



# Contact

**December 2017**

**Issue 11**

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**



### **Hello Everyone**

This is the final newsletter for the year and I feel sure we are all asking where the time has gone as we brace ourselves for another silly season ahead. However, in the meantime, there is still quite a lot happening around the museum.

I have just returned from Sydney after attending the Stakeholders Forum at the Powerhouse Museum. People representing their museums from all around NSW gathered to be inspired, to share ideas, to catch up with old friends and to make new ones. It was a long but interesting day, followed by Museums Australia AGM where I was elected to the NSW Branch Committee. This was a position I held some years ago, and felt it was time that our regional areas were fully represented again.

On home territory, one of my goals at the beginning of the year was to update the sugar cane display, but until this past week everything else was getting in the way of achieving this aim. However, I am pleased to tell you that this task is now completed. Such projects can only be achieved with teamwork. Graham Young and my husband, Bob, spent days tediously preparing the wall surfaces and hanging the photographs. A big thank you to Alain who printed the photos, Gary Whale for proof

reading the labels, Sue Spence who carried out the research and Susan Ong whose creative flare and assistance was invaluable to me.

There is also a new display in the township cabinets featuring objects of communication. Even in my lifetime many different means of interaction, from Message Sticks to Smart Phones have evolved that have become essential to the way we live and communicate with each other. I believe that it will be of great interest to both young and old.

In the last week of November, Graham Mackie's *Just Portraits* exhibition closed and John Millington's *From Big River to Coast* was installed. While we are proud to be able to support our local artists, I am overwhelmed by their generosity. Graham helped us raise over \$500 on his opening night and a further significant amount from the raffle throughout the duration of the exhibition. Many thanks to Graham and congratulations to the winners, Ken Crouch, Kim Morgan and Tamie Teague who won Graham's art works and Barry Keogh who won books donated by Peter Watt.

Finally, I would like to thank all members and the Friends of the Museum for your wonderful contribution to furthering the work of the Society and Museum. As we celebrate the coming holidays with our families and friends, we can be proud of our accomplishments over this past year.

Until next year, I wish everyone a great Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

**Marea**



## **CHRISTMAS CLOSING**

**The Museum will close at 4.30pm on Thursday  
21st December and reopen on Wednesday,  
27th December at 10.00am**

# CAMINO PORTUGUESA - The Portuguese Way - Lesley Pickering and Chris Moran



On the 7<sup>th</sup> September this year we commenced our ‘peregrino’ walk with our Yamba friends Kerrie Huxham and Angus Fay, from the outskirts of Porto in Portugal, famous for port wine. Over the next 13 days, we walked a total of 308.4 kms and clocked up 387,404 steps, including incidental walking on reaching our overnight accommodation towns each day, before our final destination of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Santiago is the third largest pilgrim site in the world, after St Peter’s in Rome and Jerusalem.

Impressions along the way included rocky Atlantic coast scenery; seaweed harvesting; iconic Galician granary stores that are heritage listed; very sore feet and calves on the first few days after 15 km; excellent cheap wine and seafood – scallops, razorclams, pulpo (octopus), bacalhau (salty cod); Ponte de Lima’s medieval bridge during a religious festival with wandering bands of very loud drummers in competition; interesting peregrinos from all over the world; the peculiarly Australian experience of walking through eucalyptus forests, which have been grown in Spain and Portugal since early in the 19th century; some unexpected hikes through rugged mountainous country; the delight of staying in a hotel in A Guarda located in a 400 year old convent with a spectacular collection of ancient religious artworks; discovering Baiona with its beautiful harbourside fortress and a replica of Columbus’ Pinto in the harbour.

Perhaps the weirdest experience for Chris was smearing his feet with deer fat provided by a German peregrino who insisted it was the best remedy for sore feet. He did use it to help soothe his blisters for the rest of the walk. Lesley’s body parts stood up to the demands but she was desperate to off-load her pack and boots and stand under a hotel

hot shower groaning slowly each afternoon, followed by 2 hours of bedrest.



We were relieved to reach our final destination at the Cathedral in Santiago, which allegedly has the remains of the apostle James (Iago) in the crypt and provides the motivation for the religiously inclined peregrinos. The city was overflowing with thousands who

ventured there to see, touch, hug and kiss the statue of Saint James in the cathedral and purchase as many 'religious' souvenirs as a travel bag could hold.

Despite our huge sense of achievement in completing the walk, the 2½ hour long queue at the Pilgrim Office meant that we decided to forgo the documentary proof of our camino and stick with the proof evident in our feet, legs and memories.

## **CLARENCE RIVER WOMEN OF ARTS**

**- Debrah Novak**

After the callout on Facebook, I received 50 applications for the exhibition in The Old Kirk opening on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.

We are featuring the works of 65 Clarence River women, 15 deceased colonial artists and 50 living artists, ranging in age from 13 to 95 years. What inspired me to use this theme is that there are so many colonial female artists who were never recognised for what they did back in their day.

The 15 deceased artists will have a wall all of their own and represent our colonial era. The featured piece on loan is from Tenterfield Museum and is the original art work of Lillian Chauvel, the first Australian female artist to exhibit overseas. Lillian was born at Tabulam. The reason I wanted to feature Lillian's art and poem is that she is the sister of Harry Chauvel, Australia's first commissioned officer who lead

the cavalry charge of the 4th Light Horse Brigade at Beersheba on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1917 in WW1. The centenary of that cavalry charge has just been commemorated. I am delighted the museum gave us permission, as it is one of their prized possessions.

Art genres include sculpture, glass, metal, film, photography, mixed media, writing, poetry, oils, watercolours, acrylics and singing. I have made an extraordinary discovery. The 1895 opera singer who was born at Harwood, Margaret Gard, is the great aunt of Harwood soprano Michelle Ryan who is currently home on holidays. Margaret went on to change her name to Margherita Grandi and became a famous opera diva across Europe. Michelle has graciously agreed to come and sing for us to honour her aunt at our opening.

The weird thing is the only time her aunt performed at Yamba, was at the age of 10 on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 1902. It will be 115 years later that Michelle Ryan and Grace Hickey will open the exhibition.

I think this will be a very memorable occasion for all and I am expecting a big crowd. The ABC has already agreed to do a video story.

## **THE ROAD TO YAMBA - Rob Knight**

The following is a transcript of the content of a letter from Surveyor W.A.B. Greaves to the Surveyor General, describing the road from South Grafton to Woolli (as Yamba was then known) which he surveyed in the early 1860s.

Greaves attempted to relate his work to that performed by the Wilson brothers in the early 1840s. In this regard, Greaves wrote the following notation on his plan, a digital copy of which we hold at the museum: "The original section lines as surveyed by Surveyors Wilsons are very hard to discover, the marking being so bad. I could only (with certainty) identify two lines shewn near the 15th and 41 miles. I am satisfied that the whole of the Messrs. Wilsons surveys are made up – for by my survey it will be seen that neither features nor watersheds agree."

***Any following words in square brackets are inserted by the writer.***

Sir,

The Works at the embouchure of the Clarence River having given employment and induced a considerable population to locate themselves at the Clarence Heads and there being no existing road or track to Grafton, I received verbal instructions from the late Surveyor General to discover and mark a road, a plan of which I have the honor [sic] to enclose, and report as follows:

2nd The extensive Coldstream swamps being unsurmountable obstacles in the direct line of communication with the heads the distance of the proposed road is about 45 miles.

3rd Leaving South Grafton the road bears South Easterly for 9 miles to Glenugie (Mr Devlin's Station). The station road is made available and is well defined. The country consists of open undulating ridges well grassed and available for drays – sapling bridges have been erected over Wattle and Arandin Creeks.

From Glenugie the road bears North Easterly for 5 miles to the Coldstream River which is easily crossed and then North for about 4 miles to Emu Flat the only bad place being over Pillar Valley (a swampy flat). Emu Flat, the flat at Bostock's water holes and valley of Sharks Creek passed in 7 more miles are all bad places in wet weather. Leaving Sharks Creek a scrub is passed, through which a good track has been cut and the road runs N Easterly to the Heads passing Mt Wohinam [Clarence Peak] to the right about 2 miles – under the mountain the road goes through some open barren plains and some low wet sandy land – there is a great variety of grass and water until it reaches the borders of the lake called "Wooloweyah". Mt Wohinam being originally named by Captain Cook. Along the borders of the lake there are considerable swamps which it seems impossible to avoid. The road used by Mr Ryan from his station on the lake [Taloumbi Station] to the Heads is made available.

3rd [sic] As it is not at all likely that this road will be used for carrying goods along between Grafton and the Heads, but will chiefly be used as a bridle road, it will be found available for the public and it is, consider-

ing the nature of the country, perhaps as good a road as could be discovered.

4th I have shown upon the Plan three reserves for Villages, one at “Glenugie”, one at “Bostock’s” Water Holes and a third on the borders of the Lake – although there is little to warrant the making of these reserves yet. I conceive that suitable sites should be proposed.

## FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

The Yamba Photo Store has been servicing the Clarence Valley for 14 years. Started from the remnants of the Yamba Music Store with David and Tania at the helm, we have grown and changed over the years. Originally known as Fletchers Fotografics we concentrated on processing



films and selling film cameras.

As digital photography took hold we grew into digital printing and digital cameras and accessories. An introduction of Lego and Pokémon cards took place in 2010, and these products are popular with locals

and visitors alike. We now mostly specialise in printing, poster and canvas printing, passport photos and the Lego continues to thrive as well. Additionally the action camera market is now our main camera focus, with Gopro cameras popular with local beach activities.

We have worked with the Historical Society for many years with printing photos and love supporting such an important organisation in the Clarence Valley. Come in and see David, Sam, Debbie or Jen for all your photo and Lego needs.

## "BIG RIVER TO COAST"



*Mal & John*

An appreciative group of 50 friends gathered on Sunday afternoon, 26<sup>th</sup> November in the Old Kirk for the opening of Palmers Island artist, John Millington's exhibition of oil paintings, watercolours and drawings. On a lovely sunny afternoon, the visitors enjoyed delicious food and drinks under the trees. Mal Leckie travelled from the Gold Coast to officially opening the exhibition which runs until 10<sup>th</sup> December.

## DIARY DATES - December

**Friday 8th**

**Members Meeting at 2pm followed by Christmas Party** *(please bring a plate to share)*

**Sunday 10th**

**Stall at Yamba Markets**  
**Close of *Big River to Coast* Exhibition**

**Tuesday 12th**

**U3A Christmas Party at 4pm**

**Saturday 16th**

**Opening *Clarence River Women of Arts* Exhibition at 2pm**



**The Editors would like to thank all contributors for their support during the year.**

**We wish all our members and friends the very best for the Festive season.**