



The Old Courthouse Museum

# PASTIMES

*Newsletter of the  
Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc.  
Issue 33 Jan Feb 2018*

**STOP PRESS !! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!!**

## **RETURN TO THE SUNDAY MARKETS**



After several meetings between the Executive Committee and the management team of the Ladies Stall group, the format and venue for future stall events has been changed. We are going to pitch a Stall at the Marine Rescue managed Market Day, at Corrigan's Beach Reserve, on the first Sunday of every month, starting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

All members who have supported the Stall in its previous formats are very welcome to assist, both in terms of creating craft items and providing customer service on Market Day. The Market runs from 7.30am until 1.00pm approx. Marine Rescue has advised that we can offer for sale anything but cooked food (i.e. no BBQ). So, plenty of scope here!!

If you would like to be involved in this new venture, please contact the organisers Debra Hope (0425 296088) or Gleni Tulip (0422 227437). FYI, the Meeting Room can be used during Wednesday open-hours for 'craft activities'. Good luck to all involved!

**STOP PRESS !! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!!**

## **SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS**

Our partnership with Museums and Galleries NSW has come through yet again, with the award of \$5000 for consultancy fees to enable a Significance Assessment of our entire collection. Angela George, Bega based Museum Advisor, has been appointed. Angela is well known to us having supported the Society in heritage issues and running training courses. There is a lot of paperwork to be done by Volunteers before Angela arrives, and we look forward to completing it by the beginning of May. Below, Angela George (r) running an earlier workshop with volunteers Mary Maidment, Chris Ruzsala.



## **FEATURED ARTICLE IN THIS ISSUE**

**Can't take a trick:** Curator Myf Thompson takes a look at how certain practices, which are taken for granted today in our society, could be construed as witchcraft during the 16<sup>th</sup> century in Europe.

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## Can't Take a Trick



In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, religion was a potent force, education was negligible and superstition was rife. When the wrath of God was a real fear, and the Devil needed resisting at every turn, we can't blame our forebears for seeking a scapegoat.

Hands up all those who talk to their cat, shake your dog's paw, or have a budgie?

400 years ago you could have been charged with witchcraft and invited to

partake in a series of tortuous interviews, with no good ending. To be accused, all that was required was that two reputable witnesses declare they saw you have conference with the devil or his 'imp' in the form of some visible creature. Really?

Feeling giddy, having fits or unsteady on your feet? Obviously, you were "possessed", by a spell-casting practitioner. Got a few moles on your body from sun-bathing or an unfortunate birth mark – No! They were proof where the devil had sucked.

Have you muttered, cursed or sworn at someone recently? That would be enough for you to be blamed for sickness in the neighbour's family – death of cattle – the plague. That'll teach you to be elderly, infirm, with a sharp tongue. Getting together with a few female friends to discuss the state of the nation, or the village, over a cup of herbal tea - you risked being branded a member of a 'coven'. As for natural health remedies, they could spell a nasty end for a 'wise' woman.

"Ducking" or 'swimming' was a quick and cheap way to discover whether an accused person was a witch; if they drowned they were innocent because the Devil hadn't saved them – if they floated or survived they were guilty and burning was on the cards.

Hysteria or simple malice produced trumped up charges and plainly ridiculous accusations which prevailed for many years, until relaxation of religious ideals and scientific enlightenment prevailed and the more heinous crime of witchcraft morphed into the pointy hat, with cat on a broomstick image that entertains children today.

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## What else has been happening at the Museum?

### Museum makes a return to the Markets at Corrigan's Beach Reserve

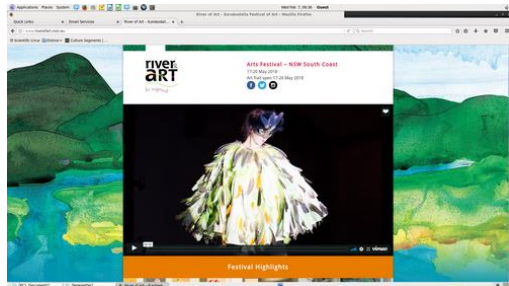


The fundraising team made a good start to its return to the Sunday Markets at Corrigan's Beach Reserve on 4<sup>th</sup> February. The weather was a touch unstable first thing at 7.30am, but it improved throughout the morning and by 1.00pm it was quite sunny. There was a great turnout from the public, who showed much interest in the Stall. The team raised about \$200. Well done to all!

In the photo, members Chris Ruzala, Glen Tulip, Deb Hope and Bob Hope are ready to make some big sales.

During the morning, **another fundraising opportunity was presented to us** by one of the local commercial stall operators – Jesse from 'Alcheringa Cottage Farm'. Jesse is putting together a local weekly craft community market at the Community Centre, starting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April. We have agreed to take part during the initial five weeks trial period. More details to follow...

### River of Art Festival - May 17th -20th



As part of the Museum's contribution to this year's River of Art Festival, Ted Richards, our partner in photographic crime, will be running a 'no techno bull' workshop on Macro photography – the art of



taking the very small and creating works of art, like 'Dandelion' (photo right). The date, time and venue are: Saturday, 19th May. 10-12 Noon at the Museum. The maximum group size is ten people.

No special equipment is needed, just bring your camera and, when booking, indicate what subjects you are interested in.





### Preparing for our new Market Venture

Members Frances Gray and Deb Hope can be seen sorting through the large collection of craft items contained in the Box Trailer. Our intention is to move the stock into the new shed, releasing the Trailer Box to store the ride-on mower and BBQ.

Deb is coordinating efforts to run a weekly craft day at the Museum every Wednesday. Hopefully, this will result in more craft items for sale at the monthly

market at Corrigan's Beach Reserve. Please contact Deb for more details.

### Postcards for sale in Reception0

An additional boost to our fundraising efforts has been provided by offering two attractive postcards for sale, in the Courthouse reception area.

One shows our iconic brand picture of the Museum, while the other displays an advert (not PC today!!) for 'Cocaine Tooth Drops'.



### Morning Shift at the Museum

Many thanks to our resident photographer Ted Richards for this candid picture of one of our 'newest volunteers'. Looking more like a 'still life' after a big night out at the Bay View Hotel, we can assure readers that 'she' resumed normal duties by lunchtime.

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## Bargain basement land sales in Surfside

Land for sale at 395 pounds sterling, with 25 pounds deposit!!!! Seems like a bargain, but this advert hails from the 1960s.

Phone 490100

First release of Section 2  
**SURFSIDE ESTATES**  
**BATEMANS BAY**

Canberra's playground on the coast

Surfside Estates invites you to inspect this subdivision right on the bay in Batemans Bay, 500 yards on the left at the intersection of the Princes Highway. Roads are being tar sealed now, electricity and title available.

**FREE**

to purchasers this long weekend — A free membership to Batemans Bay Golf and Country Club

**Priced from £395 on £25 deposit**

For plans and brochures phone Queanbeyan 999 or 50

**Alliance Real Estate Pty Ltd**  
233 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan  
Phone Queanbeyan 50  
Representatives on estate all long weekend.

Another project from  
**Austral Development Pty Ltd**  
For photos, plans and information:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# SUBMERGED

## STORIES OF AUSTRALIA'S SHIPWRECKS

20<sup>th</sup> March - 30<sup>th</sup> April.

The Society is very excited to announce it has acquired the travelling exhibition *Submerged – Stories of Australia's Shipwrecks*, as part of its two year national tour across regional Australia. 68 shipwreck stories were nominated by 46 maritime museums and heritage institutions from around Australia with 14 of the most compelling stories selected to feature in the exhibition. All 68 submitted shipwreck stories are available now on the AMMC website in a digital archive – [www.maritimemuseumsaustralia.com/page/submissions-1](http://www.maritimemuseumsaustralia.com/page/submissions-1). Our Society contributed one of the stories.

The exhibition is assisted by the Australian Government Visions of Australia program. Featuring DVD footage and 8 story panels, it will be displayed in the Courtroom exhibition space.

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**Love me or Leave Me ... or Let me be Lonely!**

In the Domestic Room, a little table tribute to Valentine’s Day is being curated by member Zoe Brassil. The exhibition contains extracts from lovers’ letters as diverse as Beethoven, Winston Churchill and Jimi Hendrix. Come along and get romantic!

**Exploring Annetts family history**

Pictured right, our newest member is Wollongong University student Chelsea Brooks. Majoring in History, Chelsea is getting a handle on copperplate writing, exploring Annetts family documents from one of 3 small suitcases of mixed domestic and business documents donated to the Society



**FUNDRAISING THROUGHOUT JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2018 – GREAT START TO THE YEAR!**



|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Book Emporium – January:                  | <b>\$309</b> |
| Book Emporium – February:                 | <b>\$379</b> |
| Market Stall – February:                  | <b>\$197</b> |
| Bunnings BBQ – 12 <sup>th</sup> January:  | <b>\$428</b> |
| Bunnings BBQ – 23 <sup>rd</sup> February: | <b>\$402</b> |
| Bingo:                                    | <b>\$59</b>  |
| <b>General donations:</b>                 | <b>\$122</b> |

That’s a total of **\$1896** (clear) for the two months. Once more, well done to all of our fundraisers!

**KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Local Craft/Home Produce Market, Community Centre:          | 5, 12, 19, 26 April, 3 <sup>rd</sup> May (prov.)               |
| Marine Rescue Markets, Corrigan’s Beach Reserve:            | Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> March, 1 <sup>st</sup> April (provisional) |
| ‘Submerged’ Exhibition – Stories of Australia’s shipwrecks: | 20 <sup>th</sup> March – 30 <sup>th</sup> April                |
| Bunnings Easter Family Evening BBQ, Bunnings Whouse:        | Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> March,                              |
| Bunnings BBQ:   | Saturday, 28 <sup>th</sup> April                               |