

“After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are what we need most in the world.”

Phillip Pullman

Be part of the Bay's Story

‘Crossing the Clyde’ is a new permanent exhibition to be housed in our grounds, proceeding in two stages.

For over 18 months the Society has been liaising with John Holland Group, and latterly with Transport NSW, to ensure the community has a permanent record to share the stories of when and how we found ways to cross our Clyde.

Stage 1 has been removal from site and storage of key items that will eventually be displayed. Our volunteers are creating interpretative signage around stories of indigenous use, the punt, our first and now second bridges to enhance these artefacts.

We are indebted to John Holland Group for generous in-kind support, sorting and retaining original artefacts and funding a story video to help make such a ‘community legacy’ possible.

FUNDING Stage 2 Whilst we had hoped to house the collection in the original wheel-house from atop the old Bridge its fragility, and possibly asbestos, made this impractical.

We are raising funds for a purpose-built shed to house ‘Crossing the Clyde’.

Please help us share this story.

At time of publication we have for sale three wheels from the iconic Batemans Bay bridge lifting system

OWN YOUR OWN piece of Bridge history in the shape of a wheel (see p.2 for details) whilst helping to create a permanent home for our stories.

We understand not everyone will want a wheel!

Any donation toward a building for the Exhibition is sincerely appreciated. Via Paypal, direct to our bank, or by cheque to our Treasurer. Receipts will be issued.

Full donation details are on our website.

www.batemansbayheritagemuseum.com

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

PASTIMES

Newsletter of the Clyde River and
Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc
Issue No. 48 Spring 2021



Home
Schooling

What's Inside...

Articles

- * Mutton Birds and Motor Bikes
- * Jelly—a status symbol?
- * ‘Love Locks’ on the Bridge
- * Bright as a box of Budgies
- * What are Parish Maps?
- * The School Sampler
- * Word of the Year
- * Yuin Country Explored—Video

Military History

- * Battle of Nui Li
- * National flag remembers 9/11

Photos from the Vault

Mogo History Group

- * School Teacher Profile

S.T.E.A.M.

- * Aussie Bird Count is on Again
- * World Space Week 2021

Exploring Online Links

- * History Council/Powerhouse/
Museum of Illusions/NFSA

Behind the Scenes

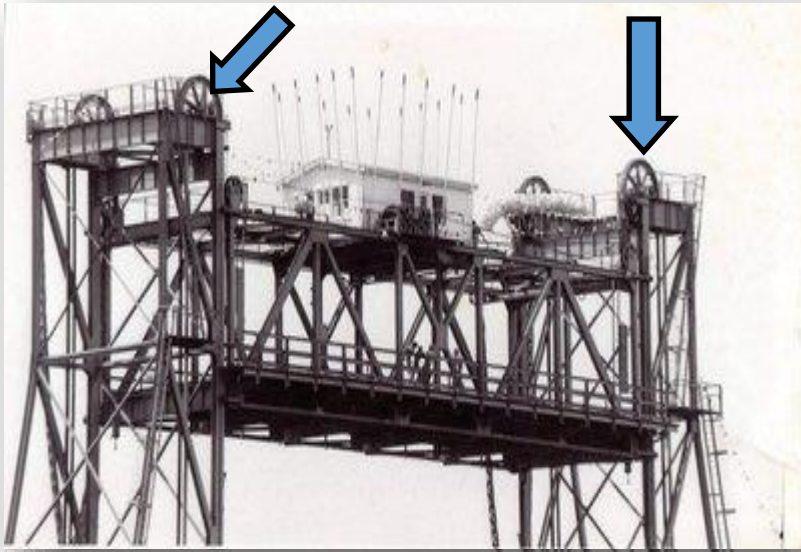
- * AGM President's Report
- * New Committee
- * Grant funding
- * Zoom Training

Walawaani

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, the Walbunja people of the Yuin nation, and show our respect to Elders past and present.

Funding our 'Crossing the Clyde' Exhibition

"I grew up jumping off that bridge."



MAKE AN OFFER for one of these iconic pieces of Bridge HERITAGE

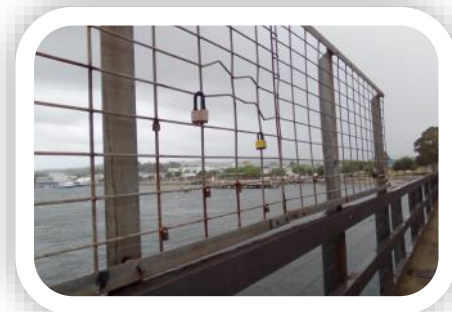
John Holland Group generously donated the four wheels to our Society, one to keep and the remaining three to fundraise.

Diameter: 3' 7" or 1092mm
Circumference: 3424mm
Weight (not weighed as yet but very heavy!

Enquiries to Ewan Morrison 0420 760 080 ewan.morrison@graymorr.com

LOVE LOCKS

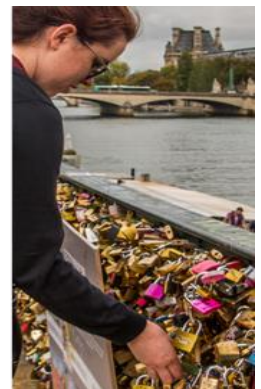
One of the bridge stories we are keen to pursue is the presence of several love locks on the fence along the pedestrian walkway. A couple of the original locks we will be receiving are clearly dated in the 1980s. Was that you? Did the relationship last?



The popularity of love padlocks (also known as love locks) is demonstrated around the world on bridges, walls, fences and monuments, particularly in the famously 'romantic' cities of Paris, Rome and New York. Frequently engraved or otherwise marked with names, dates and fond messages, they come in all sizes and shapes.

China claims the tradition as its own; so does a small Serbian town following a tragic end to a WW1 relationship. What began as a simple symbol of romance has grown globally to be, in some instances, controversial. In 2016 in Melbourne, 20,000 locks were clipped and stripped off a bridge when a cable wire began to sag under the extra weight.* Fortunately, that never happened to our iconic bridge.

**The 99% Invisible City: A Field Guide to the Hidden World of Everyday Design, by Mars, Roman.*



Your Views to the new Council

"Council is updating Eurobodalla's Community Strategic Plan, which happens every council term. Council has released details of a dedicated

website, 'Our Eurobodalla', which will go live on 5/10/21. The community is invited to share ideas and discuss what Eurobodalla will look like in 20 years' time. The plan will help newly-elected councillors understand the community's aspirations and encourage a sense of common purpose and responsibility." [ESC News 30/9/2021]

We'll certainly be doing our best to see heritage is right up there! Please add your voice.

Bright as a Box of Budgies

Not to put a ticket on ourselves, but Aussie English is the most colourful and inventive of all the English-based colloquial languages.



Extracts from 'Words of Oz' by word-smith and 2CH broadcaster Kel Richard. in *National Geographic*.

*"It draws on the cant and slang of the transported, the dialects of immigrants' home areas, contact with Aboriginal languages, a characteristically sardonic sense of humour and an ability to turn a phrase in a moment."*¹

Convicts came from everywhere across the UK, bringing a broad mix of regional accents and expressions

Convict 1: *Sorry, me old china, I tripped on the apples.*

Convict 2: *China? What apples, you cockney ejit?*

Convict 1: *Sorry, mate, apples and pears. Stairs.*

Convict 2: *Anyway, I'm not your mate, we're not married, I just work with you. But you look like a decent bloke, so I reckon we'll be cobbers.*

Convict 1: *What's a bloke? What's a cobber?*

Add thick regional accents and illiteracy to dialect and so it goes.

An example of how our pleasure in 'playing' with language developed is 'dinkum', a word originally used by miners in Derbyshire to mean especially hard work. Dinkum continued as term for work as illustrated in Boldrewood's *Robbery Under Arms* when a character says, "It took us an hour's hard dinkum to get near the peak". Later on, dinkum took on the meaning of the adjective 'fair', with the notion of 'a fair day's work for a fair day's pay'. Its meaning moved from fair to honest. So today, dinkum means *true, honest and genuine*. But it started out in life as a Derbyshire dialect word for work.

Whenever the words *larrikin, boofhead, bloke, or paddock* are used we are speaking 200 year old British dialect words.

'Flash' language was a kind of code used by criminals and low Londoners designed to disguise what they were talking about, and some words were simply adapted. For example, "Once a jolly swagman ..." *Swag* was Cockney London criminal slang for a parcel of stolen goods, but in the bush its meaning changed to become a bundle carried on a tramp's back. When you change your 'duds', or ask for a 'dollop' of cream, you're speaking the flash language of early colonists.



Ever wondered why ranch owners are ranchers, and farmers have a farm, but Australians have graziers working a station? The word comes from the early military use of the word station. When they weren't on the move they were stationary for a period of time—a station. Where colonists stopped and settled down became known as a station.

In Britain, employees of the government were, and are, members of the Civil Service. In Australia, the term for convicts was softened to government men, or servants of the Crown. But as early as 1797 another term in use was 'public servants'. People in government employ have been members of the Public Service ever since. But only in Australia.'

(Ed. Contribution] While some miss the slang of their childhood, Aussie English is as alive as ever.

The rellies are coming over for a coldie this arvo and they'll be going off if the barbie's still cactus. I'm stuffed. Can you take the ankle biters to Maccas? Better bring back a slab and a couple of Cab Sav.

Tupperware hostess with the Mostest.

At Home selling parties. Easing money worries in the 1950s. And ongoing.

Avon? Nutrimetics?



BEHIND THE SCENES

Did you imagine we were on holiday during enforced Covid restrictions?

Grant Applications August-October 2021

Grant funding does not pay our operational costs—it allows us to develop projects and broaden our services to the community.



Awarded \$6426 from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Recovery, facilitating a Sydney based creative consultancy to provide face to face workshop on Volunteer Recruitment and Retention; we will invite all local NFP community and heritage organisations to participate.



Awarded \$1900 from the Society of St Vincent de Paul for the purchase of two Note book computers for members of our Mogo History Group, for Outreach projects.



Awarded \$5,000 from ClubsGrant NSW for emergency painting work on our Heritage Building. (Only 4\$5,000 to go to complete!)



Awarded \$240 Museum & Galleries 'Leg Up' grant Training in Media Technology conducted by local cameraman and film maker, Len Glasser of **LensVision**.

Awaiting Notification. \$1790 Grant Application – Museums and Galleries NSW Small Project, interpretive materials for 'Crossing the Clyde' Exhibition Stage 1.

Thanks to Ewan, Fran and Myf for pursuing Project funding, to our Admin volunteers for providing essential background stats, and our community partners for letters of support.

ZOOM Workshops Members have attended include:

Occupational Health & Safety, Covid-19 Procedures & Updates, Introduction to Disability Access, Social Media 101, Story-telling for Small Business, Social Media Platforms, Marketing [ongoing] through Business Services NSW.

Ehive Collection Management

A mighty job organising and uploading the transfer of our Collections data from proprietary database to eHive Cloud-based. Project run by Fran Gray (and 'tapped on the shoulder' Ken Gray, in addition to his grounds work for us).

Social Media and IT

Debra Hope, queen of the 'net', and Bookshop manager, keeping us out there and relevant. Always on the lookout for new grants and new opportunities. As Covid limited his key fund-raising role, Chris Ruzsala focused on IT with Mark of **Clyde Computers**, setting up a new computer network . Biiig job!

S.T.E.A.M.

UN declared annual World Space Week 2021 Oct 4th– 11th celebrates "Women in Space"! Join thousands of participants in over 90 countries celebrating accomplishments and contributions of women to the space sector and sciences. Go to: <https://www.worldspaceweek>.

The Aussie Backyard Bird Count is back Oct 18th—24th

Celebrate **National Bird Week** by taking part in the biggest citizen science project to hit Aussie shores. Join thousands of people from across the country, heading out into their backyards, local parks or favourite open spaces to take part in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count. All you need to take part is 20 minutes and your favourite outdoor space - you don't even have to leave home, making it the ultimate Covid-safe activity! As well as contributing to Bird-Life Australia's knowledge of Aussie Birds, you will have the chance to win some great prizes! Head to the website: aussiebirdcount.org.au



INTERESTING STUFF ON LINE

History Council of New South Wales. YouTube A wide range of videos created for History Week 2021, now available on line.

Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Powerhouse)

Select **New Acquisitions** on the **Collection** menu bar to view 30+ latest additions to this national treasure. Then choose 'Collection' and the sky's the limit (44,885 anyway). Clicking on the object image brings up the catalogue detail.

'Blade Electron Mk VI'

The first commercially available electric battery car made in Australia. Around 50 of these vehicles were produced in Victoria over the period 2008-2014. Initiated by Ross Blade, the company utilised Hyundai Getz vehicles, removing the internal combustion engine and installing an electric motor, lithium-ion-phosphate batteries and electric control systems.



National Film and Sound Archive www.nfsa.gov.au/latest/colourised-footage-last-tasmanian-tiger

1933 THYLACINE FOOTAGE COLOURISED *Samuel François-Steininger has colourised footage from the NFSA collection of Benjamin, the last Tasmanian Tiger in captivity.* **Naturalist** David Fleay, a conservationist who advanced the breeding of endangered species in captivity, was bitten on the buttocks after shooting the film. At just under 80 seconds, Fleay's footage is the longest single film of the 10 separate thylacine films known to exist. It is distressing to view the miserable conditions in which this animal, last known of his species, died. Colourised version is emotive, and adds to an appreciation of Australia's senseless list of loss.

Museum of Illusions:

Type **museum of illusions prague** in your search engine and select **images**. One day we may have one here.



When We Can Hit the Road — Gulgong Pioneers Museum

The Mudgee-Gulgong district was an important gold mining centre in the late 1800s and Gulgong, in particular, was one of the richest deep lead gold areas in New South Wales. The most significant items in this collection are the buildings—three original relocated buildings, and an original in situ streetscape. These buildings capture the essence of the early history in Gulgong. They also have key collections of machinery, textiles, printing equipment and photographs.

This is one of three Collections in this "must visit when you can" heritage town in the Central West. The **Holtermann Museum** features iconic 1870s gold rush photos by Merlin and Bayliss from the UNESCO listed Holtermann Collection original glass plates held in the State Library NSW. Presentation is top class with input from the Library.

Who amongst us can't quote at least one or two classic Lawson lines? The **Henry Lawson Centre** is dedicated to the life, times, and works of Henry Lawson, via photos, paintings, prints and a large variety of Lawson memorabilia. Its Lawson collection is second in size only to the State Library.

NEW ACQUISITIONS



We have made several modest acquisitions to the Collection —and were sent to the naughty corner by Treasurer Fran. However, they were eBay purchases (with free delivery) and, as many of you will realise, these items do not come up very often. You may have similar souvenirs about Batemans Bay at home – or you sent them to friends—please save us some dollars and donate them to the Collection. Our purchases include this **1940s postcard with concertina photos** Batemans Bay.



Remember the craze for collecting teaspoons? Excellent quality, this has a handsome wombat on top of B Bay.



We couldn't obtain this Shelley china plate, but the transfer demonstrates an unexpected value of these vintage items. The text reads '**Public Oyster Wall, Schnapper Island & Tollgates Batemans Bay**'. The illustration includes what looks like a maritime light on the 'public oyster wall'. **CAN YOU HELP DATE IT? Or provide any detail.** Thank you!

THE SCHOOL SAMPLER

"If we ever managed to complete the required rows of sampled stitches, the whole length of lawn ended with a hand-stitched buttonhole in two rows of blanket stitch. The particular moment of delight was being allowed to wield a razor blade to slice the enclosed space. Almost equally enjoyable was passing a button back and forth through the hole. It works! It works".

It was 1963 when I sat in that room of bowed heads learning that patience mattered and a small thing could be beautiful in itself. In the quiet contemplation of a sun-warmed classroom, the experiential task of learning that something could be achieved one stitch at a time hinted at the complexities that lay before us. Stitch, unpick, check in with your classmate, look out the window for a bit, restitch, make something with your hands, noticing that it is uniquely yours, stitch, unpick, check in with your classmate, restitch. Progress."

Story by Denise Nicholson The Australian 24/9/2016



Singer Model 338 in Sea Foam Green.

Do you remember the first item you made at school ?

Were you taught to use a sewing machine at home, or at school?

Do you still sew? Have you taught anyone else?



HISTORICAL PARISH MAPS

Parish maps are an index to identifying historical land records such as titles, survey plans, tenures and gazettes. Most parish maps show:

- boundaries of individual land parcels in relation to physical features such as roads, rivers, railways and water bodies
- references to Crown plans, the official survey plans for portions of land
- names of the first land owner, grantee or lessee and the first title information (Volume-Folio) for each parcel granted after 1863
- administration activities over Crown lands such as reserves, licenses, leases and roads.

There are more than 35,000 early edition parish and pastoral maps online, accessible through the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV). The viewer can be accessed by selecting the HLRV icon on www.six.nsw.gov.au.

What is a parish map?

The parish map was the basic fabric for land administration in New South Wales (NSW) and is a key index to identifying historical land records. The maps were used for more than 150 years recording property boundaries and providing references to Crown land dealings and the first grants.

As parish maps recorded changes to land over time they were progressively superseded once it became difficult to chart or note further information on them. The maps were cancelled and new editions replaced them.

Two sets of county, parish, town and village maps were created and maintained by the former Department of Lands and its predecessors. One set of maps was kept at the district office and a duplicate set was kept in the head office.

The **Historical Parish Map collection** are all the cancelled Crown land parish maps and pastoral holding maps originally captured as part of the Parish Map Preservation Project.

The majority of these were from the district office.

The 'cancelled' maps are a good starting point for research if you are:

- investigating the history of your property
- establishing the history of a locality
- interested in areas that your family settled in NSW.

The historical parish maps complement the **'Charting Map' collection** which is accessible online through the Historical Land Records Viewer. The Charting Map collection includes the last editions of the Land Titles Office (LTO) charting maps and Crown land parish maps in circulation before they were digitised.



We have a selection of local and regional maps at the Museum.

Member Ray Mooney is our "Mr Maps", always happy to help with your enquiries.



"It's easy to forget that old maps were once statements of the very latest in thinking: new visions brimming with the potential and power of up-to-date knowledge." The Writer's Map., Huw Lewis-Jones.

Yuwinj-Dhari Bulwal - Yuin Country Explored

The popular Yuwinj-Dhari Bulwal - Yuin Country Explored documentary was released on Youtube this week [Sept 21 2021) for all to watch.

This visually stunning film presents some of the important stories surrounding Captain Cook's arrival in the HMB *Endeavour* along the NSW South Coast and the past and present consequences for local Aboriginal people.

In the past 12 months, Eurobodalla Council held a number of free screenings for the film and council's arts coordinator Indi Carmichael was excited to now open it up to the world.



The project was originally designed as a series of outdoor exhibitions and events, but due to COVID-19 last year it was adapted to create the short film featuring Yuin dance, stories and artwork.

Watch it now on [Youtube](#).

Yuwinj Dhari Bulwal ~ Yuin Country Explored - YouTube

View in comfort at the Museum on re-opening to the public, with thanks to Eurobodalla Shire Council for permission.

Vivienne Mason, sharing a story.

Reading a lot in lockdown? Maybe downsizing?

WE LOVE YOUR GOOD QUALITY BOOKS

We have a renewed focus on this key fundraising activity to pay for basic day to day costs.

Because our stock is donated, a good turnover is essential to keep booklovers coming back to buy even more!

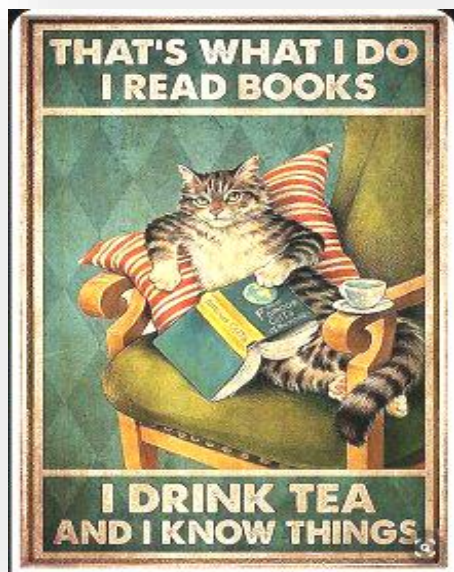
Donors can drop off a bag at reception during open hours, or into the box left on our verandah when we are closed, including for Covid.

Please, no encyclopaedias or damaged items.

All books are sorted, priced and sanitised before shelving by author.

With your help we'll be raring to go with new stock when we open again. **THANK YOU.**

Debra Hope

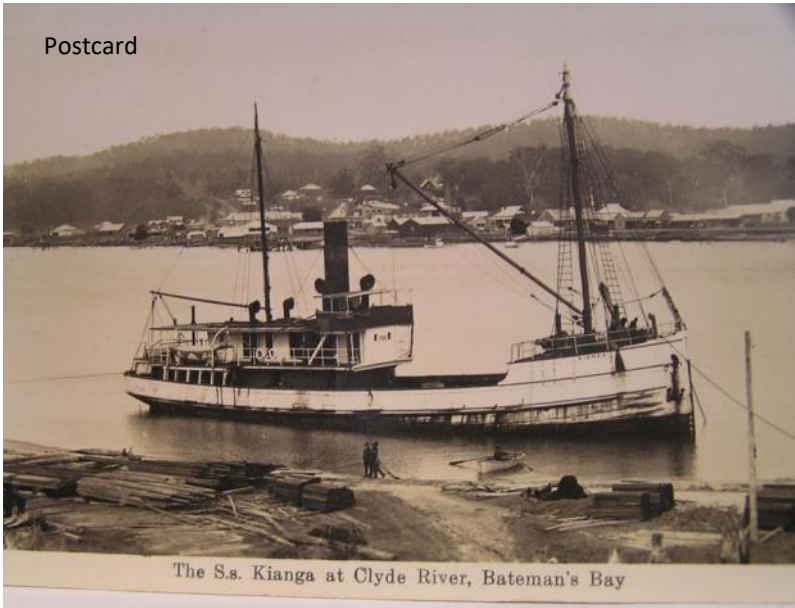


Mob caps and aprons for 'try ons' in the Schoolroom

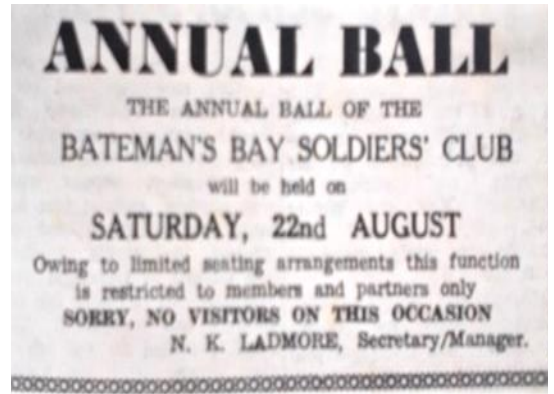
Many thanks to members Linda, Kim and Ross for a delightful addition to our schoolroom. Goes well with our ink nibs, chalks and slates. We enjoy some creative responses from children contributing to the blackboard under 'School Rules'. Some are even printable.

FROM THE VAULT

Postcard



The S.s. Kianga at Clyde River, Bateman's Bay



ANNUAL BALL

THE ANNUAL BALL OF THE
BATEMAN'S BAY SOLDIERS' CLUB

will be held on

SATURDAY, 22nd AUGUST

Owing to limited seating arrangements this function
is restricted to members and partners only
SORRY, NO VISITORS ON THIS OCCASION

N. K. LADMORE, Secretary/Manager.

A glamorous night out—1964.
Did you attend? What did you wear?



Adelaide Neate and Clarrie Kane with mail delivery car,
outside the (2nd) Nelligen Steampacket Hotel, 1930.

MALUA BAY FLATS

KUPPA AVENUE, MALUA BAY Alongside Post Office Store



Six Self-contained Units

Opposite the Beach at—

Beautiful Malua Bay

MALUA BAY FLATS: Built by a master builder, with the
comfort and pleasure of guests always in mind. Tastefully
finished and furnished, these modern ground-level flats are all
fully self-contained.

Hot Water, Radio, Septic, T.V. Outlets.

Off-street parking in front of each unit. Barbecues for
out-of-doors eating fun.

A. L. & E. BAMMAN, Proprietors

PYANG AVENUE, MALUA BAY,

Via BATEMANS BAY 2536

Phone: MOSSY POINT 717164



Batehaven Hall, Observation Point. Demolished. Memories?



The Moruya Advertiser, 2.01.1964

As our streetscape and shopping habits
change, businesses come and go at an
ever increasing rate. We try to keep a
record of earlier retail businesses.

**Do you have an anecdote about this
store?** Were you employed—did you
shop there, and for what? We'd love to
hear about it to 'flesh out' the paper
record. Photos are good, too.

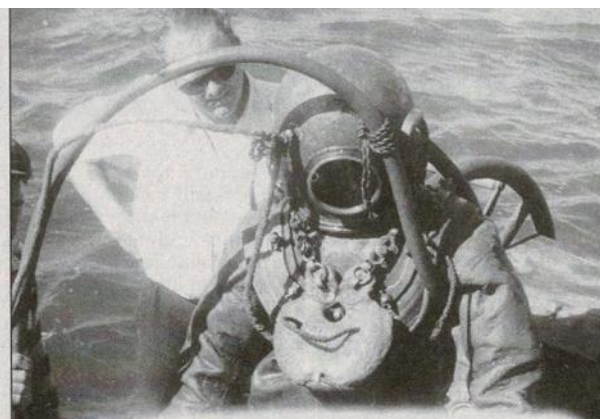
Mutton Birds and Motor Bikes

In 2017 we corresponded with Ron Edwards Jnr who kindly provided the following information about family life in the Bay's police residence in the early 1950s. His childhood memories will evoke many more amongst those he grew up with.

"As a kid, life in the Bay was not the way our parents saw it, because I realise now that we tried to live at "periscope depth", the perceived ability to get around a very small town without drawing attention to one's self. Not easy in those days as the son of the only police man in town!"

"Amongst the family photos I found one of my little sister Janette and me in the side yard of the police station on the residence side, where the new Court House is now. The photo is looking towards the public school, the paling fence you can see is the boundary."

"The left hand side of the shed was the stable for the Police Horse



and the double doors on the right was where dad parked his Police bike with side car attached, very flash. The first bike was an Indian which I loved but it was later replaced with a Triumph, a bit of a dog which gave trouble."

"The old tank on its side was used to smoke fish and also Mutton birds. Mum would not let dad cook the "bloody Mutton Birds" in the house because the house would stink for days and no one but dad would eat the stinking things. After the "smoke house" tank rusted out it was later used to keep the fire wood dry in wet

weather and where I cut the kindling every afternoon for the fuel stove in the kitchen and the "chip heater over the bath, our only hot water."

"The first pen on the right hand side of the stable was for the ducks and geese and the second yard was for the chooks. As you can guess, as the only boy in the family it was one of my jobs before school to feed them. The ducks with pollen mixed with water and the chooks with table scraps and cracked grain, mainly wheat because it was the cheapest feed you could get from the New Pro', down near the old hospital [North Street]. "

"On the right hand side of all of this and out of sight in the photo was a huge poplar tree next to two pan toilets. One was for us, the privileged, and the other was for *everyone* else, Magistrates, witnesses on court days, and those who spent time in the cell. Not a place you wanted to spend a lot of time."

Mr Edwards also responded to a newspaper photograph we sent showing his father, police sergeant Ron Edwards, together with bridge construction diver Bob Davis, taken in 1955.

"Thanks for the news clip. I remember Bob Davis (Mr Davis). He and my father were good friends they would go lobster diving around the rocks at Pebbly Beach. No wet suits though they both wore old wool police pants and a tight wool jumper, sandshoes and gloves. They wore old rubber facemasks and the snorkels with the ping pong ball in the top to stop the water when a wave broke over them. Quite a sight when you think of it now but even at that age when I was sitting on the rocks watching them I thought how brave (or stupid) they were as large waves would break over them and wash them against the rocks thus the woollen clobber. It never seemed too rough though, if they drove all

the way around there on that bad dirt road they would be going in for a feed of lobsters regardless. I just remembered there was always three of them the other one was Jacki Sebbons (Mr Sebbons) not too sure about the spelling. The three of them would go prawning together at Durras Lake on the second or third night after the full moon. They used a small drag net stretched between two tomato stakes. There was usually a lively discussion as to who would take the tomato stake attached to the deep side of the net because the net was walked along the edge of the shore with one man walking in very deep water and the other walking in about knee deep water who was always offering advice to the one doing the deep end, it got very lively towards the end of the night.



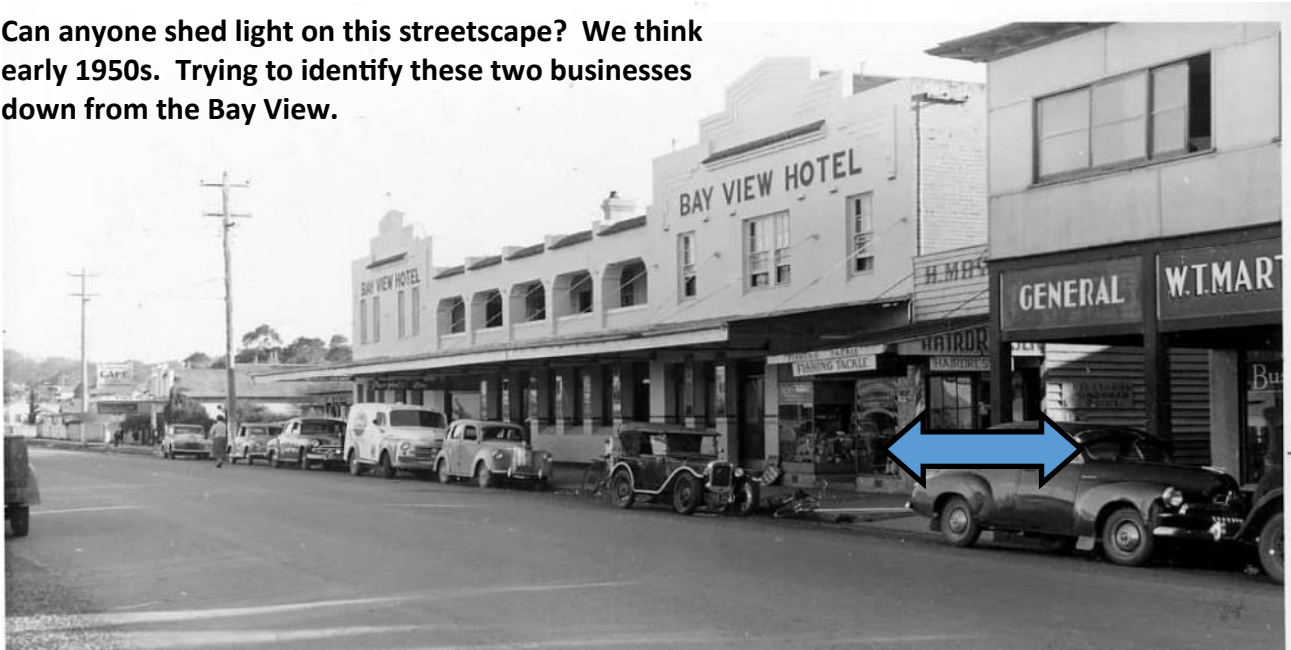
It was my job to collect dry drift wood and keep the fire going under the "copper" on the beach. It was pretty scary because away from the fire it was pitch black, and the crabs were attracted to the fire. Mr Sebbons gave me the scoop ring which was made out of a frame of fencing wire and covered with some small chicken wire. I normally used this for scooping the floating (cooked) prawns off the top of the hot water and into the cane basket. He told me to chase the "big" crabs along the beach "in the pitch black" scoop them up then drop them in the copper to cook with the prawns.

Yeah fat chance Mr Sebbons! I was about 5 years old at the time!!"



Ron Sebbens Jnr lived in the Bay from 1952 until he was 13. We really enjoyed his anecdotes. We'd be delighted to hear from any former or current resident who cares to share their memories. Member Richard Gorrell has self published 'A Boy in the Bay' recalling his own 1950s childhood as the son of the local bank manager. Copies are held at the Museum.

Can anyone shed light on this streetscape? We think early 1950s. Trying to identify these two businesses down from the Bay View.



"Beer makes you feel the way you ought to feel without beer." Anon.

We are keen to re-open so you can view our latest temporary exhibition—*H'Attitude*. Known for her outlandish Surrealist designs, Elsa Schiaparelli famously created a high-heeled shoe hat in 1937 with the aid of Spanish artist Salvador Dalí.



**Ladies—did you ever make a hat? Share your story—even bring it in for display
To share an anecdote contact Myf or Joan at the Museum**

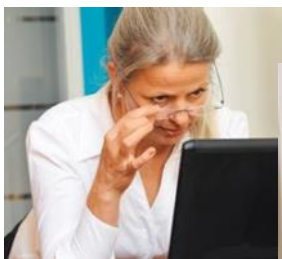
TIRED OF JIGSAWS AND RE-RUNS ? HAVE COMPUTER ACCESS?

Member Ray MOONEY has come up with a concept he calls *Development Over Time*—a new project exploring the history of John DONOVAN's Portion 8 of the Parish of Bateman, County St Vincent.

We 'drill down' to discover the stories behind land covered by the former Portion 8 now forming part of Bateman's Bay CBD, Soldiers Club, Forestry Commission Offices, the Water Gardens, our Museum, and some residential properties. Another foundation project that will allow us to explore the origins of our town.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ENABLE THIS INTRIGUING PROJECT.

Addictive and fun, experience revelations contained in our National Library's "TROVE" search engine for journals, newspapers, etc. Track down photos. Search land titles. Easy training available.



To receive a project outline in the first instance, contact secretary@batemansbayheritagemuseum.com



"One can tell a great deal about a country by what it remembers. By what graces the wall of its museums. And what monuments have privileged placement in parks or central traffic intersections. And what holidays and patriotic songs are the bane and balm to generations of school children. Yet one learns even more about a nation by what it forgets. What moments of evil, disappointment, and defeat are downplayed or eliminated from the national narratives."

Lonnie G. Bunch III, *A Fool's Errand: Creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture*

2020 Word of the Year as selected by the Australian National Dictionary Centre ANU

***ISO*: self-isolation; the act of remaining apart from others as a way to limit the spread of an infectious disease, especially as a public health measure.**

Each year the Centre, based at The Australian National University (ANU), picks a word or expression that has gained prominence in the Australian social landscape. Senior Researcher Mark Gwynn says that among the hundreds of pandemic-related terms collected '*iso*' stood out as a characteristically Aussie abbreviation.

"Our fondness for abbreviating words in Australia, and a natural human inclination to make the unknown and scary familiar, quickly saw the descriptive term 'self-isolation' shortened to *iso* in March this year," Mr Gwynn said.

"Not only is *iso* distinctively Australian in usage, it has also combined with other words to form compounds such as *iso baking*, and *iso fashion*. "Many of us found humour in language use as a way to cope with our changed working and social circumstances, so why not talk about a bad self-inflicted haircut as an *iso cut*, or the extra weight gained due to lack exercise as *iso kilos*," Mr Gwynn said. "Also on the short list was **bubble**, as in a restricted place, (Canberra?), or health related areas."



What new word or phrase resonates with you for 2021?

Military History — Vietnam—September 21st 1971

Fifty years ago in September 1971, Australia had been involved in the Vietnam War for over nine years. With no end in sight to an unpopular war, the Australians – like the Americans – were reducing their forces as they prepared to pull out of Vietnam. The withdrawal would take time and would not be easy.

While Operation Overlord in June had forced the enemy to withdraw, by September Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces were back in Phuoc Tuy Province, again looking to lure the Australians into a large-scale ambush to score a propaganda victory. The Australians would have to meet the challenge again.

The Battle of Nui Le was the last major enemy engagement by Australian troops in Vietnam. The **five killed in action** there were the last Australian soldiers to die in combat in Vietnam. For their bravery under fire, seven Australians were recognised with awards. Operation Ivanhoe concluded on 2nd October. The following month, Nui Dat base was handed to the South Vietnamese and by December nearly all Australian troops had left Phuoc Tuy Province.



We remember those who fought in that battle 50 years ago. We pay our respects to those who died, and to the survivors who returned home.

Craig Tibbitts, AWM, downloaded 22/9/2021

Ten Australians were among 2,977 people who died as a result of terrorism attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001. The National Museum of Australia has several collections that document the impact of 9/11, including personal stories of loss and commemoration.

An Australian flag found in the rubble of the World Trade Centre has been loaned to the Australian Consulate-General in New York where it is on display as a gesture of respect to mark the 20th anniversary of the attack.

JELLY AND ICE CREAM

A 19th Century Symbol of Sophistication and Status

Most people are familiar with moulded gelatine desserts, such as 'Aeroplane' brand, made from pre-flavoured and pre-sweetened jellies which are dissolved in hot water, poured into mould or bowl, allowed to set and turned out onto a plate. [I have fond memories of fighting with my brother over who got the jelly in a 'rabbit' shape. Neither of us wanted the 'tortoise' because the head always detached. Ed].

Such easily prepared desserts are derived from much older traditions requiring lengthy and painstaking preparation, resulting in food only the wealthy could afford. How fabulous they looked.

Making crystal-clear jelly was no easy task. First meat or fish was simmered in a pot and allowed to cool, leaving a translucent jelly on the top. This jelly was further reduced by boiling and clarified with egg white. The result was a versatile cooking ingredient that readily retained the original colours, scent and flavours of other foods.

It could be moulded into a variety of shapes, or its texture altered by beating it into a froth, or by adding cream, ground meat, almonds or other ingredients. Its most appealing quality was its transparency.

Although jellies are mentioned as early as the 14th century, it was not until the late 18th/early 19th centuries that the basic jelly-making techniques were well established. Cooks also devised efficient methods of turning the jellies out of these fancy moulds, maintaining a fine surface detail that could also be coloured.

20thC moulds come in heavy glass (1900s on), hard plastics (1950s), and who can forget early colourful Tupperware.

ICE-CREAM In the 19th century, ice cream manufacture was simplified with the introduction of the **ice cream machine in 1843**. This consisted of a wooden bucket that was filled with ice and salt and had a handle which rotated. The central metal container, containing the ice cream was surrounded the salt and ice mixture. This churning produced ice cream with an even, smooth texture. Previously it was made in a pewter pot kept in a bucket of ice and salt and had to be regularly hand stirred and scraped from the side of the pewter pots with a 'spaddle' which is like a miniature spade on a long handle. Nice word.

Did you know? In Batemans Bay, 'Ted' Street, the founder of Street's ice cream in 1920, donated generously to establishing our first Ambulance Station and permanent Swimming Pool.

Brain Freeze When ice cream touches the roof of your mouth, it may trigger a cold headache and /or nasal pain. The cause is a dilation of blood vessels in your head located above the roof of your mouth. When this nerve centre gets cold, it seems to overreact and tries to heat your brain. Who knew!



Copper jelly mould



Pewter ice cream moulds



BBHM CEMETERY & MOGO HISTORY GROUP

the only place where you can find equality—the cemetery.



Our Cemetery Group researchers have expanded from Mogo cemetery to focus on supporting Mogo School in celebrating its 150th anniversary later this year. This is Chris Bendle's reveal on the story of early teacher Augustus Jentsch.

Augustus 'Gus' Morris Jentsch had a long career in education. Like many teachers in the 1800s he started when he was quite young and had none of the university training required today. Teachers in those days learnt on the job in the classroom, where they were initially employed on probation. They then had to pass a series of examinations to be promoted and to retain their employment.

Obviously, teachers had to be willing to move around – sometimes a lot! Gus began his teaching career in Erskineville on 25 February 1897, at age 17, and in August of that year he was appointed as a pupil teacher* at Enmore Public School. He then moved to Parramatta in 1898 and Parramatta North in 1899. In 1901 he was sent to Jerralong, then to Caulderwood, and in 1902 to Mulyandry.

In the very early years schools were often half-time, and the teacher had to travel between them. Country teachers might spend two days at one school and three days at another, reversing the procedure the following week. *Gus Jentsch taught in at least 14 different schools from 1897 to 1943.*

In 1903 Gus married Lillian Emeline **Critchley** in Smithfield. They had two children: Mervyn Augustus, known as 'Mick', born in Smithfield in 1905 and Esme Lillian, born at 'The Laurels' in Fairfield in 1911.

The Jentsch family was civic minded. Lillian was the daughter of Fairfield Alderman Samuel Critchley, who had served on Council from 1899 to 1914, and was elected mayor in 1904. Gus was returning officer for the elections in O'Connell in 1913 and in Bankstown in 1927. He was made a Commissioner of the Peace in 1922 while living in Sackville Street, Fairfield. In February 1925 he was elected as an Alderman to Fairfield Council and served on the General Purposes, Licensing, Lighting, and the Parks and Gardens committees. He was re-elected in December 1925, and then elected unopposed as mayor in 1926, 1927 and 1928.

In June 1928 Gus announced to Fairfield Council that he was being transferred to the South Coast to be Head Teacher at Mogo Public School. He took a leave of absence for the remaining term of Council, and later resigned as Alderman.

At Mogo, he lived in the school residence with Lillian and their two children until he was moved to Bowning in August of 1931, at the height of the Great Depression. From there he moved to Jamberoo in 1943. Gus and Lillian later moved back to Sydney, where Lillian died in 1947. When he retired, Gus went to live in Manly with his son and passed away on the 6 August 1961.

***Pupil teacher** training (1846 – early 20th century) when an older student supervised young children learning from observation and practical application, while simultaneously completing their own education with the Headmaster.

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DO YOU HAVE AN ANECDOTE ABOUT YOUR OWN SCHOOL DAYS? READERS ENJOY SO SHARE THEM.

"Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it." A. Einstein.





President's Report 2021 AGM [edited]

Ewan Morrison

Another challenging year under our belt. Last year we dealt with bushfires and COVID-19 both of which severely restricted our operations and our ability to raise funds in ways we usually do. This year was only *half* as bad – no BUSHFIRES! Two years ago, we put in place an approach to spread our financial risk and last year I reported that that was dampened by the bush fires and then swamped by the tsunami of the pandemic. That meant :

Guided Tours – postponed ; Bunnings BBQs – postponed; Attendance at Rally of the Bay – abandoned, as organisers kept the rally teams within strict boundaries of COVID safe events.

Government mandated closures of Western Sydney and Wollongong have reduced our visitors from that area by about 20% with a knock-on effect to our entrance fees and donations box targets.

We resumed Bunnings BBQs in the second half of this year [*subsequently on hold due second wave*].

Last year I reported that we were burgled during COVID lockdown, targeting external displays. They returned on the anniversary closure of last year's burglary, stole more artefacts, and carried them away in our replacement trailer. To do that they disabled our new security cameras. We have raised the cameras beyond reach and will purchase another one to cover a blind spot. Spare trailer anyone?

But despite all that, we have come out of the year better than could be anticipated.

It was particularly pleasing that one of our own, **Myf THOMPSON**, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Myf, a life member, has been a stalwart of the Society for many years. This well-deserved accolade is an honour for her and an important recognition for our Society, our Museum and the heritage sector as a whole. Well done, Myf, and congratulations.

We have again ramped up our **grant activity** and **Fran GRAY**, Myf and I have continued applying for Grants. 2020 grants we won covered the broad spectrum of what we do as a Society, so for most of 2021 we have been doing what we said we would do in those grant applications. So far:

We prudently used the financial support our Society won because of the impact of the Bushfires, to keep the Museum operational.

We have established a new permanent **Rural display** – the ongoing work of our core Men's team- **Les, Bob, Bill, Kim and Ross** have been instrumental in getting this display operational. Their obliging work ethic has seen our Museum grow over the years and I thank them for their ongoing work.

We attended a Museums and Galleries event in Sydney, [*and subsequent online Zoom sessions*].

We have almost completed moving the management of our collection to an **eHive cloud-based** system which reduces physical holdings and allows wider access. We are so far advanced, that in August a local firm has been engaged to undertake the translation of our IT system to a Windows environment.

Consultant **Julia HILL** has completed the work to theme our **Illawarra Steam Navigation Company (ISNC)** ledgers. We are now in the process of establishing a community of practice about ISNC's operations with other Historic Societies on the South Coast and making the material publicly available online.

Most of the Committee attended the FRRR grant funded **Governance training** led by the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Heritage and community organisations which attended by our invitation said the Course was extremely well received and expressed appreciation for **our leadership in obtaining funding**.

We have begun the battle with the bureaucrats to build and equip a **new workshop** – a huge thank you to member Bob KOLDERIE [Treasurer, Batemans Bay Lapidary Club] for picking up the running on this important project. [Construction progression delayed due to Covid].

'Heavy is the head that wears the crown.'

President's Report 2021 AGM [edited] cont'd.

In 2021, to date, we won 4 grant applications, lost 4, 2 remain to be advised. New air conditioner for the meeting room, freezer for our BBQ needs, and \$5,000 for urgent painting were very welcome.

Keeping track of grants and the paperwork that comes with them fell to **Lesley** to organise and deal with. Good organisations can't function well without skilled back-office staff, and Lesley is one of the best. Thanks, Lesley, for being the unsung hero that helps to hold the place together, your organisational and document management skills are much appreciated.

Green thumbed **Ken and Lynda** maintain our gardens providing an attractive and inviting entrance. And **Gail** cheerfully housekeeps so that our museum is neither musty nor manky.

This has been a difficult year for fund-raising. Our efforts to date led by Chris RUSZALA and Deb HOPE only raised \$6,871 – roughly half what we raised last year. A generous donation from **Rotary** was much appreciated.

To make the Treasurer's job easier, we invested in MYOB as a tool to manage our accounts. **Sandra SMITH** and **Fran GRAY** have worked hard to successively move 2020/21 finances into the cloud.

I should mention that because of the substantial grants we won last year, our annual turnover exceeded \$100k for the first time in the Society's history. These grants are always for specific projects and do not cover our operational costs. This success places additional pressures on our finance team and sets a benchmark for our intrepid grants and fundraising teams.

Last year saw us maintain our relationships in the Community via participation in Seniors Week, for example. Also, shared grant opportunities with Lapidary Club and particularly with **Rotary** Batemans Bay.

Work on recording our artefacts continues. As a heritage Museum we hold both physical artefacts and images in our collection, but heritage is more than that. The concept of heritage incorporates both the built and natural environment. We are working with our Museum Advisor, Lynn Collins, and Moruya and Narooma Historical Societies to develop a Eurobodalla-wide approach to heritage; quarterly meetings will enable a cohesive and supportive approach.

In 2015 Ray MOONEY took on leadership of our (then) new cemetery documentation project updating and expanding with GPS the Society work of the 1980s and 1990s. Ray is now also leading his team, including local Leah BURKE, to document a history of the township and families of Mogo. Nelligen next?

On the immediate Agenda are:

- * Access for All with more work on making our space disability friendly beyond simply the ramps.
- * An upgrade to the fire protection system and purchase of a stand-alone water supply and pump
- * The old building's cold 4 months out of 12; we seek to install reverse cycle air conditioning room by room.
- * Our biggest artefacts – the buildings – need urgent preservation painting, work beyond our current volunteers because of the size/height of the buildings. Painting is top listed for our grant apps. \$40,000+.

A very sincere thank you to every financial member, and *particularly* to those who actively volunteer their time and skills at our Museum. Our society is an exciting and vibrant community – and, as I said last year, with goodwill and hard work may we continue to achieve wonders.

Ewan Morrison

Hon. President 2021-2022

A special presentation was made to Sandra Smith, stepping down after 12 years as Treasurer. Not only a fine book-keeper but baker of the finest banana cake in the southern hemisphere.



Batemans Bay Lapidary Club

Workshop Postponed



Regretfully, our planned workshop with the Club was cancelled with the postponement of live River of Art Festival activities for 2021.

We note Bob Kolderie is back on his feet after an operation. Best wishes from your friends at the Museum. Bob has been very helpful in organising the documentation for the new men's workshop planned for our grounds.

Please go to the Club's Facebook site for member updates.
<https://www.facebook.com/BayLapidary>

PLEASE NOTE OUR EMAIL CHANGE

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Office Bearers

President : Ewan Morrison
Vice-Pres : Chris Ruzsala
Secretary : Debra Hope
Treasurer : Frances Gray
Curator : Myf Thompson
Archivist : Chris Bendle

Committee Portfolios

Frances Gray : eHive /Grants
Debra Hope : OH&S/Social Media/Retail
Myf Thompson : Newsletter/Grants
Chris Ruzsala : Fundraising/IT
Nerida Castle : BMD print media
Leah Burke : Research Officer
Chris Bendle : Family History
Glen Tulip : Research Officer



Sub-committees:

Les Smith : Team Leader Maintenance and Construction
Ray Mooney : Team Leader Cemeteries Group & Mogo History

VISITOR FEEDBACK : QUITE SIMPLY, 'YOU'RE GREAT. OPEN MORE HOURS. PLEASE'.

WILL YOU HELP US OPEN MORE OFTEN? All you need is a smile for a few rostered hours every *couple of months*. We would love to extend our hours—but to do so will require more members willing to commit to a roster. We must spread the load from those who routinely volunteer 2-3 days a week 50+ weeks a year.

Can you help open **Monday, Friday and Saturday through January**, for instance? We cannot presently take advantage of this peak visitation period. 3 people a day are required to safely and efficiently operate, one being a 'floating' guide, one in bookshop and one on reception. You'll be trained and buddied—it's not rocket science! Contact Lesley or Debra on 4472 1635 and leave a message, or email to register interest. **We need you. Thank you.**

Acknowledging with thanks our Community Partners



JOHN HOLLAND



CLUB CATALINA



Museums & Galleries of NSW

