

# PASTIMES

OLD COURTHOUSE & POLICE  
RESIDENCE MUSEUM:  
Museum Place  
BATEMANS BAY NSW  
[b.baymuseum@optusnet.com.au](mailto:b.baymuseum@optusnet.com.au)  
TELEPHONE  
(02) 4472 8993

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## NELLIGEN - PART 1

In 1821 Lieutenant Robert Johnston charted parts of Bateman Bay and the Clyde River noting some "good forest land" in the vicinity of present day Nelligen. In 1827 Major Mitchell sent surveyors Thomas Florance and Robert Hoddle to explore and map the south coast and hinterland. On the 2nd December 1829 Hoddle laid out 640 acres of "good forest land at Nellican Creek" for absentee land owner Francis Moylan. *Continued on Page 2*

### AUSTRALIA'S STAMPS - 100 YEARS ON

Philately, or stamp collecting, has a remarkable following considering the humble origins of each stamp. On 2 January, 2013 the Australian stamp celebrated its 100th birthday *Continued Page 3*

### CAN YOU HELP

We have a three questions on page 4 that we hope you can help us answer. The Society has also decided to start some work on our historic cemeteries and roadside memorials. See the article on page 5 *Continued on Page 4 and 5*

### Help Wanted

*We have a lot of work to do keying in all of the great work that was done by our members before computers. If you have a friend with keying skills who can give us a couple of hours a week please talk to Myf or Gail.*

*Nelligen probably the 1950s. Note the large building in the centre is the Illawarra and South Coast Steam Navigation Company's storage shed.*



*A denture making device - this one was "home," made*



*The opening of a road between Braidwood and Nelligen made delivering product from Braidwood to the markets of Sydney and*

*Did you know that the Illawarra Steam Navigation Company serviced the south coast of NSW from 1858 to the early 1950s (although it had a few name changes along the way). In 1870, the schedule showed that the Clyde River (which had several ports including Nelligen) was serviced every three days. Moruya was visited every two weeks in the same period. (Source: Pemberton, Barry (1979). Australian Coastal Shipping. Carlton, Victoria: Melbourne University Press, Page 81.) Some additional information provided by Ewan Morrison*

# Nelligen - Part 1

In 1843 Baker's Australian Atlas noted a primitive bridle path linking Broulee with *Nellikeng* Creek. Early pioneer settlers were attracted by the good timber and boat access, and the river channels as far as Shallow Crossing became well known amongst the ship's masters.

The need for a road from the southern tablelands was identified early, and in 1835 the Colonial Secretary received a petition for "a road from Braidwood to Bateman Bay whereby the Braidwood district settlers might ship their wool and receive supplies". A further petition from the Braidwood citizens in 1852 sought a road between Braidwood and the "head of navigation on the Clyde River". As a consequence, a workmen's camp was established at the junction of *Nellikeng* Creek and the Clyde River and work on the road commenced. James McCauley piloted the first steam ship to Nelligen in 1853. The establishment of the town, complete with approved plan, was formally announced by the Colonial Secretary's Office in December 1854 and in 1856 the Clyde Mountain Road was opened.

Timber felling was now undertaken on a grand scale and with the introduction of regular steamship services the population of Nelligen and surrounding district expanded rapidly. The steamers brought in supplies for Braidwood and neighbouring goldfields, and loaded return cargoes

of wool, gold, timber and produce for markets in Sydney and elsewhere.

By the end of 1858, Nelligen was described as *"a stirring little township of bark huts, serviced by the two large stores of S Richardson (of Braidwood) and Wilson and Bush from which 18 or 20 teams left daily to convey goods, brought twice weekly by steamers from Sydney, for Braidwood and its goldfields. A public house has been opened (Richardson's) and a retail store for Pott and Alexander. Other places are under construction"*.



The Teacher's residence c 1900

A post office was established in a section of Richardson's Inn on 1 November 1858. In 1859 Richardson constructed the Commercial Hotel, Nelligen's first brick building (none of it remains today). A four-roomed watch house was completed on 31 July 1860. A report in the Sydney Morning Herald of 5 October 1860 noted one large warehouse, belonging to the Illawarra Steam Navigation Company, 4 public houses, 2 stores, 2 blacksmiths shops, one baker. Land sales were held on 5 November 1860.

By 1866 Manning had erected a shed adjacent to the wharf, the Steampacket Hotel had been erected, there was a coach office, a carrying office and the ISN Co's stores and offices. The town had a population of about 150 people and there was a Post Office, Police Station and National School. (cont next issue)

*This story is taken from work undertaken by Pip Giovanelli for the Eurobodalla Shire Council. It was published in 2010 and is titled Nelligen Main Street Study*

*As we work our way through the historic record, it's interesting to note that our district has a closer link with Braidwood and Araluen than we do with Ulladulla or Moruya. The "land of many waters", as Eurobodalla is now known, clearly presented a more formidable barrier than the Mountains to our west. Ships and shipping were a major part of our development.*

## AUSTRALIA'S STAMPS - 100 YEARS ON

In 1913 a red 1d stamp bearing a kangaroo and a map of Australia superseded the colonial stamps being used in individual states.

It didn't enter circulation without controversy. It was rubbished at the time for being a weak example of Australian culture and created great divides within the relatively newly independent Federation of Australia as to whether the stamp should include the profile of the king, or indeed any British royal symbols.

Its design was the ultimate result of a competition held by the Postmaster-General's Department. Launched in Jan 1911, the competition received 1051 designs by 533 entrants.

The first prize of £100 was awarded in May to Hermann Altmann, from Victoria. His design featured a full-face portrait of King George V, complete with six shields bearing the insignia of each state, a kangaroo and an emu. Second place, with a prize of £50, was tied by Donald Mackay and Edwin Arnold, both of England. Mackay's stamp bore the Coat-of-Arms and Arnold's kangaroo.

However, in Oct, Charles Frazer became the new Postmaster-General. He took an interest in stamps and was shown the winning entries. Later, describing it to Parliament as "execrable", he swiftly rejected Altmann's design, and appointed the Victorian Artist's Association to find an artist to create a new stamp. They commissioned a local watercolour artist, Blamire Young, who began working on the design while Frazer publicly hinted to the press: "If a picturesque stamp can be provided in which an outline of Australia is featured, I am certainly favourably

inclined towards it."

After Young submitted several designs to the Post Office, Frazer liked the ones with kangaroos, finding them to be an apt representation of the Commonwealth, and wrote a note: "1. *Get coastline of Aust.* 2. *Insert Baldy's Roo (Edwin Arnold, one of those tied for second place in the competition).* 3. *Produce in colours for different denominats.*"

After some minor changes, the final design was ready by early 1912, though not without some mishaps, including one print that accidentally omitted Tasmania. Frazer, proud of the finished product, announced the design on 2 Apr, well before the stamp went on sale on 2 Jan, 1913.

In Jun 1913, the Labor government was toppled in a federal election and Agar Wynne, the Liberal government's Postmaster-General, announced the kangaroo-and-map stamp was to be replaced by Hermann Altmann's 1911 competition-winning stamp. But it proved to be too complex, so a simpler design featuring the Royal portrait was produced, and issued in Dec 2013.

Frazer defended his stamp, saying "A postage stamp is one of the best advertising mediums the country can have," arguing that an Australian stamp with a British monarch doesn't represent Australia. (Sourced from <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/on-this-day-in-history-australias-first-stamp-released.htm> sighted 10 September 2012)



The design of first official Australian stamp - the kangaroo and map stamp (Credit eBay)

Did you know that Stamp Collecting is one of the world's most popular hobbies, with the number of collectors in the United States alone estimated to be over 20 million?

(source: Vickers, Marcia (15 December 1996).

"Delivery Isn't Guaranteed, but Stamps Are Turning Profits". New York Times)

The Postmaster-General was a Ministerial position (his modern equal is Minister for Communication)

## Can you help

in the last newsletter we asked you to help us locate Mitchell's Mill. Your advice has allowed us to clearly place Mitchell's - thank you!!

We are still having trouble with the second part of our question.

We have two photos taken some years apart but showing this scene. In one the place names are given as Mrs R y a n ' s House, Patrech's Boat Shed and Perry's Mill.

The other the photo is simply titled Pickett's House.

Which is correct?

If you can help please talk to Ewan, Di or Myf.

### Our Current Big Questions

Last year, Ewan asked our members: what is the origin of the name Orient Street.

While that question is currently doing a tour of the nation (former residents now living in Queensland have been asked), he thought he'd ask another one: Why is Mt Agony (near Durras) called Mount Agony?

If you can help with an answer to either question, please contact us at the Museum.

### A Pat on the Back

Our small publication has received praise from Tamara Lavrencic,

Museum Programs and Collections Manager at Museums & Galleries NSW.

Tamara kindly emailed and said: *I received the latest edition of Pastimes today and I felt I had to email to congratulate you on your publication. We receive many newsletters from ... around NSW, but few are as enticing in their layout and use of tantalising snippets to lead the reader further in. Well done all, I'll be keeping a copy handy as an example of what others can aim for.*

Thanks Tamara and congratulations to all our readers whose contributions keep our newsletter interesting.



#### EDITORIAL TEAM

Dianne HANTAS

Ewan MORRISON

Myf THOMPSON



## Our Historic Cemeteries

Burial places are among the earliest works of human architecture. More than any other designed landscape, cemeteries communicate the social and spiritual ideals of their communities. Poised between past and future, life and death, material and spiritual, earth and heaven, cemeteries are repositories rich in meaning and architectural impact.

Sadly, many of the Historic Cemeteries of our region are in poor repair and the Historic Society has agreed to do something about it.

We are seeking volunteers who are interested in: promoting the interests of our cemeteries, lone graves and roadside memorials; raising public awareness of the social, cultural and historical aspects of our burial places and cemeteries in general; and, undertaking work on, and raising funds for, special projects on burial sites within our region.

If you have an interest in regional history, family history, heritage gardening, religious iconography or just an interest - please contact the Museum on 4472 8993.

Perhaps some of your friends or neighbours would like to be involved, too (if they are, they would be required to join the Society).



*Ada Ryan's Grave  
in Batemans Bay.*

*Ada was the mother  
of our tourist industry.*



*Join us in  
our efforts to record  
and/or preserve these  
important sites*



*Graves at the  
old Catholic  
Cemetery  
Batemans  
Bay*

## What other Museums are doing ...



*Interior of the Fleet Air Arm Museum in Nowra (credit visitNSW.com)*

### Sad news:

With sadness we note the passing of society members Mrs Helga SHEPHEARD, Mr Jos JENSEN, and Mrs Robyn FERGUSON.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

THE EDITOR  
PASTIMRS

PO Box 448  
Batemans Bay NSW 2536

## PASTIMES

### Our Current Projects:

*Then & Now* - photographic history publication  
Schools of the District  
Recording and naming our photos  
Recording the maps and drawings we hold  
Photographing our artefacts  
Researching our artefacts  
Telephony Display  
The Local Oyster Industry  
Cheese production in the district  
Blandford House  
Maritime History of the District

I took my 10 year old grandson to Fleet Air Arm Museum in the last School Holidays. While I was interested in the aeroplanes, he fell in love with the helicopter flight simulator.

The Museum was disappointing as it only gave clinical details about each display. I would have found stories about the way the displays were used by the fleet air arm and its operations more interesting. But it was still worth the look.

It's a long way from food outlets and the drive from here meant we arrived about lunchtime. The canteen has been closed permanently and the vending machines were out of stock. If you decide to go, particularly if you have kids with you, take supplies.

### Can you:

- Build things
- Make things
- Restore things
- Research things
- Help us with our website
- Help us with our IT

Or do you just have an interest?

Drop the Editorial Team a line at [b.baymuseum@optusnet.com.au](mailto:b.baymuseum@optusnet.com.au)

Dianne HANTAS, Ewan MORRISON,  
Myf THOMPSON

