering report on 'Brunswick - From Our Correspondent\*', prompting someone calling himself 'Brunswick' to reply via the *Northern Star*: ...In the first place the writer is evidently a resident of Mullumbimby, judging from the sarcastic manner in which he refers to the proceedings, etc, at meetings held at Brunswick. ...No doubt some few of the Mullumbimby residents have declared their intention of doing all they can to exterminate the Brunswick people, viz., the Publicans, Post and Telegraph Department, police, and the unbearable storekeeper, to whom, no doubt, the few have to thank that they are now in existence in the district, and reconstruct them afresh at Mullumbimby...

A week later **Hugh Campbell**, a selector isolated between Mullum and Yankee Creeks at the end of the flats, retorted ..."Brunswick," feeling very much hurt over his late exposure..., says run the railway anywhere but the present route, and if it does not come to the Brunswick, compensate us for the loss of it by spending a half-million on the Brunswick River entrance.... What I would suggest in this matter is that the Government give those five gentlemen at the Brunswick a lump sum, say fifty thousand (which would sufficiently compensate them for the loss of the railway) instead of spending a half-million, or any part of it, on an entirely useless work, such as trying to improve the Brunswick River entrance. "Brunswick" could then retire from storekeeping, live on his income, and never again be tortured by the miserable "cocky."

The following week (6Jun91) **Stanley G. Woodrow**, more isolated than his southern neighbour Campbell, said ...*It is evident that "Brunswick" was told most of the statements contained in his letter, and it is also evident that his informant ---- well does not adhere to facts.... "Brunswick" plainly shows that the Heads people do not care where the railway goes, if they can only delay or prevent it from coming to Mullumbimby township. This is a petty and dog-in-the-manger principle.*

A week later the regular 'Brunswick River Correspondent' reckoned *It is regrettable to state that a harmonious feeling does not exist in this district.... Through the Mullumbimby association (which represents only a small section of the Mullumbimby settlers) a motion has been passed to the effect that the money available at present, for the improvement of the Brunswick entrance, would be better spent on roads, &c....* (At this time previous Bruns stalwarts **S.G. Gray, T.G. Hough Snr, John Starr, J.A. Hanna** and **Thomas Hanna**, had also broken away to form The Pocket Progress Association, later dominated by Gerald O'Connor.)

Next word came from **Hugh Campbell**. ...*All the farmers on Mullumbimby, with the exception of one or two, look upon Byron Bay as their port. ...The Mullumbimby P.A. represents nearly the whole of the settlers of Mullumbimby.... Your correspondent's dislike of the Association is evidently caused by the members neglecting to make him president. The inharmonious feeling he alludes to has been mainly caused by his own actions in encouraging the Brunswick Heads residents to oppose everything which is likely to advance Mullumbimby. The self-appointed representative of Mullumbimby....*

"Your Brunswick Correspondent" proclaimed ...*I am not ashamed to say that - along with the majority of the settlers - I have, for nearly 10 years, persistently worked with that end in view, viz., the improvement of our river, and I am not afraid to state that I have always acted openly and unselfishly.... Mr Campbell's opinion that I was offended because I was not made president of the Mullumbimby Association is very amusing to me, and scarcely merits notice.... However, I may say that I have been asked by several to form a new association at Mullumbimby to work on more liberal lines, and in harmony with the district as a whole....*

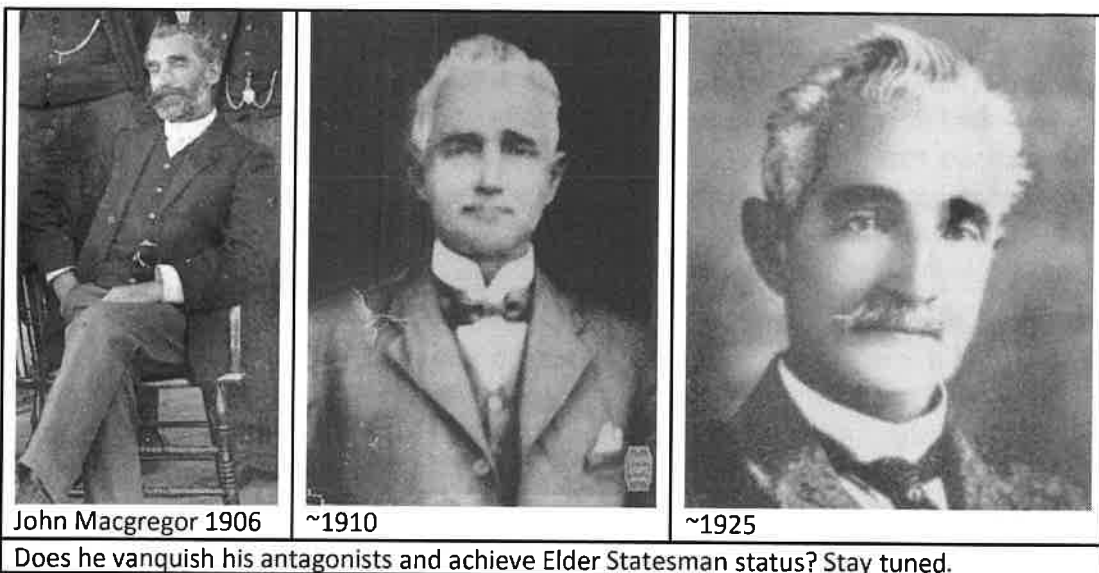
**Hugh Campbell** said .... *He talks of my conceit in passing an opinion on the Brunswick entrance, but I did not, as has been done, send to the authorities a plan of my own in competition with those of professional engineers. If I did so he might call it conceit.... He is acting as their cat's paw in return for the flattery which they bestow upon him, and when he says that "several"*

*asked him to form a new Progress Association at Mullumbimby, if he were not so "obtuse" he would know that "several" were only taking 'a rise' out of him. He was at one time a member of the Mullumbimby Association, but as he was not allowed to do entirely as he liked, he went away like a sulky child, and has since been making feeble efforts to obstruct and oppose the actions of the Association....*

On 22Jul91 "Your Brunswick Correspondent" predicted.... *The new Association, I may tell him will come with as much certainty as the steamer, and the large number who have left the old Association will join the new.... The barren sequence of his efforts has led him to believe that someone is working "against" him.... The party who uses Mr Campbell as his "cat's paw" appears to be ashamed of his identity. I would like to see a purely original contribution from Mr Campbell.*

Great entertainment also came through the pages of the *Tweed and Brunswick Advocate*, increasing the regional audience tuning in for the show, which topped the ratings for many more years. The owner/editor, **William R. Baker**, an absentee Main Arm selector north of Woodrow and Campbell but later a major player in the Mullum ego contest, backed his 'Brunswick/Mullumbimby Correspondent', urging the Bruns residents to consider the Utilitarian philosophy of *the greatest good for the greatest number....*, after a longwinded piece of editorial advice: *It is with feelings of the deepest regret that we note the spirit of antagonism manifested towards each other by residents in different parts of the Brunswick district. No matter what may be urged to the contrary, it is patent to the unbiased observer that this jealousy, antagonism, selfishness, or whatever it may be called, does exist, that it underlies most of the so-called public movements....* They ignored his gratuitous sermon and a little later when things were getting out of hand he had to say *To Correspondents:- "S.G. Woodrow," "F.D. Nixon," and "Hugh Campbell," we cannot give publicity to your letter in their present form (sic). Too much personal feeling is manifested in each of them....* and a week later... *Our Mullumbimby correspondent waxes wrath in reply to the letter recently published by John McGregor, but as he has allowed his private feelings more latitude than is necessary we deem it prudent not to publish....* Bummer.

At the end of the year **Stan Woodrow** unmasked **John Macgregor** as the *Northern Star's* 'Brunswick Correspondent', prompting Macgregor to unmask Baker's 'Mullumbimby Correspondent' as Stan Woodrow (but at one stage implied that local architect/builder/developer **Joseph Yates\***, later a prominent Byron personality, could be the master puppeteer pulling the strings.)



[\*The tone of the *Tweed and Brunswick Advocate's* 'Brunswick Correspondent' started to change in May 1891 following the *Northern Star's* 'flooding debate', in which the Brunswicks residents, in an orchestrated letters campaign, predicted a submerged rail line at Mullum after every drop of rain. **John Macgregor** said ...your correspondent, who hails from Mullumbimby, lets off what has now become his regular squib at the Brunswick Heads and all pertaining thereto; the only and imbecile apology for news that his empty pate can furnish. Owing to the fact that his puerile effusion is always from three to four weeks behind time, it is evident that the concocting of the same costs him many a weary night studying, with his hands supporting his massive jaws. No doubt his own opinion (and in his only) the result of such a protracted mental effort appears to his diseased imagination as cutting satire; to your readers' minds the sickly product is sniffed with loathing.... If your correspondent retains any control over his literary propensity I would advise him to curb it, otherwise, I hear it said, his examination by a medical practitioner will be necessary to ascertain if he is *compos mentis*.... If the denseness of his perceptive faculties did not prevent it... he'd see the paramount importance of Brunswicks bar improvements like the rest of us sensible people. The addle-headed blockhead who, seeing the evil fruits of his own planting, still persists in sowing the seeds of discord.... Then followed a long deconstruction of his architectural and building skills, finishing with ...At a future time I may give you an account of how the School of Arts was worked..., hence the suspicion that **Joe Yates** may be the mysterious 'Brunswick Correspondent', at least for this one report that got up Macgregor's nose.

On the same day **Stan Woodrow** had a letter published, contradicting earlier assertions by **Tom**

**Gollan** over the wreck of the *Annie C. Lynn* (which came to grief on the north rocks upon entering the river on 1 May 91). ...to anyone knowing the tactics of the Brunswick Heads party the composition of the letter causes the suspicion that it emanated from the offices of what is known as the "Brunswick Combination." This august body consists of two private individuals and one Government official.... The spending of a few thousands in the construction of a dangerous training wall at the Heads would be a fine thing for the five gentlemen who run the hotels and stores down there..., but it would cause the south spit sand bank to expand and block the river entrance. ...Mr Gollan's statement that the settlers must depend entirely on the bar entrance is totally wrong.... The price of freight from Byron Bay to Sydney, by steamer, is two-fifths lower than from Brunswick, by sailing vessel.... If the authorities wish to lay out money in this district so as to do the greatest good to the greatest number..., which were Baker's editorial words in the same edition. 'Our Brunswick Correspondent' gradually faded away and 'Our Mullumbimby Correspondent', certainly Woodrow, filled the vacuum.]

By Peter Tsicalas