

NEWSLETTER

July 2023

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

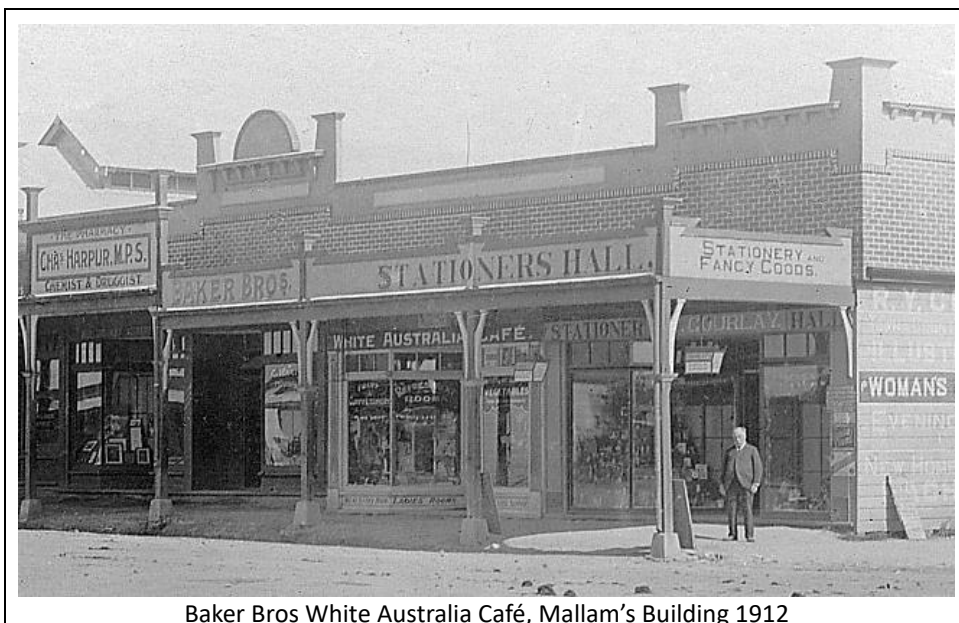
MARKET DAYS (3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH) 9 AM-1 PM

Mullumbimby In Transition (Again)

Due to an infectious strain of the inertia virus this Newsletter will continue the 'Stories From The Bookshelf' series with a verbatim repeat of the Introduction to 'Mullumbimby In Transition – 1968-1988', published by BVHS Aug2015. [Initially ChatGPT was tasked with rewriting the intro to create a facade of originality, but when asked to use the style of Gough Whitlam the Artificially Intelligent amanuensis couldn't capture Gough's Voice (so says a biological judging panel of degenerated neurons)].

Over the years there have been a number of waves of settlement in and around Mullumbimby, but by and large the town adhered to the conservative values of its rural roots. As with the 'Transition' book, the factors affecting Mullum's DNA through those earlier years are summarized in the Introductions to 'Mullumbimby Foundation Events 1848-1908', 'Mullumbimby Boom and Bust 1908-1928', 'Mullumbimby Gloom and Bloom 1928-1948', and 'Mullumbimby Growth and Grief 1948-1968'. (+ the Introduction to Mullumbimby Now and Then; A Pictorial History 1885-2015).

That lengthy period saw only minor mutations in Corporate Culture, most major events reinforcing Mullum's identity, including formation of the Municipality in 1908 when the town was proud to announce its loyalty to Empire and White Australia, the latter made manifest in 1909 with birth of the first 'White Australia Café' in NSW. Downstream at the Oct1930 Depression election the SMH was moved to say that *The electorate, of course, is a veritable Gibraltar for the Country Party. Certainly no Labor nominee would have the remotest chance of election in it...*, after **A.E. Budd** (Country Party, Byron), was the only member returned unopposed... in NSW.



Baker Bros White Australia Café, Mallam's Building 1912

But post WW2 the social shifts became more frequent, starting with arrival of alien mores accompanying the mass migration scheme, coincidental with formation of the civic-minded Rotary, Apex and Lions clubs, followed by the end of the '6 o'clock swill', introduction of poker machines, arrival of TV, and a host of minor modifications to the social fabric as the years flew past, most going unnoticed except for rising hemlines and diminishing bikinis (and loss of cake stalls in the CBD, thanks to the advent of prohibitive public liability insurance premiums that forced the ladies of the CWA and Hospital Auxiliary off the streets.)

Trending in concert was the gradual decline in the rural industries underpinning the town's prosperity. This time around however, agriculture's regular boom and bust cycle was broken and pastoral pursuits never recovered, giving rise to the first major turning point in 1972 with the arrival of the game changing hippies and subsequent social and political upheaval, paradoxically accompanied by cannabis cultivation as a new farming practice (helping win the town the eventual reputation as the 'Marijuana Capital of Australia', superseding pride in many 'Tidy Town' awards).

[Some of the stories from the 1968-1988 review period were published as Newsletter articles during 2014 and 2015, identifiable at [Newsletters – Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc \(mullumbimbymuseum.org.au\)](http://mullumbimbymuseum.org.au/Newsletters%20-%20Brunswick%20Valley%20Historical%20Society%20Inc), and starting with *Cultural Contamination* at [35.-Newsletter-November-2014.pdf \(mullumbimbymuseum.org.au\)](http://mullumbimbymuseum.org.au/35-Newsletter-November-2014.pdf)]

And so to the summarising 'Transition' intro thus:

By the late 1960s it looked like Mullum was heading for the intensive care ward. Its traditional supporting industries were looking very shaky with the dairy industry in rapid decline, the banana industry lurching from glut to glut, the remnants of the timber industry facing a growing conservation movement and the building industry on life support. The Municipal Council approved DAs to the value of \$190,791 in 1967, \$171,153 in 1968 and \$95,255 in 1969, and there didn't appear to be any miracle cure on the horizon to stem the decline.

Conversely, Mullum's neighbours along the coastal strip were in robust health. The Byron Shire Clerk was happy to report in late 1972 that *Total unimproved values in Byron Shire have risen from \$6,029,831 in 1967 to a current \$16,298,387, an increase of 168 per cent... due mainly to the Ocean Shores subdivision...*, where speculators were making a motza, most of them absentee lot owners. Unfortunately Saint Gough then turned up to crash the party with an economic downturn.

Inland however, His disciples had begun the rejuvenation of Mullum. **Colin Scattergood** and a band of like-minded souls were in the vanguard of a movement dubbed the 'alternate lifestyle', turning up in early 1972 to establish Arcadian communes by offering huge sums for unproductive farms. Mullum's fortunes turned around as the trickle became a flood, the local economy receiving an injection of pharmaceutically enhanced income from the cultivation of a new cash crop, coupled with that cunning government subsidy to business, the dole. Later adding to the mix (and Mullum's gold rush) were the less radical 'sea and tree changers' also seeking an 'alternate lifestyle' away from the 'rat race'. They were catered for by astute local entrepreneurs who'd quickly sensed the paradigm shift and created a rash of new subdivisions in and around town.



Knitting circle Finn Village, Upper Main Arm, 1972
L to R: Valerie Jeffs, Carol Collins, Alison Mitchell, Nancy and Shelly Scattergood.

Word of the phenomenon spread rapidly, helped by a curious national press sending journalists to have a sniff around, one commenting in an article on the movement's epicentre of Main Arm in Mar73 that *A three-acre block with run-down farmhouse that would have gone for \$6000 two years ago, now fetches \$12,000....*" And in Dec76 the Town Clerk announced the astonishing news that the municipality's ucv was now \$4,765,850, a 700% increase on the 1970 figure of \$592,725 (which was a marginal 25% growth on the value of \$476,430 in 1965).



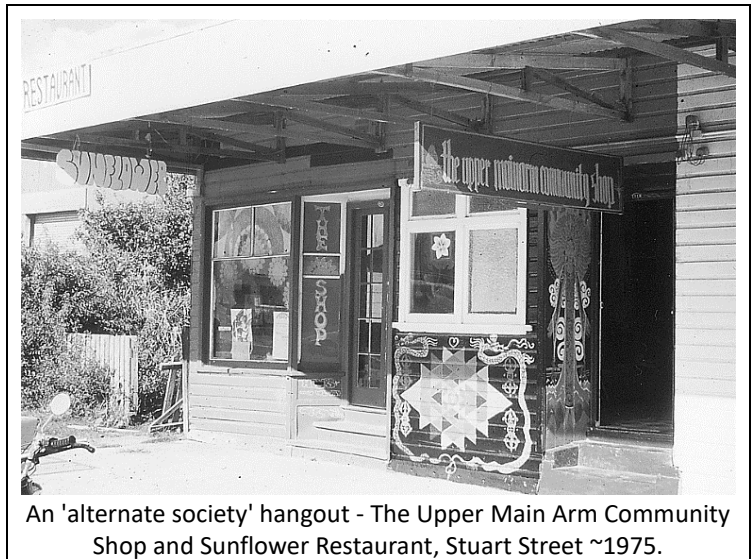
Swami with devotees, Main Arm ~1975

The extraordinary transformation was reflected in the census of mid1976, showing Mullum's 20yrs of steady population loss finally had been arrested. The place peaked with a congregation of 2017 in 1954, bottoming out with 1891 faithful brethren in 1971, but now accommodated 2028 relieved souls. Even so, its 1971-76 growth rate was half that of Byron Shire (14%) and below the regional average (10%). Brunswick Heads gained 16% to 1402 and continued to outpace Byron Bay, which grew 9% to 2525.

Mullum's governance, long in the hands of old-established families, was slow to adjust to the cultural shift. **Bill James**, carrying on a family tradition of community service, donned the mayoral robes in 1973, passing them to mate **Stan Robinson** 4yrs later to attend his booming building supply business and accommodate demands from his other community activities, notably his leading role in the establishment of Coolamon Villa. Stan, in conjunction with leading counterculturalists **Colin Scattergood** and **Damien Wilkinson**, brought together members of 'alternate' and 'mainstream' societies in a seminar in 1980, because "I have been concerned about the obvious divisions in the community for some time...."

Stan's seminar was held in the lead-up to the shire-municipal wedding election of Sep80. After many years of fighting the union, Mullum's establishment accepted the *fait accompli* following the ministerial decision to transfer the Electricity Undertaking to the Northern Rivers County Council. Electricity by this time was big business, without which the Municipality was unviable. Output had peaked at nearly 33 million units in 1968 at the height of sand mining operations..., but had fallen to just under 21 million by 1970. Thereafter however, it was relentless growth, cracking the old record in 1976 with an output of just over 34.5 million units. At the NRCC takeover on 1Jan80 output had reached a peak of 43,925,160 units, from a business staffed by at least 130 resident employees with an annual wage injection of \$1,078,000....

The manager of the Bank of NSW didn't rate electricity in listing his hierarchy of income sources at a gathering of the Businessmen's Association in Sep79. He said the department of Social Security provided the greatest injection of funds into the community with payments of pensions and unemployment benefits.... The next biggest employer in the Brunswick Valley was the Education Department.... Enrollments at the High School passed the 700 mark for the first time in 1972 after bottoming at 650 in 1970. It cracked 1000 students in 1984, the overcrowding relieved by 330 upon the opening the Byron Bay High School in 1987, leaving 962 pupils and a teaching staff of 66 still accommodated in a heap of demountables at Mullum.



An 'alternate society' hangout - The Upper Main Arm Community Shop and Sunflower Restaurant, Stuart Street ~1975.

The bank manager reckoned the next biggest income came from the licensed clubs of the town..., and "Retailers must learn to live with the subsidised competition.... The biggest of the lot, the ex-Servicemen's Club, didn't convincingly break its 1968 record profit of \$28,990 until 1975 with A nett profit of \$63,473..., after expenditure of \$233,138 for wages..., thanks to an income of \$376,276 from poker machines.... Thereafter it was sustained growth. At the AGM in Apr78 long-serving president **Cliff Rummery** referred to the significance to the town of \$398,414 paid in wages.... By the AGM of Apr79 he was able to boast a staggering net profit of \$131,833 and that the Club is free of debt.... Wages cracked half a million dollars in 1981.

Going hand-in-hand with all this growth was rising unemployment. The Blessed Gough introduced the Regional Unemployment Relief Scheme in Sep74 in an attempt to soak some of it up, Mullum benefitting from \$283,000 spent on 17 projects by the time He took his sabbatical. Then came grants from the State Government's Special Employment Program, the Commonwealth's Wage Pause Program and Community Employment Program. But unemployment continued to rise along with an escalation in the pillorying of 'dole-bludgers'.

Byron Shire's unemployment rate was estimated at 18 per cent in September 1985, with the shire having more than 1300 people out of work. More than 600 families received a widows' or supporting parents' pension at the end of 1985.... And 9133 people, or 48.1 per cent of the population, were estimated to be dependent on some form of benefit or pension. The Shire's 13.6% unemployment rate disclosed at the Jun86 census was the highest in the Richmond-Tweed region, while the State could boast 6%.

In Feb88 the Shire Council established a community-based Employment and Industrial Development Committee in an attempt to redress the level of unemployment which now represents a major social problem in this shire. The most recent figures published indicate that 26% of the workforce in Byron Shire is without employment and this figure becomes even more alarming when it is realised that this figure is two and a half times higher than the State average of 10.1%...

The 1986 census confirmed all the hype on growth, although the expansion was slowing, the greatest gains being made during the 1976-81 period. Mullum was now home to 2453 citizens, an increase of 21% over the past 10yrs, behind the shire's 68% increase, and way behind the extraordinary 616% growth at Ocean Shores. Byron Shire was also the most godless in the region, having the smallest congregation of Christians (67%) and the greatest proportion of non-believers (16%), versus a State average of 77% and 10%. And the Byronians enjoyed the region's highest proportion of overseas-born (13%), but not matching the State's healthy 20%.

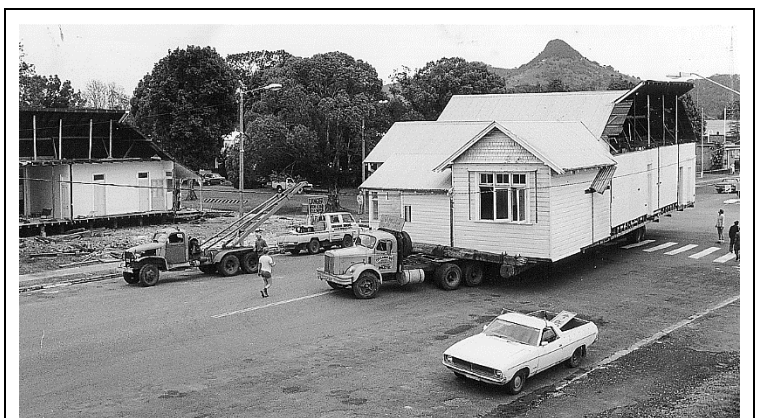
Whilst lagging the State's multicultural trend, the Shire could still boast that it was a loose alliance of tribes with different lifestyle values. The existence of a 'North-South Divide' became very evident during the amalgamation ructions, each side accusing the other of parochialism in the debate over development directions and priorities. And the Mullumites weren't happy to see the Byronians gain the ascendancy.



State of progress at Ocean Shores wef Aug1978.
(View of Yallakool Drive from Lions Lookout. House centre left is on the site of Jack McMahon's original farmhouse.)

Along with the slowing population growth was a brake on the inexorable advance of property valuations, the number of DAs approved by Byron Shire Council having peaked at \$25.53 million back in 1981. The real estate market started to pick up again in 1987, with the agents crowing that a house at Wategoes that changed hands for \$300,000 in 1986 sold for \$530,000 12mths later. In Nov88 the Mullum Professionals claimed that prices for large four bedroom weatherboard houses in the Mullumbimby area have moved from \$75,000-\$85,000 three months ago to today's prices of \$90,000-\$110,000. The cheapest price for a three bedroom home in Mullumbimby is around \$87,000.... There are very few Ocean Shores houses available for under \$100,000.... There's little to buy at Brunswick Heads.... But just around the corner Gough's apostle was about to announce that this is the recession that Australia had to have....

The period under review marked the fading from positions of prominence of the 'old guard', the label affixed by the 'Young Turks' during the turbulent period of Government-imposed administration. Nevertheless, an increasingly high turnover rate of new actors on the stage meant mutation of the meme of cultural inheritance.



The Post Office on the move to be rebirthed as BVHS, Nov1984

As they say in the classics, *We've passed a lot of water under the bridge since then*. Mullum has moved on and the 35yrs of subsequent social, commercial and technical evolution are now due for audit. What was once 'alternate' is now mostly 'mainstream', if not passé, while the Aged of Aquarius seek shelter under the social security safety net. The obsessions of their earlier 'hippie' selves with social justice and its offshoots are now generally branded with the derogatory 'Wokeism' label (embracing 'Virtue Signalling' and 'Cancel Culture'). Their legacy of 'Environmental Awareness' is now the purview of the 'Greens' and their commune concept of living in harmony on 'Multiple Occupancies' continues to mutate in a freehold direction. (Not to forget the queer stuff, now bungled up with 'New Age' beliefs, and the fruitcakes who continue to practice alternate medicine with the aid of crystals and shamanic rituals).

Two events mark the next turning point in the evolution of Mullum's Corporate Culture – the State electorate of Ballina turning Green in 2015 and the highlighting of Mullum's status as the 'Anti-Vaxxer Capital of Australia' during the Covid clampdown in 2020/21. Whilst the anti-vaxxer reputation had been evident for some time, increased activism through Covid brought it to national prominence. (Refresh on the story on *Mullumbimby's Vocal Minorities* at [109.-Newsletter-August-2021.pdf \(mullumbimbymuseum.org.au\)](#)). On the political front, allegiance to Country Party theology is long gone and we are now the only Green electorate in regional NSW (in company with the city electorates of Balmain and Newtown, generally dubbed wards of 'Woke'.)

In 2015 It became the first rural seat in any Australian parliament outside Tasmania to be won by the Greens... after Tamara Smith took the safe National Party seat of Ballina from Don Page, incumbent 1988-2015, the voters of Byron Shire getting her across the line, influenced by the well-organised opposition to the environmental issue of coal seam gas, backed by ambiguous Council-approved road signs proclaiming 'Mullumbimby declared 95% Gasfield Free'. Constantly changing demographics saw Ms Smith returned with an increased majority at the recent NSW election, while the rest of the State gave Labor a landslide victory. At the Federal level the traditional Country/National seat of Richmond went to Labor in 1990, regained by the Nationals in 1996 but retaken by Labor's Justine Elliot in 2004. It has been red ever since, but with the Greens rapidly gaining ground, particularly after the strong showing by Mullum's Mandy at the 2022 election. The increased local Green vote is overwhelmingly due to Green support in Byron Shire, where affluent retirees and alternative lifestyles have flooded into what was once a rural shire..., says the ABC analyst.

Mullum now possesses a vibrant CBD, with a range of new cafes and clothing shops, along with upmarket Vinnies, catering to a diverse clientele, including the radicals who continue to attend sabbath services, volunteer at Vinnies, wear shoes and remain unadorned with tattoos and nose rings. Major infrastructure changes since 1988 include the arrival of Woolies, the rise of the Towers Industrial Estate and the Tallwood Ridge Residential Estate, while still providing relief from the stress of progress by giving heritage status to the temporary props supporting the awning on the Stuart Street side of the Nelson Building. Residentially, gentrification accompanied homelessness. The boom in real estate saw the restoration of many old houses by owner-occupier conservationists, contrasting with the absentee speculators who went for rental income by enhancing the backyard with shacks or caravans and redefining garages. [As David Lesser said of Byron Bay in Jul2021, *a tsunami of outside money is changing its DNA*. [How money and global exposure are changing the face of Byron Bay \(smh.com.au\)](#)]



Mallams Building 1983, with various shops unified with aluminium.

By 2005 Mallam's supermarket had outgrown its Burringbar Street site and attempted to relocate to Station Street, but, boasting its 'hometown' credentials, claimed obstruction from 'Greenies' when it became known in Dec2007 that they intended to sell the land and DA package to Woolies. After much community protest Woolies won State Government approval to go ahead in 2009, the place finally opening in Jun2011 with the protestors amongst its customers. Mallams closed Mar2011 after 105yrs trading from its original site.

Soooo... we arrive at the punchline: Is there anyone prepared to trawl through newspapers and other archival material to summarise the very interesting 1988-2008 period (sticking with the 20yr review interval)? You'll have to get your head around many conspiracies and cultural clashes, starting with the Roundhouse saga and Club Med machinations, because ChatGPT can't help. When asked to *Summarize Mullumbimby History for the Period 1988 to 2008* its first version took 10secs to generate 213 words of bland nothingness. (Hopefully its evolved descendant will only take a few minutes to knock out a comprehensive book on the 2008-2028 stretch, if the queerness of that period ever becomes clear enough to assess.)

Homelessness and Déjà vu all over again

On 14Jun2023 *The Echo* reported that *Byron Shire has the highest number of rough sleepers of any local government area in the state...*, quoting **Mayor Lyons'** statement that *In the last two years, our rough sleeping count has gone up 50 per cent – from 200 to 300 people....* At much the same time Councillors voted to close down the van camping hub on South Beach Lane at Brunswick Heads..., where *Byron Council estimates up to 160 camper vans are parked illegally each night... and to spend \$250,000 on... hiring two new compliance officers and buy a new vehicle....* *The Echo* (1Jun2023) questioned

whether the van campers of Brunswick Heads were thoughtless travellers with no respect for the town and its inhabitants, or are many in fact local homeless folk looking for a safe space with toilets and running water....

Not to forget the current debate over the ultimate fate of Mullumbimby's 40 'emergency pods' erected to house up to 160 victims of the 28Feb2022 flood (+ 85 pods housing up to 311 displaced people at Brunswick Heads).

The same housing dilemmas faced Mullumbimby Municipal Council in 1955, the *Mullumbimby Star Advocate* reporting that

"There are too many shed dwellers here now," the Deputy Mayor, Ald E.P. Starr, said on Tuesday night (17May1955) when an application for permission to temporarily occupy a garage building in Argyle Street came up.

"That sort of thing was all right after the war. It helped to solve the acute housing shortage, but there is no need for it now.... In some cases the garages had been sold as dwellings and were still being lived in....

The application was refused....

By mid1955 the Housing Commission had built 15 dwellings in Morrison Avenue, but that more were required..., said **Mayor Smith** in pointing out that many people were still living in sheds and garages, while many others were commuting from Brunswick Heads for work in and around Mullum. Thereafter things stalled as the Commission ran out of money.

Jumping to Byron Shire in May1976, Lack of low cost housing has forced Byron Shire Council to depart from its policy of barring permanent occupation of sites on caravan parks.... Because of the lack of low cost housing at both Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads it had, for reasons of compassion, been compelled to overlook that policy in some instances....

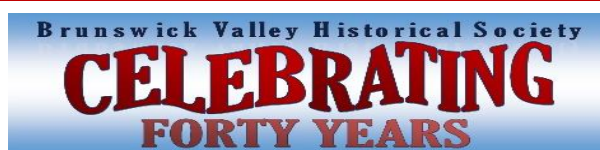
Leaping ahead to May1985, it was announced that the Housing Commission is to build seven houses at Bangalow, five at Brunswick Heads, three at Mullumbimby, and 12 houses and six town houses at Byron Bay.... A large home had recently been bought by the commission in Byron Bay and leased as a youth refuge....

In Apr1987 political aspirant **Tom Mooney** said *In the Year of Shelter for the Homeless and with such a desperate rent situation in Byron Shire, it is essential to give private landholders every incentive to provide housing.... Under new legislation, multiple occupancy would not be just for the alternative society, but would be 'brought out of the hills'....*

In Feb1988 Mullum's conspicuous 'Rat People' proved to be too colourful for the Councillors, who voted to have them guided to the shire boundary.

And after many subsequent attempts at 'catch-up' we arrive at the above Jun2023 position, with a problem that won't go away.

[But nothing beats the Great Depression for rough sleeping. By early 1931 there were ~250 people per month collecting the dole in Mullumbimby, the majority commandeering accommodation in and around the sheds at the recreation ground, swimming pool and Enterprise Sale Yard; under Federation Bridge; at the Showground pavilion; at the Pacific Hall near Anderson's Hill and the 'Pensioner's Camp' at Brunswick Heads. By mid 1932 there were an average of ~500 people per month collecting meal tickets from the Mullum police.]



At the **June** Market we reenacted the Chincogan Fiesta's *Banana Throwing Competition*. But because of restricted space, rather than seeing how far it could be thrown, the competitor's aim was tested by throwing into a bucket. Each competitor paid \$1 for a banana and it was theirs to keep/eat/whatever. Attempts were made by young and old, male and female, but young Dhani Holmes in photo right with the red hat put it into the bucket twice. The best senior attempt was by Matthew Christie. Their names will be immortalised on the old Fiesta's banana-shaped shield.

At the **July** market there will be a treasure hunt for primary school children.





NEW ACQUISITION

This pedal organ harmonium, made by The Imperial Organ Company of Canada, was donated to the museum by **Walter "Wal" Jobson**, a teacher at Mullumbimby Public School for many years. He came to Mullum in the late 1960s and purchased the organ from the White Sisters who lived on Murwillumbah Road opposite the Catholic Church.

The White family came from Tenterfield ~1900 and acquired the 4 lots (totalling 5ac) between Federation Bridge and Main Arm Road. The patriarch, **Benjamin George White**, was a builder, and is believed to have

erected the family home 'Riverview' adjacent to Federation Bridge. He also completed a new building on the corner of Burringbar and Stuart Streets for developer **Thomas Torrens** in Mar1903. This complex surrounded a relatively smaller shop housing a hairdresser, tobacconist and stationer business. In May1904 Benjamin bought the stationery business, at much the same time as storekeeper **George Mallam** acquired the larger building. Benjamin also erected a building in Stuart Street for his brother-in-law **Albert Belson**, which became the first Bank of NSW (now the site of *The Cardamon Pod Café*)

Benjamin White (1849 Bedford, England - 1923 Mullumbimby), married **Mary Hester Belson** (1857 Ararat -1918 Mullumbimby) 1886 Narrabri and begat

- Alma Elizabeth (1887 Gunnedah – 1931 Mullumbimby)
- Daisy Florence (1888 Gunnedah - 1971 Mullumbimby)
- Charles Albert (1889 Gunnedah – 1949 Guildford)
- George Belson (1891 Gunnedah – 1992 Harbord)
- Valerie Mary (1893 Gunnedah - 1982 Mullumbimby)
- Doris Merle (1899 Gunnedah - 1945 Mullumbimby)

Mary's brothers, **Albert & Charles Benson**, arrived in 1898 from the Maitland area to take up large tracts of land at Mullumbimby Creek, and immediately became involved in town and district affairs. Such was Albert's prominence that in late 1900 he was selected by the Mullum farmers as their candidate for the Norco board of directors, but missed out, and the following year was elected foundation President of the *Mullumbimby Farmers and Dairymen's Union*, an organisation that effectively sidelined the Progress Association.

On the home front **Mary White** started the *Riverview Knitting Club* to support the soldiers in World War I and was joined by her mother, **Elizabeth Belson** (1829-1919) who lived with the Whites. The Club's 50 members dispatched 496 parcels during 1917/18, including socks, mittens, caps, and knee caps. Cigarettes and chewing gum were put in most of the parcels, bringing the grand total from the beginning up to 1005 parcels....

After Benjamin died in 1923 the house was sold to **Clarence Wilfred O'Connor** (son of Gerald, the 'founder' of Billinudgel) who leased it to **R.N. Black**, manager of the National Bank. The 11-roomed 'Riverview' was destroyed by fire on 30May1925 but the magnificent grounds, garage, outhouse and glass house were untouched. The 2.5ac property was acquired by **Ernest Frank**

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

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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:

Tuesday 11th July

@10.30am

**MUSEUM HOURS – Tuesdays
and Fridays 10.00-12.00**

Market Saturdays 9.00 - 1.00

MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY MARKET

Next Market- Saturday July 15

mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au



James who completed the rebuilt of 'Riverview' 1929, the place now known as heritage-listed 'Magnolia House'.

In the meantime the White daughters, all unmarried, had moved further down the road to a smaller house. The organ belonged to **Alma**, a highly qualified teacher of music, who first comes to notice in Feb 1906 with an advert as a 'pianoforte teacher'. She played the organ in the Presbyterian Church for 30yrs and was also accompanist at many concerts in and around town over the years. Her sister **Daisy** also sat successfully for music exams. She and **Valerie**, the last 2 surviving sisters, had a reputation for shyness, to the extent of not answering the door, but they did sell the organ to Wal.



NEW DISPLAY

We were donated several old phones recently, which piqued the interest of members and consequently a new display is underway, the *Evolution of Telephony in the Brunswick Valley*.

Part of the display is depicted left and selected samples feature in Stewart's Menswear window.

Many thanks to proprietors Gerard & Sue Walker; they are wonderful members and very supportive of the historical society.



FLOOD MITIGATION WORK

Thanks to NSW Government we have been given a grant to prevent future flood damage. The split-level air-conditioning unit has been moved from under the building onto the outside wall next to the ducted air-con unit. The ducted air-con unit has had a concrete base laid to support a metal frame which raises the unit well above any previous flood level. So hopefully both are now safe. Thanks to NorthernAir for great work.

Also under construction are platforms to raise many of the artefacts in the shed off the floor. The platforms were made by Mullumbimby Engineering and our

wonderful members Mark, Rob & Roland have been cutting, sanding, staining, painting and assembling. Next step is locating them in the shed. They look so good!!!



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