



# Contact

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**Issue 3**

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



### **Hello Everyone**

Membership is the lifeblood of our organisation and with good reason. Our unpaid volunteer members fulfil 25 different roles within the museum that allow us to operate five days a week.

Some people in the community hold the misconception that the museum is funded either, by the Federal or State Government, or by the local Council.

We are a not for profit organisation, independently run by volunteers. In addition to membership, we rely on admissions, group tours, bookshop sales, and venue hire for revenue for the financial operation of the Society.

One of the key reasons our Society is seen as a leading organisation is because of our high number of active members. However, when you take into consideration the average age is 60 plus, and many members have ongoing health issues, family commitments and a passion for travelling, establishing and maintaining this level of membership is difficult.

The Committee recognises that there is strength in numbers and so is embarking on a membership drive in the coming months asking people to contribute something - either their time or their money.

It is wonderful when people are willing to share their skills and knowledge and to give their time to the work and maintenance of the museum. However, there are others in our community who have added commitments and are not able to do so, and yet they wish to support the museum.

We are now offering the opportunity for such individuals and families to join, in the same way as many of our local businesses, and become a Friend of the Museum. For \$25 Friends receive similar membership benefits but forgo the right to vote in any decision making by the Society. These benefits include free entry to the museum and special events, such as art exhibitions, and receiving a monthly newsletter.

If every current member asked only one person to become a member we would instantly double our membership. For \$10 a year with a once off joining fee of \$1, it is affordable and achievable.

During the weeks ahead, I encourage you to pick up a form from the front desk or print one off the website:

<http://www.pyhsmuseum.org.au/about-2/480-2/> and offer it to a friend or neighbour. As a one-off incentive, if joining before 1<sup>st</sup> May, they will receive up to two months' free membership.

For those of you who are current members, your membership renewal is due on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Also, a reminder that members recently voted to do away with joint membership. A single subscription is still \$10.00 per member.

**Until next month, Marea**

## **FRAZER REEF SEASCAPES 'Interpretation and Variations' - Peter McGrath**

Peter McGrath recently took up residence in the Clarence Valley, firstly in Iluka and now in Yamba. His exhibition Frazer Reef Seascapes 'Interpretation and Variations' opened in the Old Kirk on Saturday,



25<sup>th</sup> March.

About 30 people joined Peter and his friends for drinks and nibbles in the Old Kirk. Those who attended that weekend had an opportunity to meet the artist and discuss his work.



This exhibition is a series of pastel drawings at Frazer Reef, Iluka and all drawn at the same spot looking towards Woody Head.

The studies are printed on rice paper using gouache and presented as a hanging scroll.



Peter has very kindly donated one of his paintings to be raffled and tickets are available at the Front desk of the Museum. Don't miss this colourful exhibition which continues in the Old Kirk until Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> April.



## 100 YEARS AGO - John McNamara

*People and events from the Daily Examiner, March 1917*

**100** years ago ... The 24<sup>th</sup> March 1917 Edi-

tion of the DEX featured a history, by a correspondent, of early Clarence River passenger trade, which is partly reproduced here:

In the pioneering days on the Clarence River the settlers had no way of travelling to Grafton or other places on the river except by pulling boat. There were no ferry punts or bridges then. Some pulled alone with a single pair of paddles a distance of 40 or 50 miles (80km), others formed parties, selected a certain day, and by the aid of 16 feet (4.88m) sweep oars, two men on to each sweep made the journey much quicker and the work easier. The night tide was, as a rule, selected for the trip and after tea they would start, relieving one another at certain points along the river. Some slept while others pulled in turn.

An old identity of Grafton, Mr. Shore, once told me of a trip he made with several other employees from the "Clarence River Stores" in a pulling boat from Grafton to the Clarence Heads and back, a distance of 98 miles (159km). Another settler living down at Clarenza, three miles below Grafton, told me he often pulled a boat down to Maclean, a distance of 27 miles (44km), to attend church, leaving his place in the morning and reaching Maclean at 11 o'clock, in time for the church service.

In 1869, the late Thomas Fisher, proprietor of the old Ferry Stores, Grafton, started the passenger trade on the river, with the paddle steamer, *Collector*, better known to old residents by the name of the *Irish Mail*. She was very slow and it took her all day and part of the night to go from Maclean to Grafton, and if she happened to meet a head wind she tied up and appeared to be standing still. It was said

one could count the number of paddles on the wheel as they revolved. She was more of a cargo boat, and was not looked upon as a regular passenger steamer.

The first man to start a passenger service on the Clarence River and make the trip up and down in one day was the late William B. Campbell, then proprietor of the Clarence River Stores, Grafton, who introduced the small paddle steamer *Isabel*, afterwards re-named the *Clarence*, in December 1869. She was 60 feet (18.3m) long, constructed of iron, and carried 60 passengers. Under the watchful eye of Captain Robert Young, no accident happened, either to the steamer or to any of the passengers during its period on the river. When it is to be remembered that grog was sold on board in those days, this is saying a great deal.

It was replaced by the larger and faster *Platypus* in December 1871 and the *Clarence* was sold to Alexander Ross, a Palmers Island businessman, who used the machinery from it to supplement his existing sawmill with a sugar crushing mill, and the hull used as a punt in July 1873.

## REMEMBERING TREVOR PHILLIPS

- Elaine Garven

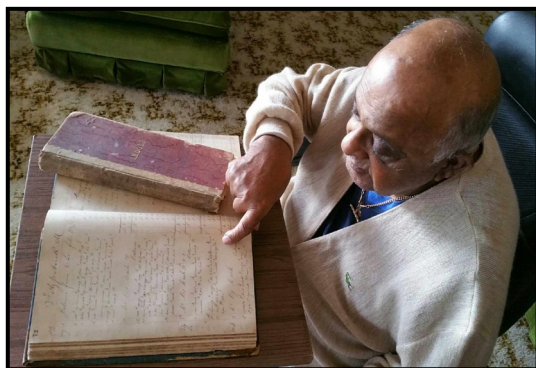


Photo courtesy Chris Phillips (daughter)  
March 2017

Trevor Pedro Charles Phillips OAM, JP passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017, aged 89 years.

Trevor was a friend, long-time supporter and Life Member of the Port of Yamba Historical Society and will be sadly missed.

The Phillips family were successful oyster farmers, winning

awards for their product.

Trevor's wife, Rita (dec) was Matron of the Maclean Hospital for many years. During the war years, the Phillips family had a radio and tuned into the midday news daily and 'The Hill' residents would all congregate to listen. (Ref: *Yamba Yesterday* p. 33).

He was a valued member of the Yamba community and involved in many community activities. Like his father, Trevor was a member of the Yamba Urban Area committee and served as a Councillor of the Maclean Shire from 1977 to 1995. He was also a life member of the Yamba Surf Life Saving Club.

Trevor was a foundation member of the Yamba Fire Brigade and on his retirement from the Brigade, he was made an Honorary Fire Captain for Life. One of Trevor's many stories was that when the Fire Brigade formed, they had only wet bags to fight fires and Tom Collins' truck to use as their fire truck. It had to be parked facing down the hill to make a roll start! Trevor also operated the mail run to Iluka in his motor boat for many years, providing a valuable service to the Iluka community.

The Clarence Valley has lost a generous, community minded gentleman. Members of the Port of Yamba Historical Society extend our deepest sympathy to Trevor's family.

## FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

**This month we introduce  
Scott and Meredith from  
Kitchen to Table**

Kitchen to Table has become a must visit store in Yamba, providing locals and visitors



with a one-stop-shop for anything to do with cooking, entertaining and gifts.

We strive to inspire our customers to cook and eat well through our regular cooking classes and demonstrations. Our small in-store cafe has become a popular meeting place and serves home-baked cakes and slices, along with healthy and delicious light lunches.

Scott and Meredith moved to Yamba in 2005, drawn by the natural beauty and carefree feel of Yamba. As a bonus it was a halfway point between family on the Sunshine Coast and Sydney. Our background has always been in hospitality, with cooking and food being a big part of our professional and personal life. As we settled into life here we noticed the need for a shop that offered kitchen gadgets, cookware, dinnerware, kitchen appliances and the like. A good friend, Val Lamb, showed us the ropes and guided us in setting up the store. Now nearly 10 years later Kitchen to Table has become firmly fixed in the street-scape of Yamba.

Giving back to the community has always been important to us. There are so many kind and generous people who give their time and energy to worthy causes and we like to help where we can. As such, we support many local fundraisers and charity organisations. The committee and volunteers of the Port of Yamba Historical Society have done a superb job in providing a venue that showcases Yamba's history to locals and visitors alike. Preserving and sharing our history is important for everyone - past, present and future. We are delighted to support your work by way of annual membership and donations from time to time. We recall your efforts last October at the local foodie event *Gate to Plate* where your team washed endless dishes to raise money for a new roof! We hope our small contribution helped in some way.

We plan to continue offering Yamba a unique and special shopping experience, as well as continuing to share our knowledge of food and passion for cooking with those who come through our store. In doing so



we can continue to be a part of a dynamic community, and in turn continue to support our local charities who work tirelessly to make Yamba, and the world, a better place.

We hope to see you for a coffee and a chat one day soon.

## MEMBER PROFILE - Les Rault



I grew up in Hobart. When I was about 30 years of age, I updated my passport, got my vaccinations and left to check out the rest of the country. My partner and I travelled for about two years and finally settled in Cairns. After twenty-five years of tropical living, we decided on another change and moved to Yamba in July last year. I tentatively call myself a musician and currently ply my trade at cafes and on street corners. I also have an interest in photography.

Involvement as a volunteer has been limited to a short session on the door. However, I look forward to being able to contribute more and hope to have input in other ways.

## DAIRY DATES - April

**Saturday 8th**

**Arts Crawl at 12 noon**

***DO NOT MISS THIS SPECIAL EVENT***

### **ART AUCTION**

**Saturday 22nd April in the Old Kirk**

*4pm Viewing*

*5pm Silent Auction, Bubbly and Canapes*