



Contact

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PRESIDENT'S AGM REPORT 2017



Bringing this year to a close I am pleased to present this abridged version of my annual report. It is difficult to condense 12 months into a couple of sentences. However, I will endeavour to cover our activities and to acknowledge the work of members.

The year commenced with a change of leadership, no elected Secretary, two vacant committee positions and a decreasing membership. Quite a challenge, but it wasn't long before one of the committee positions was filled and Lesley Pickering was heaven sent and immediately took up the role of Secretary.

The timing was perfect as we were about to meet our next major hurdle. The museum roof had to be replaced at a cost of \$33,000 and the matter was urgent. Two grant applications were submitted to Museums and Galleries NSW and Arts NSW with no guarantee of being successful. The need to raise additional funds became a priority and provided the impetus of bringing us together as a resourceful functioning team. The decision to hold an art auction and a community appeal, with the help of the local Independent newspaper, had us well on the way to reaching our target.

There was much to celebrate when the Roof Replacement was completed before we closed for the Christmas break. As the grant application was successful, we exceeded our target and were also able to upgrade the air conditioner in the Old Kirk.

Meanwhile the essential work of the museum continued. However, illness, family issues, extended periods of travel and other interests often made organisation difficult. Despite these limitations, the weekly operations continued to run efficiently.

The Flinders Room was a hive of activity most days as members documented and digitised our history and collection, and responded to research inquiries. A library stock count was undertaken, many of the books covered and re-organised according to the Dewey classification system.

The Old Kirk Bookings grew in mammoth proportions. In the last 12 months we have held 10 private art exhibitions as well as the current in-house, *Animals & Us* exhibition. Other bookings have included the *Lord of the Strings* concert, Yoga Retreats, Monthly U3A Classic Film nights as well as weddings.

Furthermore, two information days were held for museum guides and covered Workplace and Safety issues; the School Room display was updated; a monthly history column was submitted to the CV Independent newspaper; John McNamara's Book *Yamba The Next Thirty Years 1885-1915* was launched; *Albert* our merchant terminal, was introduced to meet the needs of visitors requiring a credit card facility.

Opportunities to engage with the community were created during History Week, Australia Day Flag Raising, the Plunge Festival, Relay for Life, NAIDOC Week, *The River of Learning* at Maclean High School and the Opening of the Angourie Heritage Walk.

Members attended the RAHS Zone Conference in Lismore, the Local Studies Network meetings in Grafton, Yamba Chamber of Commerce monthly meetings, CVC Tourism Clusters in Yamba and follow up workshops. Debrah Novak and I attended the Museums and Galleries Austra-

lia National Conference in Brisbane to present an informative and challenging session on *Engaging with the Local Indigenous Community*.

It has been an extremely busy year. I wish to thank all the members, the Friends of the Museum who support our work and our dedicated committee. It has been my pleasure to work with you all and I thank you for your generous giving in time and commitment to maintain a high standard of museum practice and service to visitors. Your on-going participation is essential for all of this work and these activities to continue.

Marea

NAIDOC WEEK EVENT - Debrah Novak

2017 National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration (NAIDOC) was staged at the Yamba Museum at the beginning of July.



The museum was approached by nationally acclaimed Yaegl artist, Frances Belle Parker, to see if the museum would be interested in hosting the annual NAIDOC Day event and flag raising ceremony.

The museum over the past few years has actively tried to be inclusive where First Nation people are warmly welcomed and encouraged to become members.

Museum members prepared and served morning tea for around 50 people who attended the flag raising.

It was a very moving ceremony with Yaegl women, Frances Belle Parker and Kerrie Macleay, speaking and singing in language.

There was also a yarning circle where everyone sat around and spoke from the heart about their relationships with First Nation people.



100 YEARS AGO - John McNamara

People and events from the Daily Examiner, August 1917

100 years ago ... An auction was held on the

13th on A/c of the Public Trustee of Allotment 4 of Section 10 which contained a large 14 roomed residence of wood and iron with wash-house and outhouses, the former residence of Mr and Mrs Arthur Hood Pegus.

Arthur was one of the first residents of Yamba or Clarence River Heads as it was then called. He was born in Ireland in 1839 to Campbell John Pegus of the Royal Marines and Ellen Rosa Hood, daughter of Admiral Hood of Avalon after whom the battle cruiser *Hood* was named which was sunk by the *Bismarck* in 1941 during World War Two. The family came to Tasmania, Australia in 1850 and Campbell was appointed Postmaster at Newcastle in 1852. He resigned in late 1854 in great controversy about his conduct and the family removed to Coona-barabran, but he fell on hard times there and was declared bankrupt.

In April 1870, Arthur was appointed Landing-Waiter (customs officer) at Clarence River Heads and was stationed in dilapidated quarters on Pilot Hill. New premises were built for him at the site of the present day Library and Community Centre in Yamba.

In 1875, he married Emma Williams, who had come to visit her sister, Mrs Walter Black, and built "Burdeville" on Allotment 4 of Section 10 where they resided with their 11 children and operated the Post Office until Emma's death in 1894. He then became a weighing clerk for the Harbours and Rivers Department, working on the Clarence entrance works until his retirement.

He remarried in 1897 and had four more children. He was always very

active in community affairs. Arthur died on 18 September 1916 and was buried at Maclean cemetery. There are no known descendants living at Yamba today.

Allotment 4 was sold in 1919 to Charles Goddard, a brick layer of Maclean who subdivided the land.

GULLIVER - AN EYE OPENER - Gary Whale

Gulliver, the world's biggest Guide Dog, stands 4.3 metres tall and tips the scales at 690 kg. He had heard about our *Animals and Us* Exhibition, decided to check us out and arrived at the Museum along with his 'handler', Guide Dogs NSW/ACT Liaison Officer for the North Coast, Jill Nelson.

Jill explained to us what is involved in training a Guide Dog. Training starts at three weeks of age and for the first 12 months the pup lives with a volunteer Puppy Raiser family introducing it to the sights, sounds and obstacles it will encounter later in life. At 12 weeks old the pup begins Puppy Pre-school where it learns important commands while being loved by its family.



Then at 14 months it returns to the Guide Dog Centre for 20 weeks of intensive training where it learns many skills and how to manage distractions and navigate obstacles. Its instructor will assess its temperament - "It's all about temperament", Jill says. Not all dogs go on to become Guide Dogs - some enter the PAT (Pets As Therapy) program which is particularly beneficial for kids on the autism spectrum.

At this stage Jill was upstaged by Henry, a beautiful black Labrador, and his companion Bev Larsson. She explained to us that she has no central vision and just a small amount of peripheral vision, so it was important that she be allocated a black dog who would be (sort of) 'visible' on the beach where she lives at Hastings Point.



*Bev Larsson & Lesley
Pickering*

It was fascinating to hear Bev explain how she had to “learn how to be blind” - how to use the long cane, learn Braille and build trust and confidence with Henry. “I had to be trained to work with him,” she said, laughing. A real eye opener was Bev’s explanation of Henry’s ‘intelligent disobedience’ - his awareness of a danger she can’t perceive so that he leads her by an alternative route.

“At first I felt completely hopeless”, Bev said. “I felt like I was a drain on society. Quite useless. Then, along came Henry” – and that is the title of a delightful children’s book she has written and which she recited to us. “Henry is such a good looking animal, he is gorgeous. I often hear ‘Oh aren’t you gorgeous’, and I say ‘Thank you, what about the dog?’ and some people say, ‘I didn’t mean you’ and other people say, ‘Oh you are too,” Bev said with a smile. “I’ve never been called gorgeous as often as I have since I’ve had him.”

When Henry has his harness on he’s a working dog, totally focused on Bev’s needs. He’s her guardian. But when she takes his harness off, he’s free to enjoy himself which he did while we were having afternoon tea, totally charming the audience in the Old Kirk. “Animals and Us” indeed - he seemed as human as we are!

COMMEMORATION OF HMAS WAREE



The shipwreck of the HMAS Waree has been stuck off the Iluka coast for 71 years.

Sue Spence, Marea Buist and Janet Hauser from the Iluka Museum attending the ceremony of commemoration to mark the event.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

This month we introduce Iluka Real Estate

We have been proud to be a Friend of the Yamba Museum for many years and have enjoyed supporting this very worthy organisation who not only serves to document our history, but also to educate and entertain our locals and visitors alike.

Denise Gillies, Principal of Yamba Iluka Real Estate, has owned and operated the business since 1989. Yamba Iluka Real Estate is the longest serving real estate agency in Yamba ,established as Scott Smith & Sullivan in the early 1950s by Mary and Maurie Sullivan.

After a couple of changes of venue, name and continued growth, this agency has built a reputation as one of the most respected and successful real estate offices in the Clarence Valley.



16 Yamba St
1980's



5 Yamba St
early 2003



5 Yamba St
later 2003



5 Yamba St
2017

The outcomes our office has achieved are a direct result of endeavouring at all times to provide the highest standard of customer service, business ethics and maintaining a strong belief in staff training. Throughout the many years of growth and development, the culture of our office has remained unchanged, and we look forward to providing our clients with the same level of care and attention in the coming years.

Yamba Iluka Real Estate offers full real estate services to the areas of Yamba, Iluka, Woombah, Angourie, Wooloweyah, and other outlying areas in the Clarence Valley.

MEMBER PROFILE - Anne & Peter Hyslop

Anne and Peter moved to Yamba to retire in 2010 from Victoria. They spent most of their working lives as Dentists in Hamilton, Western Victoria, and also in central Melbourne.

The North Coast of NSW has always had an appeal and after two brief holidays here in 2000 and 2003, it was decided that this was the spot! Both Anne and Peter enjoy local outdoor activities such as kayaking, bike riding and walking, and Peter also golf.

The history of Yamba is a fascinating story, with the history of the Clarence River and the construction of the break walls and training walls. As a quick introduction, our southern visitors are always taken to read the well displayed information on the board near Whiting Beach. Both Anne and Peter are looking forward to making a contribution to the museum, either on duty during opening hours or helping out at events.

Anne and Peter frequently travel away to visit family and friends including two grand children in Victoria, and our son and daughter-in-law in Holland.

DIARY DATES - August

Tuesday 1st U3A Classic Film Night at 6pm

Friday 4th to Sunday 6th Yoga Retreat

Friday 11th AGM at 2pm

**Saturday 12th Opening of Exhibition “ A Tribute to
WILLIAM CARRON” at 2.30pm**

Friday 18th Committee Meeting at 1.30pm

Monday 21st Coach Visit at 9.15am & Morning Tea