



## NEWSLETTER

May 2025

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

# MUSEUM

17 Myokum Street MULLUMBIMBY 2482

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

## The Full-Service Club

Post WW2 the RSL continued to enjoy the highest standing in the community, exerting a greater influence on local goings-on than any other organisation in town. And they were rich. The *housie scheme* (operating at Brunswick Heads)... *has resulted over a period of years, in the Mullumbimby Sub-Branch becoming one of the most financial on the North Coast...*, said the speakers at the farewell to the originator of the scheme, **Eric Harding**, in Mar1949. As *treasurer during the depression years, he recalled a time when the sub-branch did not have the 3/8d relief for a digger "on the track."*....

And in Nov1949 the 'Diggers Reunion' *was the largest gathering of "Diggers" in the history of the sub-branch...* with 250 attendees packed into the Memorial School of Arts, prompting a re-evaluation of the proposal to find a permanent home, a subject first raised by **Ernest Hollis Neath** in Dec1943 when *The large attendance at the monthly meeting and the oppressiveness of the club room occasioned the discussion....* In 1946 they acquired a small lot next to *Everitt's Café* in Dalley, after rescinding their motion *"That a club-room be built over the Memorial School of Arts"*. In Jun1949 *Recent negotiations were opened to acquire the whole of the block - 66 feet by 135ft...* from the **Nelson family**. But then they went round in circles after the *Diggers Building Committee* suggested that *consideration be given to the possibility of acquiring the present School of Arts memorial hall....*

By the AGM in Feb1950 they'd firmed up on a '*Memorial Recreation Centre*', designed by architect **Colonel F.J. Board** of Lismore, which would house a swimming pool and many amenities, to be erected next to the Riverside tennis courts, the RSL resolving to contribute £2000 towards the cost of the project and galvanise the community into fund raising for the remainder, estimated at ~£8000.

A distraction occurred in Aug1950 when the *Mullum Star* informed its readers that a war had broken out in Korea and that *Military authorities said they had received many inquiries from young men in this district who are anxious to fight.... Several members of the Mortar Platoon, Mullumbimby, Byron Scottish Regiment..., had volunteered*. Then they learnt that the Byron RSL under the driving force of President **Jock Learmont** had forged ahead with its own club rooms, built by working-bees over 2mths. During the Byronians' first meeting in their new Jonston Street home in Oct1950 they also learnt that work was starting on a £10,000 'War Memorial Centre', designed by **Colonel Board** (now repurposed as *Fishheads Café* at Main Beach carpark). All of which contrasted with the hassles being experienced by the Mullum, Brunswick Heads, Billinudgel and Bangalow diggers. By the Byron AGM in Feb1951 President Learmont was boasting 110 members and assets of £3000.



Mullum Nashos and potential RSL members awaiting the train to take them to camp at Singleton 1952. (The first call-up notice for National Service came on 12Apr1951.)

At a meeting in Oct1950 Mullum RSL resolved to develop new club rooms in partnership with the Legion of Ex-Servicemen. The president, **Mr Aub Latter**, (also secretary of the proposed '*Memorial Community Centre*' working group), *said it was his suggestion that the two bodies amalgamate in respect to sharing the club when completed, following the recent visit to Mullumbimby of the State Governor, Sir John Northcott. Mr Latter said the Governor made a statement that if the two*

bodies united by sharing the clubroom he would return to Mullumbimby and perform the official opening.... But whether he'd be performing at the 'Nelson site' or the 'Riverside site' remained unresolved.

At a meeting in May 1951 **Stan Neath** (1894 Wyrallah – 1967 Brisbane) reckoned *The whole attitude of the sub-branch did not make sense. First it was going to use the money for additions to the School of Arts. Then it decided to buy a block of land for the erection of its own separate club-rooms. When a plan for this had been approved, an offer of a good building for conversion to club-rooms had been made, but this had been turned down. Then finally, the swimming pool project.... A suitable club room could be erected on the land now held by the sub-branch for £3500... The Byron Bay Diggers had recently built a suitable club-room for £1800. The Mullumbimby members should feel ashamed that they did not have something as good or better....* **Mr Aub Latter** (1916 Mullum – 1953 Chatswood, son of ex-mayor Charles Latter) *said the prestige of the League had not been improved by the manner in which it had shifted from one idea to another....* (And all reminiscent of [The War Memorial Marathon](#).)

In Jun 1951 they went firm on the Dalley Street site and at the AGM in Feb 1952 President **Frank Tandy** (1894 East Maitland – 1966 Dungog) reassured his comrades that *plans for the erection of the clubroom were proceeding smoothly...*, but that they were having financial hassles with Brunswick Heads organisations over sharing housie profits. After some mediation, a month later there was a temporary truce and the Mullum RSL decided to acquire its own housie/carnival site at Bruns, while attempting to work in harmony with the Bruns Progress Association and Bruns RSL. But there was still lingering disharmony until Nov 1952 when *The dispute between the three bodies associated in the Combined Carnival Committee which has for some years conducted waterfront carnivals at Brunswick Heads has ended.... The position now was that an amicable arrangement had been arrived at and additional ground obtained for the coming season....* However, in 1959....)



Frank Tandy, 1945

In Jun 1952 Governor Northcott, in company with **Steppa Stephens MLA** (1913 Blayney – 1986 Lindfield), was greeted by a cadet guard of honour from the High School Unit to lay the foundation stone for the new complex on the 'Nelson site'. (And whilst on the job, he also presented the new Infants' School with a photo of the new Queen Elizabeth, laid a wreath at the new Brunswick cenotaph, stayed overnight at the Brunswick Hotel and next day opened the Byron Bay hospital.) By Oct 1952 finances were again being stretched due to *increasing requests for assistance by distressed Diggers passing through the town in search of employment....*

### The Ex-Servicemen's Club

And then on 14 Apr 1953 the big day arrived when the Governor returned with his ribbon-cutting scissors and said *The Mullumbimby RSL Club Rooms would become a very live centre in the town, and by them people would remember the returned men, their sacrifices in two world wars and the deeds of those at present in Korea...*, while **Mayor Bill Smith** (1895 Grafton – 1970 Mullum) *asked him to convey to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth a message of loyalty from the people of Mullumbimby...* And whilst in town Sir John also opened the new Presbyterian Church Hall, where he inspected another guard of honour of cadets, scouts, cubs, Guides and Brownies. *At Bangalow he opened the War Memorial Hospital..., and was entertained at an informal dinner at Brunswick Heads by the president of the Mullumbimby-Brunswick Lions Club....*

To manage their new home the 'Building Committee' effectively morphed into the committee of the 'Ex-servicemen's Club', an entity hived off from the 'RSL Sub-branch' with **Cliff Rummery** (1917 Coolangatta – 1985 Mullumbimby) as its president and **Alan Vardy** (1914 Murwillumbah – 2001 Mullumbimby) as secretary-manager, while the 'Sub-branch' became a tenant in its own building.



Mullum RSL Club 1958 (Dalley St entrance top)

At the sub-branch AGM in Feb1954 retiring president **Stan Hughes** (1914 Sydney – 1983 Lismore), *Reporting on events of the past year, referred to the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to Lismore (the previous week) as the most important...*, taking precedence over the opening of their new club rooms, which now made up the bulk of their assets valued at £7306 and making the RSL the richest organisation in town. Three months later **Cliff Rummery**, a vice-president of the sub-branch, was returned as president of the Ex-servicemen's Club. Through 1954 they rode the wave of a resurgent banana industry, giving Mullum one of its most prosperous periods ever.

In 1955 the major topic of interest was a big plan for extension of the club, discussed at the AGM of the new 'Ex-Servicemen's Club' in May1955, the meeting informed that *The proposal embraces the construction of a new recreation room 33ft by 55ft to house billiards table, carpet bowls....* Up the road at Billinudgel in Jul1955 *Several hundred people...* witnessed **Stephens MLA** officially open their clubhouse. *A Roll of honour... of local men who fought in WW2 was unveiled by Mrs W.J. Reilly of Brunswick Heads....*

At a Mullum Sub-branch meeting in Aug1955 President **Bob Pidd** (1910 Southport – 1971 Concord) advised that *membership had declined this year for the first time*, coinciding with the increasing severity of the latest banana glut and exodus of growers from the district. But by the Feb1956 AGM things had stabilised, enabling re-elected President Pidd to report that *he was happy that membership had not declined during the year....*

*Mullumbimby Ex-servicemen's Club Room was crowded on Friday night (20Jan1956) for the official opening of the new recreation hall by Mr S.T. Stephens MLA..., who said the hall had been constructed largely by voluntary workers.... The chairman, RSL president R.A. Pidd, reviewed the activities of the RSL..., after which there was dancing to the music of Yelds' Orchestra....* At the AGM in Apr1956 **Alan Vardy** was reappointed over 'several other applicants' as secretary-manager..., while **Cliff Rummery** was returned unopposed to his presidential seat.

At the Sub-branch AGM in Feb1957 **Milton Muscio** (1924 Taree – 2002 Wahroonga), a High School music teacher for the last 5yrs, was elected president, with **Cliff Rummery** again as vice-president, *at a meeting which was probably the largest in the history of the sub-branch. Fifty-four members voted. The treasurer reported... assets now valued at £7645 (verses £3545 held by the Byron Bay RSL where 70 of the total membership of 163 turned up for the AGM).*

High School teacher **Noel McClelland** (1923 Lismore – 2020 Kincumber) won the presidency in a ballot against **Bob Pidd** at the Feb1958 Sub-branch AGM. Membership had increased from 120 to 150 and income for the year was said to be £1402, probably helped by the growing revenue from its offshoot, the Ex-Servicemen's Club, which had enjoyed the granting of a liquor license in 1955 and introduction of the dreaded poker machines in 1956. This nice little earner came under attack in mid1958, at the same time the Ex-Servicemen's Club distributed £200 worth of pokie profits to local charities.

[Missing out on the blessings of pokies were the Brunswick Heads and Billinudgel RSL Clubs, whose applications for licenses were rejected in May1957. *The Brunswick Heads application was refused on the ground that the club rules were not properly constituted... and that all 35 members elected to the club during its six years were not, in fact, proper members...*, so it was *not a bona fide club....* Their 'club' in Booyun Street was a 5-room converted weatherboard house, with one room set aside for the one-armed bandits. Ditto the one-roomed club at Billinudgel, where *the only other meeting place in the district was the community hall and that had just about had it....* Their clubhouse, built by volunteer labour 2yrs earlier, claimed a membership of 74. The Byron RSL Club got a license in Dec1957 and went about hiving off an 'Ex-Servicemen's Club', à la Mullum. The Brunswickers had to continue relying on the Christmas Carnival for their major source of funds.

Showing the lucrativeness of housie, in late 1961 Bruns RSL was in a position to pay £3608 for a new clubhouse site in Fawcett Street, *opposite the Memorial Park and waterfront Cenotaph where the dawn services had been held for many years.* At the Feb1962 AGM shortly afterwards, President **Fred Wakely** (1922 Atherton – 1965 Brisbane) boasted a membership of 46.]

At a Mullum Sub-branch meeting in Jun1958 it was decided to ask **Mr S.T. Stephens MLA** to oppose what was termed by State President **Mr W. Yeo** as a determined move to interfere with the functioning of clubs by banning poker machines.... *Mr Yeo said that if the machines were taken from the clubs they would have to close....* Local Salvation Army officer and



Mullum lads on National Service enjoying camp at Singleton May1958.  
L to R: Merv Pepper, Dugal Graydon, John Ford, Dick Ottery, Keith Smith.



RSL member **Lieut J. H. Brown** said that a principle was involved in the move. He claimed that it was very wrong if a stage had been reached where clubs had to depend on gambling for their existence..., but, to the relief of the treasurer, he lost the argument. Stephens replied that *Statements in the Press over the recent months that the Country Party would abolish them if elected to Government were not correct...* and affirmed that *Many clubs which carry out excellent service to their members could not have come into existence without the financial backing of poker machines in their early years. (And The opening of a new cricket field at Mullumbimby in Oct1961 gave illustration of the real good that can come from the granting of club licences... said Steppa. The new cricket pitch was constructed by the Ex-servicemen's Club on the Botanic Gardens reserve in Reddacliff Avenue....)*

But it wasn't poker machines that enabled Mullumbimby RSL Sub-branch to clear the debt on its clubroom building... said the treasurer at a meeting on 10Apr1959 when reporting a credit balance of £938. *The position had been achieved through a payment of £900 received from the Joint Carnival Committee, representing a dividend from the Brunswick Heads carnival.... The building, which houses the Mullumbimby Ex-servicemen's Club, cost more than £6000 to build. It was constructed of bricks made at the Mullumbimby Brick Works.... The clubroom building, with the addition of a large recreation room at the rear, has now become a £10,000 asset for the Sub-branch....*

Their access to Christmas carnival money came to an end in Sep1959 when *A move to exclude Mullumbimby RSL Sub-branch from participation in future carnivals at Brunswick Heads has been made by the Brunswick Heads Progress Association and RSL Sub-branch. In a letter from a joint meeting of the two bodies to the Mullumbimby Sub-branch it was stated that it was intended to reconstitute the Joint Carnival Committee.... A move at last night's meeting to re-admit the Mullumbimby RSL for at least another season failed. And that was the last word on the long-running co-operative arrangement until the Ex-servicemen's Club provided a free bus to bring Bruns housie fans to Mullum.*

In Dec1960 the adjacent *Ideal Café*, the rebranded *Everitt Café* now in the hands of **Mrs Shirley Endres**, was severely damaged in a fire, and in Jun1961 the Ex-servicemen's Club handed the remains to the *Mullumbimby Services and Citizens' band...*, the materials to be used in construction of the band's hall at the southern end of Stuart St. The café building which had stood for about 40 years as a Dalley Street landmark was demolished to make way for a three-rink bowling green....

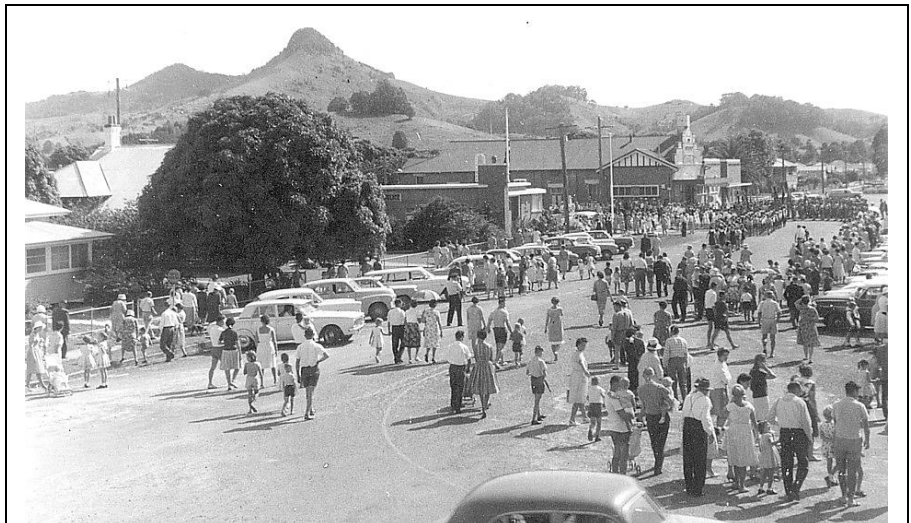


Anzac Day march down Dalley Street 1962.

## Services

*Donations totalling £1325 have been made by Mullumbimby Ex-servicemen's Club in the past eight years... said Cliff Rummery at the AGM in Apr1962 at which he was re-elected unopposed for his ninth consecutive term as president.... He said the club had spent £3000 on free entertainments for members..., plus £200 on the construction of the new cricket pitch on the Botanic Gardens Reserve. And plans were well advanced for a bowling green on the Ideal Cafe site.*

But sometime over the following 18mths they decided that bowling was unfashionable and that a £3500 squash court, incorporating a spectator gallery to house 50, was the way to go. At the Ex-servicemen's AGM in Mar1965 **Mr Rummery** said the club was now endeavouring to gain control of the Mullumbimby Botanic Gardens Reserve for



Unveiling of the new Cenotaph on Anzac Day 1964.

*development as a sports centre.... Improvements to the club were on going, Mar1966 marking completion of the new \$11,500 Rolls Royce toilet block, in time for connection to the new sewerage scheme weaving its way through town.*

At the Sub-branch AGM in Feb1965 **President Tandy** said the final cost of the Cenotaph, unveiled on Anzac Day 1964 by **Steppa Stephens**, had come in at £885/5/-. (Ref *The War Memorial Marathon* at [127.-Newsletter-April-2023.pdf](#).) Membership had declined by 4 to 125, but by the Feb1966 AGM had bounced back to a total of 133. **Frank Tandy** died Dec1966 and his replacement at the helm of the Sub-branch was **Ione William Januarius Bopf** (1919 Hughenden – 2009 Ballina), with **Cliff Rummery** again providing continuity as a vice-president.

Poker machines were working their magic by the Sub-branch's Feb1968 AGM, with membership down to 122, when ambitious plans were unveiled for a massive expansion of the club facilities, which got underway in Jun1968. *The project involves complete demolition of the brick veneer front portion of the present building, retaining only the entertainment hall and amenities at the rear... and when brought to completion will have cost close to \$100,000....* By Nov1968 work was nearing completion on *The new building with its interior fittings and furnishings, expected to cost about \$120,000....*

At the Feb1969 AGM **President Bopf** reported a membership of 118, while at Bruns President **Alby Lofts** (1892 Gundurimba – 1970 Brunswick Heads) announced that tenders had been called *for the erection of a brick veneer club building...* on their Fawcett Street property. Whilst re-applying for a liquor licence in Jul1969, Alby added that the *club building project is in the vicinity of \$100,000 to \$120,000....*

*Mullumbimby Ex-servicemen's Club finished last year with a trading profit of almost \$29,000... on an income of \$74,540 boasted President **Cliff Rummery** at the AGM in Apr1969, adding that membership had almost doubled during the year and total assets had increased to \$82,276. Two months later **Governor Sir Roden Cutler** opened the new gambling palace and quoted a rise in membership from 125 17 years ago to a present strength of 625.... Whilst Mullum was apprehensive over what looked like becoming a permanent downturn in the district's supporting primary industries, the Ex-servicemen's Club sailed through unencumbered by the rising swell of anxiety (presumably due to an injection of increased profits from extra pokie machines and the progressive introduction of larger denomination decimal coins?)*



Opening of the remodelled Ex-Servicemen's Club 7Jun1969  
L to R: Governor Cutler, Harry Thornley (RSL Vice-President), Mayor Fred Uren, Bill Bopf (RSL President), President K. Walker of the Legion of Ex-Servicemen)

At the Sub-branch AGM in Feb1970 membership was down to 116 and secretary **Col East** (1915 Bangalow – 1978 Mullum) made the usual complaint about lack of interest/attendance at meetings, while at the AGM of the Ex-servicemen's Club a month later **Cliff Rummery** revealed a sharp increase in membership by 281 to a total of 740... and again boasted that *with a total turnover of \$109,760, the club set a new trading record for the year.... He said membership had doubled since the completion of the new premises.... Mr Rummery was re-elected for his 18th term as club president..., supported by Vice-presidents, Messrs **Harry Thornley** (1910 Lancashire, England – 1983 Mullumbimby), **A. Vardy** and **W. Bopf**.*

At the Ex-Servicemen's AGM in Mar1971, President **Rummery** reported that *Membership rose to more than 1000 at the end of 1970..., accompanied by a new turnover record of \$146,000, generating a profit of \$17,255. During the year the club paid out \$51,621 in wages, while revenue from poker machines was \$103,000.... Recent purchase of land adjoining the club... is earmarked for future ground level extensions....*

And again at the Feb1972 AGM, **Cliff Rummery** commenting that *a nett profit of \$28,155 in 1971 could be recorded as one of the most successful years for Mullumbimby Ex-servicemen's Club since its formation....* The Wages bill came in at \$73,225, while *Income from poker machines totalled \$137,764..., enabling \$1588 in donations to charity. The club also spent \$1500 on the development, in conjunction with the Football Club, of the Botanic Gardens sports area....*

At the AGM in Mar1973 **Cliff** reported the purchase of further land for the provision of parking facilities..., as membership had risen to well over 2000... due to the opening of membership to the wives of members and to persons over 18. Development of *The Botanic Gardens site had been handed over to a committee consisting of club members and the Municipal Council...*

The opening of the new \$250,000 extensions in Oct1973 made the place *so far ahead of any other club..., by providing a spacious clubroom and auditorium with two bars and a large dining room adjoining....* The opening featured celebrity guest stars Little Patty (vocalist).... Local band The Sonics provided superb accompaniment.... Club manager Mr **Jack**

**Thompson** said he believed at least 2000 people... bopped away on the dance floor while Crowds queued at the dining room doors for several hours....

The Ex-servicemen's Club was becoming the venue of choice for functions by most community organisations, the place also attracting some big name acts, enabling Treasurer **Edward Flowers** (1925 Mullum – 2006 Mullum) to report a huge turnaround at the AGM in Mar1976, with *A nett profit of \$63,473..., after expenditure of \$233,138 for wages, compared with \$189,173 in 1974.... Greatest income item was \$376,276 from poker machines.... The club had made donations totalling more than \$4000 to charity and \$1700 had been paid in next of kin mortality funds....* The following year **Cliff Rummery** was all smiles in announcing *Total turnover topped the million dollar mark for the first time in 1976.... The club also set a new record for membership (4500), but net profit (of \$45,220) was below the 1975 figure....*

*"The purchase of land and buildings on the southern side of the club was a major decision and at this time a wise and important move.... We purchased this property for cash and did not borrow any money.... A comparison of poker machine income revealed a rise from \$208,000 in 1973 to... \$511,000 in 1976. Wages for the year were \$320,897 compared with \$233,138...."*

At the AGM in Apr1978 **Cliff Rummery** referred to the significance to the town of \$398,414 paid in wages.... By the AGM of Apr1979 he was able to report a staggering net profit of \$131,833 and that the Club is free of debt.... In gratitude Mr **Rummery** was defeated in a ballot for president after serving in the chair for 25 years. He declined nomination for other positions on the board.... Income from poker machine trading (\$637,345 gross) represented the biggest single contribution to the increased profit.... And wages increased by \$88,981. The election of directors resulted: President, **Harry Thornley**; vice-presidents **J.P. Pearce**, **Fred Brown** and **Bill Bopf**; secretary, **Jack Graydon**; treasurer, **Ted Flowers**.... In 1979 Wages paid for the year totalled \$421,612. Total membership in all classifications was reported at 5913. A total of \$5248 was distributed in donations....

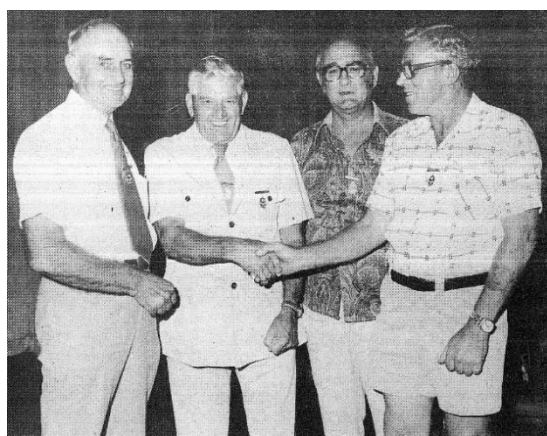
More poker machines accompanied the Jul1980 opening of the new home for *The Byron Bay Services Club Ltd...*, which had spent \$250,000 over the past 2yrs converting the old Norco building, now boasting a membership of 2300 served by 15 permanent employees.

The Ex-Servicemen's Club continued to be Mullum's biggest socialising and entertainment outlet, and *Despite the difficult conditions being experienced by the registered clubs industry, the Ex-Servicemen's Club Ltd has posted a 54% increase in operating profit for the past year...,* said **Harry Thornley** in a report to the AGM 28Mar1983. *Despite a very bad economic situation, aggravated by many contingencies such as the breath analyser and instant lottery..., we made a profit of \$119,223 versus \$77,424 last year. Club membership now stands at 5909, with ex-service members 903, life members, five, and associate members 5001. The club donated nearly \$6000 during the year to 35 organisations....*

On 4Dec1984 *The Ex-Servicemen's Club was packed with members and guests... for the official opening of the refurbished clubrooms...,* by Shire President **Stan Robinson**. *The completion of a \$100,000 refurbishing program has established the club as one of the most modern on the North Coast.... The secretary-manager, Mr Clive Randerson, said the growth of membership to almost 6000 had strained the resources of the club, particularly the bar facilities....* (Clive retired to Ocean Shores in Jun1986 after 10yrs in the job, passing the keys to the poker machines to **Lynton McKim** of Manilla).



At the opening of Mullumbimby RSL Club extensions are (from left), first secretary of the club, Mr Allan Vardy, and his wife; Mullumbimby's Mayor, Ald Bill James, and the mayoress; and first president of the club, Mr Matt Walsh, of Ballina... said the Star Advocate in Oct1973.



L to R: Fred Brown, Harry Thornley, Bill Bopf and Jim McKenzie, Apr1980.



Bill James (right), chairman of the hospital board, accepts the hi-lo bed from RSL representatives Bill Bopf, Harry Thornley and Bill Hughes, major contributors, Jul1981.



In Apr1985 Members of the Brunswick Heads Progress Association expressed concern and registered a protest against the action taken by the Mullumbimby Ex-servicemen's Club in providing a free bus each Saturday night to take patrons from Brunswick Heads to Mullumbimby to play housie.... And the busloads of Queenslanders lured over the border by poker machines came to an end in 1992 when the Queensland Government legalised the bandits. In the meantime, the Ex-Servicemen's Club had enough reserves to spend \$550,000 on building the adjacent 'Lyrebird Motel' on the site of the old 'Radio House'. It was opened Aug1990 but sold Oct2014 to balance the books.

The Billinudgel RSL Sub-branch went belly up in 1993, at which time they had one illegal poker machine returning \$25/wk. The remaining members joined their Brunswick Heads compatriots, reconstituting the club as the *Brunswick Heads-Billinudgel RSL Sub-branch*, now boasting 35 members. And at Mullum in Feb2004 the Sub-branch handed the main buildings and all other facilities and assets to the Ex-Servicemen's Club in return for permanent tenancy.

At the Apr2014 AGM of the *Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club Ltd* President **Rosina Wainwright** and secretary-manager **Luke Barnes** reported continuing difficulties operating within the *constantly changing... economic landscape*, with many clubs across NSW continuing to close or amalgamate, as had happened in 2007 in Mullum's case when it sheltered the Bowls Club under its umbrella. The Ex-Services suffered a loss of \$89,961 for the financial year ending 31Dec2013 (compared to a loss of \$336,800 in 2012), while poker machines retained the title of top money spinner with a contribution to revenue of \$1,742,164. Total assets stood at \$6,396,342, inclusive of the RSL Club buildings, Carpark, Motel and Bowls Club. (Rose Wainwright, wife of Vietnam vet Richard (1947 Sydney – 2006 Mullum), was also president of the Women's Auxiliary.)



The RSL Casino 1985 (Squash Courts, left, on site of the old 'Ideal Café, previously the 'Everitt Café')



RSL Club Apr2025 ('Northside Café' designed for the passing trade.)

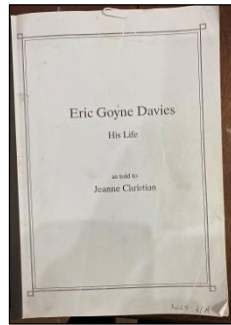
In the 2018 financial year the Ex-services Club recorded a deficit of \$184,665, mainly blaming a 12% fall in poker machine profits. By the year 2020 the Club was facing closure after a decade of financial decline, but was saved by sale of its 'land-banked' properties. Mar2025 marked the Club's determination to stay ahead of the game with completion of a \$4.5 million makeover, inclusive of the new 'Northside Café' in front of the repurposed squash courts.



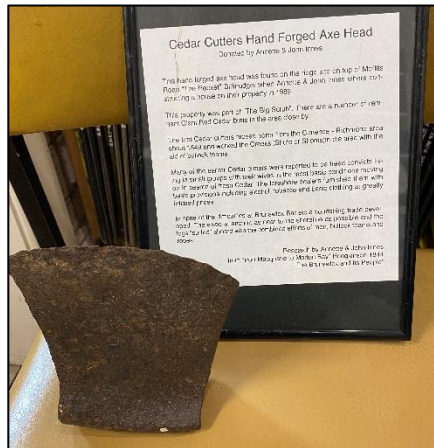
## Interesting Donations



Ted Watson's home-made photograph enlarger. Courtesy of his daughter, Jenny.



Courtesy of Rick Davies we now have a new addition to our library, viz "*Eric Goyne Davies; His Life*"..., highlighting his father's many years of exceptional public service.



Cedar cutters hand forged axe head donated by Annette & John Innes, found at the Pocket



Brunswick Heads Medical Clinic has amalgamated with Meadows Medical in Mullum.

In the rationalisation process Meadows donated various instruments and apparatus that are no longer in use.



You can check out these unusual devices in our medical section.

### Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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**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:**

**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> May @ 10.30**

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

**MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY  
MARKET (8.00am – 2.00pm)  
Next Market- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May  
[mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au](http://mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au)**

