

PASTIMES

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OLD COURTHOUSE & POLICE
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THE 'CANARY' OF THE CLYDE

The oyster is not only delicious; it is a sensitive little thing. Just as miners kept a wary eye on the caged canary for visible effects of dangerous gases, any environmental changes in the water quality of the Clyde River show up immediately in the oyster. *Continued on*

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OPEN DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

Easter Sunday saw the Museum hold its second open day. An estimated 300 people came through the Museum.

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THE MEMORY BOOK PROJECT

In May the Museum launched *Remembering the Bay* - a wonderful collation of memories of those who grew up here and those who were regular visitors. *Continued on Page 3*

MUSEUM ADDS TO COLLECTION

Since our last newsletter we have added to the Museum's Collection. This has come about due to the closure of the Kenmore Hospital Museum near Goulburn. *Continued on Page 4*

Help Wanted

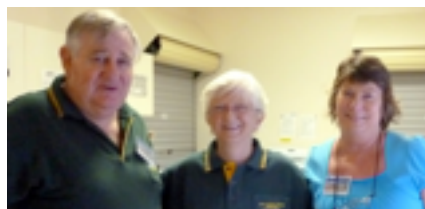
We have a lot of work to do keying in all of the great work that was done by our members before computers. If you have a friend with keying skills who can give us a couple of hours a week please talk to Myf.

Our second open day on Easter Sunday was such a success we will hold an Open Day on every Easter to complement our Open Day in November.



Some of the machinery on display at the Open Day

This November Paul MARTIN will be back with another great military display.



Some of our incredible catering team Tony WHELAN, Judi WHELAN and Sandra SMITH



The Fordson Tractor - Fordson's were made between 1917 and 1967

The open days will become a regular twice a year event. Our next one will be held on Sunday 18th November 2012.

The 'Canary' of the Clyde

As part of the Museum's 2012 strategic plan, a permanent display on the history of the local industry is under way. Since the mid 19th century, oyster growing, unlike commercial fishing, has proved a comparatively stable employer. Some local oyster farmers are fourth generation, with Greek and Italian origins well represented. Operating under a leasing system, it is laborious, repetitive work with very early mornings! Factors little understood by those who simply swallow the product.



The Oyster Punt

The central artefact for our display is an impressive 7 metre turpentine oyster punt, a traditional industry specific vessel used pre aluminium. The punt was donated to us by local farmers, provenance is excellent, and condition good. We are applying for funding to house it appropriately in the Museum grounds.

A 2010 ABC report by Sarina Locke tells us that "Since the collapse of the oyster industry on the Hawkesbury ... from the mysterious QX (Queensland unknown) protozoa [in 2005], the Clyde River farmers have filled the gap supplying Sydney rock oysters. The Clyde ... is now the second largest producer in the state, with 11 per cent of production."

The oyster industry remains an important part of our economy!

Archival photos, artefacts, digital stories and the oral history of former and current oyster growers will create an engaging record extending knowledge of the development of a local and regionally important industry.

If you can contribute stories, please contact Myf THOMPSON, on 4472 8993.

Telephone Display Project

Another display that we are putting together in 2012 is the telephone display. Centred around the old Batemans Bay Hospital switchboard, we will be displaying telephones from our collection.

Our schoolchildren will be able to see that a "mobile phone" was one with a long cord, that early telephones were beautiful wooden boxes that housed the things that made the phone work, and that the telephones of the 1950's came in any colour you liked - as long as it was black!

This is an important social history display as a recent World Bank article stated that "Around three-quarters of the world's inhabitants now have access to a mobile phone and the mobile communications story is moving to a new level".

Mobile phones are changing the way we use the phone from a quick way to talk to people to a way of providing basic access to health information, making cash payments, and spurring job creation.

Your Museum is mounting a display to show this remarkable journey of communication



OPEN DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

It seems a long time ago now, but our April Open Day was a huge success. Among our fondest memories are those of the little girl who asked her mum how the typewriter connected to the internet and the child whose eyes were ablaze with delight as she rode in the stage coach so kindly provided by the Longvale Clydesdales.

The day was so successful that the Museum has decided to continue with 2 open days every year - one on Easter Sunday and the other in November.

Thanks go to all of the volunteers who helped on the stalls, the BBQ, the tea, coffee and cakes and to those answering the many questions that people had. It was a great day.

THE MEMORY BOOK PROJECT

The book has generated a great deal of interest among both 'old timers' and 'newbies' around the district.

We have been inundated with congratulations on this publication that grew from the 2 Pioneer Morning teas that we held the second half of 2011.

The hard work of keying in the stories was undertaken by Dianne HANTAS, our hard working Assistant Secretary. Dianne was meticulous in making sure that what was put in the book was what was provided to us by the many contributors. Everyone who provided us with information got at least one quote into the book.

The book will provide a wonderful resource to those who come after us when researching aspects of life in our town.

If you missed out on giving us your memories, we would still like to hear from you. Please contact Dianne on 4472 8993 or pop in to the Museum.



The Fire brigade display at our open day

Did our recent Memory Book spark your interest in the history of the Bay?

If so, you might be interested in our next book project called *Yesterday and Today*. This will be a photographic look at how things have changed.

Contributions are welcome.

We'll keep you posted on a release date.

Old Courthouse Museum Adds to its Collection

The sale of the property that housed the Kenmore Hospital Museum provided us with the opportunity to add to our collection.

The Kenmore collection was representative of a whole village. It held artefacts that were similar to those used in the early settlement of our district.

On May 15th, volunteers Alick TROUNSON, Les SMITH, Peter FRENCH and Graeme BACKHOUSE joined our President Tony WHELAN in a trek up the mountain to pick up the new artefacts.

Transport was generously provided by Bay Removals.

Key among our new material is a typically Australian Sprung Cart. These were a simple cart designed for carrying goods and did not have seating for driver or passengers. The driver usually sat on the sacks or goods carried.

The Sprung Cart was in pretty poor condition and Alick TROUNSON and Les SMITH have been leading the team in restoring it to its former glory.

The Sprung Cart and other artefacts will be on display at the Museum soon.

Do you know someone who can help?

Gail FOGGO and Angela GREIG are doing a great job of recording our collection and adding our artefacts to the database. It's a big job but it is slowed down by the need to research items so as to provide information about the artefacts and what they were used for. If you know someone who's good at using the internet to find things out and who can give us a couple of hours a week please talk to Myf.



EDITORIAL TEAM

Dianne HANTAS

Ewan MORRISON

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*The boys
collecting the
Sprung Cart
from Kenmore.*