



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

# MUSEUM

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NEWSLETTER

Dec 2025 Jan 2026

## The Service Clubs – Progression & Regression

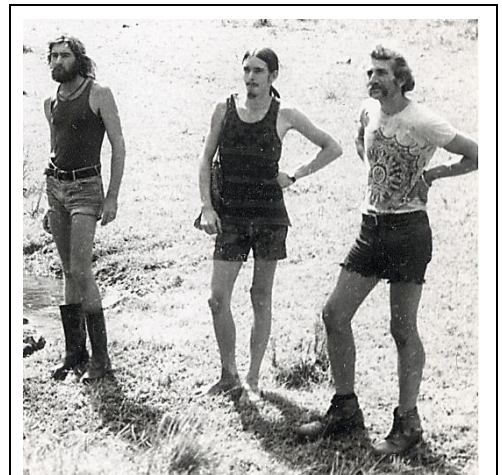
Rotary, the worthy organisation that played a leading role in welcoming 'New Australians' into the community, kept up the good work when a new batch of 'aliens', albeit mostly home-grown apostles of Saint Gough, landed at Main Arm. In Jun1972 *Rotarian Percy Hale Sheaffe* (1917-2008) presented a *Rotary Youth Leadership Award certificate* to **Michael Collins** of the Main Arm hippie commune (along with mainstream recipient **Colin Christian** of Anderson's Hill, ex-president of the *Mullumbimby Rural Youth Club*, whose sister **Lynn** retired as secretary of the Club in Feb1972. She was sponsored by Lions in in the 1970 Chincogan Fiesta, scored the Rotary Youth award in 1971 and was crowned *Miss Rural Youth NSW* in 1972.) (Mick Collins was amongst the 'hippies' who helped revive conventional Mullum business upon opening a screen-printing business in the old Norco building in mid1976, shortly after which a fellow traveller from Main Arm, **Chris McIlrath**, established the embryo 'Santos' vegetarian bulk foods business in a nearby space, complementing *The Upper Main Arm Community Shop and Sunflower Restaurant* in Stuart Street and accompanied by the appearance of the non-conventional *Agni Healing Centre of Mullumbimby* in the Nelson Building, offering *Therapy for mind and body.*)

Rotary maintained its interest in the 'alternate lifestyle' when it gave a platform to 83yr old "*Hippie Crusader*" **Mr Fred Robinson**, of *Western Australia*... at a *Rotary Club dinner meeting* in early Feb1973. *Mr Robinson had just completed a lecture tour in Queensland and spent several days as the guest of a commune at Main Arm.... His sugar cane and banana plantations in Queensland... had ended in financial ruin 40 years ago and he had not worked for money since that time....*

The Main Arm counterculturalist commune continued to employ good PR skills in reassuring the Mullumites that they were harmless subsistence sharefarmers and crafts people, demonstrated in Jun1973 during an Apex convention when *Wives of the Apexians were treated to an interesting handicrafts display by Mr Colin Scattergood and friends...*, followed a couple of months later by an explanation of *ways of entering altered states of consciousness...*, delivered by **Dr Maurice Marsh**, senior lecturer in abnormal psychology at the *University of New England...*, in a workshop on the subject "*Roads to Inner Space,*" at the *Mullumbimby High School...*)

In Jan1972 Rotary signalled environmental virtues in deciding to support in principle a joint service club's project to further develop the *Mullumbimby Botanic gardens area.... Community service director John Vardy* said representatives of *Mullumbimby Ex-servicemen's Club, Football Club, Apex Club and Rotary* had discussed the matter of development of the area... and it was likely that the *Lions Club* would join the project.... (It turned out that ~95% of the Botanic Reserve was converted into a sports field, leaving the remaining 5% for Rotary to establish 'Rainforest Park'.) At the same time *Brunswick district fruit officer, Apexian Mr R. Loebel*, addressed *Mullumbimby Rotary Club*... on continuing decline in profitability of bananas, implying more economic woes for Mullum (until marijuana appeared.)

At Rotary's annual changeover dinner in Apr1972 *President "Sonny" Coles* said club projects for the year had included repainting of the *McLeod's Shoot Lookout structures* and building a new barbecue.... He said membership had risen by one



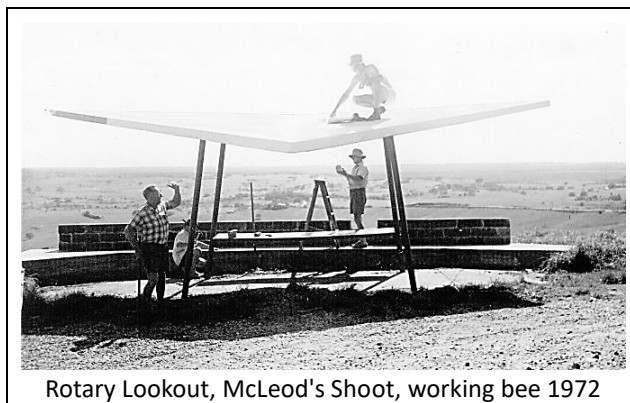
Main Arm 'hippies' **Wayne Stewart** (left) with **Mick Collins** and **Colin Scattergood** look with pride over their 400-acre holding.... Most of the 'hippie' commune are at present quartered in the buildings of the old 'Finnish Village', off the Upper Main Arm Road..., said the *Mullumbimby Star* 12Apr1972.



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

to 37..., and that they distributed \$1156 to various causes. **Vic Richens** won the presidency, with vice-president, **Mr R.A. Wood**; secretary, **Mr J. Hudson**; treasurer, **Mr B. Kinny**; assistant treasurer, **Mr G. Wraight**. In Oct1972 they ceded portion of their territory to enable formation of the 25-member Rotary Club of Byron Bay.

In Sep1972 New records were created at the Chincogan Fiesta, now organized by 'ALRQ Inc' (Apex/Lions/Rotary/Quota), with a new high in fund raising of \$5138.... Rotary Club candidate **Miss Robyn Palmer**, was crowned Queen of the Mountain.... And Rotarian Fiesta Chairman **Howard Timms** presented a cheque to the Hospital Board representatives... for one motor car. (Dental Technician Timms passed the Fiesta chair to Lion **Geoff Gross** of Ocean Shores in May1973, leaving him free to become Alderman Timms in Sep1974.)



Rotary Lookout, McLeod's Shoot, working bee 1972

Meanwhile, **Mayor Uren** said *Australia, and the Brunswick district in particular, should be thankful to Apexians....* He was speaking at the changeover in Aug1970 when President **John McKay** was re-elected with secretary, **Graeme Mulley**; treasurer, **John Mitchell**; service, **Brian Giddins**; international relations, **Ross Loebel**.... Mr McKay said the Commissioner for Railways had granted to the Municipal Council a lease over an area which Apex planned to develop as a car park.... Services director, **Ron Munday**, reported a total of 924 hours worked by members during the year....

The Quota Club (of which **Mayoress Uren** was a past president) held its AGM at the Capricornia Restaurant, South Golden Beach, in May1971, re-electing **Dulce Walmsley** as president, **Kath Clout** and **Dulcie Usher** as vice-presidents, secretary **Betty Wakely**, treasurer **Leila Bopf**; directors **Dot Mules**, **Merle Siwicki**, **Ness Ainsworth**, **Laurel Anderson**. They'd raised \$1227 for charity, chiefly from a mannequin parade, beef and burgundy dinner, slide and card evenings.... The function concluded with the screening of a film on SOS Kinderdorf Children's Villages by the restaurant proprietor **Kurt Selter**.

At Apex's Changeover Night in Oct1971 it was revealed that income (\$2784) and expenditure (\$2691) reached a new high for the 12 months.... Expenditure included the sum of \$700 donated to the Brunswick heads air-sea rescue boat.... President **McKay** said members had been occupied in a total of 1804 hours of service work during the year. New Officers: President, **Brian Giddins**; secretary, **Sam Greenland**; treasurer and commissariat, **John Mitchell**.... (In Jul1972 the new air-sea rescue boat was christened 'Apexian'.)



Chincogan Fiesta Queen candidates Sep1973  
L to R: **Suzanne James** (Lions), **Jennifer Hughes** (Rotary), **Lesley Knight** (Quota), **Annette Wakely** (Mullum High Student's Council), **Sylvia Dichiera** (Apex).



Contrasting chaste Chincogan costumery with Main Arm alien attire, heralding cultural revolution (and feminism.)  
(Courtesy Tara Leishman via BVHS)

In Sep1972 the Mullumites figured there must be an election looming when the Deputy Prime Minister, **Mr J.D. Anthony**, addressed the Mullumbimby Rotary Club. He said that from his observations of other countries, Australia appeared as a land of lower taxes, more social services, higher pensions and bigger grants by the Government.... (Rotarian **Dr Bill Alderman** of Brunswick Heads stood as an Australia Party candidate and scored a healthy 10.2% of the Richmond vote, his preferences going to the ALP. And although Doug Anthony easily retained his seat for the Country Party, the swing nationally awarded Saint Gough a decisive mandate to bestow his blessings.)

Sponsorship of an American exchange student for a year's study at Mullumbimby High School was a major project for the Rotary Club in the past year..., said retiring president **Alan Wood** at the changeover in Jun1974. New officers were installed as follows: President, **Jim Hudson**; vice-president, **Howard Timms**; secretary, **Harold Llewellyn**; treasurer, **Vic Richens**.... In Jul1974 About 375 Rotarians (from Grafton to Goondiwindi) crowded into the Ex-servicemen's Club auditorium for the installation of **Percy Sheaffe** as Governor of District 263..., the first Northern Rivers Rotarian to occupy the position....

Service given by members of Quota International received high praise from speakers at a District 24 conference at Mullum on 28Sep1974. Nearly 200 Quotarians and their guests were welcomed by **Mayor James**. Other guests included Messrs **J.D. Anthony MHR** and **J.C. Boyd MLA**, who officially opened the function.... (In Oct75 The name of Mullumbimby Quota Club will be changed to Quota Club of the Brunswick Valley... said president **Margaret Bruce**, adding that the club has an active membership of 16, and five non-active members.)

In Jul1977 **Jim Fanning**, Byron Shire health and building inspector, handed the reins of Mullum Rotary to **George ('Sandy') Laverty** and mentioned the development of Rotary Park on the site of the old cemetery at Brunswick Heads... as one of the highlights of his tenure. (ref [117.-Newsletter-May-2022.pdf](#)).

Through early 1977 Mullum Rotary generated much community interest in its quest to find the leading contender for its "Pioneer" title, which will go to the candidate who has lived continuously for the longest period within the Byron Shire or Mullumbimby area.... At the 'pioneer luncheon' on 5Jun1977 a highlight... was the arrival of **Annie and Lindsay Tulloch** in their vintage Rugby utility... at the Ex-Servicemen's Club. **Annie Tulloch** (nee **Baker**), of Main Arm Road, with 80 years of continuous residence... has not moved from the area since her birth at Springvale in 1897.... She lived on Saddle Road where the reservoir now stands..., thence Myocum.

In Sep1977 Celebration of the 25th anniversary of Brunswick-Mullumbimby Lions Club was marked by the nomination of charter members, **Jim Richardson**, of Ocean Shores and **Stan (Joe) Clark**, of Mullumbimby... for life membership in Lions International. Jim was charter president in 1952 and now returned for his fifth term as president. Over the years he held the positions of district governor in 1956/57 and international director 1958/60.... Stan Clark was a charter member in 1952... and took a prominent part in the campaign for the establishment of the Mullumbimby Memorial Baths and Chincogan Fiesta. The anniversary was also marked by the installation of a plaque at the Ocean Shores Lookout. (In the southern portion of the shire Bangalow Lions Club was celebrating its 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary, formed with 21 members in Oct1974, while the Byron Bay club had notched up 20yrs of service earlier in the year.)

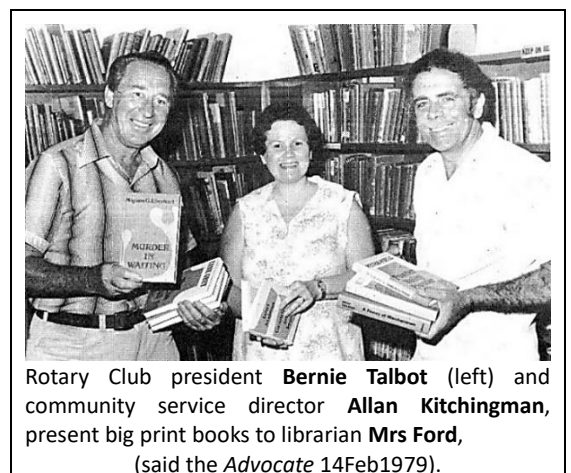


Joe Clark and Jim Richardson receiving life membership of Lions International Sep77.

At the Apex AGM 20Jul1978 (aka the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Changeover), President **Ron Philips** said 'Membership problems have caused concern during the year. Membership now stands at twenty, five less than last year.... Service work during the year amounted to a little over eight hundred hours.... The major service project was the Chincogan Fiesta.... The majority of our funds were donated to the Coolamon Villa Fund and the Brunswick Heads Rescue Association.... The club sponsored two local fifth form students to attend a youth leadership course held in Sydney over a period of seven days....

At Rotary's annual changeover in Jul1979 retiring president **Bernie Talbot** said construction of the toilet block in the **Bob Pilgrim** Memorial Park at Brunswick Heads... was completed during the year and \$3261 was spent on projects and donations to community charity organisations. Incoming officers are: President, **Frank Mills**; vice-president, **Greg Hoving**; secretary, **Col Tandy**; treasurer, **Dugal Graydon**; directors: club service, **Greg Hoving**, community service, **Pat Quinn**, international service, **Hugh Gregory**, vocational service, **Arthur Todd**.

Two weeks later at the annual changeover night of Mullumbimby Apex Club... retiring president **Bob Rose** reported Donations to community and charity organisations totaling \$1282..., in addition to 956 hours of voluntary service work.... **Ian Hill** became president, **Gordon Ireland** secretary, **Jim Lattimore** treasurer. (Bob Rose, teacher at Mullum Primary, transferred to Barraba Feb1980, leaving brother Jim, English teacher Mullum High, to carry their Apexian work load.)

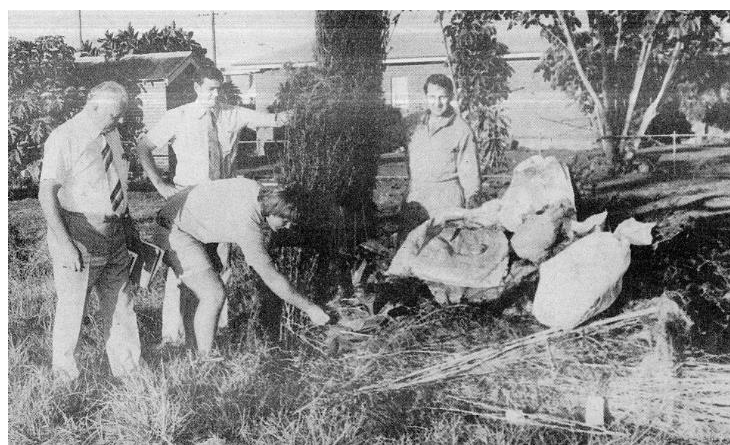


Rotary Club president **Bernie Talbot** (left) and community service director **Allan Kitchingman**, present big print books to librarian **Mrs Ford**, (said the *Advocate* 14Feb1979).

And 2wks after that Mullumbimby Lions Club elected new officers for 1979-1980.... **John Blair** replaced **Noel James** in the presidential chair... with vice-presidents, **Alan Johnston**, **Noel Strong**, **Maurice Murphy**; secretary, **Alan Johnston** (sic); treasurer, **Max Wheeler**; tail twister, **Brian Giddins**; lion tamer, **John Ford**.... Noel James was also made a life member of Lions International after outstanding service for more than 25yrs. Of the five Australian life members, two others are still members at Mullumbimby - **Jim Richardson** and **Stan Clark**. Like Rotary, Lions was also involved in saving the young from delinquency, sponsoring the 'Lions Youth of the Year' award.

At the Rotary changeover in Jul1980 **Greg Hoving** replaced **Frank Mills** and started making plans to sponsor the celebration of the centenary of the first selections taken up in the Brunswick district. By Nov1980 chief coordinator was president-elect **Dugal Graydon**, the newly appointed deputy Shire Clerk. And in May1981 Nearly 200 visitors and guests of Rotary attended the centenary luncheon at the Ex-Servicemen's Club....

At Rotary's AGM in Jul1981 retiring President **Greg Hoving** said that membership numbers were down... to 29. Resignations during the year were received from ex-newspaper owner/editor **Jim Brokenshire** (1911-1993) and paedophile Rev **Allan Kitchingman**, ex-Rector of St Martin's CofE and Chairman of 'The Buttery Drug Rehabilitation Centre' at Binna Burra. The club's only fund raising event for the year, the Chincogan Fiesta, was extremely successful due to the efforts of the Rotaryannes and the queen candidate, Miss **Dianne Giles**.... The total amount raised by the club was \$4654.90. Of this amount, \$2534 was donated to the Coolamon Villa project.... The new club president for the year is Mr **Dugal Graydon**. The vice-president is Mr **Brian Butler**, secretary, Mr **Col Tandy** and treasurer Mr **Vic Richens**.

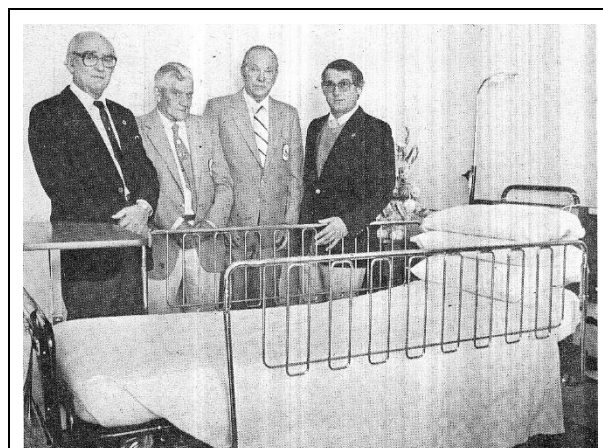


While the Service Clubs catered for Mullum's mainstream community, the police were occupied with the alternate community's recreational preferences, the *Mullumbimby Star Advocate* of 14May80 reporting that *Operation Burn begins at the rear of Mullumbimby police station.... Location of plots of marijuana followed aerial surveillance in Mullumbimby police area and a number of offenders were dealt with on charges relating to cultivating, possession and use of the drug...* which was making a significant contribution to the spending money circulating through Mullum business. In Aug1980 **Mayor Stan Robinson**, in conjunction with leading counterculturalists **Colin Scattergood** and **Damien Wilkinson**, brought together members of 'alternate' and 'mainstream' societies in a seminar, because "I have been concerned about the obvious divisions in the community for some time....

Refresh on hippie history at [35.-Newsletter-November-2014.pdf](#); [36.-Newsletter-Dec-2014-Jan-2015.pdf](#); [37.-Newsletter-February-15.pdf](#); [38.-Newsletter-March-15.pdf](#)

At the annual changeover of the Quota Club in Jun1981, the president, Mrs **Pat Carson**, reported that they'd raised more than \$3000... mainly from street stalls.... Community service included meals on wheels, community care, housekeeping service, blood bank and hospital visitations.... The 'Vial of Life' project was almost ready to launch.... The new officers are: President, Mrs **Kath Clout**; vice-presidents, **Beryl White** and **Roma Howland**; secretary, **Jean Stewart**; treasurer, **Muriel O'Dell**.... The following year Mrs Clout happily reported the raising of nearly \$4000 for local charities..., including \$900 towards the Hi-Lo bed at the hospital.

As usual, in Apr1982 Rotarian **Rus Maslen** chaired the 25th AGM of the Autumn Club, at which **Jack Batson** called it a day after 5yrs as president and handed over to Miss **Alma Daley**, a foundation member.... Mr **Stan Thomas** is the secretary for his 11th term. He reported that \$500 had been donated to the Coolamon Villa project, bringing to \$1800 the total donated in the past four years.... (Their self-funded clubhouse, the 'Captain Cook Pioneer Centre', opened 1971, came under Council management 1988.) (In Jan1987 **Russell** and **Beryl Maslen** scored *Byron Shire's Citizens of the Year* award.)



**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.

Mullum Rotary is sponsoring... a survey in Byron Bay this week (19-23Jul1982) in an effort to keep the town's Rotary club from folding..., now reduced to only three active members.... The Mullumbimby club's service director, Cr **Arthur Todd**, said that the club was concerned that the Byron Bay club may go into recess.... They placed an advert inviting people to nominate themselves to join the club, instead of the usual practice of being invited by another club member.... **Percy Sheaffe** of Bruns reported that about a dozen men had been found who might be interested in joining, who ultimately helped the club to survive (ref <https://www.byronbayrotary.org.au/sitepage/about-our-club>), and in the interim continue its major commitment to the Oleander Festival until it was deemed out-dated in 1992.

**Dugal Graydon** presided at Mullum Rotary's annual changeover in Jul1982, and was pleased that the board had contributed to the Paul Harris Sustaining Fellowship which enabled the club to present **Percy Sheaffe** with his award in recognition of his contribution to Rotary.... The involvement in the 1981 Chincogan Fiesta resulted in the club raising more than \$9000..., and was the only fund raising effort by the club during the year.... Incoming president, **Brian Butler**, said He

hoped it would be possible to finish the beautification of the reservoir lookout which was started last year. **Arthur Todd** was his new vice-president, secretary, **Pat Quinn**; treasurer, **Keith Nipperess**, community service, **George Mathison**; vocational service, **Graham Hyde**; international service, **Greg Hoving**. (In Jan1987 a few ill-bred cretins had some fun at 'Pioneer Lookout' by destroying 65 native plants recently put in by Rotary at a cost of \$300.)

A \$24,000 result has delighted the Mullumbimby Chincogan Fiesta organising committee... in Sep1982, even though it was down on last year. The economic situation was reflected in the diminished financial support.... **Miss Debra Sheaffe**, sponsored by the Mullumbimby Rotary Club is this year's Queen of the Mountain, after the club raised \$8630 towards the final total.... The main recipient of funds from the committee will be the Coolamon Home for the Aged which will receive about \$10,000....

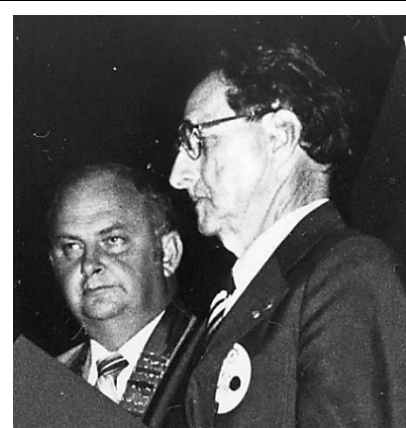
In Dec1982 Mullum Rotary sponsored formation of the Probus Club, which was an outstanding success with 19 foundation (male) members accepted.... President **Ted Bedford** was inducted by **Mr Butler**...; vice-president, **Ross Hoving**; secretary, **Arthur Collins**; treasurer, **Bill Alderman**; committee, **Russ Maslen**, **Maurie Summers**, **Frank Hayes** and **Allen Grant**.... At their first AGM in Mar1984 **Ted Bedford** reported... a membership of 410 from an initial membership of 18..., and handed over to **Ross Hoving**, while **David Holmes** took up the secretarial pen. (It's now the **Brunswick Valley Probus Club** based at Ocean Shores.)

In Jul1983 Apex returned to its planting roots when members joined with the Tidy Towns committee to dig 100 holes for trees. The Apex Club is coordinating the massive project in which at least 1000 trees will be planted... from the Pacific Highway to Mullumbimby.... And in Jun1984 The Brunswick Valley Heritage Park, which follows a bend of the river at Mullumbimby, now has an information and shelter pavilion, thanks to an Apex Club weekend working-bee.... Apex was down to 17 members when it built the rock walls at the entrance to BVHS in Mar1985 (at which time Byron Bay Apex could boast 25 members.) The following month, in an effort to boost the town's appearance... for the 'Tidy Towns' judges, Apex and Lions clubs spent \$500 on playground equipment and landscaping for their parks.

The Sep1983 Chincogan Fiesta raised \$17,233, which was substantially down on last year... said The president of the Fiesta committee, **Mr Bernie Talbot**..., because of the economic conditions.... **Michelle Clothier**, representing the Mullumbimby Rotary Club, was crowned as Fiesta Queen and **Tina Psaltis** judged Personality Queen at a gala ball.... The Rotary Club raised \$6015; St Vincent de Paul Society, \$4605; Lions \$2300; Apex \$1610 and Mullumbimby Rugby League Football Club \$1531.... Shire President **Stan Robinson** said that the Fiesta was slowly changing and new events were being added to maintain the interest.... The grand parade had 35 entrants ranging from a bullock wagon and vintage cars to club floats.... and a peace group.

Rotary continued finding money and in Dec1983 made a \$2000 donation towards furnishings for the soon to be opened Coolamon Villa, the third major contribution made by the club (and its 29 members) to worthy causes this year.... Earlier, past president **Greg Hoving** was the driving force behind the Club's 'Contact with Finland' project... to assist local descendants who may have lost contact with relatives.... (**Jaakko Ruuttunen** from Finland was Rotary exchange student that year.)

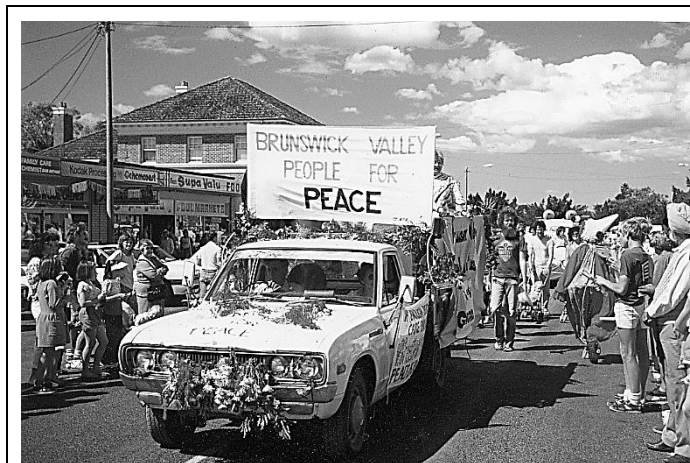
The Brunswick Valley Quota Club celebrated 25 years of service to the community when it held its annual changeover and installation dinner in Jun1985. **Helen Gregory** was installed as president with vice-presidents, **Dot Mules**, **Margaret Giles**; correspondence secretary, **Joan Atkinson**; recording secretary, **Lois Davie**; treasurer, **Pam Lewthwaite**; directors, **Roma Howland**, **Wanda Sigley**, **Elaine Tickle**.... The club, host for the annual combined service clubs get-together... at Bangalow Palms Resort..., extended a welcome and spoke of the tremendous co-operation that existed between the four service clubs



**Dugal Graydon** (ex-Municipal Town Clerk, left) and **Percy Sheaffe** (founder Sheaffe's Comfort Coaches), ~1980.



Apex Changeover Dinner Aug1983  
(L to R: Past President **Bob Cairnes**, new President **Peter Molenaar**, district Governor **Warren Simmons**, Governor-elect **Bob Atchinson**)



The family orientated Chincogan Fiesta has evolved to accommodate the priorities of new settlers, 1983.

in the Brunswick Valley, all with the one aim of service to the community.... (1985 also marked the arrival of another women's group, the Brunswick Valley View Club, formed at Brunswick Heads to raise money for *The Smith Family*.)

Rotary's 51st annual dinner and presentation night in Jul1987 was attended by 110 members, past members, sponsors and supporters.... Mr **Ron Watt**, immediate past president, presented a cheque for \$4000 to be used to build an observation tower on the Brunswick beach. The work on the tower is being carried out by Rotarians and will be completed within the next few weeks.... The new observation tower was officially opened on Sunday (17Jan1988) by Mr **Harry Wraight**, a foundation member of the surf club 53 years ago.... Current Rotary President Mr **Dennis Davie** addressed the gathering; he recorded Rotary's thanks to **Keith Batson** who dug out the foundations, **Warren Swadling** who gave free use of the crane for the job and the great efforts of **Bill Ball** who acted as supervisor and organised the working bees.



The new Rotary-sponsored observation tower at the surf club was officially opened by Harry Wraight Jan1988.

The Brunswick-Mullumbimby Lions Club held its annual change over dinner at the Bowls Club last Tuesday (23Jun1988). Retiring president **Alf Blakey** commented that the emphasis over the last year had been on fund raising rather than service activities. Over \$15,000 was raised and distributed by the club last year, with an additional \$8000 raised towards the Hospital equipment fund.... He handed over to new president **Brian Arcus**.... **Max Wheller** and **Don Gray** continued in their respective offices of secretary and treasurer.... Other officers installed were **Maurie Murphy**, **Dick Arthur**, **Col Lyne**, **Don Armstrong**, **Peter Reed** and **Bob Kilpatrick**..., with vice-presidents, **Jim Jamieson**, **Graham Johnson** and **Kevin Ker-David**.... **Maurie Summers** of Mullumbimby was awarded the Bicentennial Community Services Award... 'In recognition of outstanding service through his active interest in the civic, social and moral welfare of the community'... and BVHS.

In Sep1988 the 28th Chincogan Fiesta raised a record \$42,095, the major beneficiary of which was the hospital. Rotary's candidate **Stephanie Cornale** raised \$11,020 and was crowned Miss Charity Queen by **Charles Blunt**, National Party MHR for Richmond. A week earlier, **Stephanie's** sister, **Katrina**, was named personality queen.... Organiser **Trevor Watts** said *The grand parade had 86 floats and was more spectacular than ever...*, including at least one protesting about sponsorship from **Alan Bond's** Ocean Shores Development Corporation. (And that year Mullum's new progressivism was tested when the 'Rat People' proved to be too colourful and had to be guided to the town boundary.)

The Clubs continued their good work until fading from prominence after the Chincogan Fiesta reached its use-by date in 2002. Apex however, had called it quits in 1997, secretary **Reg Robinson** of Crabbes Creek advising at the 44th Annual Changeover Dinner held at the Golf Club 1Jun1996, that they'd started the year with 11 members, who nevertheless contributed ~600hr of voluntary labour to various projects, including 80hrs service to the Chincogan Fiesta, but were now faced with starting their new year with 6 members. Their records are now archived at BVHS.



'ALR Carnival Committee Inc' formally handed over \$15,000 to the Brunswick Valley Rescue Squad and \$3,000 to the Brunswick Surf Lifesaving Club... said *The Echo* of 24Feb2009.

From left, **Dugal Graydon**, **Pat Quinn** (both Rotary), **Craig Reed** (Brunswick Surf Club) and **Alex Fenwick** (ALR chairperson, Lions). [The moniker ALR (Apex, Lions, Rotary) is a likely hangover from the defunct Chincogan Fiesta, retaining the name for rebirth as a Bruns Carnival Committee.]



Rotary Rainforest Park, Pine Avenue (east of soccer fields)

L to R: Rotarians **Julie Noble**, President **Nerida Dean**, **Penny Bond**. (Rotarian **Patrick Owen Quinn**, 1933-2016, of Ampol Mullum, had been a major sponsor of Bruns Surf Club since 1978.)

(In 1961 the original 8ac 'Botanic Garden Reserve' was commandeered by the RSL for a cricket pitch; in 1965 it endeavoured to gain control of the reserve for development as a sports centre; and in 1972 to further develop the site in conjunction with the Rotarians, who, in 1991, rescued portion to fulfil the original 'Botanic Reserve' intention.)

(Courtesy Byron News of 3Apr2019 and *Echo* 4Apr2019)

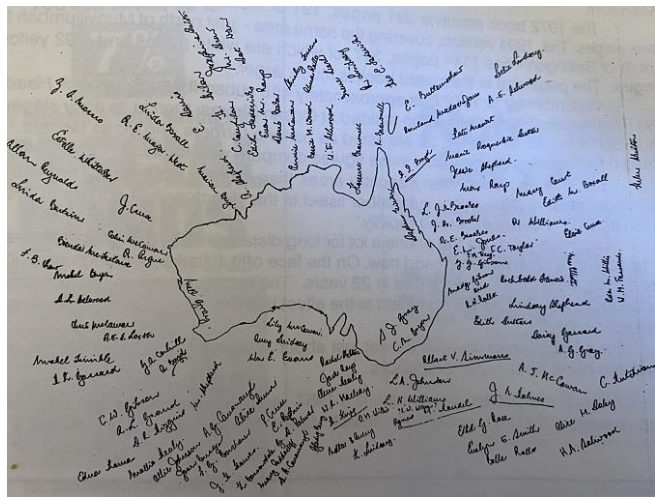
The Lions are still hanging in, although also experiencing recruiting problems, and nowadays more orientated towards Brunswick-Ocean Shores, as is the Quota Club. Like Lions and Quota, the *Rotary Club of Mullumbimby* now meets at the Ocean Shores Country Club, and since its 75th anniversary in 2024 is believed to be researching and writing its own history. And what was 'hippie'/alternate/progressive/... is now almost passé as the Mullum movement evolved to embrace the full panoply of bemusing New Age beliefs and practices, its adherents mostly antipathetic to traditional Rotary/Lions/Quota values and priorities. (See [shittownsofaustralia-mullumbimby](http://shittownsofaustralia-mullumbimby) for a 2020 take on the legacy of the hippies – tempered somewhat by Mullum real estate currently going through the roof and more Porsches being seen around town.)

For setting an exemplary standard of civic duty and sustaining it over a long period, the various Byron Shire chapters of Rotary, Lions and Quota are worthy candidates for a Shire Community Service Award, now presented annually during Local Government Week in the wake of Council's woke decision to abandon Australia Day ceremonies.

**The Christmas Sale Trail is a collaboration between Mullumbimby's Chamber of Commerce and Mullum Cares that is set to take the Chamber's annual Christmas Shop Local campaign to the next level!**

We are participants and set up our stall outside Stewart's Menswear, featuring a tablecloth that we encouraged local ladies to sign (so long as they were prepared to go to the museum and embroider their name on the tablecloth.)

The idea came from the 'Supper Cloth' held in our collection, adorned with ~100 local names, signed during the 1920s and 30s. Nurse **Catherine Sarah Jones** collected them while working at the hospital of **Dr D.D. Gibson** in Dalley St. She embroidered each name in white silk thread.



We encourage ladies to use whatever colours and decorative stitching they wish, or arrange for someone (a friend, relative etc) to embroider for them. It will be an ongoing activity for next year.

**IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION**



Museum will close for Christmas/New Year holidays after the market **20<sup>th</sup> December**.  
Museum will **reopen Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January**.

**We wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas & a Happy & Healthy New Year.**  
**Thanks to our wonderful VOLLIES that keep our museum & society ticking over so well. Legends!!**

**Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter**

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

17 Myokum St, Mullumbimby  
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**02 6684 4367**

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Alison McMahon

Cor. Secretary: Susan Tsicalas

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Dr Mark Edwards  
Roland Sjoberg

Shed Managers:

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

\*Deadline for newsletter items  
LAST FRIDAY of the month

NEXT MEETING:

**Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 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)**

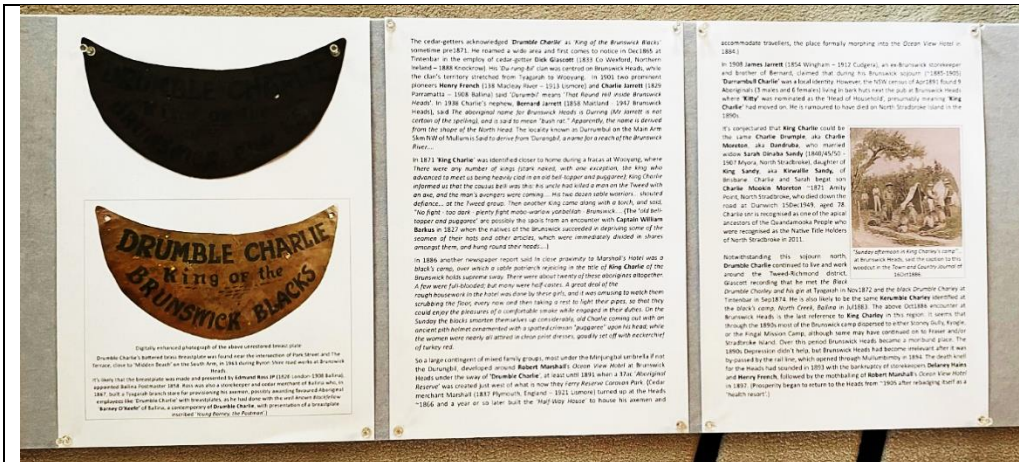
Next Markets- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan

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



# Displaying our Latest Acquisition

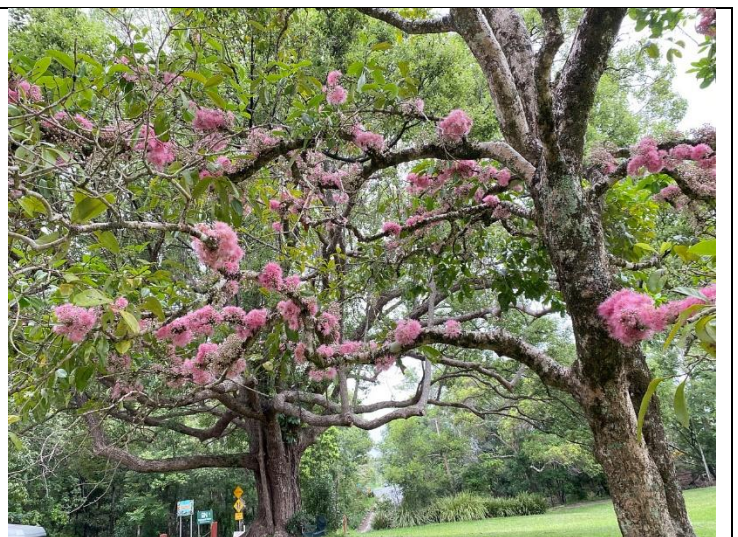


Thanks to the generosity of the Wakely family we are now the custodians of the original Breast Plate of 'Drumblie Charlie, King of the Brunswick Blacks', recovered by Ken Wakely during Byron Shire road works at Brunswick Heads in 1963.

It's an important cultural artefact and, thanks to the assistance of the Arakwal, will shortly be supplemented by a copy of the original hand-written notes from which the Rev Hugh Livingstone wrote his linguistic study of the 'Minyung People' (aka the Minyangbal dialect group of coastal Byron Shire. See [Minyung Linguistic Study.](#))

Presumably the Rev Hugh, Presbyterian Minister for the Richmond River District 1876-86, interviewed various indigenous inhabitants of Brunswick Heads and Byron Bay, one of whom may have been 'Drumblie Charlie'.

**(Breast plate photo digitally enhanced)**



Also on display is the magnificent flowering of Mullum's floral emblem, the Coolamon Tree, in the front yard of the museum.