



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

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NEWSLETTER

April 2026

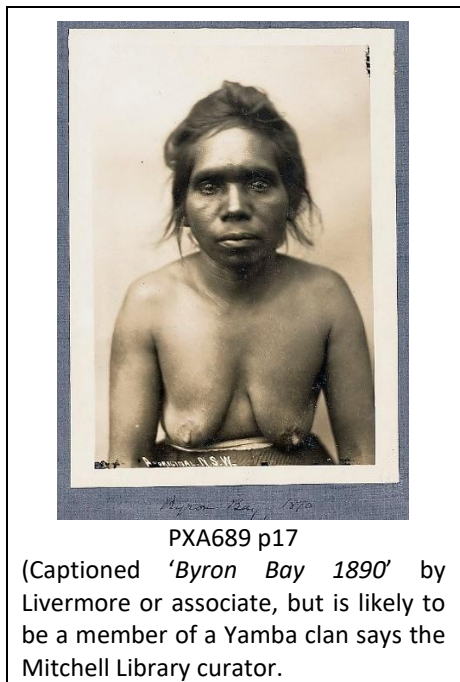
Suspect Labeling of Indigenous Photos

In 2001 Maurice Ryan and Robert Smith published *Time and Tide Again; A History of Byron Bay*, which included a photo of Indigenous wrestlers at page 78 captioned *Byron Bay Aboriginal men, 1890, by photographer Livermore. Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, PXA689 no.14.*

This photo is number 14 in the series of 25 listed in the Mitchell Library's 'Livermore Collection' at <https://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110071388>, and captioned 'Byron Bay Blacks, 1890'. However, under 'General Note' the 'Curator of Photographs' at the Mitchell Library cautions that the titles of the photographs could have been added up to 36yrs after the photos were taken, and may not even have been captioned by Livermore, viz *The titles penned beneath the photoprints in the album are in a later hand and show many inconsistencies. For instance, p.1 King Billy (La Perouse 1906) appears on p.21 Yamba Heads, Clarence River 1890 with a woman [his wife?], who also appears at p.17 as being at Byron Bay 1890. Examination of the man's breastplate on the copy negative identifies him as being 'Robert, King of Gumbathagang Paddy Gully Oban and Metake'. The album was purchased from Livermore in 1926 and the titles may date from that time, being recollections by him. As such the titles should be treated with care....*

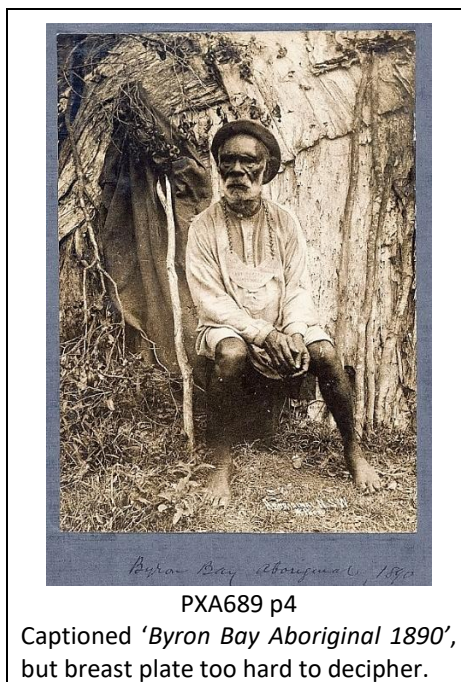


Staged play-acting by uninitiated Aboriginals, purportedly Byron Bay 1890. If so, they were possibly employees of the Warehams induced to 'go native' by photographer William Livermore.



PXA689 p17

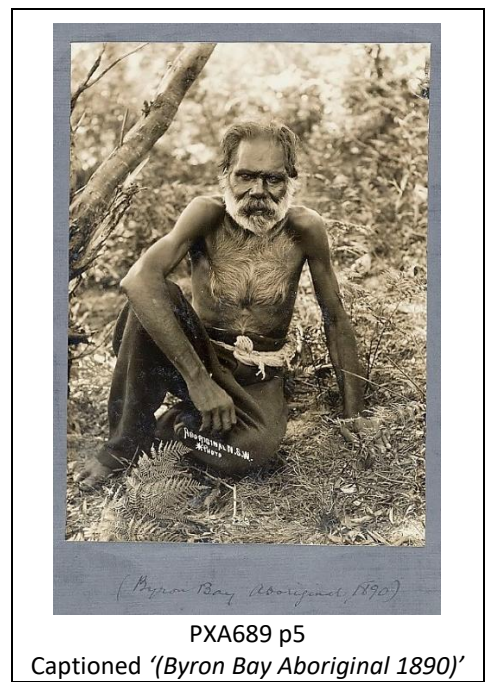
(Captioned 'Byron Bay 1890' by Livermore or associate, but is likely to be a member of a Yamba clan says the Mitchell Library curator.



Byron Bay Aboriginals 1890

PXA689 p4

Captioned 'Byron Bay Aboriginal 1890', but breast plate too hard to decipher.



(Byron Bay Aboriginal 1890)

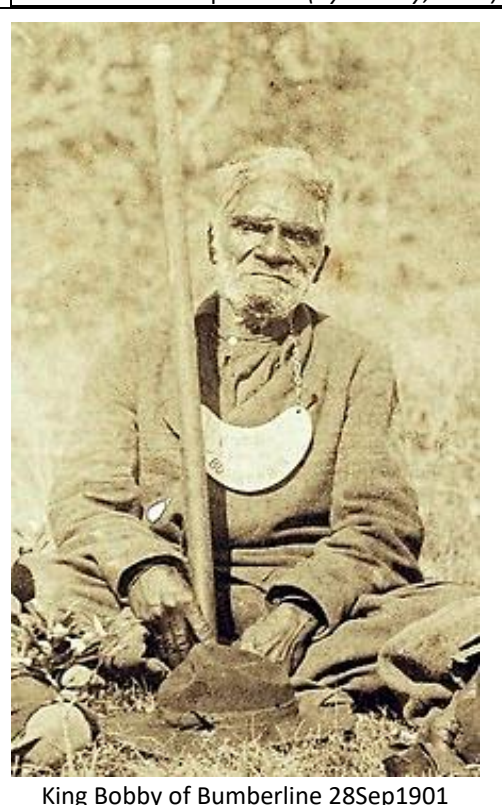
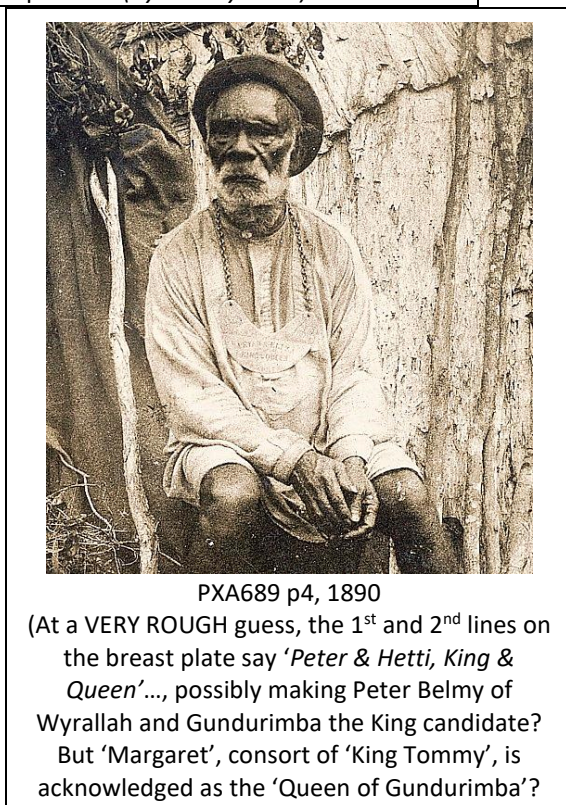
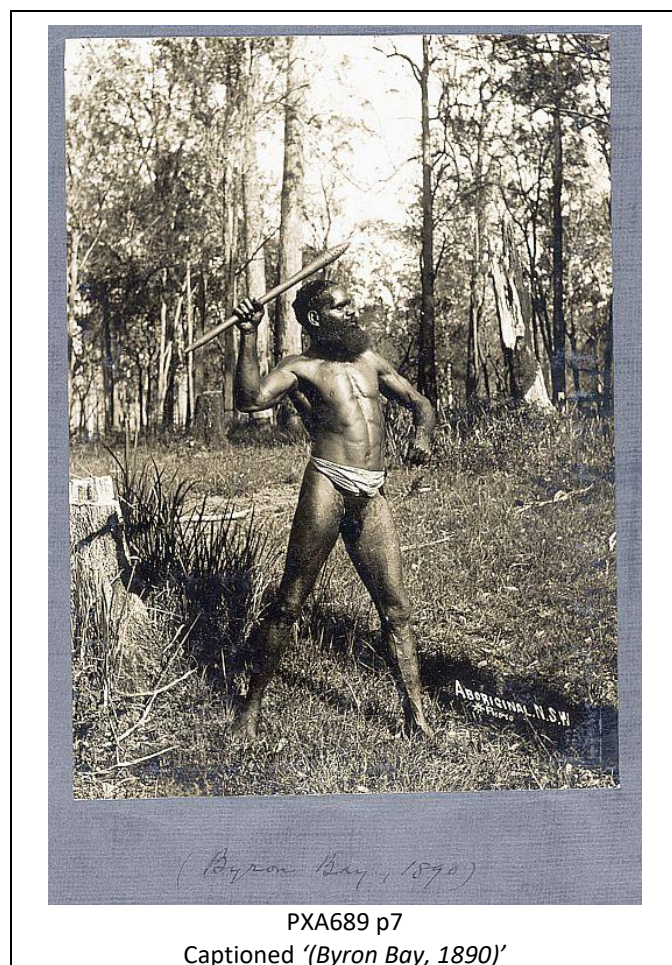
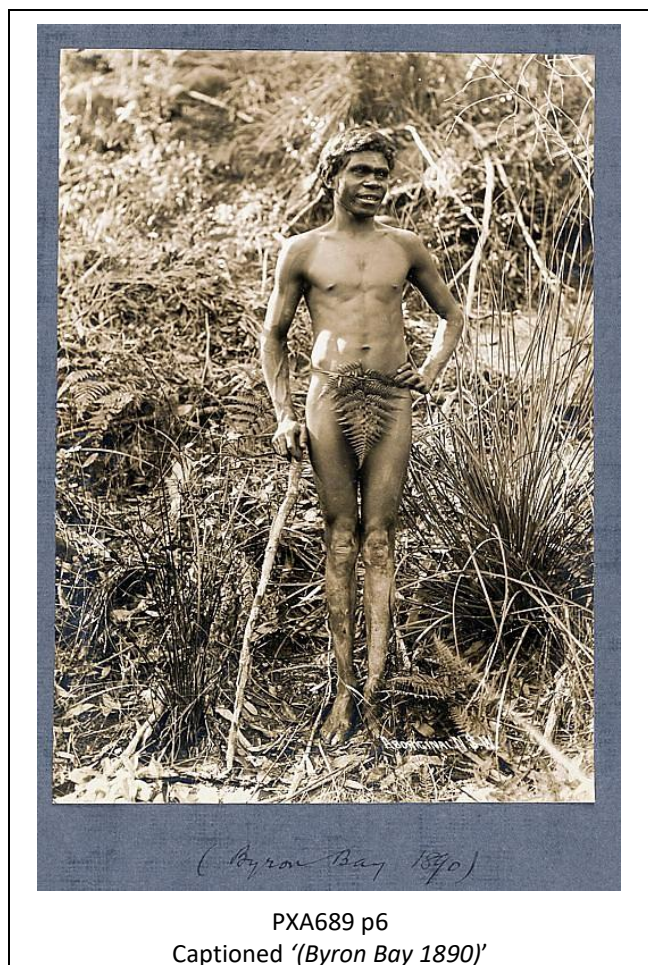
PXA689 p5

Captioned '(Byron Bay Aboriginal 1890)'

Photographer **William Livermore** (1854 London - 1925 Cremorne) became a Grafton-based traveller for the *Iford Photographic Co* about mid1888 after many years around the Bathurst district. He had a wagonette fitted out as a travelling studio and toured around the Clarence district taking scenic photos, inclusive of 'Aboriginal Groups'. The only

record of his presence in the Richmond district was a *Northern Star* reference of 25Mar1891 placing him at Lismore and Alstonville. On 11Aug1891 he left the region to take up permanent residency in Sydney.

Regarding photo PXA689 p4, the most likely Byron Bay candidate for a breast plate in 1890 was **Bobby Bray**, depicted in a 1901 photograph on page 5 of **Dr Brett Stubbs'** story at [HistoryCBLP_FINAL_June2008.pdf](#). At page 4 Dr Stubbs states that *In recognition of Bobby's seniority, he was issued in about 1890 with a breast-plate inscribed with the words 'Bobby, King of Bumberbin'...*, referencing the minutes of the *Aborigines Protectorate Board* meeting of 11Dec1890. (But being generous with facial recognition parameters, it's unlikely that 'PXA689-p4' is 'King Bobby'.)



The Hassle in Accessing Indigenous Records and Artifacts

In contrast to the excellent service from the State Library of NSW in promptly providing the above 'Suspect Labelling' photographs (for a mere \$66), our general experience with attempting to view Indigenous documents/artifacts has been a frustrating exercise, as illustrated by our interaction with the Museum of Victoria over the 'Livingstone Papers'.

The papers were presented to the museum by the **Rev Hugh Livingstone**, Presbyterian Minister on the Richmond 1876-86. His parish included the Byron-Brunswick district, where his missionary zeal led him to document the local 'Minyung' dialect, and in the process was the first to record the Bundjalung creation legend of *'The Three Brothers'* (the story/display of which is currently on exhibition at the *Tweed Regional Museum*, Murbah, until 18Jul2026.) His linguistic study was published in 1892 as *A Short GRAMMAR and VOCABULARY of the DIALECT spoken by the MINYUG PEOPLE of the north-east coast of New South Wales*, carried as Appendix A in *An Australian Language as spoken by the AWABAKAL; The People of AWABA or LAKE MACQUARIE; Being an account of Their Languages, Traditions, and customs, by L.E. Threlkeld..., as edited by John Fraser... and viewable at <https://archive.org/stream/australianlangua00threrich#page/n321/mode/2up>.*

At the time of publication the **Rev Livingstone** was practicing his calling in Wimmera, Victoria, and sometime over the period 1892-1922 deposited with the Museum of Victoria his 24 pages of hand-written notes, which were archived as document XM6367 and titled *'The Minyung'*. And there they sat for over 100yrs until we asked for a copy and began the tedious exercise of justifying 'entitlement to access'. Our past BVHS President Stephen Hall called in personally whilst in Melbourne a few years ago, but was given the bum's rush. After a number of follow-up written submissions, highlighting the 'Livingstone Notes' as primary source documents on local indigenous history, the completion of a 7pg form accompanied by a letter of support from the Arakwal on letterhead paper was sent off on 20Nov2025. And as we go to press over 4mths later, we still wait patiently for the slow-moving museum bureaucracy to make a determination on our *bona fides*. God willing, it won't be necessary to ask the Pope to intercede with a character reference.

Whilst we live in hope that this quest may yet have a favourable outcome, no such optimism applies to the hassle to view a 'Tweed River boomerang' donated to the Queensland Museum by Archie Meston in 1901, the process akin to asking for the keys to Fort Knox. We were interested to see whether it's a 'generic' boomerang, or whether it conforms to the local definition of a *'Burring'* (after which the local village of Burringbar is named) and shaped like a 7. We were also interested to see whether any markings on the boomerang gave an indication of local Minjungbal art.

Despite an on-site knockback, we made an on-line plea for a simple photograph taken by a staff member's mobile phone, but instead eventually received a form to complete, viz *'Access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander General Collection Request'*, with the stipulation that the form must be accompanied by *'the authorisation and signatures of the traditional custodians giving consent for you to access the requested objects'*.

We didn't know who would constitute the 'traditional custodians', but asked the *'Minjungbal Aboriginal Cultural Centre'* at South Tweed Heads and the Murwillumbah-based *'Tweed-Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council'* whether anyone within their organisations would be prepared to sign the form.

We interpreted 'no response' as 'bugger off' and decided the exercise wasn't worth the heartburn.

Hopefully, at some stage State Archives, Museums, Galleries and Libraries will improve their processes for historical societies to gain access to Indigenous records and artifacts.

Laurence Charles Tulloch

We have been advised by member Bruce Wallace that his uncle, Laurence Charles Tulloch, passed away at Coolamon Villa 28Feb2026, aged 93. And thanks to Bruce we provide the following brief biographical notes: Laurence was born 14Jul1932 Mullumbimby, the youngest child of Lindsay and Anne (nee Baker), and a direct descendant of the pioneering and neighbouring Macgregor family. Refresh on their story at <https://www.mullumbimbymuseum.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/82.-Newsletter-March-2019.pdf> ;

<https://www.mullumbimbymuseum.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/104.-Newsletter-March-2021.pdf> and <https://www.mullumbimbymuseum.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/140.-Newsletter-June-2024.pdf>

Lindsay (1899-1983) inherited 'Glenlyon', Myocum, the original 200ac selection of the illustrious John Macgregor (1851-1939), Chairman of Norco and many other accolades. Until moving into Coolamon Villa Laurence was a grazier on Glenlyon's northern boundary, the property owned by his grandfather William Baker (1860-1950), father of Annie (1897-1991).

Laurence was educated at Mullumbimby Primary School and Intermediate High School, followed by Hawksbury Agricultural College before starting a dairying career on Glenlyon. He married Jill Collins of Rockhampton 1957 and begat

Wendy Anne and John Laurence. Around 1970 they relocated to the Baker Farm where Laurence had spent most of his childhood, continuing dairying for a couple of years until converting to beef cattle.

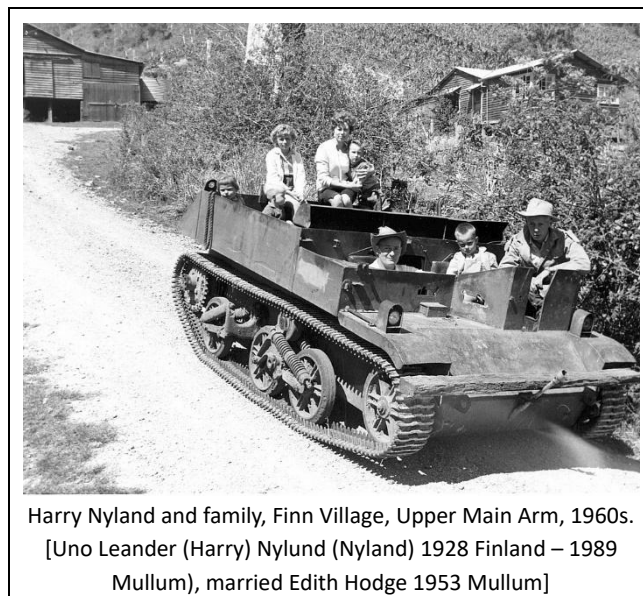
A Memorable Medical Mission

The *Mullumbimby Star Advocate* of Tuesday 21Feb1956 reported record rain over the weekend and that *At Main Arm, where the creek rose to a record height, one resident measured 18 inches of rain for the 24 hours ended 9am Saturday (18Feb1956).... Water entered outbuildings at the Main Arm Upper Public School for the first time on Saturday....* Sharing the front page was the record of Steppa Stephens, MLA for Byron, opening his campaign to retain his seat with a statement on *The urgent need for positive action to minimise the flood terror....*, having only just made it to the event (20Feb1956) because of the floods that, earlier in the day, had caused him to miss the funeral service for the Mullum victims of the Drake plane crash of 3Feb56. The rainfall for Feb1956 came in at 37.26 inches, beating *the previous recording for any month for 54 years....*

Going unreported was one of the heroic rescues on that dreadful Saturday when 23 creek crossings from Main Arm into Mullum became impassable, necessitating some lateral thinking in getting a relapsed “blue baby” from Finn Village into hospital. Main Arm Creek was reported as a “raging torrent” and the road at the bottom of the “Big Hill” eroded and impassable, requiring the services of **Harry Nylund** and ex-army *Bren Gun Carrier* to find a bypass route.

Finn village residents worked together to get a message through to the town’s rescue services, which organised an ex-“army Duck” (DUKW amphibious vehicle) to rendezvous with Harry and his passengers at Manton’s Crossing on Main Arm Road at 4.30pm.

Harry, employing his bushman skills, climbed his vehicle along banana roads to reach the *Main Arm Forestry Road* and followed bush tracks through what is now *Mt Jerusalem National Park*, thence *Skyline Road* and *Main Arm Trail* to eventually meet the Mullum team on *Main Arm Road* for the final dash to Dr Gibson’s Private Hospital at 28 Dalley St.



Harry Nylund and family, Finn Village, Upper Main Arm, 1960s.
[Uno Leander (Harry) Nylund (Nylund) 1928 Finland – 1989 Mullum), married Edith Hodge 1953 Mullum]

The now 70yr old ‘blue baby’ wanted to ensure these specific geographical details—particularly the use of the ridgelines rather than the valley floor—are preserved.... And further, he’d like to know how other emergency cases get to the hospital from outlying areas during rain events like the one on 18th Feb 1956? His quest involves seeking out specific historical records and photographs.... Specifically, I am seeking any information, newspaper clippings, or photographs regarding:

- **Machinery & Rescues:** I am particularly interested in the use of an **Army DUKW (Amphibious Duck)** or a **Bren Gun Carrier (Universal Carrier)** during flood rescues in the Brunswick Valley during this week.
- **Key Locations:** Any mentions or photos of flood levels at **Manton’s Crossing, Upper Main Arm, Jerusalem Heights, or the Mullumbimby Hospital (Dalley Street).**
- **Community Groups:** Any social notes or reports concerning the **Finnish settlement (New Nykarleby)** in the Upper Main Arm during the recovery period.

If you can help him in his quest, please let us know and we’ll onforward the information.

[Downstream in Mar1973 Byron Shire President **Barry James** met a delegation from the *Main Arm Progress Association* asking about the *Plans to lift a further section of the Main Arm Road above flood level.... The deputation said: A population of 220 people at Upper Main Arm were being cut off from Mullumbimby for up to five days by flooding...., and About 125 children were isolated from schools.... The section involved a three-mile stretch from Manton’s Crossing to the end of the bitumen. The section involved 17 creek crossings.... "This road still follows the track used by cedar haulers 70 to 80 years ago."....* Manton’s Crossing became redundant with the eventual erection of Palmwoods Bridge.

(At least 3 Manton brothers were dairying and banana growing at Main Arm by ~1940, viz **Thomas Lewis Manton** (1907 Wiltshire, England – 1986 Chermside, Brisbane), **William Henry Manton** (1909 England – 2001 Mullum), and **George Allen Manton** (1911 England – 1990 Qld.)

A year later in Mar1974 came Cyclone Zoe, which caused havoc everywhere, including *A washed out bridge on the Palmwoods road at Main Arm that was rebuilt by residents to restore traffic.... Phil Stratford*, a recently retired banker from Sydney and secretary of the *Upper Main Arm Progress Association*, added that *damage to the Main Arm road was enormous...., and a huge landslide which covered the Verdure Valley Road was being cleared by bulldozer....* A fortnight

later **Phil Stratford** and **Harold Hancock** were drowned after their *vehicle was washed from a flooded crossing....* Mayor **Bill James**, officer-in-charge of the SES boat crew, found Stratford's body half a mile downstream.]

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

Spaghetti Circus with the support of the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and the Brunswick Valley Historical Society (BVHS) held a Teddy Bears' Picnic at the showgrounds on Saturday 28th March. A great day was had by all, especially the kids and their bears.

BVHS has requested loans of teddy bears to display at the museum, as we only have one little one in our collection, and received a great response:

- with a special bear collection from all over the world (see which countries you can recognise)
 - A Relay for Life Dougal Hippie bear with 'dreadies' even
 - A Police bear from the local police force
 - Ember Bear from the local Fires
 - The tiniest bear with his big friend
 - 2 very well-dressed bears
- And more

Thanks to all who have lent us their treasures.



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

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Cor. Secretary: Susan Tsicalas

Treasurer: Susan Tsicalas

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Roland Sjoberg

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Roland Sjoberg,

Robert Garland

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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

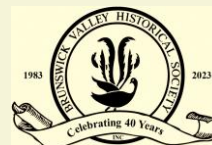
*Deadline for newsletter items
LAST FRIDAY of the month

NEXT MEETING:

Tues 14th Apr @ 10.30

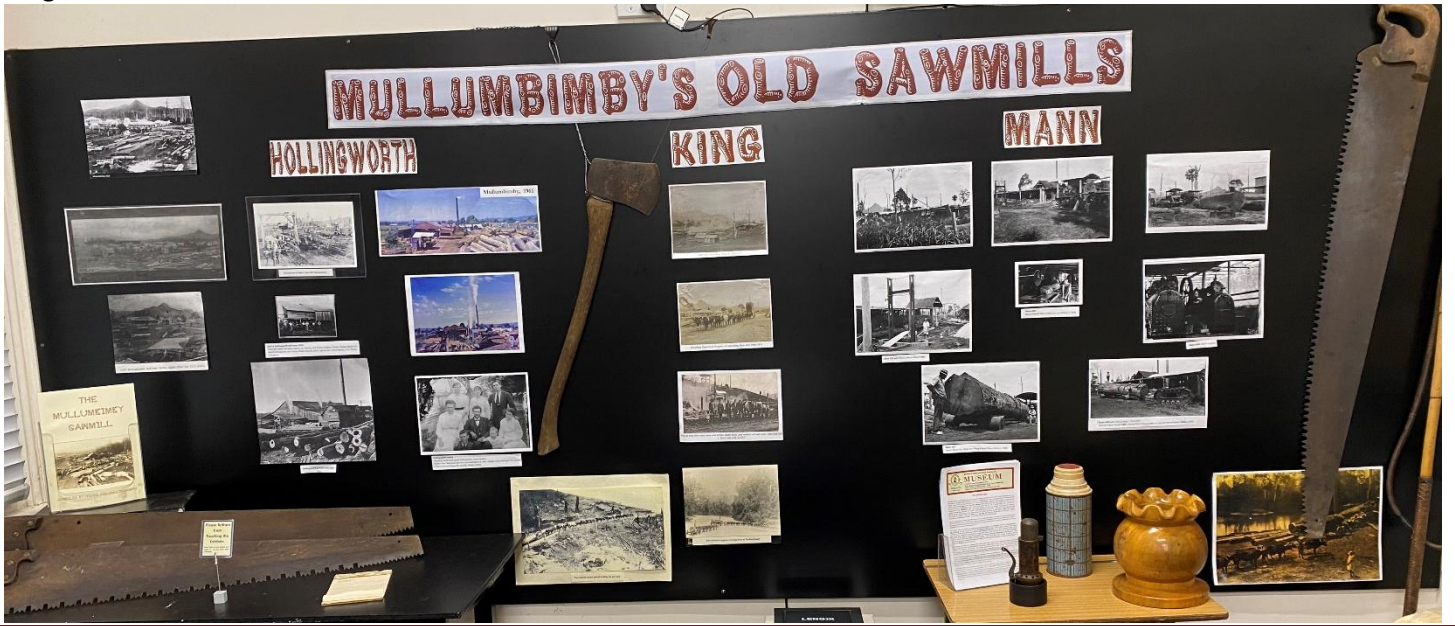
**MUSEUM HOURS – Tuesdays
and Fridays 10.00-12.00
Market Saturdays 9.00 - 1.00
Other times by appointment**

**MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY
MARKET (8.00am – 2.00pm)
Next Market - Saturday 18th Apr
mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au**



DISPLAY of OLD MULLUMBIMBY SAWMILLS

In conjunction with last month's newsletter on the Mann Mill, we currently have a display of the 3 major Mullumbimby sawmills that were in and around Mullumbimby – the Hollingworth Mill located on Station Street near the railway; the Mann Mill, that was off Mullumbimby Road going to Brunswick Heads located near the current football grounds; and the King Mill which was on the Main Arm Road out of town.



N.B. If you wish to continue to receive our newsletter please make sure your membership is up-to-date. It needs to be renewed each year.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc MEMBERSHIP 2026

Membership Fees	Payment Options	
Adults \$15 Concession \$10 Students \$5 Printed mailed copy of newsletter add \$10	Cheque payable to Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc PO Box 378 Mullumbimby 2482	Direct Deposit BSB: 032582 Westpac Account No: 201192 Reference: Your name
Name:..... Address:..... Email:..... Phone.....		
**NOW DUE for 2026 **		
I wish to receive the newsletter by email/post/pick up at the museum		

SPECIAL REQUEST

BVHS has obtained a copy of **Victor Hartmann's** *Brunswick Waltz*, referenced at [Newsletter-June-2020.pdf](#). Victor had his composition copyrighted 13Apr1908, and according to the *Mullum Star* it was last played on 21Aug1957 by **Mr A. Denereaz** at a recital in the Civic Memorial Hall...

The cover of the published sheet depicts an artist's sketch of Chincogan and the old wooden Federation Bridge... by an unknown artist.

[**Arthur Denereaz** was recorded as a 'locum music teacher' at Miss **Muriel Window's** Mullum studio in Jun1953 and acquired the studio by Dec1954, probably running it from his residence at 93a Stuart St. He was the son of famed violin maker **Arthur Edward Smith**, but adopted his mother's maiden name – see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A. E. Smith \(violin maker\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A._E._Smith_(violin_maker))]

We have made a couple of unsuccessful attempts to have someone play and record the music.

If you can help, or suggest someone who may be interested in the challenge, let us know and we'll supply a photocopy of the music sheets.

