



Contact

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



President's AGM Report 2015

Once again, we are meeting to reflect on our journey for the past year.

The PYHS has a proud history of having a positive, active and effective role in the community providing a high standard of practice and service.

Undeniably, it is the result of extraordinary teamwork and active support in a whole range of activities.

Through our temporary exhibitions we work towards developing ways to reach a wider audience. *Whizzes of Oz* and *Beneath Gallipoli* could not have been more different in their themes and content. However, they appealed to visitors who, in the first instance, let us know they were proud of our country's achievements and with *Beneath Gallipoli*, pleased to restore family connections.

The relationships we have developed with our local businesses, residents and the Indigenous community have enabled us to work more closely together. Our annual Australia Day Flag Raising and the inaugural Apology Day Ceremony provided a national theme of importance in understanding our identity and equality for all people.

Our focus this year has been one of consolidation and support of our membership. Illnesses, family issues, relocating to other places and travelling have all had an impact and presented challenges. However, we have overcome them with new people wanting to become members and others filling in when necessary. Keeping in touch through our newsletters, website, facebook, emails and networking has maintained our presence in the community and beyond.

Members' Meetings have been well attended. Guest Speakers have made presentations on topical subjects which have been enjoyable and expanded our knowledge. Three life memberships were awarded - to myself, my husband Bob and to Anne McCallum. Further recognition was given to individual members through the President's Award each month. Paul's Quiz is not only an opportunity to learn some of our local history but has been intermingled with wit and skulduggery.

Only a few members have taken the opportunity to attend training workshops through the MA FNC Chapter and the Local Studies Network. It is disappointing that the majority of members are reluctant to participate. The loss of museum skills would be a tragedy in the future and therefore needs to be addressed.

We continue to have a positive relationship with the CVC and our Members of Parliament as well as the Museum and Galleries Adviser Program. In addition to regular monthly visits from Libby Newell, we have received grant funding for our exhibitions and publications from government departments.

In the past we almost had to beg for community partnerships but in recent times the museum has been approached by different people with small projects and exhibitions. I believe that this is a sign of trust in our professionalism and integrity.

The *Old Kirk* continues to serve us well with our own activities and that of the community. It is in constant use for a range of activities – yoga class, dance practice, meetings, coach visits, private exhibitions and at times a wedding venue. This all creates an extra workload but does provide additional income.

As you will note from the Treasurer's Report our finances remain on a firm basis and, with prudent stewardship, provide the ability to shape our future. Our new Treasurer has efficiently led us towards online banking. Electronic payments and direct debits have streamlined our accounting processes and simplified our daily transactions. The introduction of the donation jar has added to our entry fees income, and we have received other generous donations. In particular a donation of \$10,000 was gratefully received to extend our onsite storage shed. The sale of publications, and other bookshop items, as well as research request and photograph orders contribute considerably to our financial viability.

We have received nominations for the 2015/16 Committee, including a number of proposed new Committee members. This is a reassuring prospect as the museum's future depends upon new blood which is essential for sustainability of any organisation.

This report documents one years' progress in what has been a critical decade. The evolvment of our transformation, a necessary response to our growth, provides tangible representation of our ability to adapt to change. It also underlines our determination to fulfil our mission.

Sadly, it is the end of an era not only for myself but also for two other committee members - Chris Seale who has served on the management committee for 34 years and Barbara Whale for 10 years. This is a testament of dedication and commitment to the Society.

As I conclude I find it unbelievable that I have been President for the past 9 years. What an amazing personal journey it has been and a privilege to share it with such a great group of people. We shared our time, our talents and our resources. We shared our kindness and we shared our love of our community and its history which has been so rewarding.

I am so grateful for the many things you have taught me about leadership and that making a mistake is not the end of the world. I ask that you all continue to offer your advice, your wisdom and support to the incoming committee so that we will continue to move this organisation forward.

UPCOMING EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

19 September to 1 October

Profile - Artist Robyn Tychsen

Born in Sydney I started drawing as soon as I could hold a pencil and attended classes at the Julian Ashton school for three years in my late teens where I was drilled in life drawing and commenced oil painting. Regrettably I had to discontinue the classes in order to concentrate on academic studies with a view to getting a *real* job.

After completing my studies and establishing a career, and after moving to the Sunshine Coast hinterland I returned to painting and drawing in such spare time as I had.

Largely as a result of my time at Julian Ashton I have been drawn to figurative work and in particular the female form which I find so expressive. I have been very much influenced by the figurative work of Degas, Toulouse Lautrec, Renoir and the luscious figures of Norman Lindsay (whose granddaughter has been a friend since high school days when I would enjoy sleepovers at her house, the walls of which were crammed with Norman Lindsay's works). I exhibited widely in Queensland over 25 years and sold works through a number of galleries on the Sunshine Coast as well as from my studio located in a rainforest acreage at Doonan. My work is held in collections in the UK, USA and New Zealand as well as Australia.

I work predominantly in oil on canvas because I love the textures of both materials. My works are largely drawn from my imagination. Since relocating to Ilarwill on Woodford Island near Maclean in 2008 I have been increasingly captivated by the beauty of the surrounding landscape as a subject for my work, and in recent works have added elements of the local landscape to the compositions. It then became a natural progression for the local landscape to become the subject of my recent pieces as I attempt to document the natural beauty and daily rhythms of the Clarence Valley. Wherever I move about in the Clarence Valley there are amazing

vistas of beauty, light and brilliant colour to record not to mention the colourful characters.



Yamba Water Bird

The initial work in this series was the Sportsman's Creek Bridge at Lawrence when I learned it was to be replaced and not preserved. It is a bridge I remember from my childhood. It concerns me that it be preserved at least in a contemporary image if not in specie. The sad fates of the ferry languishing at Ferry Park and the original Palmers Island Bridge spring to mind. And anyone who has enjoyed a tour of the Harwood Sugar Mill cannot fail to appreciate what a work of industrial art this place is - full of steaming, heaving boilers from the 19th century alongside the latest state of the art technology. What a treat to having a working artifact such as this right on the banks of the Clarence.

Making Waves





YAMBA YEARS - John McNamara

People and events from Clarence and Richmond Examiner, September 1915 compiled from microfilms held at Yamba Museum.

Yamba News

It was reported in the Northern Star newspaper that a wedding was held on the 23rd at the Presbyterian Church, Yamba by Rev. Logan of George, eldest son of Mr George and Mrs Frances Isabella Moore of Yamba and Grace Antionette “Nettie” Rigg, youngest daughter of the late Mr John H. and Mrs Alexandrina Rigg of East Maitland.



*Moore family behind Ocean View Boarding House c1913
Standing L to R: Grace, Florence, Elsie, Alma, Isabel, George, Roy, Clive
Sitting L to R: George (father), Robert, Isabel Frances (mother)*

The Presbyterian Church was then located in Little High Street near River Street - the only dedicated Church building in Yamba at the time. Rev. George Logan was the Presbyterian Minister based at Maclean from 1914 to 1918. George Moore Snr was an engine driver who married Frances Isabella Graham on 21 November 1891 and they had nine children. Belle was a daughter of Sarah Graham who owned and ran the Ocean View Boarding House in Pilot Street above Graham's (Yamba) Beach. In 1913, when Sarah's health began to deteriorate, George and Belle took over the boarding house with Belle's sister, Ellen, and stayed there until 1919 when the establishment was sold. Belle then opened Refreshment Rooms at present day 20 Woolli Street, Yamba for a couple of years before moving to Sydney with George. George Jnr worked as a storeman in Yamba.

MEMBER PROFILE- Gail Strickland



My grandparents Albert and Mary Biddle (nee Kay) were both born on the Lower Clarence. My father Calvin John Biddle (Jack) was one of the lucky ones to grow up on the Lower Clarence. I was born in Grafton and spent the first 7 years of my life there but to me growing up meant Harwood Island. My mum, Laura Patricia Marsh, born in Grafton married my dad in 1949 - a great year as that was my entry into the world. I attended Primary and High School in Maclean. I moved to Grafton to attend TAFE college to study administration skills and met my husband Ray. We returned to the Lower River and I worked for several years at Scott Smith & Sullivan Newsagents and Real Estate agents in Yamba.

We had two children, a son and a daughter now both married and living at Coffs Harbour and the Gold Coast and in all 5 grandchildren. They live close enough for me to be part of their lives.

I have worked for the Department of Education and Training as Administrative Manager - 8 years at Lawrence and 30 years at Yamba Public Schools.

I have a 6 acre property at James Creek to maintain and as my parents have a small cottage on the property, we are able to keep an eye on one another! I am an avid reader and am a member of the Clarence Coast Dragon Boat Club. I have competed nationally and in the Pan Pacific Masters Games winning Bronze and Silver medals.

I feel that I have skills that will be beneficial to the Port of Yamba Historical Society and would like to become involved in the museum community.

DIARY DATES – September

Tuesday 1st Geography class Maclean High - 10am

Friday 4th, Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th - Yoga Retreat

Friday 11th Annual General Meeting - 2pm

Saturday 12th Kirk - Wedding - 3pm

Sunday 13th History Council Event - 2pm

Topic “*Rejected! The wartime lives of men found unfit for service*”. Guest Speaker - Dave Earl

This is a free event and afternoon tea will be served at the conclusion of the presentation.

Thursday 17th Group visit from Ballina - 10.30am

Friday 18th Committee Meeting - 2pm

Saturday 19th Robyn Tychsen’s Exhibition Opens