



## NEWSLETTER JULY 2011

# 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

## Clash of Egos - Round 2

On 1Aug1891 **Hugh Campbell** responded to *Your Brunswick correspondent's* letter... in the *Northern Star*, which... is, as usual, simply a mixture of self-praise and fiction. He asserts that I was not present when he gave evidence before the Works Committee. Allow me to inform you that I was present, and I heard him give evidence in favour of the Brunswick route (for the railway). ...His effrontery when he says he and others brought the matter to a successful issue after eight years' working, is perfectly astounding. ...I think it is time he gave his brain a rest and left off studying public affairs. Apparently he was "intoxicated with the power invested" (Macgregor's words to Campbell in the earlier letter) in the privilege of giving evidence, and did not know what he said or who was present. ...His childish raving about a new Association is hardly worthy of notice.... As the majority decline to allow him to be dictator, he has turned milky and threatens to form a new Association, so that he can be President....

On the same day **S.G. Woodrow** said "Your Brunswick Correspondent" ...appears for some time past to have been using your paper as a medium for disseminating wrong information for the purpose of serving his own ends, and... it is absolutely necessary that his dominant propensity should be checked.... As I went with Mr H. Campbell to the meeting referred to, it is evident that he is alluding to me.... [Macgregor had asserted that Campbell along with another, went, as "self-elected" representatives from Mullumbimby to Byron Bay...

*and moved motions (that were not approved of by a single settler on the Brunswick) for the purpose of retarding the initiation of the sugar industry here, which they ridiculed because the business had not been introduced by themselves....]*

*The facts now are as follows: The farmers of Mullumbimby, &c., were invited to attend a meeting at Byron Bay on May 2nd, to consider the question of sugar growing along the railway line, a notice to this effect was posted opposite to the school at Mullumbimby. I promised to attend, and of course kept my word. Mr Macgregor posted another notice calling a meeting at Mullumbimby at the same time, apparently with the intention of preventing the farmers from attending the meeting at the Bay (chaired by J.B. Kelly), and of breeding ill feeling between the people of the two localities. His meeting, however, did not take place, so the farmers although knowing that he had called a meeting, guessed his reason, and did not attend.... (Macgregor's adjourned cane meeting was held on 16May91 at Matthew Chisler's place, where F. Hansen, N. Campbell, Thomas Torrens, Alex Torrens, W.G. Law, J. Reddacliff and P. Olsen moved motions. It was reported in both the Northern Star and Tweed Advocate with exactly the same wording, which showed little difference with the resolutions passed at the larger Byron meeting.)*

*When Mr M'Gregor was first appointed a member of the Lismore cane committee (to investigate and gauge interest in growing cane along the railway line), he called a meeting*

*at Mullumbimby. I was present and supported him in every way, and I also moved a resolution approving of the action of the Lismore committee in adding his name to their number. He gave me his list which I carried around for signature, and after getting the promise of a large area of cane, I returned it to him. By that means I did at least some of the work for which he takes the credit. His statement, therefore, that "without their aid (Campbell and Woodrow) a large area of cane has been signed for" only shows his unparadonable meanness....*

*[This correspondence having assumed a very personal tone, no good end can be served by its continuance, - Ed.]*

The 'Brunswick Correspondent' then gave his version to the adjudicating editor ... All the information I gave you as general news, ...you now know to be perfectly true.... He (Campbell) should feel very small to know that every letter of his only contained a rash assertion, without the slightest evidence of an effort to be correct.... The only disaffected parties appear to be Messrs Hugh Campbell and Woodrow. However, their efforts to split up the district have proved to be abortive. As regards the Progress Association, it is evident that it does not retain the confidence of the settlers, as no meetings have been held for several months, and it is considered necessary to a new one to work in a liberal manner for the benefit of the district....

*In reply to Mr Woodrow... I wish to state, and I believe, Sir, you are*

## **Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. 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 Thur 10 am - 2 pm.

Or email to:

bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Friday 15th July 2011  
12.30pm. See you there!**

\*Deadline for agenda items

Thursday 114th July 2011.

### **MUSEUM HOURS**

**Friday 11am - 3pm**

**Market Saturday 9 am - 12pm**

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

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*aware, that I have never made use of any statement through your columns which was not substantially correct.... His reference to me making a defamatory statement is therefore sheer nonsense, and I think, Sir, you are cognisant of the fact that any inharmonious feeling which may exist is entirely attributable to his own action in publishing in a contemporary (Tweed Advocate) a false statement against me without the slightest provocation, and which rightly debarred him from the privilege of reply. In taking leave of Mr Woodrow I can only say that if he is uncharitable and illiberal enough to oppose the progress of one part of a district, he cannot expect to be supported in his efforts except by those who may happen to be likeminded as himself..*

*[This letter closes this correspondence, and it is only fair to our Brunswick correspondent to state that his contributions have at all times given us the impression he wrote impartially and for the general welfare of his portion of the district.... - Ed. Star, who at this time was having 6 acres of his land, 'adjoining the main road, village of Mullumbimby', cleared of scrub. (Editor Hewitt, along with J.B. Kelly of Tyagarah, was on the same Lismore Cane Committee as John Macgregor, probably the same John M'Gregor, Manager of the Richmond River Sugar Company... who addressed the inaugural meeting.)]*

On 5Aug91 **Thomas Torrens, John Reddacliffe** and **J. MacGregor** placed a notice in the *Northern Star* advising that *A meeting of those in favour of forming a NEW ASSOCIATION at Mullumbimby, will be held at the Post Office (Mr R.W. Reddacliffe's) on Saturday, 15th August at 2.30pm, the results of which were that ...those present unanimously resolved to form themselves into a progress association, to be called the "Central Mullumbimby Association."* The following officers were appointed:- **President, Mr H. Tyler, Vice-Presidents, Messrs T. Torrens, and M. Dawson; secretary, Mr J. Macgregor; treasurer, Mr R.W. Reddacliff.** (All Myocum-centric.) *Twenty-one residents enrolled themselves as members of the association....*

To which the editor added: *Another correspondent, referring specifically to the Mullumbimby meeting, states 'there were 30 present, and after some wrangling, and refusal to hear those opposed to the meeting, the Chairman (Henry French JP) consented to put the following resolution to the meeting:- "That this meeting of Mullumbimby residents considers that the Progress Association is sufficient for Mullumbimby, and deprecates the action of those who would attempt to hinder the progress of the district by forming a new association." Sixteen voted for the motion. The chairman declined to take a show of hands against it, saying that it would make no difference as they intended to form the union all the same. 19 of those present then left the room.'*

On 5Sep91 a letter signed 'Mullumbimby' backed up the editor's footnote: *... I notice in your issue of August 22nd two contradictory reports of the new Association meeting at Mullumbimby. ...As I was present at the meeting I can corroborate the latter report. There were thirty persons present at the meeting, sixteen voted for the Censure, and on the Chairman refusing to take a show of hands against it and declaring it carried, nineteen then left. Thus there were only eleven to form the new association, and not twenty one (21) as your own correspondent's report seems to infer. Mr Tyler was not present.*

*The name "Central" seems to me to be an unsuitable title for the new Association, as the members reside either at the Brunswick Heads or the extreme S.E. corner of Mullumbimby, and only one lives within a mile of the nearest point of the township boundary. The members of the so called "Central" Association have always opposed the advance of the township of Mullumbimby, underneath which the editor added: To Correspondent "S.G.W.", letter received, but correspondence closed.*

And that was the last time for Woodrow and 2nd last for Campbell that they ever got anything published in the *Northern Star*. But on 16Sep91 the editor gave his Brunswick Correspondent the last word ...*It is with reluctance I would here touch upon a letter from 'Mullumbimby' which appeared in a recent issue... As two of the members of the Association own farms adjoining the township, and others hold allotments in the township, I need only say that it would be strange if they work against their own interests....* He also advised that Engineer-in-Chief C.W. Darley had found that the Brun bar improvements weren't cost effective and that ...*a petition on a large scale is to be prepared.* (Anglican Dane storekeeper Peter Nelson appears to be the main organiser and sent letters all over the place, one of which went to the Tintenbar Progress Association, where his father-in-law, Catholic Dane Henry Bassmann, moved "That we give them all the support we can." Carried.)

Not to be outmaneuvered, **Thomas Doran, Hugh Campbell, R. Argue, W.G. Shearer, N. Campbell, M. Chisler, J. Tyrrell, J. Corcoran, A. Gillies, J. Yates, Peter Olson, T.B. O'Neill, A.B. O'Neill** and **W. Thailer**, signed a letter saying *We, the undersigned, residents of Mullumbimby, beg to state that we were present at the new Association meeting on August 15th, and we can corroborate the statement which appeared in your columns, to the effect that out of the thirty who were present 16 voted for the motion disproving of the formation of a new Association. As 19 left in a body, there were only 10 left (presumably discounting biased Chairman French) to form the new Association.* (Catholic Corcoran was the father-in-law of Catholic Tyrrell, who was the brother-in-law of Presbyterian W.G. Law, who was the future father-in-law of Catholic A.B. O'Neill and Presbyterian Smythe Torrens, the brother of T. Torrens below.)

On 21Oct91 **R.W. Reddacliff, A. Torrens, Matthew Dawson, Thomas Torrens snr, Vivian Boxsell, Robert Marshall, Alex. H. M'Gregor, John Donaghy, Patrick**

**English, Herbert Clarke, Joseph Boxsell, Peter Nelson, H. French, W.F. Bonnell, Thomas Torrens Jnr, W. Reddacliff, James Watterson, Chart Roubson, G.H. Chapman, T. Torrens, J. Johnson, J. Stanton, John Torrens, T. Johnson, J.W. Reddacliff, Duncan Cameron, Thomas Jarvis, D. Withers (Jnr), Robert Smith, A.F. Wallis and J. Flitcroft** said *In reply to the letter which appeared in your issue of 30th ultimo, signed by a few of the residents of Mullumbimby, which has evidently been worked up to damage, if possible, the new Association, we the undersigned, land-owners and residents of the Mullumbimby district, desire to state, that we approve of the formation of the new Association, and we accord it our hearty support, believing that in the best interests of the district the formation of the "Central Mullumbimby Association" was not only justified, but necessary.*

Rubbing it in, the next 'Brunswick River' report said *A meeting in connection with the Labour Electoral League was held at (the Protectionist stronghold of) Mullumbimby on the evening of the 26th October. Little interest was manifested in the proceedings, and the attendance was moderate. H. French, Esq., J.P., occupied the chair. The meeting was addressed by Mr N.K. Ewing (solicitor of Murbah and brother of Protectionist Thomas MLA).... Mr M. Chisler moved,- "That a branch of the League be formed at Mullumbimby." Seconded by Mr Hugh Campbell and carried. Mr J. Yates was elected as secretary, and Mr M'Gougan treasurer. About 15 tendered their names as members. The meeting was apathetic, and there was no discussion.* (Ewing later recanted his pinko beliefs, standing as an Independent Protectionist against Kelly of Byron in 1895, then switching to a Free Trader in Perth and finally standing as an Anti Socialist in Tasmania. Campbell became a great Kelly fan but took the road to Perth at the same time as Ewing, although choosing to revive his love affair with Labor.)

Occasionally **W.R. Baker** of the *Tweed and Brunswick Advocate* was moved to explain the long running saga to listeners who had just tuned in, making one such summary in a Sub-Leader Oct91: *To persons unacquainted with the workings of Mullumbimby society it would appear that there are two parties and that for one party to initiate any public movement is sufficient reason for the other party to oppose it, or to endeavour to accomplish the same end by different means...*

By Peter Tsicalas



Reddacliff Family gathering at 'Cathona', Christmas 1908. Robert Walter and Susannah (nee McAulay) Reddacliff seated centre.

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR UPDATE

Well despite the weather about 40 of us huddled together around the alternate 'good olde-fashioned picnic grounds' in the Drill Hall, with a lanky 'heater' improvising as a tree centre-piece, all cosily surrounded by low tables, rugs and scattered cushions. It looked pretty inviting as everyone bounced through the door shaking off the rain, then bee-lined for the warmth and a good spot to do lunch.



The Labyrinth made a colourful sight on stage, and with so many kids and pent-up energy, some bent and twisted circles developed at times but it was entertaining. Then there were the 'olde-fashioned' races, where eggs 'n spoons were grappled over; four legs became 'three' as twosomes staggered round the dodgy track; and couples transformed into wheelbarrows careering crazily every which way. Rebecca Ireland and friends gave their time generously, with a variety of sensational songs and music. The marbles - phew! There's probably still some back there hiding in corners and under things, but they were fun too!

It was a lovely event, and what else could one do in such nasty weather? Thanks to everyone for their input, fun-sharing, and cleaning and clearing the place in record time. Another bonus was thanks to the generosity of the hall managers - there was no fee, so it truly was a 'thank you' event all round. We'll do another picnic in the future, so leave the hamper handy, and keep training for those races.



Walking the labyrinth

Please dig out any jumble you might have, as our last Trash 'n Treasure nearly cleaned us out! It's good fun on Market days, and you're welcome to join us. Cheerio till next time, Rothy.

## MUSEUM NEWS

- Thanks John Lewis for attending to some necessary building maintenance – such as adjusting doors so they shut properly and the locks work, replacing lights & starters, etc.
- Quotes have been acquired for screen/safety doors to help improve air flow in summer while ensuring security.
- The old Bank of NSW safe will be shifted to the shed at the end of the month freeing up space on the verandah.
- At the next market Saturday we are hoping to have 2 new displays ready to pique your interest. Be surprised and come and check them out.
- The BVHS Inc stall at the Old & Gold on the Saturday of the long weekend achieving good sales & having fun informing all and sundry about our organization. Our sample photograph collection & the DVD that was running were a huge hit creating many interesting discussions. Thanks to the Work for the Dole crew who prepared the terrific photo display for us - much appreciated.
- Also thanks to our Patron, Frank Mills, who generously gave of his time to give a historical talk about Brunswick Heads at the pub in the afternoon. Well done Frank.



Rothy, Gordon & Shona looking after the stall.