



NEWSLETTER
October 2025

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

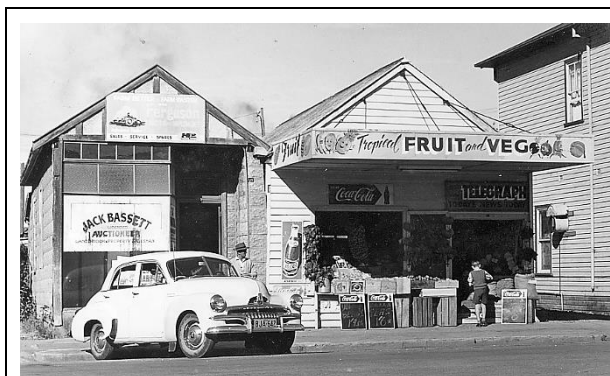
MARKET DAYS (3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH) 9 AM-1 PM

Chinny's Obituary

Mullum's last Corner Store, 'The Chincogan Store', aka 'The Chinny', has gone the way of the Empire Cafe (and the Country Party, *et al*). In its heyday it was open from 5.30am to 8.30pm and served everything from grocery lines to takeaway out of its home on the corner of Burringbar Street and the oddly named Studal Lane (baptised as such in ~1957 with the blending of **Stuart** and **Dalley**. By-the-bye, *Dalgor Lane*, now *Murphys Lane* between **Dalley** and **Gordon**, got there first in 1941.) The Chinny is being repurposed for the *Heritage Dining Indian Restaurant*, spicing up the Bowling Club these last few years, so you'll have to go elsewhere for your hot chips.



Closed Chincogan Store as at 3Sep25 (with Daniel Hend's 11yr old mural still intact)



1958. Slogrove's Fruit Shop and Bassett's auctioneering office, next Court House Hotel.



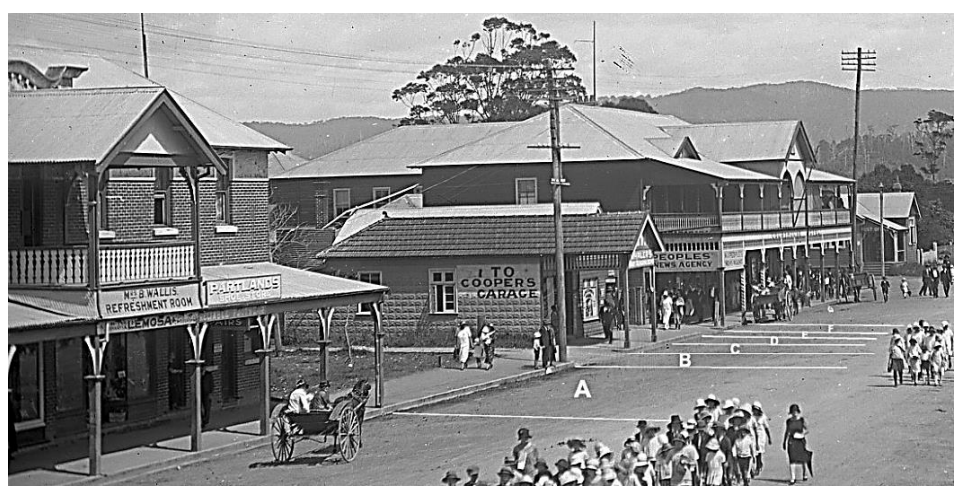
1962. (The architectural gems were demolished in 1962 and 2yrs later replaced by a brick block of 2 shops as per top photo.)

The Chinny in its current form arose from the ashes of *Slogrove's Fruit Shop* sometime after being rebuilt in brick in 1964. **Gordon** and **Mavis Slogrove** had come from Lismore in 1946 to reintroduce the Slogrove name to the old wooden building inhabited by Gordon's father, **George William Slogrove** (1872 Surrey, England – 1940 Mullum), in 1935. And George had moved into the place after a fire had forced him out of his shop in the adjacent Court House Hotel. Serendipitously, the neighbouring free-standing shop had just been vacated by fruiterer **Edward Kissack** (who died 10Jul1959 Mullum aged 101yrs and 10mths). George decided to leave Edward's fruit and veggie signage intact, while still advertising as a Newsagent, Stationer and Confectioner.

Gordon Alfred Slogrove (1910 Mullum – 1985 Mullum) continued to cover all bases, but subsequently dropped the newsagent/stationer bit to become a 'mixed business' prior to the 1964 rebuild. The building was looking shaky in 1953 when Gordon applied to erect a cantilever awning, which was recommended by the building inspector, Mr R. McDonald, who pointed out, however, that unless major repairs to the building were carried out in the next year or two it might be condemned....

Gordon and his neighbour, auctioneer **Jack Henry Basset** (1899 Ulmarra – 1966 Mullum), had suffered fire damage in

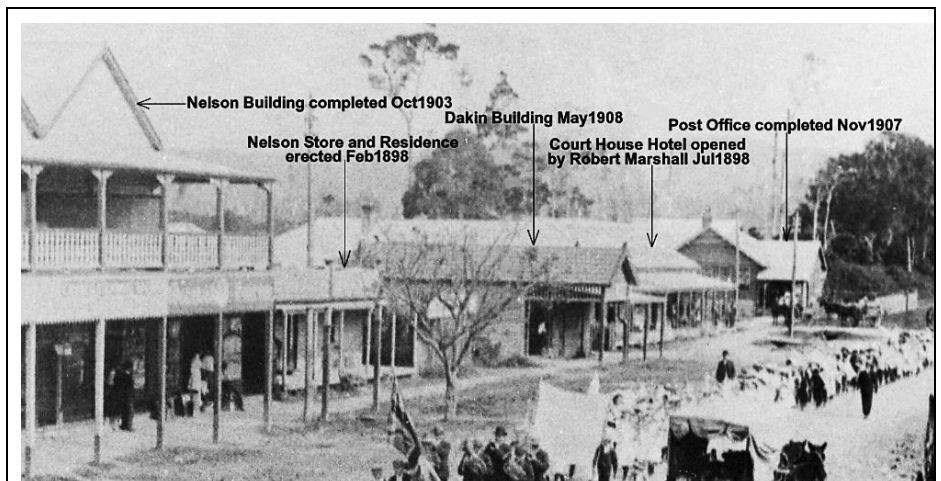
1962, and while both buildings were subsequently demolished, Basset's got priority due taking the worst hit, removing another of Mullumbimby's main street relics of pioneer days. The old wooden building, owned by Harkness' Court House Hotel.... During its lifetime of more than 50 years, the building has been used for a variety of purposes. About 50 years ago it was a boot shop... erected by **Dakin Bros** (Oswald and Herbert, architects and builders) in 1907/08 and known collectively with its neighbour as 'the Dakin Buildings'. The older adjacent building (the later Slogrove shop) was the first home of the Dakins, while the new building was initially leased to auctioneers/real estate agents **J.F. Robertson** and **J.C. Morrison**. The brothers left for greener pastures in 1912, their design legacy including the late Court House Hotel, Nelson Building, Mallam's Building and Simpson Building. Thereafter a succession of tailors, drapers and mercers moved into their old home.



The streetscape on 25Mar1925, bookended by New Nelson Building (left) completed 1911 and new Harkness Court House Hotel 1912.
A - The site of Peter Nelson's first store became home to the new ES&A bank building Jun1929.
B - What is now Studal Lane, known variously as 'the Lane', 'Stuart Lane', 'Selwood Lane'....
C - Bootmaker's Shop of **Francis Edmund Whaler** (1883 Ballarat – 1949 Patonga Beach), then bootmakers **Cliff Till** 1926 and **Jim Kilroy** 1937, and auctioneer **Jack Bassett** many years later.
D - Roof ridge line visible of shop inhabited by unknown tailor.
E - Access lane to rear of hotel
F - Newsagency & fancy Goods shop of **William James Peoples** under hotel building. Sold to **Thomas Roberts** 1927, thence **Ruby** and/or **Ida McKinnon** 1928, thence to **George William Slogrove** mid1929. Slogrove burnt out 1935 and moved into **Kissack's** adjacent shop ('D').

Owners of the site are planning the construction of a modern block of two brick shops to extend from the lane to the alignment of the shops formerly conducted as a delicatessen. The new building will cover the present vehicular entrance to the rear of the Court House Hotel. Before the programme can proceed, another old building, now occupied by **Mr G.A. Slogrove** will have to be demolished... said the *Star Advocate* 2Jun1962.

The new two-shop building was completed in 1964, from whence the *Chincogan Store* slowly evolved. In mid1973 the Slogroves had had enough and passed the place to **Geoff** and **Marlene Condon**, but the workload had gotten to Alderman Geoff by mid1976 and the business sold to **Max** and **Laurel Hanna**, thence **Leonardo Misuraca** in Mar1981. Jumping over the following years of proprietors and makeovers to modern times, *The Echo* of 31Jan2018 mused that *It had to be the right person who was going to buy Mullumbimby's iconic Chincogan Store. In fact Karen and Colin Barnham, who have owned and run the store for the last 13 years, almost sold the store on three different occasions when they realised that the people buying it just weren't the right fit for Mullum. So it is with great excitement that Karen and Col have finally sold the Chincogan Store to local boy Ben Eglington....* And it came to pass that Ben was to be the last proprietor, drawing the curtain on another era of Mullum's history in Aug2025.



Empire Day parade 24May1908
Nelson Building and his adjacent store and residence destroyed 2Jun1908 fire.
'Dakin Buildings' comprise their office adjacent to hotel, constructed 1905 for a Tailor, and new building opened May1908 and occupied by auctioneer **J.F. Robertson**, thence **J.C. Morrison**, thence the two in partnership.
Frank Harkness completed the rebuild of the Court House Hotel ~Feb1912 and paid **Charlie Simpson** £5,500 for the freehold Jan1922.

About 4yrs after **Gordon** had resumed command of his father's business in the 'Dakin Building', the entrepreneurial **Earl Phillip Starr** (1909 Mullum – 1961 Mullum) took command of **George's** original shop, the end shop under the Court House Hotel, and opened *The Mullumbimby Delicatessen*, which became the model for the future *Chincogan Store* and known

as the *Chincogan Deli* for a period. The Starr shop had been rebuilt after the fire of 1935 and initially occupied by a succession of hairdressers, while next door **Mrs Lilly Elizabeth Blyth** (nee French/Anslow ~1900 NZ – 1978 Qld) introduced Mullum's first '*Modern Milkbar*', proclaiming it as such with a giant neon sign hanging off the hotel balcony. She offered another model for the future Chincogan Store, advertising toasted sandwiches, small goods, etc, as well as *hot dinners* (1/6d), *cold lunches* (1/3d) and *5 Delicious Meat Pies for 1/-...* and a *milk shake* for 3d. She evolved through a number of business names, including the *White Sapphire Café* and *Blythe's Ham and Beef Shop*, before moving across the road in 1939 to take command of *The Mullumbimby Café* (the later *Empire Café*.) Her old shop became *The Blue Bird Café* in the hands of **Eric** and **Pearl Bailey**, but by the late 1950s it had simplified to fresh fruit and veggies in the hands of fruiterer **Philip Alan Taylor** (1919 Sydney – 2000 Mullum), complementing the Starr Deli. It all came to an end when the hotel went up in flames on Christmas Day 1983 and the new entity, the *Chincogan Tavern*, opened for business Dec1985, at which time *Roz's General Store* in Argyle St., offering groceries and takeaway, called it a day, leaving the *Chincogan Store* as the only runner in this niche market.

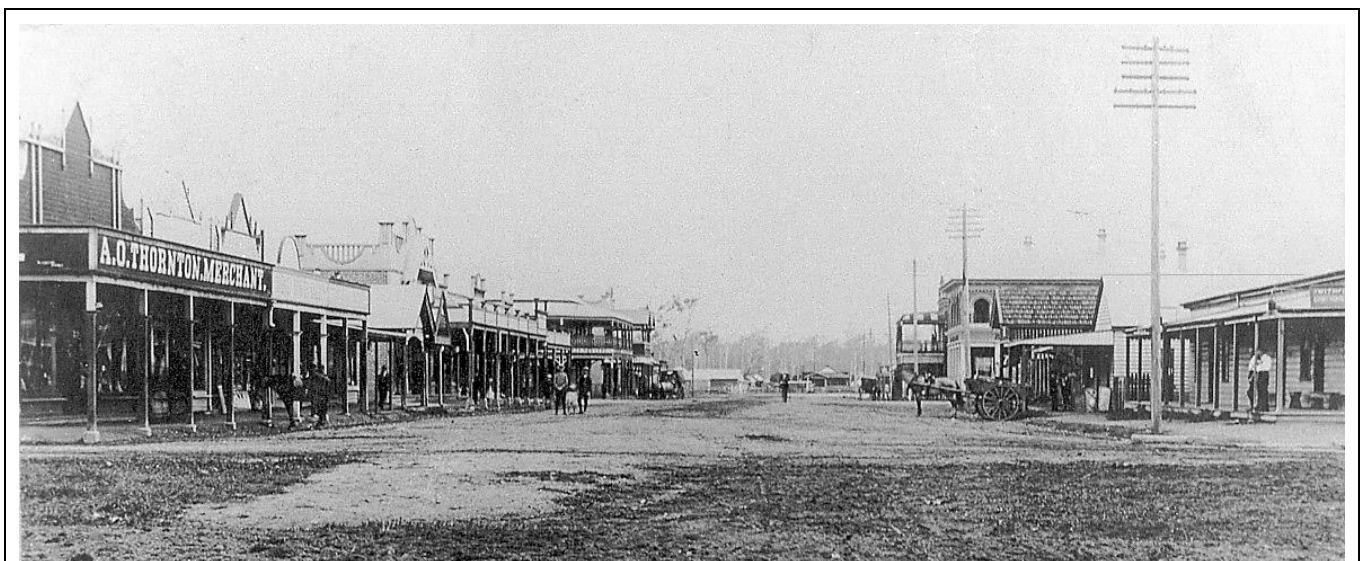
A New Livery for the Court House Hotel (aka The Chincogan Tavern)

Coincidentally, the *Chincogan Store's* stablemate, the *Chincogan Tavern*, has also changed hands and is presently undergoing a makeover. *The Echo* of 12Sep2025 informed us that **Brenden Lawless**, owner of the *Middle Pub* and recent renovator of *Carsburgs* (ref Newsletter [Newsletter-February-2025 - Carsburg](#)) and *The Banya Bathhouse* (the ex-ANZ Bank featuring in the first photo above) has acquired the *Top Pub* from pharmacist **Craig Watson** and plans to *reconfigure the interior* and dress-up the exterior.



The revamped Chincogan Tavern 27Sep2025 (doesn't include turning the palm trees into power poles)

The Court House had its beginnings in 1896 when **Robert Marshall** (see biography at [Newsletter-August-2018 - Marshall](#)) dismantled **Henry French's** two-storey store and residence at Brunswick Heads and used the salvaged materials to build the '*Top Pub*' at Mullum, with a loan from a mystery lender. He declared himself bankrupt in Jun1899 and in early 1900 the pub was acquired by **Charlie Simpson** from the unknown Sydney-based mortgagee. Marshall and new wife **Louisa** remained as managers until they relocated to Byron Bay, leaving **Fred Gulley** of Casino as licensee. In Jan1902 Fred handed over to **Mark Perkins** of Tweed Heads and went off to run the *Mayfield Hotel* at Eltham, thence a short stint with the *Ocean View Hotel* at Bruns before taking on the *Pier Hotel* at the Bay in Oct1904.



Withford's Court House Hotel 1909, right.

In Oct1902 **Charlie Simpson** began some extensive additions to the hotel, adding 12 rooms and *private parlours... on a latticed verandah*, completed in time for a minor fire to do some damage to the place, the insurance claim promptly settled by the agent for the *Royal Fire Assurance Company*, none other than **Mr C.E. Simpson**. And after making more

improvements over the following years **Mark Perkins** sold the lease and goodwill in Sep1904 and took over an hotel in Kyogle. By Dec1904 **John Withford** was licensee, perhaps under the interim management of **James Dean**, an earlier proprietor of the *Railway Stores* in Mullum.

John Withford (1866 Wingham – 1926 Maclean), a foundation alderman on the Murbah Municipal Council, boasted *vast improvements made..., lighted throughout with acetylene gas..., first class stables....* In mid1911 he sold the license to **Frank Harkness** and acquired another in Ballina, where he subsequently became an Alderman, an honour he missed out on in two election attempts in Mullum. He had become prominent in Mullum's civic affairs and was President of the Agricultural Society at the time he moved out in Oct1911. He returned to town in 1919 to become a storekeeper in one of the four shops he'd completed in Dalley in 1909, and in 1924 contested the by-election on the death of **Mayor Stewart**, losing out to storekeeper **Fred Ward** (son-in-law of Frank Harkness) and retiring to Maclean.



Dalley Street frontage of Withford's Court House Hotel 2Mar1909.
(Perry MLA being chauffeured around town. The *Northern Star* of Wed 3Mar1909 said *The Hon J. Perry and Mrs Perry were entertained at a conversazione in the School of Arts ... and feted by the Brunswick Orchestra, of which Mr Perry expressed surprise that we had an orchestra in our midst capable of rendering the classical....*)



Masonic/Orange Day parade passing the hotel ~1920.

The Harkness family became the stayers, starting with **Frank Harkness** (1864 Jedburgh, Scotland – 1949 Brunswick Heads), a farmer of Main Arm who proceeded to rebuild the place, turning it into a grand 52 room, two-storey affair designed by **Dakin Bros**. The Harkness entry in **Neta MacKinnon's** *What They Did; Families of the Brunswick 1880-1950*, says *The hotel was run as a family enterprise but Frank never pulled a glass of beer*. His wife **Margaret** (nee **Russell**, 1870 Derby – 1957 Bruns) *was a very versatile person who worked in all areas – the bar, kitchen, or in the housekeeping....* **Young Frank** (1890 Essex, England – 1924 Mullum) *was the mainstay of the business, working where he was needed, but taking charge of the bar... in between carrying out aldermanic duties*.

After Frank jnr's death his wife **Cynthia** (nee **Davis**, 1890 Victoria – 1982 Lismore, formerly Brunswick Heads) took charge with the initial help of brother-in-law **Jack Harkness** (1908-2003), thence **Digby Pearce** (1888-1936), thence **Lyle Olive** (1905-1968) until handing over to son **Frank Robert (Bob) Harkness** (1922 Mullum – 1995 Brunswick Heads) in 1946.

Bob and Emily Harkness ran the place until 1956 when they handed over to a series of licensees, providing Bob more time to undertake aldermanic duties and enabling semi-retirement to Brunswick Heads in Apr1965. In 1971 came a major makeover *after* Council decreed the verandah unsafe. (In Mar1970 Council's building inspector *found that whilst the awning and verandah sections appeared fairly dilapidated the building could be brought to a good standard both structurally and aesthetically with the spending of a moderate amount of money.*) The hotel was one of the few buildings

that had escaped Council's earlier decree for removal of all awning posts. (See [Newsletter-April-2014 - Uglification](#))

In Jun1979 **Elizabeth Ward** (nee Harkness, 1891 London – 1984 Mullum) asked *Has no one realised what happened to Burringbar Street? The council and the Police Department insisted on the removal of all verandah posts. If the council had only started centre parking, these lovely balconies on shops and three hotels, with wide cool verandahs on two streets with their wrought iron lace around the balconies could still be there.... It was nothing else but an act of vandalism and nothing else can replace the damage done.... I can't for the life of me think of a single thing that will ever bring back the damage done by pulling down the nice balconies in the main street. Look how Bangalow saved their balconies. Our old council could have done the same.... The council suggests shrubs in tubs....*



Court House Hotel looking sad 1971



Rebuild completed with installation of cantilevered awnings 1971

In 1974 they sold the pub to Queenslander **Warren Lewis**, who was still proprietor when an act of god or man saw the place go up in flames on Christmas Day 1983, at which time **Mick Conner** was licensee and **Bob Wiley** was manager. In Jul1984 the Queensland owners of *Gumodin Pty Ltd* submitted their DA, but the two-storey hotel development... has been described as "a shocker" by the chairman of the Shire's planning and building committee, **Cr Phil Pollard**.... It is an important site and we were hoping for something pretty good. But they (the developers) have gone for a 'cheapy' option. We are trying to raise the standard of development in Byron Shire and if we approve this it would be a giant leap backwards. Town Planner **Ian Pickles** also was critical of the development..., as the quality of the architecture was not acceptable for such a prominent location.... Revised plans were approved in Aug1984 and the new place opened for business 12Dec1985. And in 2008 it came back into local hands when purchased by pharmacist **Craig Watson**, who totally refurbished it, including moving the bar and eliminating the gaudiness..., installing **Laurie Driscoll** as licensee and changing the name back to *The Court House Hotel*.



There was no insurance payout

[The current revival of Australian colonial architecture received a boost in May 1984 with the endorsement by councillors of a new policy which allows verandah posts on commercial premises. But it was too late to save Mullum. The policy, which was described by **Cr John Bourne** as "turning back the clock to the dark ages," reverses an earlier ordinance which prohibited their erection.... The following month Bangalow won a \$4000 Heritage Council grant which will help preserve and encourage the town's historical architecture.]



The Chincogan Tavern Nov 1985, just prior to the formal opening and just after streetscaping with Bangalow Palms rather than shady Coolamon Trees, Mullum's long-standing floral emblem.



An interim colour scheme 30 Oct 2003

Australia's Stonehenge

Indigenous conference on 'Old Way' culture coming to Byron Bay said the headline to a story in the *Byron Coast Times* of 12 Sep 2025. And lo and behold Independent researchers **Steven and Evan Strong**... are still getting mileage out of 'Australia's Stonehenge' (or 'Fordham's Folly' as we see it, ref [First People of the Brunswick – Part 2](#)). Despite poohpooing their last symposium ([Newsletter-March-2020.Torrens and Irony \(Strong\)](#)), presumably there's still a market for this stuff amongst the New Age fans of Byron Bay.

Coming soon - our next exhibition!!

We are researching the butcher shops of the Brunswick Valley – past and present and looking for photos of butcher shops in Brunswick Heads and Billinudgel. Please let us know if you have any we can copy.

We will have an opening to celebrate the occasion and would love to see any butchers and ex-butchers and/or families of butchers that have been in the valley. Please contact us so we can send you an invite for the opening of the exhibition.

Security Cameras

Recently, we had security cameras installed around the buildings and one in the shed. We are hoping that this deters those that think they can camp at the back of the shed. Even though we are on crown land, the buildings are ours and it is trespassing and usually a mess is left for us to clean up. Thanks to *OnTime Locksmiths & Security* for a great job. Love using the locals.

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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

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

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/MullumbimbyMuseum

Patrons: Basil Cameron
President: Dr Frederick Theiss
Vice President:

Stephanie Tucker

Min. Secretary:

Alison McMahon

Cor. Secretary: Susan Tsicalas

Treasurer: Susan Tsicalas

Committee Members:

Ann Burnett

Dr Mark Edwards

Roland Sjoberg

Shed Managers:

Roland Sjoberg,

Robert Garland

Market Manager:

Jacqueline Smith

Heritage Representative

Chris Cooney

Susan Tsicalas

Alison McMahon

Newsletter: Members

Public Officer: S. Tsicalas.

All members are invited to contribute to this newsletter

Please email contributions for the newsletter to
admin@mullumbimbymuseum.org.au

*Deadline for newsletter items
LAST FRIDAY of the month

NEXT MEETING:

Tues 14th Oct @ 10.30

MUSEUM HOURS – Tuesdays

and Fridays 10.00-12.00

Market Saturdays 9.00 - 1.00

Other times by appointment

MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY MARKET (8.00am – 2.00pm)

Next Market- Saturday 18th Oct

mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au

