



The Old Courthouse Museum

PASTIMES

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

Issue 22 – Feb/Mar 2016

'CLEAN-UP AUSTRALIA' – 9.30AM SUNDAY MARCH 6TH. 2016

Committee has decided to join in again on the annual clean-up of 'our neck of the woods'. The Water Gardens is one of the hubs for this event, so if you would like to help out by collecting and bagging litter and other rubbish from the Water Gardens and around the Museum, please contact any member of the Executive Committee. Gloves and refuse bags will be provided, but you will need to wear sturdy footwear.

DEDICATED CHILDRENS' AREA CREATED IN MAIN MUSEUM EXHIBITION AREA.



Welcome to 'Kids space'. An activity area for visitors' children and young school groups, which is informative, educational and great fun! Situated in the main display room, it is complemented by the 'Cabinets of Curiosity'. The blue boat was original used in the recent Bay Theatre Players production of 'Wind in the Willows'.

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS FOR JAN/FEB/MAR '16:

22/1 Janette Rukavina, 23/1 Sandra Smith, 14/2 Noel Murray, 17/2 Elliott Gregory, 4/3 Michelle McKenzie, 20/3 Mary Maidment, 25/3 Elaine Muldoon and 26/3 Rhonda Cooper.

EVEN MORE GRANTS AWARDED TO THE MUSEUM!!!!

The Society has been awarded two major grants:

- 'Museum Educator Outreach Program': an audience development initiative, we received \$5,058 from M&GNSW; and
- 'Passion in the Bay': to establish a community contemporary photo exhibition in-house and online, received \$1,488 from Reg. Arts NSW.

The Outreach Program will allow the Museum to increase its community involvement, through direct interaction with local schools and community groups. Hosting an in-house photo exhibition will be the first time we have received funding from an Arts organisation. Grants sub-Committee members (Myf Thompson, Ray Mooney and Chris Ruzsala) look set to 'crack a magnum' in the picture below. More details inside.



FEATURED ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE OF PASTIMES

Hand Prosthetics - A legacy for our children:

Thanks to Trove, an information trail covering over 170 years leads to the development of prosthetic hands for hundreds of needy children.

The Bonegilla Migrant Reception and Training

Centre: Curator Myf Thompson recounts her visit.

Historical Quiz (number 2): Try another brain teaser from our quiz team!

ARTIFICIAL HAND FOUND IN MUSEUM BRINGS HOPE TO THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN

From the National Library of Australia (NLA) comes this story from the team which supports 'Trove', its online search engine and information database. Our thanks goes to Catriona Bryce of the Trove Support team.

One morning, in late 2015, the team received a request that, on the surface, looked quite normal. A man named Ivan asked if they could help him borrow an object from the collection of the Health Museum of South Australia. This item was an antique **prosthetic hand**, made in the nineteenth century out of whale bone, metal spools and catgut pulleys. The team took a look on the Internet, to see what Ivan had been working on, and soon realised that before them was a wonderful, life-changing story of innovation. A digital record in Trove had helped Ivan change people's lives for the better.

Corporal Coles loses a hand

In Adelaide, 1842 Corporal John Coles was preparing for the second firing of his canon in a salute to honour the birth of the Duke of Cornwall. The gunpowder exploded and Corporal Coles lost the fingers of his right hand.



In 1844, Robert Hasting Norman, a Surgeon Dentist with an interest in carving objects in ivory and bone, arrived in Adelaide to establish the colony's first dental practice. Norman was particularly interested in practical applications of his carving. The Governor of South Australia at the time, Sir George Grey, sponsored Norman's construction of a prosthetic hand for Corporal Coles. Corporal Coles used the hand for 42 years until his death in 1886.

Constructed by Robert Norman (1845), Corporal Coles' prosthetic hand. Picture courtesy of the Health Museum South Australia

The problem

More than a century later Ivan Owen, an artist and engineer, is working away in his garage building a mechanical hand for a costume. He creates a YouTube video of the hand that catches the eye of a carpenter in South Africa, called Richard van As, who had lost fingers from one of his hands in an accident. Richard suggests they work together to build a mechanical prosthetic based on Ivan's design. With some crowd-funding and support from a 3D printing company, they begin work. Their project soon came to the attention of a South African woman, whose son Liam had been born without fingers on his right hand.

Prosthetic devices are expensive to make and not often made for children, given their growth would mean regularly re-making the prosthetic. Could cheaper prosthetics be made using today's technologies? Could they help Liam?

Discovery and creation

Ivan searched Google for historic examples of body-powered hand designs. His research lead him to the Health Museum of South Australia's story of the Coles Hand. This story, while useful, lacked the detail he needed to complete the design. Further searching ensued and he found the record in Trove, which included crucial details about the materials used and how the mechanism worked. Particularly useful was the description that the hand was '*beautiful in its mechanism and accurate in its working that Corporal Coles could pick up a button or a sixpence with pleasing facility*'. One hundred and sixty-eight years after Corporal Coles first used his prosthetic hand, Liam is able to pick up coins with his body-powered three dimensional hand.

Ivan and Richard shared their work on an open source platform called 'Thingiverse'. They intentionally made the design public domain, with the hope that this would lead to enhancements by others. This is indeed what happened. A community called 'Enabling the Future' has grown around the design, with a view to using 3D printing to literally give the world a helping hand. As Ivan says in his TEDx talk, '*these new technologies can be tools which help our neighbour, and our neighbour can be on the other side of the world*'.

Inspiration

So many lives have been changed by this. Over 1,600 children, who would have had to wait until adulthood to receive useable hands, now have access to a prosthetic that is so cheap and easy to construct that, as they grow, new hands can be printed with ease.

An open source community has formed, harnessing creative energies around the world to improve the design. In Paraguay and Uruguay, a group has downloaded the freely available files and started to produce customised 3D prostheses, developing a philanthropic model to distribute them. Ivan was hired by the University of Washington, to run their design lab and now has a team of students working on similarly practical 3D design projects.

The Health Museum of South Australia, a virtual museum made up of several South Australian health collections, digitised their records, shared them in Trove, and provided a wonderful example of the power of digitised collections to inspire innovation, and beyond that, the power of an idea to transcend time and geography.

Postscript

Subsequently, the NLA attempted construction of a prosthetic hand themselves. Colleagues nearby at Questacon (the National Science and Technology Centre), possess a 3D printer and were keen to become involved. They printed the parts for the NLA and the Trove team spent the afternoon constructing it. The picture (right) shows the Questacon and Trove version of 'The Raptor'.

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A Blessing (or distressing): The Bonegilla Migrant Centre

Curator Myf Thompson relates her experiences of a recent visit to an unusual tourist attraction

Just before Christmas I visited Bonegilla, the Migrant Reception and Training Centre, located 12km from Wodonga in North East Victoria. For many people, it was their first 'home' on Australian shores. Bonegilla became the largest and longest operating reception centre in the post-war era. More than 300,000 migrants passed through its doors between 1947 and 1971, with most of those originating from non-English speaking European countries. *Today, one in every twenty five Australians can claim a connection to the Centre.*

Made up of 24 Blocks, it had its own churches, banks, sporting fields, cinema, hospital, police station and railway platform. Today, Block 19 is all that remains of the original site, including living quarters, communal kitchen and dining area, recreation room and washing facilities. Photographs, audio visual displays and oral histories bring to life the stories and experiences of the people who travelled through the Centre.



I particularly appreciated the soundtrack to the dining area; as you gaze around, it rises in a cacophony of clattering dishes, utensils and many different languages strive to be heard in the barrack-style building, filling the empty space with humanity.

The Bonegilla story began in the years following World War II, when millions of people seeking a new start and peace, departed for Australia. An army camp at Bonegilla was transformed into a migrant reception and training centre, where new arrivals lived while they were processed and allocated jobs.

They had diverse arrival and settlement experiences. Many migrants recall arriving lonely and confused, unsure of where they were going and what they would be doing, and no language to express their distress. As months passed in the camp, the strain of communal life became a burden. Others saw Bonegilla as a place of great hope, symbolic of a new start and embraced the opportunity.



Perhaps it was the children who benefited most from this first experience of the Australian life style. The Centre has a space where visitors are invited to share part of their own Bonegilla experience. I left a story told me by George, my former brother in law. Polish-born George aged 12, and his mother, arrived at Bonegilla in the late 1940s. Growing up at war, he had fought against the Germans in Warsaw, running messages for the resistance and had killed a soldier. Coming to Bonegilla gifted him part of his lost childhood: the freedom to simply play.

Today, Block 19 is a public memory place. The site and its associated oral, written and pictorial records in the Bonegilla Collection at the Albury Library/Museum, bring to light post-war immigration policies and procedures that changed the composition and size of the Australian population.

Many amazing family stories took place at Bonegilla and as such, numerous families return to hold their special celebrations here. **Looking for someone?** Migration administrative records, including Bonegilla ID Cards, passenger and ship lists, are held at the National Archives of Australia. www.naa.gov.au. Only a small percentage of the migration related records archived can be accessed online. If you have difficulty, contact the NAA directly, via its project site www.naa.gov.au/whats-on/records-releases/making-australia-home.aspx

I strongly recommend a visit to the Bonegilla Migrant Experience. There are a selection of ways in which you can enjoy a visit, from pre-booked guided group tours, self-guided tours including the Suitcase Trail tour (activity for children), to a simple walk around the site. You can obtain more details online, by accessing <http://www.bonegilla.org.au>.

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What's been happening at the Old Courthouse Museum?

BOOK EMPORIUM CAPITALISES ON XMAS WEEK OPENING

The Museum may have closed its doors for the Xmas/New Year break, but member Chris Ruszala took a punt and opened up the Book Emporium for eight consecutive days, from 17 – 24th. Dec 2015.

After a slow start in the blistering heat for four days, the final four days produced a mini-rush (relatively speaking). In all, over 100 books were sold and nearly \$400 was raised for the Museum. This is far more than an average month's fundraising at the Book Emporium. As a bonus, the Museum was also opened for three hours on the Tuesday before Xmas. The picture shows Chris and Santa sharing an intimate moment.



WET WEATHER IN EARLY JANUARY BRINGS EXTRA VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM!!

As we all know, all-day rain in the Bay during school holidays leaves few options for families looking for day-time activities. So, when they have seen all of the family movies, there is one remaining option – the local Museum. And did they come????? The photo confirms that they did. The children were entertained by the 'Cabinets of Curiosity' and excited by the maritime display in the Courthouse.

January school holiday visitors kept our volunteers quite busy, but especially so when the weather had a turnaround. If only they came in these numbers when it was not raining!

CELEBRATIONS PLANNED FOR THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAY BRIDGE OPENING

The Bay bridge celebrates its 60th. Birthday on 21st November 2016. Accordingly, in conjunction with members from the Batemans Bay Rotary Club (President-Elect Jeff Thorpe and Maureen Manning), Robin Innes and Maureen Kinross, the Museum hosted an initial planning and scoping meeting on 3rd. February 2016. We hope to persuade other local community groups to jump on board this bandwagon, as the event is expected to draw a lot of attention from outside the Bay and the media.

The event will be known as the 'Bridge Birthday Seaside Carnivale'. The likely format is a parade along Orient Street/Clyde Street on the Saturday afternoon, followed by a walk across the bridge (footpath only) to Korner's Park for a BBQ. Celebrations would continue into the evening with a 1950s themed dance at the Soldiers Club. It was also agreed that the Museum would provide facilities for planning meetings and marketing/publicity. The Organising Committee will meet every fortnight at the Museum (Wednesdays at 10.00am).

'SHIP AHOY!' IN THE COURTHOUSE

The popular 'Camera on Gallipoli' exhibition from the Australian War Memorial has been tucked away, and Replaced in the Courtroom by three beautiful model ships, two telling the story of the vessels which came up the south coast (including the bark 'Endeavour'), and the 'Titanic' (which didn't), but was donated by members of the Vietnamese community in the 'shire.



MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED TO THE MUSEUM

It is not only the New Year that was celebrated by Museum volunteers. The Historical Society has been awarded two significant grants, applied for under its Strategic Plan for Audience Development. Museum & Galleries Project funding will bring consultant Rebecca Jones to establish its new Museum Educator program.



Curator Myf Thompson, explains, "Initially under Rebecca's guidance, we'll be training two members to develop our Outreach program to community and schools in the region. The Outreach program enables us to visit a wide range of facilities to support heritage-related activities. The grant also covers equipment purchase, so our Educators can get on the road at very short notice armed with cutting edge digital equipment, audio visual aids and artefacts. Some schools are limited by transport costs to just one annual trip to the Museum. With our 'we come to you' Outreach program, we can 'value add' to contemporary and heritage subject studies throughout the year. We can also record and link reminiscence from local residents directly back into the community, in a number of ways, building on the Society's role as a key cultural resource."

Regional Arts' Country Area Support program awards were announced on January 15th. With advice from South East Arts Region staff, the Historical Society received funding for its photographic project 'Passions in the Bay'. Residents will be asked to nominate a person who is truly 'passionate' about a hobby, their work, or a particular cause. Expect the unexpected! Ted Richards, distinguished local photographer, will produce portraits of the 12 winning nominees for public display. This is the Museum's first venture into a contemporary arts-based project. We are very excited to have the support of local Fairfax media Bay Post and Moruya Examiner in promotion and community engagement. More details to come!

TRAINING COURSE OFFERED BY ADULT EDUCATION – RESTORING METAL ARTEFACTS

The local Adult Education Centre ('Adult-Ed') is offering a day-long training course for people interested in the restoration of items/objects made from metal. This is an ongoing activity at the Museum, so if you would like to gain a new skill or upgrade an existing one, please contact Curator Myf Thompson for more details. The course fee (\$65) will be covered by the Museum.

'WIND IN THE WILLOWS' COMES TO THE MUSEUM



Over 1000 people enjoyed the December production of '*Wind in the Willows*', presented by local community group Bay Theatre Players. The Company is promoting its 2016 activities, with a hands-on display of large-scale props and costumes from that production. The photo (left) shows members Bill Maidment (tail) and Di Hantas (bunny ears) enjoying the display in the Museum's Community Space. The picture below shows the caravan and the horse's costume.

This impressive display will be on show to visitors for the next 4-5 weeks. FYI, the production has been nominated for Best Costume and Set Designs in the Canberra area Theatre Awards, to be announced in February 2016. In case you did not know, three of our members were in the cast (Myf Thompson, Elliot Gregory and Janet Beesley), so it's a nostalgic display for them. Well done to all! The 'try it on' approach has proved immensely popular, with children enjoying the experience of wearing a long rat's tail or a hedgehog hat. **Reader suggestions for future exhibitions are welcomed.**



CALLING ALL MEMBERS! EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS REQUESTED.

As a result of a recent incident at the Museum, can all members please provide an alternative contact name and number, in case of an emergency. Please advise Rhonda Cooper (Assistant Secretary) directly, by telephone (4472 8993 during opening hours) or via email: (secretary@oldcourthousemuseum.com).

ANOTHER CALL TO MEMBERS! DONATIONS TO THE BOOK EMPORIUM

The Book Emporium (BE) had two very successful months of sales in December and January. Consequently, the stock is slowly reducing, as book donations have stabilised. Could you all

please re-visit your own book collections (and those of your friends and relatives) and consider some further donations of quality books. Interestingly, I have now identified a new market for boxed sets of DVDs (i.e. TV and movie series). In time, the BE will re-locate permanently to the main Meeting Room. Under one roof, in a modern environment and with high quality stock, I anticipate that the BE should become the Museum's main source of fundraising by mid-2016.

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AND FINALLY.... YES, IT'S QUIZ TIME AGAIN!!

1. Who was Charles Harpur of Nerigundah?
2. Where is Joe's Creek ?
3. Where in the woods would you find 'Old Spotty'?
4. Why was a writer of Wild West novels important to tourism here?
5. Do you know the origin of the street names Herarde & Heradale?

1. Born 1813, 19thC **Australian** poet, arguably our first colonial poet. Appointed gold superintendent at Nerrigundah. From Bodalla a commemorative marker can be found on the road out to the village of Eurobodalla and Nerigundah. His grave is on private property on the hilltop immediately above the roadside marker.
2. Next to where Birdland Park is now on Beach Road. Once a flowing tidal creek, and an important food source and recreational area for aboriginals living around Hanging Rock, Joe's Creek was diverted to build the Manor retirement Village. It now forms a stagnant lagoon due to the nearby rock wall construction and other developments nearby.
3. Murramurang National Park There are eucalypts standing today which existed well before the Endeavour sailed up the coast. **Old Spotty**—a corymbia maculate - is well over 400 years old, 3 metres in circumference and over 50 metres tall. It is signposted from the Highway.
4. American author Zane Grey became a millionaire from his novels mythologising the Wild West. He spent it exploring new places to game fish around the world. In the early 1930s he came to Batemans Bay, Narooma and Bermagui, and put them on the sports fishing map through his travel writings and world records. The Museum has photos of his visit.
5. Percy Bill, one time owner of the Bayview Hotel, was a keen supporter of the 'Sport of kings'. He was a land-owner in town, and streets off Beach Road were named after 2 of his horses.

Key dates to note:	Can YOU:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members Meeting for 2016: 10.00am on 2nd. Tuesday of every second month;• Ladies Stall dates at Bridge Plaza: 25th. February 2016, then 31/3, 28/4 and 26/5;• Bunnings Sausage Sizzle: Late Mar 2016, tba.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build things, make things, restore things, research things, talk about things.
Chris Ruszala – Editor	Or do you just have an interest in our towns, our history and our cemeteries? secretary@oldcourthousemuseum.com