

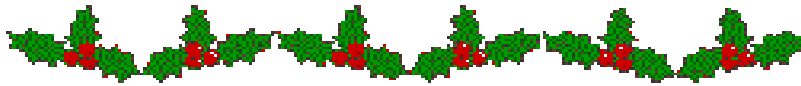


The Old Courthouse Museum

PASTIMES

*Christmas Newsletter of the
Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc.*

Issue 16 - Nov/Dec 2014



MEMBERS LET THEIR HAIR DOWN AT THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH



On Tuesday 9th. December, members celebrated Christmas with a festive lunch at the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club. The Club put on a great show for the Museum, with additional arrangements from member Sandra Smith. President Ewan Morrison toasted all present for their hard efforts during the year. Well done!

NEW MEMBER 'DAISY' COMPLETES HER 'MOOVE' TO THE DAIRY SHED



Raring to go, this lady should keep the grass and weeds down in the grounds, so she can produce enough milk for us to run the Dairy Shed. Designed and painted by member Barb Walsh, it should stop visitors in their tracks and provide them with a really 'mooving experience'.



ALTERED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING ARRANGEMENTS

Members please note that the Museum will be closed from COB Tuesday 23rd. December 2014, re-opening for visitors on Tuesday 6th. January 2015. Enjoy the break!

FEATURED ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE OF PASTIMES

Connections – Streets Ice Cream and the Batemans Bay swimming pool: In recent years, there has been some conjecture over the origins of our local pool. We look at how Edwin Street progressed from business man to philanthropist and retirement in the Shire.

Loss of the Dureenbee: Curator Myf Thompson recounts the grounding of the commercial fishing trawler **Dureenbee** in August, 1943, following an attack by a Japanese submarine off Moruya Heads.





Ice Cream and the Batemans Bay Swimming Pool

(This article was first published in hardcopy in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Supplementary Volume, (MUP), 2005)

Edwin (Ted) Street (1891-1975), ice-cream manufacturer, was born on 8 August 1891 at Corrimal, New South Wales, youngest of ten children of Staffordshire-born parents James Street, miner, and his wife Ann, née Cooper. By 1914 Ted and his brothers had established a farm at Leeton. There he met Daisy Olive Grigg, a farmer's daughter from Western Australia, whom he was to marry in the Leeton Methodist Church on 7 June 1921. They had no children. (The couple is shown together below, in an early photograph).

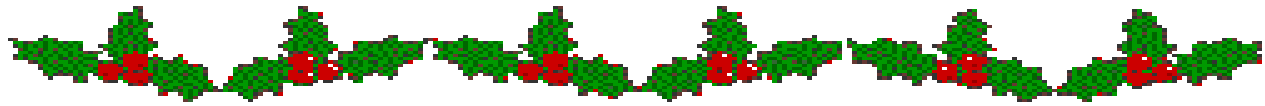


On 29 June 1916 at Kiama, Street had enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Force and served in the 45th Battalion in France from 1917. Twice wounded, after demobilization in July 1919 he returned to Corrimal where he established a grocer's shop and in 1920 began hand churning frozen custards. Increasing production by attaching a one-horsepower engine to the churn, he began selling his ice-cream to other local shops. By the 1930s reliable mechanical refrigeration systems offered the opportunity for expansion. Street seized the chance, purchasing the Corrimal Ice

Works in 1934—the year Streets Ice Cream Ltd was registered in Sydney—and establishing the Illawarra Delicacy Co. On weekends he travelled extensively in the region promoting his product, marketed as 'The Cream of the Coast'. Although concentrating on vanilla ice-cream (from quart size bricks to twenty-two-gallon containers), Street also sought a more popular market through 'penny pinkies'—ice-creams in a cone sold from travelling carts.

In 1939 Street set up a distribution depot at Bexley to capture a slice of the lucrative Sydney market. World War II stalled further expansion plans, but in 1946 he established a factory at Turella, Sydney, and that year brought out his first popular stick ice-cream, 'The Heart'. Fired by his fierce rivalry with Frederick Peters, Street moved quickly to become a bigger player in the industry, buying Lynam's Ice Cream Co. in 1950 and a year later establishing a second factory at Moruya. In 1953 the business was listed as a public company, with Street as managing director. Despite early board-room struggles and difficult economic times, he was able to plough profits back into the business. This gave the enterprise a firm base and the capacity to expand into other parts of New South Wales, with depots at Gosford, Wagga Wagga, Goulburn, Queanbeyan and Nowra. Street established long-term supply contracts with Dairy Farmers Ltd and worked hard to break Peters' tight hold over local distribution networks. Street's famous 'Paddle Pop' was launched in 1953, selling ninety million by the end of the century, per capita the largest selling ice-cream in the world.

Hard working, innovative, domineering and argumentative, Street nonetheless inspired great loyalty. He was square jawed, brown eyed and dark haired, and despite his growing wealth,



retained the common touch. Driven to work in a Holden 'ute', and shunning ostentation, Street devoted himself to business and continued to live at Corrimal. His wife was of similar disposition, working long hours in the factory, taking an intense interest in the welfare of the female factory workers and rarely bothering to lighten domestic chores with modern household appliances.

By the late 1950s Streets was sufficiently profitable to attract the attention of larger firms. In 1960 Kraft Foods Ltd, Unilever Australia Pty Ltd and the old rival Peters put in offers to buy the company. Although Peters made a higher bid, Street sold out to Unilever for nearly £4 million. In new hands Streets became a market leader in the 1960s, pioneering such household names as 'Splice', 'Gaytime', 'Cornetto' and 'Blue Ribbon Ice Cream'.



Ted and Daisy retired to Narooma, becoming prominent local philanthropists. Street was appointed O.B.E. in 1970. A sometimes combative and demanding benefactor, he nonetheless made substantial donations to build public swimming pools at Corrimal, Batemans Bay, Dapto, Moruya and Narooma, and a skating rink and tennis courts at Narooma. The couple also generously funded retirement and nursing homes for the aged on the South Coast, including the Daisy Street Lodge Retirement Home. The Australian Red Cross Society, Narooma ambulance station and Legacy were also the beneficiaries of their largesse. Although they travelled widely, they liked nothing better than visiting schools to tell their story of Streets ice-cream. They also supported research into Parkinson's disease at Prince Henry Hospital, Little Bay, where Street died on 10 August 1975, survived by his wife. Daisy continued their tradition of giving school children at Narooma a free Streets ice-cream each year. She died in 1990.



References

Stephen Garton, 'Street, Edwin (Ted) (1891–1975)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/street-edwin-ted-13208/text23913>, published in hardcopy 2005, accessed online 24 August 2014.



Loss of the Dureenbee - WW2 comes to the South Coast

During WW2, Australians had little idea of the extent of enemy attacks upon merchant and other shipping on our coastline. *Outstanding* disasters, such as the loss of the hospital ship **Centaur**, were published soon after they occurred, but generally the names of ships and the locations involved were almost never given in newspaper reports. This may partly be why some of the worst tragedies, such as the sinking of some iron ore ships, were only known among the families and shipmates of those affected, and the people along the coast where they occurred.



Throughout 1942 and 43, the Japanese made a concerted effort to disrupt trade shipping along the south east coast, sinking 17 vessels. On the 3rd August 1943, residents of Moruya were woken in the early hours by the sound of gunfire. The **Dureenbee** (pictured left), a commercial fishing trawler, was under sustained attack just 25 kilometres east, off Moruya Heads.

The **Dureenbee**, built in 1919, was owned by Cam & Sons, Sydney. A single screw steam vessel, she was crewed by eleven men. At 220 tons, she was typical of fishing vessels working the south coast. Her skipper, Captain William Reid, had 50 years of naval and maritime experience.

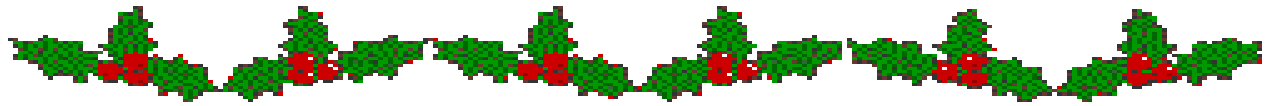
Steaming at 3 knots, with dimmed lights, the **Dureenbee's** crew were stowing their catch, with nets over the side preparing for another trawl, when she chanced upon the Japanese submarine **I-175**, lying on the surface, probably recharging her batteries. The submarine attacked.

After the first explosive shelling, wireless officer, L W Wilson, realising the situation, sent out a distress signal. Before he could signal again, machine gun fire raked the wireless station, taking off his hand. Bravely, he stayed by the wireless, hoping to hear that his first signal had been picked up. Then more machine gun fire totally destroyed the radio, and injured him further.

The submarine's gunner, having missed first time round, discharged another pair of four-inch shells into the **Dureenbee's** superstructure. These damaged the wheelhouse and steampipe, bringing her to a halt. Captain Reid attempted to contact the submarine, shouting desperately that his vessel was unarmed, with wounded aboard. There was no response.

It is hard to understand why a submarine would attack a small, unarmed fishing vessel. No attempt was made to *sink* the **Dureenbee** by firing below the waterline; it seems the commander may have simply decided to indulge in some target practice, because the submarine just circled, machine gunning and shelling the vessel for a further 45 minutes, before submerging and heading out to sea. Captain Reid sent up emergency flares, and on checking, his crew discovered one man dead, two seriously wounded, and minor injuries to his other men.

Meanwhile, the **Dureenbee** rode out a further 5 hours after their ordeal, before being located by an RAAF Aircraft stationed at Moruya. The aircraft helped direct the Moruya based fishing trawler **Mirabooka** to the site. On board were brothers Gus and Raynor McDiarmid, and their



friend Cec Williams. The vessel and its crew had been prepared for a mission as soon as the Volunteer Defence Corps confirmed that action was taking place off Moruya Heads.

During the attack, the **Dureenbee's** lifeboat and inflatable raft had been destroyed. The rescue crew had to lower their own dinghy into the heavy swell, and Cec rowed the wounded between the two vessels. As the remaining crew struggled aboard the **Mirrabooka**, it became clear that at 21 stone, Arthur Scrobles, the deceased crew member, was too heavy to be moved manually. The **Mirrabooka** used its fishing equipment to winch Mr. Scrobles' body aboard. He had received 22 bullet wounds, whilst trying to launch the lifeboat.



I-175, a KD6-Class submarine, taken in 1941, is shown here. Faster than their predecessors, the KD6 class boats had the highest surface speed of any submarines in the world in the mid-1930s, although this was surpassed slightly by later Japanese boats. These boats were quite successful. In particular, I-175 would later sink the escort aircraft carrier USS Liscome Bay in November 1943, with a loss of 644 lives, before finally being lost to American destroyers on 5 February 1944.

Able Seaman Archibald McPherson had been badly wounded, and died on the way to hospital, followed days later by the Captain's brother, Chief Officer Alexander Reid, who also died of his injuries. In Moruya Cemetery, Merchant Navy headstones were placed on the three graves.

Meanwhile, the **Mirrabooka** and her crew had been commandeered by the Commonwealth Salvage Board (CSB). *Against* local advice about weather conditions, the CSB delayed a salvage attempt, allowing the vessel to drift. The **Dureenbee** was eventually found 45 kilometres from where she was attacked, run aground with her back broken on Richmond Bombora.¹

The CSB demanded an attempt be made to free her, and against better judgement, the **Mirrabooka's** crew had to comply. Their propeller became tangled in ropes and, fortunately, another trawler arrived, the **Erina** of Batemans Bay, able to tow the **Mirrabooka** to safety.

The Royal Humane Society and the Shipwreck Society awarded citations to the McDiarmid Brothers and Cec Williams, for their selfless efforts to rescue both crew and vessel. Fragments of the **Dureenbee** above water were easily souvenired, finding their way into local premises and households. For many years after the war, the steam whistle from the **Dureenbee** signaled shifts at **Perry's Mill** in Batemans Bay, and was later donated to the Old Courthouse Museum.

No further attempts at salvage have been undertaken, while the wreck of the **Dureenbee** still rests about 1½ kilometres off Batemans Bay, accessible only to divers.

The 'Loss of the Dureenbee' was sourced from Historical archives at Batemans Bay and Moruya, and a feature article in the Canberra Times by Tony Abbey and Shirley Clifford from 1980. The material was compiled and edited by Myf Thompson and broadcast on Radio 2EAR.

¹ **Bombora** is an indigenous Australian term for an area of large sea waves breaking over a shallow area such as a submerged rock shelf, reef, or sand bank that is located some distance from the shoreline and beach surf break. In slang it is also called a **bommie**.



What's been happening at the Old Courthouse Museum?

MUSEUM TAKES ADVANTAGE OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN GRANT FUNDING

Members Ray Mooney and Chris Ruzala attended a one day workshop in November, entitled 'Finding and applying for small community grants.' The workshop was arranged by the Eurobodalla Adult Education Centre in Orient Street and hosted by Gail Stevens. The experience gained from this workshop should allow Ray and Chris to maximize opportunities for sourcing funds to finance Museum projects. They found it very useful and were later provided with contact details for a large range of grant providers.

TONY AND JUDY WHELAN AT THE IMAGine AWARDS NIGHT IN SYDNEY

Members Tony and Judy Whelan attended the 2014 Museums and Galleries NSW IMAGine Awards event in Sydney on Friday 14th. November. Tony had been nominated for the Individual Achievement Award in the 'Volunteer' category, along with 3/4 other nominees. Unfortunately, Tony was 'pipped at the post' by Reg Richardson OAM from the Mosman Art Gallery. Well done Tony anyway!



MUSEUM OFFERS WORK EXPERIENCE TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

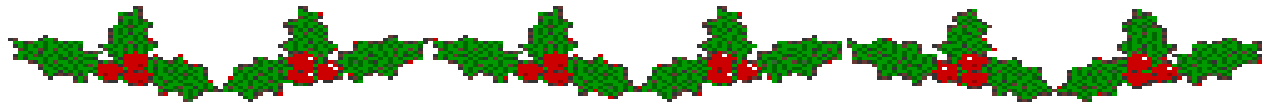


For three days in early December, Aaron Rannard from Batemans Bay High School was given the opportunity to experience the day-to-day operations of the Museum. Aaron spent time with Curator Myf Thompson, Archivist Janet Beesley, Publicity Officer Chris Ruzala (pictured left with Aaron) and other members. Aaron enjoyed his time with us and (hopefully) will report back favourably to his school.

MUSEUM TRIP TO BRAIDWOOD MUSEUM

On Saturday 22nd. November, a group of members car-pooled their way up to Braidwood, for a visit to the Museum. While there, they also attended the 'Airing of the Quilts' festival in the town centre. The photo shows members Judy Whelan, Vicky Quinn, Myf Thompson and Kerrie Rowe, plus members of the Braidwood Museum. Rumour is that some of the group even managed to have Tea at the local CWA Hall! Our thanks go to Rosalind Maddrell for hosting the tour.





WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Historical Society:

- Bill and Mary Maidment from Maloneys Beach. Bill is supporting Chris R. with improvements to the IT network, while Mary offers broad administrative skills;
- Lesley Moore from Long Beach. Lesley (Lee) is assisting with museum operations; and
- Bill Keenan from Long Beach. Bill is working on building maintenance and restoration.

TWO IMPORTANT REQUESTS TO ALL MEMBERS

Please give the following requests your earliest consideration:

- The Museum is open to visitors on 2nd. Sunday of every month, from 10.00am to 1.00pm. In order to offer a service to visitors, which is safe and covers the museum, book shop and the grounds, we need at least 2 volunteers (preferably three) to be on duty. If you can assist, please contact Myf, Ewan or any member of the Exec, so we can create a roster. Even if you can only commit to 1 month in 3, this will be appreciated;
- Vicky Quinn is organising a Stall for two of the forthcoming 'Friday Night Foreshore Markets' on 2nd and 9th January. These will be held on the lawns of Clyde Street, from about 5.00pm to 8.30pm. Vicky needs help with setting up and dismantling of the stall, goods and equipment. I will be helping Keven, but we need a couple more volunteers. If space permits, we will also set-up a mini Book Stall and have some pot plants for sale. Setting-up would start at about 3.30pm, so please contact Vicky or Chris if you can assist.

OUR CURATOR MYF THOMPSON RETRACED HER WELSH ROOTS IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR



'While visiting the home village of my mother in North Wales, I called in to Plas Newydd in Llangollen. In 1780, Irish aristocrats Sarah Ponsonby and Lady Eleanor Butler ran away and set up house together in the beautiful Dee Valley. Educated, wealthy, independent, they designed the house, its furnishings, and did much of the planting themselves, creating an individualistic sanctuary of great charm. Until their deaths some 45 years later, the Ladies of Llangollen, as they were widely known, entertained a circle of literary and political figures of the day at Plas Newydd.'

REQUESTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO 'PASTIMES' FROM MEMBERS

As mentioned in previous issues of 'Pastimes', can you please forward any stories/pictures/anecdotes to my email address, if you think that they are worth sharing in future issues of Pastimes.

Secondly, if there is a budding Newsletter Writer/Editor out there who would like to take over the reigns as Editor of Pastimes, please contact me in the New Year. I can show you the ropes!



AND NOW FOR SOME XMAS CRACKERS!!!!

It was Christmas Eve in at the local Butchers and a woman was anxiously picking over the last few remaining turkeys in the hope of finding a large one. In desperation she called over a shop assistant and said, 'Excuse me. Do these turkeys get any bigger?' 'No, madam, 'he replied, 'they're all dead.'



The Xmas Kiss. Romeo: What would it take to make you kiss me under the mistletoe? Juliette: An anaesthetic.

What did the reindeer say before launching into his comedy routine?
"This will sleigh you."

Good King Wenceslas phoned Domino's for a pizza.
The salesgirl asked him:- 'Do you want your usual? Deep pan, crisp and even?'

An honest politician, a kind lawyer and Santa Claus were walking down the street and saw a \$20 bill. Which one picked it up?? *Santa! The other two don't exist!*

How many elves does it take to change a light bulb? *Ten! One to change the light bulb and nine to stand on each other's shoulders!*

On the Sunday before Christmas, Reverend Billy Graham was walking down Highland Street in Mt Holly, North Carolina on his way to see a



parishioner. However, he wanted to post a parcel urgently so he asked a young boy where he could find the post office. When the boy had directed him, Reverend Graham thanked him and said, 'If you'll come to the Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven.' The boy replied, 'I think I'll give your sermon a miss. If you don't even know your way to the post office, how will you lead me to heaven?'



HA HA HA!!!!

And finally..... your Editor Chris Ruzala would like to wish you all a ...



.. and a very ...



.. in 2015!