



Contact

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Issue 2

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Hello Everyone

During my recent visit to the Central West of New South Wales I visited two museums, which are relatively new, and were purpose built at a cost of millions of dollars. It is interesting to compare these museums with ours. While having objects in common throughout their diverse themes, they differentiated themselves by expressing their unique stories, much as we do with the history of Yamba. However, apart from the expensive display cases and lighting, there was something decidedly different.

Both museums are part of the local council cultural services and are staffed with paid professionals, although volunteers are still considered to be an important part of their operations. But where were they? Possibly working behind closed doors away from the public eye but certainly not at front of house! There was no one to offer a welcome. Instead, we entered through automatic doors and were confronted with a sterile gallery rather like a morgue. The vital "body parts" were present but there was no beating heart. This hollow atmosphere really dehumanised my museum experience.

I couldn't help but make a comparison with our museum, where our guides provide a warm and friendly welcome to visitors. It confirmed for me the importance of the role our museum guides as frontline hosts. In

addition, they also play a valuable function in maintaining museum security during opening hours. Other tasks they perform include answering questions from visitors, dealing with enquiries, assisting with shop sales and whatever else might come up during their time of duty. Our museum guides are the backbone of our daily operations, not to be taken for granted but treasured alongside our history.



Whilst we cannot compete with these beautiful buildings, huge budgets and state of the art technology, we surpass them in fashioning our museum so that it has a vibrant and inviting environment to all who come through our doors.



As circumstances are constantly changing, we are always seeking the help of volunteers willing to become a guide. It is an interesting and rewarding role. If you have a couple of hours to spare once a month please contact me at the museum.

Until next month, Marea

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

*If you join as a new member
before the 1st May, 2017
at a cost of \$10.00 per person
plus \$1.00 joining fee
you will receive 14 months membership
only paying for 12 months*



100 YEARS AGO - John McNamara

People and events from the Daily Examiner, February 1917.

100 years ago..... On 18 February 1917,

the 20 ton fishing craft "Nina Meg" arrived at Yamba from Port Stephens, manned by W Glover, J Carter and H Boekenstein. It had been launched at Tea Gardens the previous December. They intended to place their vessel in the snapper fishing trade at Iluka and set out on the 22nd for the snapper grounds near Evans Head. They made a good haul of fish but arrived back at the Clarence entrance in heavy seas to find the stand off signals displayed from the Pilot Station flagstaff. However, they decided to risk coming in but were swamped by a wave which stopped the engines and the vessel drifted towards the southern breakwater. Fearing the worst, the crew jumped on to the breakwater while the craft was carried along to founder on Turners Beach.



The "Nina Meg" at Turners Beach taken by the late Annie Carr of Yamba

The vessel suffered serious damage but local boat builder, William "Billy" Black gave it a thorough overhaul. 300 people were present to witness the re-launching on 7th April, but as it entered the water, the anchor rope was carried away and the boat began drifting towards rocks. Captain

Paddon of the "X.L.C.R." attempted to get hold of the anchor rope but was unsuccessful. In desperation, Billy Black swam from the "X.L.C.R." and attached a line to the "Nina Meg" allowing it to be towed to safe waters. The crowd heartily cheered Captain Paddon and Billy who had taken

a big risk in known shark infested waters.

Later, in the *Daily Examiner*, the crew publically thanked the residents of Yamba for their assistance in repairing and launching the boat, which fished out of Iluka for decades to come.

William Samuel Black was born at Yamba on 11th January 1876 to Walter and Maria Black, hotelkeepers of Clarence River Heads' first hotel, the Woolli Hotel. He was a fisherman and later a boatbuilder. He married Mary Ann L Cooper in 1898, Registered Maclean. He was a foundation member and trustee of Yamba School of Arts and Grandmaster of the Masonic Lodge at Maclean. In his younger days he was an outstanding cricketer, one of the best on the Lower Clarence. He built a residence in 1907 at the corner of Harbour, Yamba and Woolli Streets overlooking Billy Black's Bay where he operated his boatbuilding business. He died on 20th August 1953 and was buried at Maclean cemetery.

ART AUCTION - Lesley Pickering

Saturday 22nd April 2017 – The Old Kirk, from 4PM

Mark the date in your diary for this special event for Yamba Museum

An auction of artworks is being organised as part of our efforts to make the Yamba Museum more financially secure. These artworks will comprise a mix of genres and styles – original paintings, photographs, drawings, lithographs, mixed media, and woodwork. In addition there will be high quality prints of archival photos and coloured drawings of fish by J. T. Pearson from the Museum collection.

All artworks have been generously donated by artists who have a personal connection with the Clarence Valley. Some of these artists are known to us through their local exhibitions (John Giese, Julie McKenzie); others are local residents who exhibit in galleries in Brisbane (John Beman), the Gold Coast (Jill Bradshaw, Stacey Conridge) or Sydney (Ken Done, Elise Hassey).

SATURDAY 22 APRIL
THE OLD KIRK - YAMBA MUSEUM
NEXT TO THE GOLF CLUB

4PM VIEWING 5PM OPENING
6PM LIVE AUCTION

**RAISING FUNDS FOR
THE PORT OF YAMBA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

ENQUIRIES - LESLEY PICKERING 0417 698 262

ART AUCTION



There will be wide artistic appeal with three ways to participate:

- ◇ Live Auction Bids for more than 30 originals;
- ◇ A Silent Auction with 20 items;
- ◇ Prints of historical photos and artworks for purchase.

All artists approached for a donation, have expressed delight in the focus and support given by our Museum in promoting their creativity.

This event is free and part of the Clarence Valley Council's *Plunge* festival. The Old Kirk will be our exhibition centre, with the Live Auction in a marquee. Simon Dougherty will be the auctioneer.

A catalogue can be viewed online from 14th April 2017:

www.pyhsmuseum.org.au

4PM Viewing – Afternoon Tea

5PM Silent Auction – Live music, bubbly and canapes

6PM Live Auction

THE BRIDGES: THE FIRST YEAR -

Robyn Tychsen

Grafton Regional Gallery is committed to curating exhibitions which highlight the life, culture, and unique features of the Clarence Valley. In partnership with Roads and Maritime Services, the Gallery conceived the Bridges Project to encourage Clarence Valley artists to respond artistically and creatively to the construction and progress of the four Clarence Valley bridges. The Grafton, Harwood, Sportsmans Creek and Tabulam bridges are to be built in the forthcoming years.

Expressions of interest were sought from Clarence Valley artists. The gallery, in partnership with RMS, held an information session at which the project managers for each of the proposed bridges made a presentation about the features and challenges of each of the projects. About 40 artists practising across a wide range of mediums, attended that session. Seven artists, Robyn Sweaney, John Van Der Kolk, Stacey Conridge, Curt Edwards, Simon Hughes, Malcolm King and Robyn Tychsen and their works comprise the current exhibition.

Being the first year of the project, the focus was on recording and interpreting the existing structures. New bridges will totally change the landscape. In Grafton, 27 homes had to be acquired and removed to make way for the new bridge. The Sportsmans Creek Bridge built in 1911 like the bridge at Tabulam now 100 years old, are riddled with arsenic, lead, creosote and other hazardous substances, making the cost of maintaining them prohibitive. These two bridges at Sportsmans Creek and Tabulam will be completely removed once the new bridges are operational. Heritage features of the Tabulam bridge will be included in the design of the new bridge.

A curious aspect of the replacement of the bridge at Sportsmans Creek is that the existing structure is home to 300 micro bats. It is a requirement of the RMS brief for the replacement bridges, that any environmental impact of the new structures must be mitigated so there is no net environmental impact. RMS has ensured that homes for the micro bats be

incorporated into the design structure of the replacement bridge, so that the bats can be relocated in due course.

Both the Grafton and Harwood bridges can no longer effectively carry their respective traffic volumes. The Harwood Bridge still has to be opened up to half a dozen times a week for river traffic. This severely impacts the traffic flow on the Pacific Highway reducing it to almost pre-bridge backlogs when all traffic crossed that point on a series of three punts.

In each case, a new bridge is to be constructed very close to, and to the east of the existing bridge. It is planned that the existing bridges will service local traffic whilst the new structures will carry out of town traffic and heavy vehicles.

Bridges are one of the most ancient of structures conceived by mankind. We cross bridges all the time but rarely do we take any notice of them.

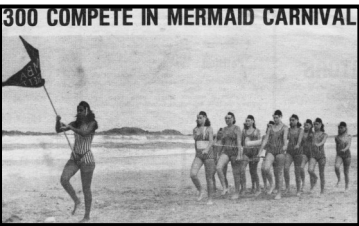


Bridges are structures of engineering skill as well as creations of inherent beauty in their design. This project gives us an opportunity to reflect on the importance of bridges in our lives, and especially here in the Clarence Valley where our mighty river is a central focus.

The Bridges Project is to continue over the period of the building of the bridges. There will be further artworks created to continually record and interpret their construction.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

The editors are initiating a new segment introducing the local businesses who offer financial support to the Yamba Museum. In this issue we acknowledge the support of “Caperberry”.



The present owner, Mary Drum, is a long time resident of Yamba, although lived away for several years. Mary was a member of the Yamba team to compete in the first northern New South Wales Mermaid Championships at Sawtell in 1975. The Yamba ‘mermaids’ were very successful in tying for first place with Port Macquarie in the team competition, and in winning the “March Past”.

Caperberry was formerly Gaynor’s Store as many long time residents will remember. If you are on ‘Yamba time’ call in and have a coffee.

The Museum appreciates the support of local businesses such as Caperberry.



DIARY DATES - March

Friday 10th	Members’ Meeting at 2pm
Friday 17th	Committee Meeting at 1.30pm
Friday 17th to Sunday 19th	Yoga Retreat
Tuesday 21st	U3A Film Night
Wednesday 22nd	Grafton Regional Gallery Exhibition closes
Saturday 25th	Opening of the Exhibition <i>Frazer Reef Seascapes: Interpretation & Variation</i> by Peter McGrath at 4pm