



# 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

NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2011

## MUSEUM NEWS

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. This is the last of Peter's essays on the beginning of Mullumbimby to appear in the newsletter as he has combined them with further articles into a book titled *Mullumbimby: Foundation Events 1848-1908* which is currently at the printer's. If you want to know what happens next, the book will be available at the museum by the end of August. Copies can be pre-ordered and paid for by filling in the attached form.
2. **The BVHS INC AGM is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August commencing at 12.30 p.m.**  
Agenda - the president's report, treasurer's report and election of office bearers (president, 2 vice presidents, secretaries (minute & correspondence), treasurer & assistant treasurer plus 3 committee members. Please find attached a form if you wish to nominate a member for one of the above positions.  
Nominations to be lodged to the secretary by 11.30 am Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011.  
The AGM will be followed by a general monthly meeting.
3. We will soon have a presence on the world wide web. One of our members, Peter Purdon, has been working overtime to get our website ready and we are very appreciative of his efforts. We will let you know when it is uploaded.

### ON A LIGHTER NOTE

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July witnessed much jubilation with our own "Monster Moves" occurring. Finally, we have an uncluttered area that members can use for socialising in comfort.



## Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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President  
Jennifer Elward

Vice Presidents  
Gordon Wright  
Stephen Hall

Secretary  
Janelle Barram (Harkness)

Treasurer  
Susan Tsicalas

Assistant Treasurer  
Sarah Newsome

Market Co-ordinator  
Gordon Wright

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 Wed Thur 10 am - 2 pm.

Or email to:

bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au

**NEXT MEETING**

**Friday 19th August 2011  
12.30pm. See you there!**

\*Deadline for agenda items

Thursday 18th August 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 3

By Peter Tsicalas

So after that long civilized debate, which clan won the right to be called the 'Founding Fathers of Mullumbimby'? And which one begat a corporate culture at odds with the rest of the region? Voting patterns in subsequent referendums and elections prove this rule, but unfortunately figures don't allow a differentiation between the village of Campbelltown-Woodville and the district of Macgregordale.

It's a matter of record that at the close of 1891 Campbell's clan was in the majority for the opening of the School of Arts, a significant event that didn't rate a mention in Macgregor's reports to the Northern Star. It was formally declared open by **J.B. Kelly** of Byron Bay at a gala function MC'd by **Hugh Campbell**, and attended by people from all over the place, including **W.R. Baker** of the *Tweed and Brunswick Advocate* who toasted the residents, *making special reference to S.G. Woodrow* (but segued into lamenting the movement for female suffrage, which elicited applause.) *Dancing was kept up until sunrise* (2 violins)... and *belle-of-the-ball was conferred upon Miss Crabbe* of Crabbe's Creek, a difficult choice over the *charming Misses Chisler*, while *Mrs Murphy of Burringbar was deemed the most elegantly dressed lady and best dancer.*

In mid 1892 the mischievous Campbell became a paid-up member of the revived *Brunswick Progress Association* and subscriber to the *Brunswick School of Arts*, MC'ing their Grand Winter Ball, deemed the best ever according to the *Tweed and Brunswick Advocate*, but unreported by the *Northern Star's* 'Brunswick Correspondent'. At a *Brunswick Progress Association* meeting in Aug92 (with McGregor, Reddacliff and Torrens in attendance) he declared that no-one had a right to speak or vote unless they were financial members, whereupon **Henry French** declared the meeting a public one, but ... *On the motion of Mr Longstaff the debate was adjourned till next meeting.., spoil sport.*

(Regarding the Mullum School of Arts, Messrs Chisler, Law, Shearer, Doran & Woodrow were appointed as Trustees, Mr **W. G. Shearer** elected President, Messrs **J. Tyrrell** and **H.McD. Livingstone** as Vice Presidents, Mr **S.G. Woodrow** as Secretary, and Mr **W.G. Law** as Treasurer. Messrs Woodrow, Olson and Yates formed the sub-committee which drew up the constitution. Presbyterian Scotsman Alex Kethel (now retired MLA but later MLC), Free Trader, shipowner and cedar merchant, generously established the library. Anglican Englishman Stan Woodrow served as secretary for the next 10yrs, while Thomas Torrens was the only identifiable member of the McGregor clan who made it onto the committee over that period.)

In May 1894 the Minister for Works turned up to open the Lismore-Mullum portion of the rail line and *On reaching Mullumbimby station (39 miles from Lismore), which was decorated with sugar cane, &c, grown locally, about 300 people were assembled, and the visitors were received with cheers. Mr H.L. Thompson read the following address of welcome and petition combined:-* ...You are a great bloke but... *Signed on behalf of the residents by J. McGregor, W.G. Shearer, M. Chisler, P. Olson, John McLeod...* (At this time Chisler had been sacked from the Mullum Progress Association.) *Mr Alex. Carr then presented the following from the residents of Brunswick Heads and vicinity:-* ...You are a great bloke but... *Signed on behalf of the residents by R. Marshall.*

All of which was bound to awaken Mr Campbell-Woodrow from his long slumber to deliver a serve to Mr McGregor: *On Saturday, the 5th instant, a meeting of a*

semi-private nature took place in the parlour of Mr M'Gougan's hotel... to discuss the opening ceremony for the railway. There were six gentlemen present. Mr Chisler occupied the chair and explained at some length the objects of the meeting.... Mr J. M'Gregor followed, and in an enthusiastic speech warmly supported the chairman's views.... The six gentlemen then went into business in a really systematic manner. They first appointed themselves into a demonstration committee.... On Tuesday, the 15th instant, a large number of people congregated about the railway station to witness the arrival of the Ministerial train. With the exception of a very small arch made of sugar cane, in the station yard, there was no attempt at decoration.... The Minister then asked for the President of the Mullumbimby Progress Association. Mr Chisler stepped forward and shook hands, and the Minister addressed his reply to him. Mr Chisler has no connection with the association, but the Minister did not know of the deception....

Macgregor retorted: ...It should be stated here that a discreditable attempt has been made by a correspondent to the Richmond River Times and Tweed Advocate (under 'Mullumbimby Notes', 'From Our Correspondent') to bring discredit on those of the public who initiated and worked up the proceedings for the reception of the Minister for Works at Mullumbimby. ...It is to be regretted that personal feeling will sometimes allow people to make unfounded statements reflecting on those who endeavour to promote the prosperity of the district in which they reside.

The year 1894 also saw **W.G. Law**, **W.G. Shearer** and **J. Tyrrell** become trustees of the 98 acre Recreation Grounds at Mullum, and **M. Chisler**, **T.B. O'Neill** and **Hugh Campbell** trustees of the RC portion of the cemetery. Mullum continued to grow as Bruns became a ghost town, while the *Northern Star's* 'Brunswick River Correspondent' increasingly became Molebunbie-centric, painting a picture of the settlement around his patch of the scrub as the most progressive part of the 'Brunswick River district', getting softer on Brunswick Heads as a relevant part of the mosaic and continuing to view Mullum as just another piece of the jigsaw. Billinudgel, Main Arm, Mullum Creek, *et al*, rarely got a look-in.



Timothy Bernard and Rosetta (nee Greenhalgh) O'Neill, Brunswick Heads ~1900.  
(Renowned Teamster O'Neill is credited with building the first cottage in Mullum 1891.)

In early Feb95 he advised that ...A public meeting was held at Mullumbimby on Saturday to form a progress association for the district. The attendance was small, only 10 persons being present. However, it was resolved by those present to form themselves into a progress association to represent the whole of the Mullumbimby district. Two associations had existed previously in a languishing condition, and it was thought that effective work might be done if an amalgamation took place. After objections on the part of some present to accept any official post, the following were appointed: President: **M. Chisler**; Vice President: **H. Livingstone**; Secretary and Treasurer: **A. Cameron** (a new townsman player on the stage.) ...I think that good work will be done by the new body around Mullumbimby if a liberal policy is pursued, and certainly there is plenty of room for improvement.... A public meeting was held at Brunswick on Saturday to consider the advisability of sending another deputation to Sydney in support of the improvement of the river entrance, and also to protest the removal of the Court house. However, the Brunswick people will soon have to admit that "there is a Divinity" (some people call it something else) "that shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will."....

[At the same time the *Tweed and Brunswick Advocate's* Mullumbimby Correspondent satirically reported the meeting thus: ...**Mr Campbell** said the object of the meeting was to re-organise the Mullumbimby Progress Association and unite the whole people of Mullumbimby into one solid body. They had been split up into different sections for a long time, and until they all united they could not expect speedy progress. **Mr J. Macgregor** said he was there that day to bury the hatchet... and he thought that Mr Campbell had successfully brought the two parties together.... Mr J. Macgregor proposed and Mr Campbell seconded - "That this meeting accepts all the rules of the late Mullumbimby Progress Association." Carried unanimously....]

A month later McGregor said: *In my last letter to you (Editor of the Northern Star) I mentioned that a progress association had been formed at that time at Mullumbimby.... On Saturday last at the first meeting of the new body those who are opposed to an amalgamation rolled up and declared that the previous meeting was illegal, &c. There was some very stormy business. After a lot of wrangling a public meeting was formed, and the following business was done..., Hugh Campbell* being amongst the movers of various motions. ...*It is not likely that perfect harmony will be established yet at Mullumbimby. The most amusing part of it is that some of those who are evidently fighting most for "place" in the community are those who hold least stake, and whose practical results are almost nil. (They were all conscious of a cachet associated with being 'pioneers'.) ...Two or three gentlemen have left the Brunswick to again interview the Minister for Works in Sydney regarding the improving of the river entrance....*

For the first time in 3½yrs **Hugh Campbell** got a letter published in the *Northern Star*: *Sir,- When a writer supplies an epistle to a newspaper it should be his aim to contribute truthful information for the good of the general public; but I am sorry to say this is not the case with your Brunswick correspondent. It has become an undisputed fact with the residents here that he only writes to the papers when he has an axe to grind. It seems to be his delight in trying to breed discord among the residents here, who do not believe in his views, and it is very evident he will stop at nothing to gain his own ends. His letter dated the 11th March, and published by you on the 13th instant, contains an erroneous paragraph calculated to do me a personal injury. Speaking of a public meeting held at Mullumbimby on the 9th instant, he says, "Mr H. Campbell moved - 'That the Court House be removed from Brunswick to Mullumbimby.' " Now, Sir, I did not move any such resolution, nor did anyone else at that meeting. There has not at any public meeting held at Mullumbimby been a resolution passed asking for the removal of the Court house from Brunswick to Mullumbimby. By circulating the above report your Brunswick correspondent has created a great deal of animosity between the residents of Brunswick and Mullumbimby, and in doing so he is trying to saddle the blame on my shoulders. More than half of his epistle of the same date is not in accordance with the facts; but as the rest of it does not concern me I will pass it by in silent contempt".*

*[A country correspondent has often to obtain information second hand, and may thus very easily be led into making a mistake as to the mover of a resolution. We do not think in this instance that our correspondent could have had any desire to make Mr Campbell appear as the mover of the resolution, only believing that he was stating the fact.- Ed. Star.] Was Macgregor set up?*



Looking South along Dalley Street ~1910  
Scotsman Allan Cameron, who opened his second store left in 1904, had arrived on the scene from Grafton in 1894 and immediately became active in Mullum affairs.