

## NEWSLETTER

April 2023

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

# MUSEUM

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OPEN: TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 10 AM – 12 PM

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

## The War Memorial Marathon

The saga of a memorial to commemorate Mullum's soldiers' service began with a Council meeting in Jun1916 when *The Mayor reported that the Foreshores Committee recommended that that portion of the Foreshore between Federation Bridge and Dalley-street be set aside as Anzac Avenue. Adopted.* The epic exercise unfolded a little further in Jul1917 when the Progress Association took the lead and resolved *that the Council be asked to plant trees along Dalley and Tincogan-streets, from bridge to bridge; one tree in honor of each volunteer who had gone to the war from here....* Two months later the Mullum Star published its latest and last update of the 'Roll of Honor - List of District Men Helping Civilisation'..., showing 264 enlistees from the ill-defined 'Mullumbimby District', inclusive of 23 dead and 15 discharged as invalided/wounded. (But on Anzac Day 1920 *The honor roll was read by the Mayor, which included the following names of fallen soldiers...,* listing 32 in all, while best estimate from the National Archives indicates 52 dead?)

Commenting on Anzac Day in 1918 **George Cameron**, owner-editor of the Mullum Star, said *At the first anniversary of the landing, Mullumbimby had big ideas and one of them was an Anzac Avenue.... Nothing was done. Last year two meetings were called by the secretary and the attendance amounted to something like three.* This remotivated the Progress Association to ask Council whether *anything could be done towards Anzac Parade on the foreshores...,* the helpful aldermen moving *that the Council would have no objections to the Association planting trees on the Anzac Avenue.* (The current 'Heritage Park' on 'the foreshore' was initiated by the 'Byron Flora and Fauna Conservation Society' in 1980 after Green protests forced Council to withdraw its proposal for a Caravan Park on the site).



'Teak Tree Avenue' in Tincogan Street Mar2023, initiated by the Dept of Main Roads Aug1936 to beautify the Pacific Hwy.)

In Jul1918 **Mayor Selwood** called a public meeting to propose a 'Soldiers' Memorial', 13 people fronting to hear him say *that the Council would make provision for a monument, if so desired, at the railway Station when the deviation was being made....* The following month he switched back to trees, suggesting they should be planted along the Brunswick Road (Argyle Street), to be renamed Anzac Avenue, *and he had not the least doubt that the residents would support the scheme and offer tree guards and trees, and look after them, to the memory of some soldier friend....* The matter was left in the hands of the Parks Committee....

By this time the lads had started to drift home in greater numbers, generating sufficient interest by Sep1918 to form the Mullumbimby Sub-Branch of the RSL. And on 14Nov1918 the Mullum Star declared *PEACE! On Monday evening (11/11/1918), about 9 o'clock, Mullumbimby received the good tidings that Peace... had broken out.* The telegram announcing the great news was auctioned off and the money donated to the *War Widows' Cottage Fund*, now standing at £280.

The Cottage Fund got another boost in Mar1919 when **Mrs Hollingworth** called a meeting to disband the *Mullumbimby Branch of the War Chest*, resulting in distribution of £45 to the *Soldiers' Aid Society* for the cottage, £25 to **Mrs Ellen Rice** and £10 to **Mrs Mary Murphy**. (Mrs Rice was Mullumbimby's first war widow, husband Henry dying 1915 Gallipoli.) In

Apr1919 the *Riverview Knitting Club* was wound up, their last function raising £22/2/-, which was all donated to the *Soldiers' Widows' Home*, while the £10 remaining in the bank was donated to Mrs **Ethel Maud Coghlan** (nee Stuart) whose husband, John Vincent, died in France in 1915 and brother Alex in 1917 France.



The War Widow's Cottage at 34A Gordon St, 2012

In Feb1919 **Mrs Coghlan** and 2 children moved into the uncompleted 'Soldier's Widow's Home' behind the School of Arts. In May1919 the School of Arts gave her *...the use of the shed from which to sell coffee at the picture show...* to earn a few bob. She handed the cottage on to Mrs **Aubrey McClintock** (nee Margaret Norris) in Aug1926 upon moving to Sydney. The rent-free place became subject to an ownership debate in Aug1936 after Mrs McClintock moved out, Council subsequently becoming trustee and renting the place for 12/6d/wk in Mar1937. (Today it's leased by the Byron Youth Service at a peppercorn rent, while the lot has been subdivided to house the Bush Fire Brigade at 34B Gordon St.)

Into 1919 the RSL started flexing its considerable pecs, meeting on 25Apr1919 and resolving *"That this sub-branch of the RSSILA strongly protests against the indifference of the citizens of Mullumbimby in ignoring Anzac day."* Returned soldier and Presbyterian Minister **Rev J.S. Hamilton** added that *90 per cent of the blame for the non-observance of Anzac Day was on the citizens, if they were the least bit grateful to the boys who had fought and fallen for them they would have taken steps to celebrate the day in a fitting manner....*

Mullum's Anzac oversight was reported around the region, the local rag commenting on 1May1919 that *The first celebration of Anzac Day, in 1916, was a great success....* As for planting an 'Anzac Avenue', *This year no meeting was called, and the wolves are howling for a scapegoat!* (Refresh on 1916 in Newsletter article 'Lest We Forget – Lesson Two' at [9-Newsletter-June-2012.pdf](http://9-Newsletter-June-2012.pdf) ([mullumbimbymuseum.org.au](http://mullumbimbymuseum.org.au)))

**Harry Rooke Jones** of 'Baysville', Crabbes Creek, who lost his 21yr old son **Edward** at Gallipoli, was the only local individual to have a word on Mullum's Anzac Day disaster, stating that *I regret to think that Mullumbimby stands in the unique and unenviable position of having displayed complete supineness... and reflects unpleasantly on the Mayor, aldermen and citizens... for dereliction of duty....* And the community has *degenerated into an effete race, and are unworthy of the name of Australian.*

The citizens made up for the Anzac Day debacle with a big 'Welcome Home' for 43 returnees organised by the Girls' Guild in Jun1919, and a week later by the huge attendance at the Grand Patriotic Carnival. Acker's Orchestra played at the School of Arts social in the evening, generating a heap of money for the *Soldiers' Widows' Home*. Next came the Victory Day Celebrations, at one stage planned as a three-day festival but because of the flu pandemic was reduced to an open-air united religious service on the green between the Court House and School of Arts on 19Jul1919.

In Sep1919 the Rev **J.S. Hamilton** recovered from the flu in time to chair the RSL AGM, at which there was no mention of a war memorial. They were more concerned with the Chinese invasion of the banana plantations and resolved that *in view of the large number of returned soldiers being settled in the banana growing industry, and in keeping with the White Australia policy urges that legislation be introduced prohibiting the yellow race....*

Community interest then switched to a war trophy. After a request by the Municipal Council a German machine gun turned up in Oct1920, which the Council decided to place in the park adjacent to the School of Arts, complemented with iron seating and a white picket fence. *It is intended to have the trophy, which will need some little attention, renovated and placed on view in the Council Chambers windows at an early date.* In Dec1921 a second gun turned up out of the blue and sat at the railway station until claimed by the RSL, which mounted the thing in its club room at the School of Arts. (At Billinudgel in 1921 Empire Day was marked with the unveiling by **Miss Muriel Slogrove** of a German Machine Gun placed under the Roll of Honour in the hall. A couple of weeks later **Massy Greene MHR**, holidaying at his Brunswick Heads weekend, unveiled yet another machine gun at the Mullumbimby Creek School.)

Dwelling on Mullum's dodgy economic future overrode interest in Anzac Day and Empire Day in 1921, prompting the Mullum Star to run an editorial on '*Public Apathy*'. Poor attendance at the following Armistice Day on 11/11/1921 was offset by the Anglicans unveiling great plans for a Memorial Church and laying of the foundation stone 2wks later. Shortly afterwards the banana industry entered free-fall and returned soldiers were at the head of the column retreating from Mullum.

The German Machine Gun sat in the Council Chambers for 18mths until late Jan1922 when the Aldermen decided to place

the thing in the triangle of land opposite **W.A. Back's** home at the intersection of Dalley, Fern and Acacia Streets, which W.A. had recently landscaped at his own expense, incorporating a rockery, gardens and seating designed by **George Pullinger**. The RSL disagreed, eventually winning the argument to have the precious ornament displayed in a protective enclosure at the Railway Station. By May1922 nothing had happened and the Diggers again confronted Council on the status of their trophy, getting the response that the thing was now to be mounted on a concrete plinth at the School. The Diggers said we've got news for you - it's gunna go at the Station or on the Green beside the School of Arts. At the same time Methodist Minister **Rev Barker** and other gentlemen started agitating for a *Public Memorial being erected in Mullumbimby in honour of fallen soldiers...*, resulting in the RSL forgetting the gun and drawing up a petition for the Mayor to call a public meeting.

As a result of the 50-signature petition **Mayor Morrison** convened a public meeting in late Jun1922, the first proposal up for debate being an Anzac Avenue of Teak Trees running from the Railway Gates along the Brunswick Road to the town boundary, with a large artillery piece or an obelisk mounted in the triangle of land opposite the Railway Hotel. Dissenters said there is an urgent need for 'conveniences' for country women and children, and suggested they be built in conjunction with a memorial rotunda and creation of a park. They finally agreed *that the memorial take the form of a park with memorial gates on the site adjoining the School of Arts*. And to raise the money and get the show on the road a Committee was appointed, which then went into hibernation. Common to all proposals was the need for a plaque listing the names of 'fallen soldiers'.

On 23Nov1922, just 9 days out from the Council elections, the Star asked *Who and where Are They? Where are the candidates for Aldermanic honors.... it would seem that either that fatal lethargy so peculiarly Mullumbimby has already seized them, or else that the ratepayers are too obtuse to appeal to. How different to the "good old days" when Mullumbimby first sought incorporation as a municipality, and such orators of local fame as our grand old pioneer, Ex-Ald Reilly propounded his views from public balconies!....* **Arnold Chew** put his hand up, calling himself 'The Digger's Candidate' with a 'to do' list, at the top of which was finding a home for that poor orphaned war trophy, while a Public War Memorial was at number 7 along with parks and ornamental trees lining the streets.



Arnold Whitfield Chew 1916

The Public War Memorial probably jumped up a few places on his priority list by the time of the RSL AGM in Jan1923 when *Mullumbimby's neglected war trophy was the cause of an outburst of indignation.... "It is lying in a dusty dismantled heap in the Council Chambers, and can stay there till Domesday as far as the Council is concerned. Go where you will outside Mullumbimby, you see war trophies occupying a place of honor..., and yet again Secretary Gow* was instructed to write to council to have the thing mounted in some prominent position.

A week later the Mullum Star again editorialised on apathy, saying *a scheme like a park with Memorial gates requires something more than "lip" service to bring about materialization, and up to the present... nothing further has been done....* And the RSL again wrote to Council on the status of the gun, followed-up by **Messrs Chew** and **Lamb** addressing Council as defacto School of Arts spokesmen. Then came Anzac Day, which *was observed very quietly in Mullumbimby..., and apart from religious services there was no demonstration to mark the occasion....*

At the end of May1923 *The town park fence is now completed, and a dozen strong garden seats distributed about the ground. Next month it is intended to plant a goodly number of shade trees, and provide a sand tray for children, in addition to other improvements..., but no mention of 'the gun'. It is the council's intention to erect Council Chambers within the grounds at the end of the present year, and a movement is already afoot to resuscitate the question of the Soldiers' Memorial..., with the RSL suggesting that the Memorial take the form of Council Chambers..., which were eventually opened 11yrs later sans any Memorial.*

In mid1923 the local rag proclaimed a red-letter day as *Mullumbimby has at last not only resolved to erect a war memorial, and the form it will take, but has actually taken the matter well in hand*. A public meeting figured that now they had a Citizens' Band a complementing Band Rotunda would be a better idea than Memorial Gates. *The cost of erecting the rotunda... was estimated at £250. The plan... provided for four tablets on which the names of fallen soldiers would be inscribed....* By early Sep1923 the Memorial Fund stood at £64/1/6, with **Mayor Morrison** and **Designer Pullinger** being the biggest donors at 10 guineas each.

The joy was short-lived, the Mullum Star editorializing in Oct1923 that *At various times since Peace was declared, spasmodic efforts have been made to erect a Public Memorial to fallen soldiers in Mullumbimby..., but beyond publishing the list of donors, nothing further, so far as this paper is aware, has been done..., and now the RSL has become impatient and asked for its money back (5 guineas). The new editor (sounding like Muriel Cameron) reckoned Mullumbimby had the*



*proud distinction during the Conscription Campaign of recording a monster vote in favour of the question, and also led the way for much larger towns in the matter of providing recruits and funds to carry the War to a successful issue... and it will be to Mullumbimby's everlasting disgrace if the public who stayed at home in comfort are too indifferent and ungrateful to perpetuate in some tangible form, the memory of those who gave their life for them....*

In the meantime the soldier settlers had been suffering along with everyone else in the rapid deterioration in the health of banana and cow, some being naughty boys and walking off their patches after selling *stock and plant which had been purchased out of the Government advance of £625 and not paid for...*, then doing a runner with the taxpayers money, said the Minister for Lands in May 1923. (In late 1926 the Department of Lands started calling tenders for the removal of the cottages from the Main Arm Soldiers Settlement.)

On Anzac Day 1924 the Mullum Star got a little carried away in promoting the Anzac legend. *Bearing in their veins the blood of the warriors of Northern Europe, in their minds the pride of the British race, in their hearts the love of the Fairest Land of all, they made their bow to Europe by attacking the Turk, who for some six centuries has been Europe's least welcome guest.... The writer cannot feel that the Australia of 1924 is worthy of the Anzacs of 1915....* It was also an opportunity for the Anglican Vicar, the Rev **David Collins**, to get a few things off his chest. *How miserably had Australia failed in repatriating those who had gone to defend her and preserve her liberty?.... be it said to their everlasting shame, so forgetful and indifferent was the public of the sacrifice that had been made for them on that day of the birth of Australia as a nation, that only ten people, and three of them clergy, considered the matter of sufficient importance to even put in an appearance.... This apathy of the public was also characteristic of their everyday life.... The matter of a Public Memorial to fallen soldiers had frequently been discussed, but had never advanced beyond discussion.... He had his own idea of a Public memorial..., suggesting a giant white cross on the heights of Chincogan that would dominate every point of the district, and even be visible at sea....*

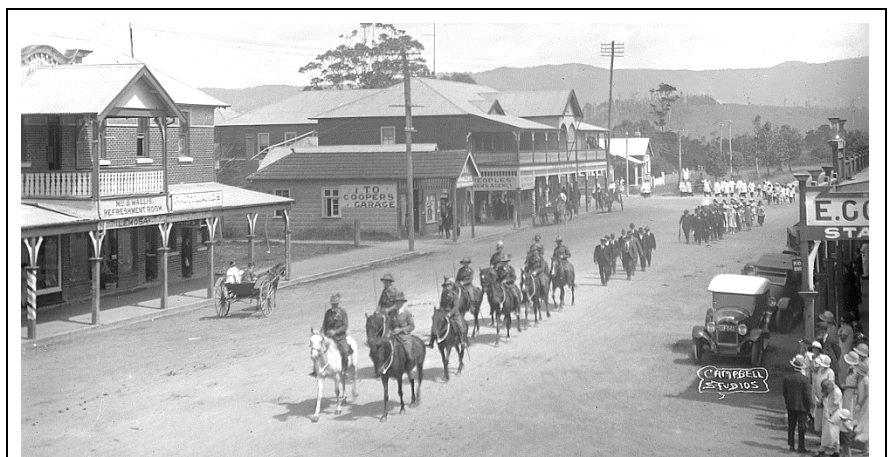


Captain Chaplin D.J. Collins

On Anzac Day there had been no parade, sports events or other activities other than the standard United Service at the School of Arts in the evening. In Oct 1924 the RSL went into mothballs, following the recently defunct Boy Scouts, and handed back their Club room to the School of Arts. At a final meeting to tidy up affairs *the Secretary was instructed to take steps to recover the sum of £5 that had been donated by the league towards the Public Memorial....* And on Armistice Day the Mullumites were again undemonstrative. *Loud was the tumult, and loud and prolonged the shouting when news came through six years ago that an armistice had been signed; but how soon has "The Day" been forgotten....* But on 11/11/1924 Mullumbimby was too immersed in its own affairs to have observed any two minutes silence or even to have hoisted its flag at half mast.... Well might Kipling invoke the aid of the Lord of hosts - "Be with us yet, Lest we forget!"

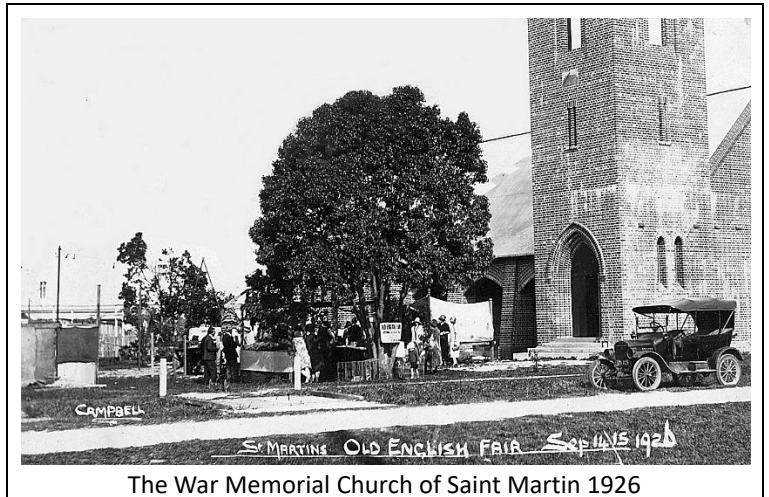
But at least the Anglican Memorial Church was proceeding along nicely under the driving force of **Rev Collins** and Layman **W.B. King**. In Feb 1925 *The Vicar of Mullumbimby has asked us to remind returned soldiers and their families of the necessity of claiming a place on the honor roll of the Church now nearing completion. No distinction of creed will be made, but the Vicar and Wardens will not accept responsibility for any name omitted unless an application is forwarded on the form which has been specifically printed for the purpose....* (Ultimately they got responses to create an Honour Board listing 101 names, inclusive of 27 dead, 82 of whom were Anglican, 7 Presbyterian, 4 Methodist, 2 Catholic, and 6 ring-ins whose names cannot be traced. And two of the dead, **S.J. Gray** and **E. M. Whittall**, were still alive into the 1930s. Now also mounted on the walls of St Martin's is the Honour Board from St Clement's at Billinudgel listing 38 names.)

Mullum finally got its War Memorial on 25Mar1925, which marked *an epoch in the history of Mullumbimby that for generations to come will be spoken of with pride.... There is no need to repeat here the many attempts to raise a PUBLIC Memorial in Mullumbimby and the apathy shown by the vast majority to bring the matter to fruition - suffice to say that Mullumbimby yesterday saw the dedication of one of the finest Memorials yet raised in Australia..., when St Martin's was christened with great fanfare.*



Parade from the Post Office to St Martin's Memorial Church for the official opening 25Mar1925

On 25Apr1925 Anzac Day passed over very quietly in Mullumbimby..., and other than Commemoration Services at St Martin's Church of England, and St John's RC Church, no other services of a public nature were held..., nor the usual evening function at the School of Arts. Before the celebration of Holy Communion, Mr **R.A. Lamb**, president of the (moribund) RSSILA, Mullumbimby sub-branch, read the names inscribed on the (Anglican) Memorial tablet.... In Jun1925 he managed to assemble enough remaining RSL members to form a quorum at which he announced his resignation and retreat to Queensland, another of the town's big losses (coinciding with the State Elections in which he starred as the secretary of the Mullum Branch of the Labor Party.) He exhorted all present to preserve the brotherhood of the Returned Soldiers, which he designated as a priceless heritage... and he was thanked for his tenacity of purpose during their most troublous times....



The War Memorial Church of Saint Martin 1926

In Dec1925 Ald **Fred Ward** delivered a parting shot upon his resignation from Council when he referred to a Public Memorial for Mullumbimby. He stated he had advocated it years ago, and pointed out there was a site near the railway station.... The Mayor stated that it was one thing that was not a credit to Mullumbimby.... A week later plain Mr Ward managed to motivate the Chamber of Commerce into debating the matter and Mr **G. Pullinger** said that the Memorial Church did not cater for all creeds, and it was time that public apathy was dispelled and a suitable memorial erected.... They decided to form a committee and plan for the erection of an obelisk at the junction of Burringbar and Stuart, built of granite or free-stone, containing a four faced clock, and to raise funds for that purpose.

As usual, interest waned, but in Feb1926 the Mullumbimby Star attempted to keep the matter alive in reckoning Lismore's example should provide a fresh impetus for Mullumbimby folk to resuscitate the question of a memorial for their own town. The little town of Alstonville unveiled it's memorial a few days ago.... Mullumbimby has been "talking" for years of a Memorial, but unanimity as to just what form it should take has never been reached....

Alas, Anzac Day... has come and gone once more. In Mullumbimby, as far as any PUBLIC recognition was concerned the DAY might never have been heard of.... Mullumbimby, be it said, was the only town in Australia, practically speaking, at which no recognition on the part of the public was made.... all the other towns combined to publicly recognise the occasion - But Mullumbimby ! ! ! ! .... On various occasions a Public War Memorial has been discussed (even the village of Burringbar can boast a handsome memorial), but.... Public Life in the town and district has reached a very low ebb indeed....

On 9May1926 Mullumbimby suffered a calamity in the early hours of Sunday morning by the complete destruction by fire of the School of Arts.... Mullumbimby has TALKED for years past, of a suitable War Memorial. What better opportunity can they have than the present one of erecting a Memorial School of Arts, or some such building to replace the old structure?....

It eventually came to pass, but not before public interest faded further, the RSL going into hibernation until Nov1927 when Digger **Harry Wilton** turned up in town and organised a reunion at the Empire Cafe where Profound regret was expressed when the local branch of the RS&SILA went out of existence some two years ago.... **Arnold Chew** was back in town and voted to the chair, and Referring to the fact that there was no public War Memorial in the district, the Chairman expressed the opinion that the matter should be taken up by the soldiers themselves, then the thing might take some concrete form.... Eventually they voted to re-form a branch of the League, **Arnold Chew** being elected president, **A.H. Bartlett** as treasurer, and **W. Flannigan** as secretary, and hold meetings in the Oddfellows's Hall, which turned out to be few and far between.



School of Arts, Tincogan St., 1920s

By the RSL AGM of Jan1929, membership had picked-up, and new member, School Headmaster **Frank Lowe**, resurrected

the matter of a War Memorial. *He had recently returned from an extensive tour of New South Wales, and every town he had visited, had some public memorial.... When he spoke of Public War Memorial, he was not casting any aspersions on the War Memorial Church, which was a noble edifice; but for all that, was not a PUBLIC Memorial. He did not care much what form the memorial took, but he would like to see a monument at the corner of one of the streets instead of the foolish Silent Cops, as at present....*

The Council was aroused and **Mayor Selwood** said *He, himself, had called several public meetings during the last 10 years - he thought he would be quite safe in saying, half a dozen at least - to discuss the form a War Memorial would take, but they had never been able to reach any finality at those meetings....* **Ald Bryant** inquired *"What had become of the "wonderful" gun that had been sent them. He understood that it was intended to mount that as a memorial. Ald Bryant was informed by the Clerk that the gun had been burnt and a general laugh ensued. Ald Frost expressed the opinion that there would be another war before they got a War memorial erected in Mullumbimby....*

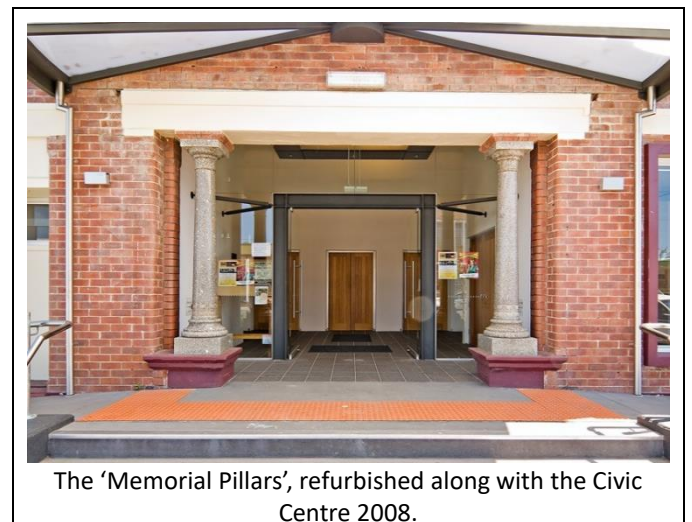
**President Freeman** of the School of Arts also got interested and at a meeting in Mar1929 to talk about the new building submitted an illustration of the proposed memorial, which is to be composed of two granite pillars, with laurel wreath and inscription, at the main entrance of the hall, the cost of which, he estimated would not be more than £120... and the hall will be placed at the disposal of the RSL every Anzac and Armistice Day. **F.W.A. Lowe** congratulated the School of Arts on grasping the situation..., and it was moved and carried *"That this meeting heartily endorses the proposal and approves of the suggestion of the School of Arts, to place two pillars suitably inscribed, at the entrance to the vestibule of the School of Arts as a memorial to fallen and returned soldiers, and pledges its support, and that an inscribed shield be placed within the hall and that the building be known as the School of Arts Memorial Hall."*..., but no names of the 'fallen' were ever inscribed.



The Community's major asset, the Memorial School of Arts, was opened in Dalley Street by Budd MLA on Anzac Day 1930. [It was connected to the new Council Chambers (opened 1934) with creation of the 'Civic Centre' in 1956.]

The new spirit in the air carried over into Anzac Day with the biggest celebration in years. *Assembling at the Council Chambers some fifty odd returned men under the command of Lieut Vallance of the Mullumbimby Light Horse troop, marched to the Park where over five hundred people of all creeds had assembled....*

And Anzac Day was generally well-supported through the following years. (See 'Anzac Revival' at [23.-Newsletter-October-2013.pdf](#)) Then came WW2 and the birth of Mullumbimby and District War Memorial Hospital..., so named to commemorate the sacrifice of those who have given their lives in the present war.... The Anglicans followed on Anzac Day 1949 with dedication of Memorial Gates at St Martin's, the right hand pillar listing the names of the 7 Church of England men who made the supreme sacrifice... in WW2. In Nov1949 the RSL, enjoying its greatest ever standing in the community, initiated the Mullumbimby Memorial Recreation Centre, which after 19yrs of money raising efforts resulted in the town swimming pool in 1967, now known as the 'Mullumbimby Memorial Centre – Petria Thomas Pool' after a makeover. The Memorial School of Arts morphed into the Memorial Civic Centre and Free Public Library Service after the Municipal Council took command in 1953. All the while the Mullumites were blessed with the bounty of benevolent Banana.



The 'Memorial Pillars', refurbished along with the Civic Centre 2008.

On 11Sep1959 RSL interest turned to a Cenotaph in Mullumbimby's "Railway Square" before next Anzac Day..., to be placed in the island garden prepared and maintained by Mr **Harry Richards** near the railway gates. However, due to hassles with the Department of Main Roads they switched to Apex Park, but thereafter interest faded away. (At much the same time a proposed planting of an olive tree as a "tree of memory", aka a "tree of peace", at an Armistice Day ceremony at

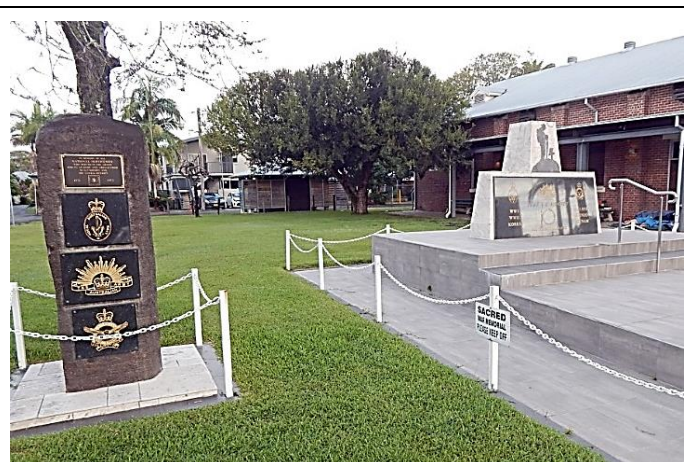


the showground on 11/11/1959 seems to have been indefinitely postponed after a cyclone cancelled the Show.)

The memorial matter was resurrected in Apr1962 when the RSL, flush with poker machine funds, *decided to proceed with a plan to erect a cenotaph in Civic Park, alongside the Civic Memorial Hall...*, although it took until Jun1963 before A tender for £291 for structural work... was accepted... from **Mr Alex Strong**, builder of Brunswick Heads. Total cost of the cenotaph would be about £764.... It was reported that £160 had already been advanced to **Mr K. Brereton** (of New Brighton and part-time high school art teacher) in connection with the preparation of sculpture work in metal.... (Kevin Brereton also designed the Cenotaph, which came in with a final cost of £885/5/-.)



Cenotaph with soaring Brereton Sculpture ~2010



Refurbished Cenotaph, still without names of those who 'made the supreme sacrifice', Mar2023. (And for a balanced design, still needs something atop the plinth.)

A record Anzac Day crowd on 25Apr1964 watched Mr **S.T. Stephens** (fresh from the Bruns Dawn Service) unveil the new Mullumbimby Cenotaph..., which followed the biggest Anzac Day march for many years.... **Mayor Uren** said the Cenotaph was the first open memorial to Mullumbimby's war dead, adding that "I doubt whether any other town the size of Mullumbimby would have such an impressive gathering on Anzac Day...", and shows we have the type of people who put forward their best efforts to make any project successful...." **Steppa Stephens MLA** was back for the 1967 Anzac Day Service at the Cenotaph, saying "One might go to many towns much bigger than Mullumbimby and find lesser interest and see less impressive marches...."



The Sculpture 'Heritage' at BVHS Mar2023

In 2017 Mullumbimby RSL undertook refurbishment of the Cenotaph, but chose not to reinstall the Brereton sculpture, which was subsequently donated to BVHS. It's ~5ft high, constructed from sheet bronze and christened 'Heritage' by Brereton. It was *designed to express in a simple symbolic way, the thought underlying the words "Lest We Forget," that the sacrifices made by our war dead have given all Australians a proud yet challenging heritage.... The lower portion of the sculpture, made up of dull, corroded metal in a variety of twisted, jagged shapes, seeks to suggest the savagery and destruction of war. The upper portion, a single shaft of bright metal rising from the midst of the dull lower portion, is a symbol of the legacy or heritage of freedom preserved for the nation by men who gave their lives, its clear bright outline seeking to suggest the challenge of this heritage to strive for a better world, free from war.... A spotlight directed on to the single shaft of brighter metal... most graphically shows... the sculpture's theme of the challenging heritage left to the nation by its war dead...*, said the enlightening blurb in the Mullumbimby Star Advocate 24Apr1964.



# Brunswick Valley Historical Society **CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS**

The **thong throwing competition** at the March market was hilarious. Only one person managed to get the thong into the bucket. Yoann Combet's name is being recorded on the trophy. Congratulations Yoann!

In April, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>, we are **screening our DVDs** at the Drill Hall, Mullumbimby, to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup>, as well as the Aquarius Festival's 50<sup>th</sup> in May. See the poster at the end of the newsletter for screening times for each DVD.

**Keep Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April free for a Garage Sale at the back of the machinery shed, and members are welcome to bring along anything they want to sell. We have oodles of donated books, DVDs, VHS tapes, Videos, etc., that we wish to sell, as well as some tools that have no paperwork.**

Below are photos of our display of Community groups past and present, which includes the Neighbourhood Centre, Show Society, Chincogan Fiesta, Camera Club, Brunswick Lodge, Autumn Club, Brunswick Garden Club, Mullum CWA, Mullum Hospital Aux, Apex, Rotary, Rifle Club, Byron Shire Relay for life, Brunswick Valley Bootscoters, Quota and Toastmasters. Scouts & Guides & Tidy Towns feature in Stewart's Menswear window.



## Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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Patron: Basil Cameron

President: Stephen Hall

Vice President:

Dr Mark Edwards

Min. Secretary:

Wendy Champagne

Cor. Secretary: Susan Tsicalas

Treasurer: Susan Tsicalas

Committee Members:

Ann Burnett

Dr Frederick Theiss

Roland Sjoberg

Shed Managers:

Roland Sjoberg,

Robert Garland

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](mailto:admin@mullumbimbymuseum.org.au)

\*Deadline for newsletter items  
LAST FRIDAY of the month

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

**@10.30am**

**MUSEUM HOURS – Tuesdays  
and Fridays 10.00-12.00  
Market Saturdays 9.00 - 1.00**

**MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY  
MARKET**

Next Market- Saturday Apr 15

[mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au](http://mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au)





Please renew your membership if you wish to keep receiving the newsletter for the rest of the year.

## BRUNSWICK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

### RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 2003 IS NOW OVERDUE

Membership Fees	Payment Options	
Adults \$15 Concession \$10 Students \$5 Printed mailed copy of Newsletter add \$5	Cheque/postal Order payable to Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc PO Box 378 Mullumbimby 2482	Direct Deposit BSB: 032583 Westpac Account No: 201192 Reference: Your name
Name: .....		
Address: .....		
Email..... Phone..... Mobile.....		
I wish to receive the newsletter by: email/ post/pick up at the museum		

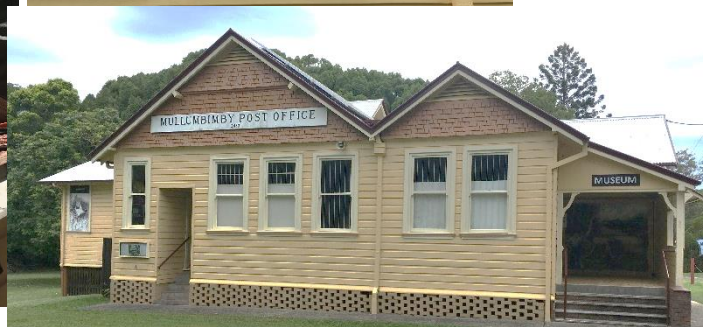
Our vice president, Dr Mark Edwards, has been using his hidden talents to improve the front of the shed which was looking unloved. Great work!



The Museum makeover is finished and the windows & sills look fantastic thanks to the builders – Tom & Alex.



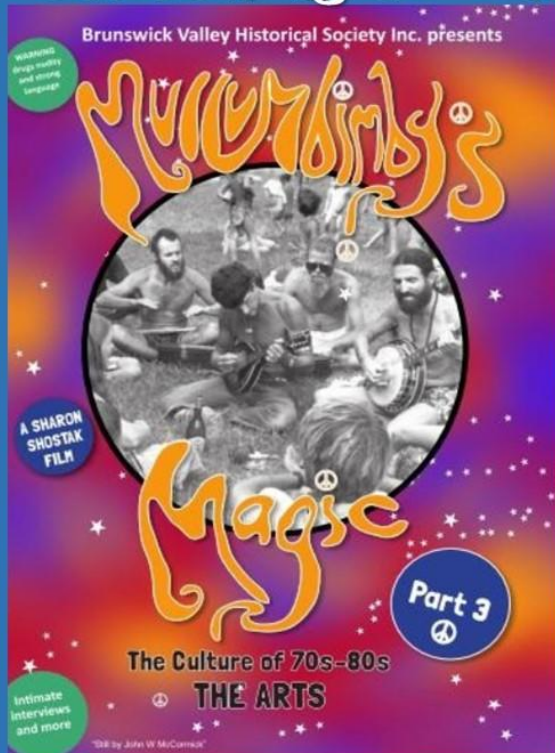
Proudly funded by



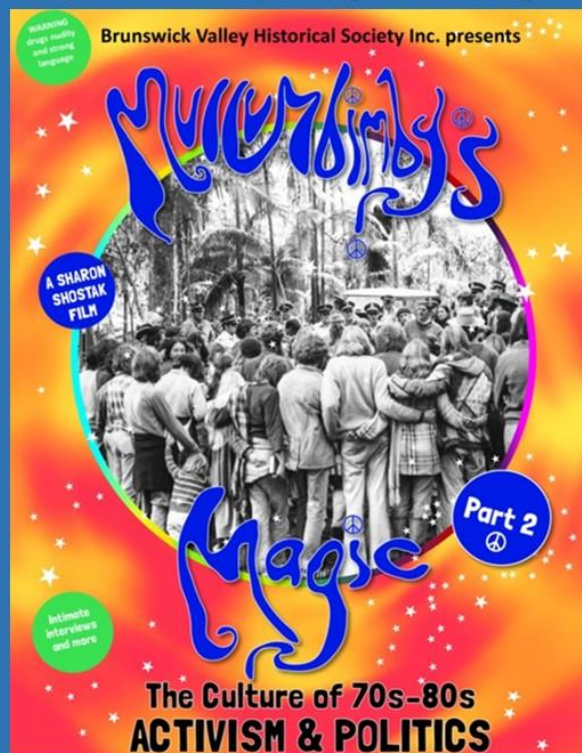


# A MADNESS MAGIC WEEKEND

Screening at the Drill Hall Mullumbimby



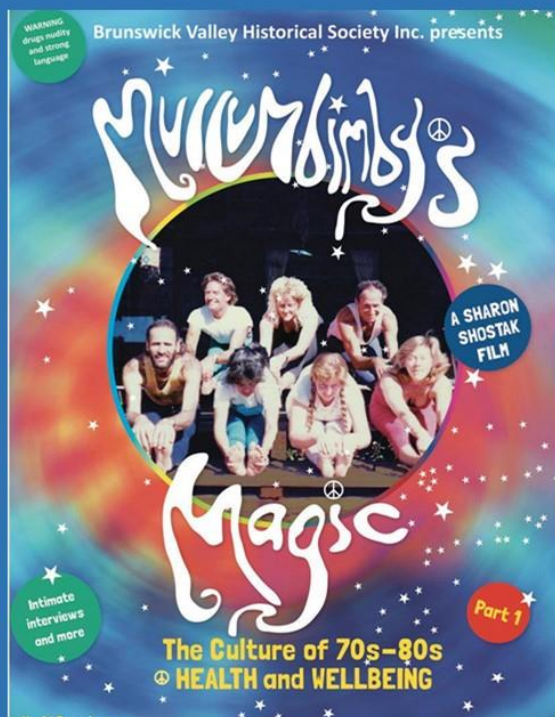
Saturday April 15th @ 5pm



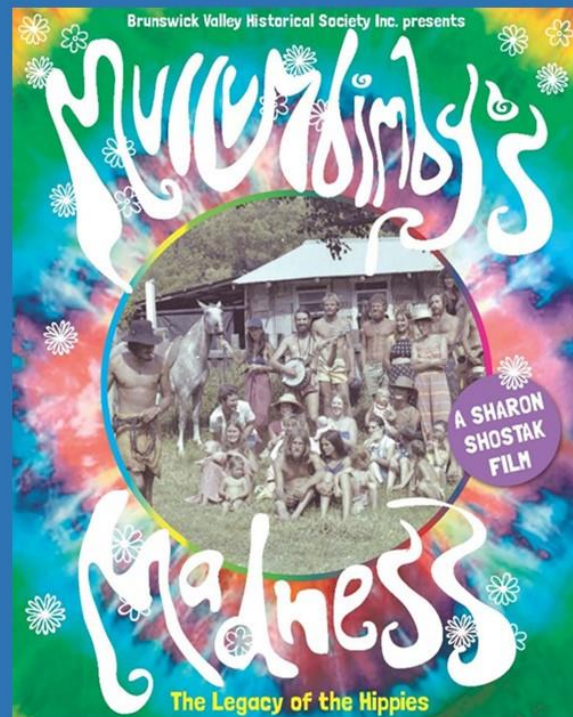
Saturday April 15th @ 7:15pm

Tickets  
at the  
Door  
\$10  
per  
session

Doors  
open  
at 4pm



Sunday April 16th @ 5pm



Sunday April 16th @ 7:15pm

Tea  
Coffee  
& Cake  
for sale

Celebrating Aquarius Festival's 50th & BVHS's 40th Anniversaries