



NEWSLETTER

August 2022

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

17 Myokum Street MULLUMBIMBY 2482

Email: admin@mullumbimbymuseum.org.au Phone: 02 6684 4367

OPEN: TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 10 AM – 12 PM

MARKET DAYS (3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH) 9 AM-1 PM



Hope to see you at our AGM on Tuesday 9th August at 10.30am. All welcome.

Godless Mullumbimby

In *The Australian* of 9Jul2022 demographer Bernard Salt ran a ruler over 'Religious Affiliation' statistics gathered at the 2021 census, claiming that '...The top spots for believers and non-believers in each state reveal the drivers of religious affiliation. In NSW, for example, the most devout community is a largely Christian (immigrant) community in western Sydney's Bossley Park where 86 per cent of the population are believers. NSW's non-believers, on the other hand, peak at 74 per cent of the population at Mullumbimby (near Byron Bay)... and score third spot across Australia. I have always thought that bishops should have a weighing system to evaluate the performance of priests and ministers. Clearly in terms of ministering to the spiritual needs of the community, Mullumbimby is a tougher gig than is Bossley Park. Getting anyone into a Mullumbimby church is a good effort...'

His figure of 74% 'non-believers' appears to come from combining 'No Religion', 'Not Stated', 'Secular Beliefs' and 'Other Spiritual Beliefs' under the umbrella of one 'broad church'. And he has used the 'Statistical Area Level 2' definition of 'Mullumbimby' – ie 'Area Code' 112011243 covering 268.1 sq kms, encompassing 'Mullumbimby Suburb', Yelgun, Billinudgel, Middle Pocket, The Pocket, Main Arm, Upper Main Arm, Palmwoods, Mullumbimby Creek, Wilsons Creek, Upper Wilsons Creek, Huonbrook, Wanganui, Upper Coopers Creek, Goonengerry, Montecollum and Myocum. The greatest centre of 'non-believers' was at Upper Wilsons Creek (area code SAL14066 covering 9.3 sq kms) on 91%, followed by Upper Coopers Creek (SAL14036, 7.5 sq kms) on 85%, with Upper Main Arm (SAL14053, 16.8 sq kms), Huonbrook (SAL11969, 18 sq kms) and Goonengerry (SAL11718, 27.7 sq kms) sharing the podium on 83%. 'Mullumbimby Suburb' (SAL12839, 27.6 sq kms), ie the township and immediate surrounds, claimed 71% 'non-believers'.

[On 23Jul2022 analyst Salt added that *Religions such as Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam are expanding in this country and it's the well-established Christian faiths that are losing ground...*, while his stablemate at *The Australian*, polarising journalist Greg Sheridan, was alarmed that *We are on the way to becoming for the first time, an avowedly anti-Christian nation... The 2021 census represents an explosive dam burst, with a flood of biblical proportions to follow....* The flood warning had already been issued to the readers of the *Northern Star* by Afghan Shaikh Abdul Kader during a Balkan Wars debate, reminding that *There is not the slightest doubt that Islamism is spreading wonderfully fast, more so than Christianity....* (ref *Northern Star* of 18Aug1913).]

The chart below was created by fiddling with figures presented at <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/community-profiles/2021/LGA11350>. (And best of luck to Truth Seekers mining the site's quantitative data to find some marker to underpin the Byronian claim to cultural exceptionalism. But stay tuned for the next release of data in Oct2022.)

2021 Census	Population	No Religion	Not Stated	Cath	Anglican	Buddhist	Uniting	Judaism	Secular*	Presby	Other Christ*	Pente-costal	7 th Day Advent
Mullumbimby 'Stat. Area'	8896	4988 56.1%	1417 14.9%	659 7.4%	531 6%	220 2.5%	175 1.97%	152 1.71%	147 1.65%	105 1.18%	102 1.15%	48 0.54%	38 0.43%
Mullumbimby Suburb	4180	2402 57.5%	443 10.6%	374 8.9%	255 6.1%	110 2.6%	117 2.8%	83 2.0%	72 1.72%	53 1.27%	57 1.36%	29 0.69%	7 0.17%
Brunswick Heads*	9170	5397 58.9%	990 10.8%	1004 10.9%	645 7%	194 2.1%	170 1.85%	117 1.28%	115 1.25%	79 0.86%	118 1.29%	70 0.76%	29 0.32%
Bruns Suburb	1905	1029 54.0%	200 10.5%	269 14.1%	162 8.5%	25 1.3%	62 3.26%	11 0.58%	27 1.42%	23 1.21%	25 1.31%	23 1.21%	4 0.21%
Ocean Shores	5777	3379 58.5%	613 10.6%	637 11.0%	419 7.25%	126 2.18%	90 1.56%	94 1.63%	71 1.23%	38 0.66%	79 1.37%	38 0.66%	22 0.38%
Bangalow*	6958	3964 57%	886 12.7%	758 10.9%	523 7.5%	102 1.47%	104 1.5%	50 0.72%	88 1.27%	118 1.7%	93 1.34%	40 0.58%	17 0.24%
Bangalow Suburb	2752	1658 60.3%	324 11.8%	317 11.5%	204 7.4%	27 0.98%	37 1.34%	14 0.51%	28 1.02%	51 1.85%	27 0.98%	17 0.62%	3 0.11%
Byron Bay*	10,914	6392 58.6%	1228 10.4%	1,338 12.3%	745 6.8%	235 2.2%	173 1.59%	108 1%	123 1.13%	134 1.23%	114 1.05%	46 0.42%	3 0.03%
Byron Bay Suburb	6330	3645 57.6%	696 11%	757 12%	443 7%	150 2.4%	102 1.6%	79 1.25%	76 1.2%	61 0.96%	79 1.25%	24 0.38%	0 0.00%
Suffolk Park	4222	2538 60.1%	385 9.1%	550 13%	280 6.6%	81 1.9%	64 1.52%	26 0.62%	41 0.97%	70 1.66%	35 0.83%	16 0.38%	3 0.07%
Byron Shire	36,116	20,841 57.7%	4290 11.9%	3770 10.4%	2458 6.8%	753 2.1%	631 1.75%	429 1.19%	473 1.31%	448 1.24%	430 1.19%	194 0.54%	94 0.26%
NSW	8,072,163	32.8%	6.8%	22.4%	11.9%	2.8%	2.1%	0.5%	0.44%	1.9%	2.48%	0.89%	0.28%

* 'Secular' includes 'Secular Beliefs' + 'Other Spiritual Beliefs'

* 'Other Christ' includes 'Christianity, not further defined' + 'Other Christian', but excludes the small congregations of independent religions, which collectively had decreased as a percentage of the shire's population since 2016.

[Wef 10Aug2021 Byron Shire was home to 94 'Baptist' (0.26%), 5 'Church of Christ', 137 'Eastern Orthodox', 97 'Jehovah Witnesses', 11 'Latter-day Saints', 52 'Lutheran', 69 'Other Protestant', 5 'Salvation Army'. Total 470 (1.3%).]

* 'Brunswick Heads' (code 112011239, area 54.4 sq kms) = 'Brunswick Heads Suburb' (code SAL10618, 14.3 sq kms) + Ocean Shores (SAL13081, 12.9 sq kms) + South Golden Beach + New Brighton + Tyagarah.

* 'Bangalow' (112011238, 186.5 sq kms) = 'Bangalow Suburb' (SAL10175, 24.4 sq kms) + Federal + Eureka + Nashua + Binna Burra + Possum Creek + Coorabell + Ewingsdale + McLeod's Shoot + Skinners Shoot + Talofa + Hayters Hill + Coopers Shoot.

* 'Byron Bay' (112011240, 39.8 sq kms) = 'Byron Bay Suburb' (SAL10731, 19.1 sq kms) + Suffolk Park (SAL13699, 4.2 sq kms) + Broken Head.

* Byron Shire (LGA11350, area 565.8 sq kms) = the statistical areas of Byron Bay + Mullumbimby + Brunswick Heads + Bangalow + part of Wooyung.

NSW: Islam was the 5th largest religious group in NSW, with 349,240 adherents (4.3%), followed by 273,780 disciples of Hinduism (3.4%), while the followers of Sikhism mustered 47,165 devotees (0.58%), all showing an increase since the 2016 census. Byron Shire had 70 acolytes of Islam (0.19%), 135 practitioners of Hinduism (0.37%) and 51 believers in Sikhism (0.14%). The Orthodox Christian community numbered 202,018 (2.5%) in NSW and 137 (0.38%) in Byron Shire.

For ease of assessing changes in 'Religious Affiliation', the chart presented in Newsletter story *The Tenacious Salvationists* at [115.-Newsletter-March-2022.pdf \(mullumbimbymuseum.org.au\)](https://mullumbimbymuseum.org.au/newsletter-march-2022.pdf) has been reconfigured as follows:

2016 Census	Population	No Religion	Not Stated	Cath	Anglican	Uniting	Buddhist	Presby	Other Christ	Secular	Judaism	Pente-costal	7 th Day Advent
Mullumbimby Statistical Div	7,993 268 sq km	3775 47.2%	1392 17.4%	786 9.8%	688 8.6%	258 3.2%	225 2.8%	147 1.8%	134 1.7%	131 1.6%	121 1.5%	50 0.6%	44 0.55%
Mullumbimby Urban Centre	3,248 (4 sq kms)	1511 46.8%	475 14.7%	379 11.7%	332 10.3%	132 4.1%	99 3.1%	69 2.1%	59 1.8%	48 1.5%	29 0.9%	9 0.3%	18 0.55%
Mullumbimby Suburb	3,596 27.6 sq km	1636 45.3%	528 14.6%	446 12.3%	375 10.4%	157 4.3%	102 2.8%	75 2.1%	75 2.1%	57 1.6%	43 1.2%	14 0.4%	20 0.6%
Brunswick Stat Division	8212 54.4 sq km	3821 46.6%	1111 13.6%	1123 13.7%	890 10.9%	228 2.8%	215 2.6%	161 2.0%	131 1.6%	129 1.6%	65 0.8%	69 0.84%	21 0.26%
Brunswick Heads Suburb	1,737 14.3 sq km	704 40.5%	225 13.0%	280 16.1%	229 13.2%	85 4.9%	31 1.8%	42 2.4%	40 2.3%	25 1.44%	13 0.75%	11 0.6%	4 0.2%
Brunswick Urban Centre	1559 4 sq kms	621 39.9%	207 13.3%	264 17%	200 12.8%	76 4.9%	24 1.54%	36 2.3%	36 2.3%	25 1.6%	13 0.8%	11 0.7%	7 0.45%
Ocean Shores suburb	5,137 12.9 sq km	2396 46.6%	656 12.7%	727 14.2%	576 11.2%	2.2%	129 2.5%	2.0%	76 1.5%	72 1.4%	0.92%	1.03%	0.35%
Ocean Shores Urban Centre	4300 10.5 sq km	1975 46.1%	606 14.1%	594 13.9%	494 11.5%	106 2.5%	110 2.6%	73 1.7%	55 1.3%	57 1.3%	28 0.65%	44 1.0%	18 0.4%
Bangalow Stat Division	5665 186 sq km	2678 47.2%	802 14.1%	779 13.7%	566 10.0%	153 2.7%	135 2.4%	159 2.8%	91 1.6%	60 1.1%	34 0.6%	51 0.9%	10 0.18%
Bangalow Suburb	2,021 24.4 sq km	980 48.5%	216 10.7%	320 15.8%	221 10.9%	2.2%	1.7%	71 3.5%	13 0.64%	17 0.84%	0.2%	1.5%	0 0.00%

Bangalow Urban Centre	1689 1.8 sq km	831 49.5%	187 11.1%	270 16.1%	174 10.4%	31 1.84%	32 1.9%	60 3.6%	11 0.65%	13 0.77%	4 0.24%	20 1.18%	0 0.00%	
Byron Bay, Stat Div	9502 39.8 sq km	4273 44.9%	1873 19.7%	1255 13.2%	899 9.4%	239 2.5%	215 2.26%	217 2.28%	91 0.96%	88 0.93%	71 0.75%	47 0.5%	13 0.14%	
Byron Bay Suburb	5,521 19.1 sq km	2365 42.8%	1294 23.4%	663 12.0%	518 9.4%	126 2.3%		2.2%	2.2%	52 0.94%	50 0.91%	0.79%	0.56%	0.11%
Byron Bay Urban Centre	9246 21.9 sq km	4130 44.6%	1846 20%	1217 13.2%	874 9.4%	230 2.5%	207 2.24%	217 2.35%	91 0.98%	81 0.88%	71 0.77%	47 0.51%	16 0.17%	
Suffolk Park Suburb	3,750 4.2 sq km	1787 47.7%	555 14.8%	554 14.8%	353 9.4%	101 2.7%	84 2.2%	101 2.7%	33 0.88%	38 1.0%	25 0.67%	20 0.53%	7 0.19%	
Byron Shire	31,556 566 sq km	14,625 46.3%	5214 16.5%	3952 12.5%	3074 9.7%	887 2.8%	794 2.5%	689 2.2%	442 1.4%	412 1.3%	287 0.9%	218 0.7%	85 0.27%	
NSW	7,480,228	25.1%	9.2%	24.7%	15.5%	2.9%	2.8%	2.5%	2.3%	0.4%	0.5%	1.04%	0.3%	

'Other Christ' only includes 'Christianity, not further defined' and 'Other Christian'.

Minority Christian religions in 'Mullumbimby Statistical Area Level 2' include 26 Baptist (0.33%), 3 Church of Christ, 17 Eastern Orthodox, 20 Jehovah Witnesses, 10 Lutheran, 20 Other Protestant, 8 Salvation Army (0.1%). Total 104 (1.3%).

In 'Mullumbimby Urban Centre' were 4 Baptist, 9 Ortho, 11 JWs, 3 Lutheran, 7 Other Protestant. Total 34 (1.1%)

In 'Mullumbimby State Suburb' were 9 Baptist, 14 Ortho, 10 JWs, 3 Lutheran, 7 Other Protestant. Total 43 (1.2%)

In Byron Shire were 121 Baptist (0.38%), 4 Church of Christ, 112 Ortho, 85 JWs, 9 Latter-day Saints, 57 Lutheran, 53 Other Protestant, 18 Salvation Army. Total 459 (1.46%).

In NSW were 94,647 Baptist (1.27%), 6,623 Church of Christ, 188,442 Ortho, 22,723 JWs, 16,430 Latter-day Saints, 20,450 Lutheran, 32,412 Other Protestant, 15,219 Salvation Army. Total 396,946 (5.31%)

In NSW Islam with 267,659 adherents (3.6%) was the 5th largest 'religious group'. The 181,402 adherents of Hinduism made up 2.4% of the state's population. The 31,737 Sikhism devotees represented 0.42% of the population. The 30,737 practitioners of 'Other Religions' made up 0.41% of the state's population.

Byron's 42 Islam adherents made up 0.13% of the shire's population. The shire's 77 advocates of Hinduism made up 0.24% of the population. The 65 members of the Sikhism community made up 0.21% of the population. The 257 practitioners of 'Other Religions' represented 0.81% of the shire's residents.

Afterthought

Goonengerry was by far the most heavily populated of the top five godless enclaves in the Mullumbimby catchment area. Truth Seekers may get some enlightenment on why this was so from **Dr Patrick Morrissey's** 1999 PhD thesis, '*Interest groups and the Landcare forum: How do they influence sustainability in rural Australia?*' (copy available BVHS). In an article in the *Byron Shire Echo* of 27Apr2022 Patrick, foundation chairman of Goonengerry's *Rainforest Valley Landcare Group* in 1990 and a Byron Shire Councillor 2008-2012, said that as part of his doctoral thesis he *chronicled five distinct waves of settlement in the Goonengerry area since European settlement. Of particular note was how an 'affordable housing' development application (DA) by a group of new Goonengerry settlers formed part of a wave of DAs that brought a four-fold increase in the population to an already constrained biodiverse, steep, fire-prone valley, with no new community infrastructure....*

His thesis notes that since the collapse of conventional farming, *Regenerating rainforest, small mixed organic farms, farm-based plantations and rural residential development has dominated land use since the 1970s.... The Landcare group is mainly dominated by a second phase of settlers (1970s-1980s), those, generally speaking, that constitute part of the back-to-the-land movement..., who had generated a cohesive community. Increasingly though, a third phase of settlers, seeking considerably denser rural settlement, are seen to be challenging the nature conservation values of the second phase settlers... leading to many cultural clashes.*

Development Applications approved between 1990 and 1997... effectively tripled the population from approximately 40 residents to 120 in Rainforest Valley.... The new settlers brought different ideologies, one of the 1970s wave of 'alternate lifestyles' asserting that his group came to return to a subsistence and cooperative lifestyle..., whereas the mid 90s wave... introduced a whole 'House and Garden' culture of alternative yuppie lifestyle.... And part of the baggage of this latter group was 'New Age' attitudes and beliefs (the practitioners accepting of a holistic form of divinity... with a strong emphasis on the spiritual authority of the self... says Wikipedia), while Tribal, pagan and various native American, eastern and healing beliefs are espoused by a growing number of residents of MO style developments....

Goonengerry now boasts of a number of communes under the umbrella of Multiple Occupancy/Community Title, with a *Divine Nature Sanctuary* within the mix, collectively providing a ready scapegoat for the district's 'non-believers' reputation, if not for the whole 28 sq km district that fell within Bernard Salt's definition of 'non-believers'. [The census of 2021 found this area had a population of 422 with a median age of 51, 246 (58.3%) claiming 'No Religion', 93 (21.1%) 'Not Stated', and 10 (2.4%) Secularists. Total 349 = 83% 'non-believers'.]

And it's a fair bet they voted 'Green' at the recent election, a dramatic turnaround from 1966 when **Stephen Sheaffe** recalls *standing on the Goonengerry School Verandah (aged 13) handing out how-to-vote cards (for my father) at an election. After the count was held that night, it was revealed there were 70 voters and only 1 wasn't a National Party vote....* On a drive through Goonengerry in 1997 he noted that *the countryside is covered in groundsel, lantana, crofton weed, tobacco bush and camphor laurel trees...* and now with blooming 'Night Jasmine' taking up residence. [BVHS holds three books by Stephen Sheaffe on Goonengerry and Sheaffe family history, which give a good account of the early 'waves of settlement', including 'church history', complementing Patrick Morrissey's concentration on the latter waves. There's no finality to the ever-ongoing evolution of any place's way-of-life, but it'd be nice if someone with an anthropological interest and time on his/her hands could blend, summarise and update the authors' works for a newsletter article. (Goonengerry is socially, if not geographically, part of the Brunswick Valley, and could serve as a rough proxy for the cultural upheaval experienced by similar rural clusters making up Mullum's surrounding hinterland, notwithstanding that each district has its own quirks.)]

Peter Tsicalas

GARAGE SALE

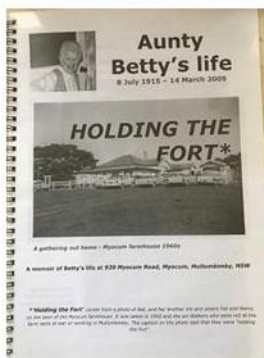
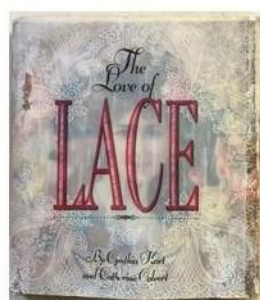
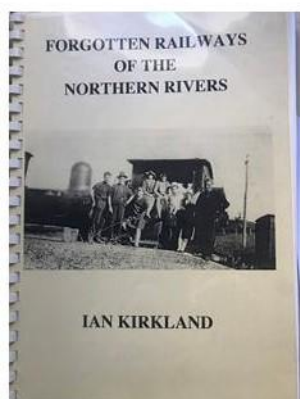
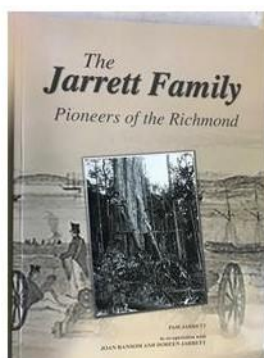
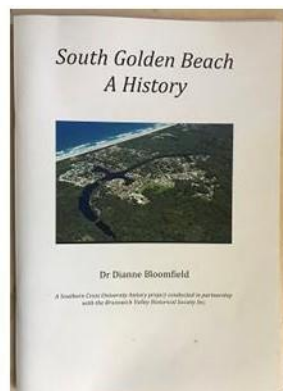
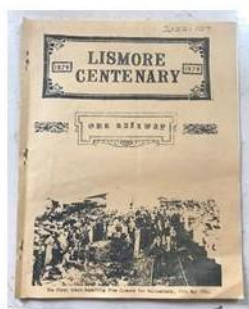
On Saturday 30th July we held a garage sale at the back of the machinery shed, selling off the old engines, machines and tools that were stored under the house and became flood damaged. We also sold off bits and pieces that were duplicated in the machinery shed, of which we have no paperwork, provenance or backstory.

Also on sale were various CDs, DVDs, VCR tapes and books that had been generously donated over the years. If you are interested in any of these please come and see them. We still have a mountain to sell.

Thanks to the members who came to help set up, sell and pack up, and help raise over \$600.

Sorry we forgot to take photos.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

17 Myokum St, Mullumbimby
P.O. Box 378 Mullumbimby 2482
02 6684 4367

admin@mullumbimbymuseum.org.au
www.mullumbimbymuseum.org.au

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MullumbimbyMuseum

Patron: Basil Cameron

President: Stephen Hall

Vice President:

Dr Mark Edwards

Min. Secretary:

Lindy McCollum

Cor. Secretary: Susan Tsicalas

Treasurer: Susan Tsicalas

Committee Members:

Ann Burnett

Dr Frederick Theiss

Roland Sjoberg

Shed Manager:

Roland Sjoberg

Market Manager:

Jacqueline Smith

Heritage Panel Representative

Chris Cooney

Newsletter: Members

WFD Supervisor:

Dr Frederick Theiss

Public Officer: S. Tsicalas.

All members are invited to contribute to this newsletter

Please email contributions for the newsletter to

admin@mullumbimbymuseum.org.au

*Deadline for newsletter items
LAST FRIDAY of the month

NEXT MEETING: AGM

Tuesday 9th August

@10.30am

MUSEUM HOURS – Tuesdays

and Fridays 10.00-12.00

Market Saturdays 9.00 - 1.00

**MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY
MARKET**

Next Market- Saturday Aug 20

mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au

