



Our public display for those walking the new Bridge

MAIN EXHIBITION PROGRAM 2021

March - May 2021

The Bay and the 'Burbs'

Drawing on our Archives for a skip down Memory Lane.

May 18th We Celebrate *International Museum Day* promoted at Hanging Rock Library

May - July 2021

'Gold Mechanics'

Goldfield artefact display on loan from Moruya & District Historical Society.

August-Oct 2021

Travelling Exhibition from the **National Maritime Museum**, Sydney.

Nov 2021-Jan 2022

'The Snapper and the Clyde'

Marking the 200th anniversary of the European exploration of The Clyde river by Lt Robert Johnston.

We 'was robbed' of our planned events for Cook 2020, so we're determined to mark this occasion for the Bay.

PASTIMES

Newsletter of the Clyde River and
Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc
Issue No. 46 Autumn 2021



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BRIDGE TO BRIDGE

27th March 2021 A public 'Walk Across' the new Bay Bridge.

Go to our website for the YouTube link to our exclusive video specially created to mark the historic opening of the new Batemans Bay Bridge, and the last days of the iconic iron bridge that served locals and travellers for 65 years.

Working with the RMS and construction company John Holland Group, the Society will create a permanent exhibition in the grounds of the Museum, dedicated to sharing the story of both engineering feats, and the impact on our community.



Opening November 21 1956



50th Anniversary Parade and events



25th Anniversary Street Parade



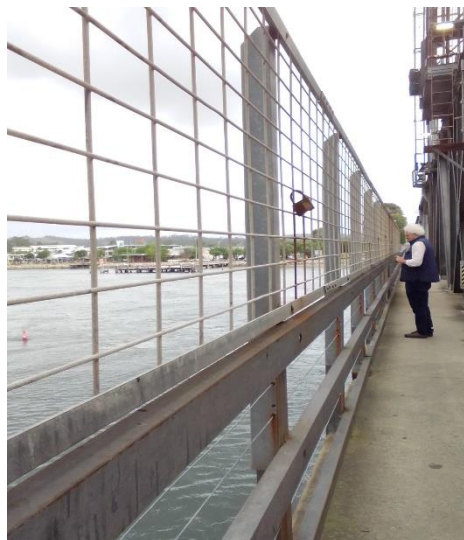
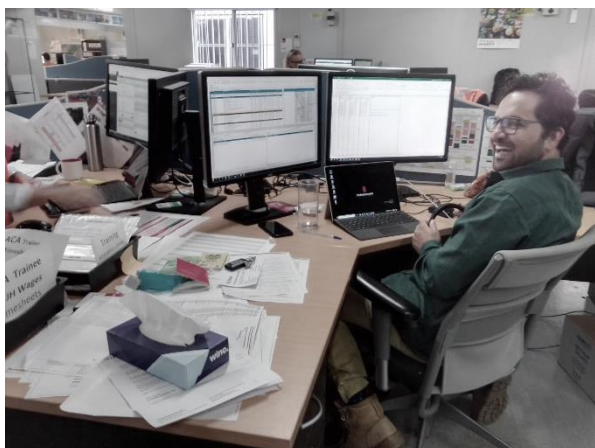
60th Anniversary Parade
and events

65 years old – comes to an end
with the cutting of the ribbon for
the new Bridge.



NEW BRIDGE 2021

JH Site Office and Bridge Walk



An old tradition
—
is yours one of
the 23 'love
locks' still on
the old bridge
walkway?
They'll be
coming to the
Museum.



Museum Display on the Day



Our very grateful thanks to David Ashford, representing Rotary Batemans Bay. The organization played a significant role in ensuring the day was marked with public 'Crossing the Clyde' certificates. With the assistance our members Ewan, Chris, Lynda and Joan, Rotary ran a very successful BBQ, generously donating the proceeds to the Museum.

A total of approximately \$2,700 was raised, which will go toward our fundraising for a dedicated **permanent Bridge to Bridge** display in our grounds.

We are NSW Govt Approved

Two excellent outcomes from some diligent Admin work by Debra, Fran and Ewan.



\$25 Vouchers

Some extracts from our Visitor Book:

24/02/21 - Hilary - "Excellent!! Great to see such a good indigenous section."

30/01/21 - Mark - "Best set up ever. Well done!!"

19/01/21 - Olivia Wright - "The Death Room and School Room - hands on stuff - dress up."

5/11/20 – D. & R. Reeves – "A comprehensive and extensive display. It is terrific!"

If you thought keeping a Ministerial Cat was adventurous ...

There are many perks that come with being Queen, or even the President of the United States, such as residing in a lovely house and gaining a great deal of prestige, or not. Plus, you can be gifted a pet hippo—as was Calvin Coolidge, their 30th president.



His pygmy hippopotamus, named Billy, was a gift from tire manufacturer Harvey S. Firestone in 1927. The rare baby hippo was just one of eight of his kind living in America and measured six feet long, stood thirty inches tall, and weighed about 600 pounds. He was described by *The New York Times* as being "as frisky as a dog." Billy had been captured in Liberia at one of Firestone's plants, but once under Coolidge's care, he spent his days at the much cosier National Zoo.

Coolidge was also sent a wallaby by an American living in Tasmania.

Others with unusual 'First Pets' include Theodore Roosevelt, who acquired a badger named Josiah in 1903 after a young girl threw the little creature at the president as his train pulled out of a small Kansas town. He was bottle fed to maturity by the "First Family".

© Marc Hartzman

WEBSITES TO EXPLORE

<https://www.weirdhistorian.com/>

Weird historical and fantastical facts. Makes for an entertaining visit. Regularly updated.

<https://musamexico.org> Cancun Underwater Museum of Art

Conservation and culture. Sculptures 2-4 metres below the surface in crystal clear waters of a marine park. Beautiful

<https://Museumofbadart.org>

Art too bad to be ignored, it is an established museum not a gallery. Seek inspiration here!

ANIMALS AT WAR

'Aircrew' mascot of the RAAF



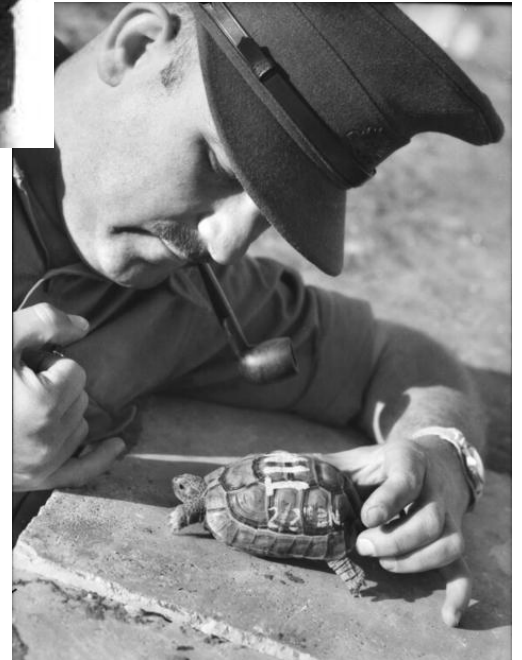
His own hammock



Sgt Stubby.



Corporal Elder
with a young monkey



Captain Michelson with Tim the turtle



The Imperial Camel Corps 1916

Animals are put to many uses in war. Sometimes they have jobs to do: the horses, camels, mules, and donkeys used to transport soldiers and equipment, as well as carrier pigeons and tracker dogs with their special talents.

Often animals are used as mascots and pets, or as symbols on badges and flags. And, of course, humans just like the contact.

The **Dickin Medal** -sometimes called the Animal VC – was founded in the UK in 1943 to mark outstanding gallantry in animal and bird service.

OUT AND ABOUT

Powerhouse, Sydney

Maton: Australia's Guitar is the largest retrospective of Australia's leading guitar manufacturer. In this major survey, over 130 guitars will traverse the history of Maton, drawing on more than 70 years of music.

Melbourne-born jazz musician, woodwork teacher and luthier Bill May founded Maton in 1946 and became a pioneer of Australian guitar manufacturing, which has since created over 200 models.



A highlight on display from the Powerhouse's collection is The Easybeats' guitarist Harry Vanda's Maton guitar which he used to write the song 'Friday on My Mind'.

https://youtu.be/u_ypF9xPpkk for a preview.

Australian National Museum



Spotted on a drive, The **Pye Cottage Museum**, established in 1975. The slab hut moved piece by piece from its original 1860 site near Dalton, by the Gunning & District Historical Society and re-erected in its current position on Yass Street, Gunning.

<https://mgns.org.au/organisations/pye-cottage>



Harden Murrumburrah Museum

Society member and genealogist Lindsay Swadling fronts the bar, a welcoming feature at the entrance to the Museum, retrieved from the former Harden Railway station.

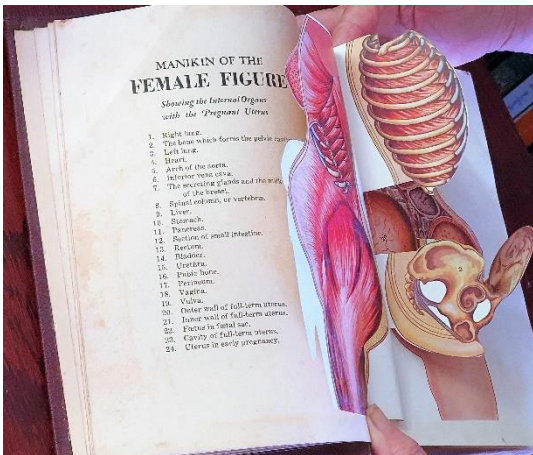
Housed in the two-storey former School of Arts building, exhibits include thematic displays and artefacts from the mining era, railways, a chemist shop with items dating back to 1890, blacksmith forge, and original school room.

Featured displays relate to the history of the first Australian Light Horse and the Light Horse Units of Harden and Murrumburrah.

VOLVELLES AND POP-UPS

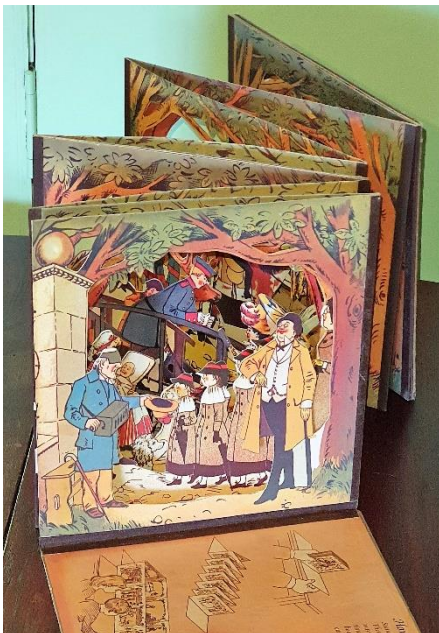
Pop-up books are enjoyed for many reasons: their ingenuity, their colourful illustrations, and because they add value to the two-dimensional nature of printed books. For more than 700 years artists, philosophers, scientists and designers have employed a range of paper engineering mechanisms to include moving parts in books.

The advent of movable type and the development of printing in Europe in the 1450s, led to moveable devices on the printed page that were called **volvelles**. Volvelles were used in astronomy in the 15th century to represent the movement of the planets. Until the second half of the eighteenth century books that included moving parts were primarily scholarly publications.



At the Museum, one example is ***The Ladies' Handbook of Home Treatment*** by Eulalia S, Richards, dated 1912. You lift a cover, or pull a tab, to delve 3 levels deep into the body during pregnancy. In full colour, it must have come as a shock to many women to have the reality of their insides exposed in this manner – previously their first introduction to the process may have been as they went into labour.

On the lighter side - the Victorian era saw an explosion of novelty picture books with flaps to lift and tabs to pull, pages that could fold out, pop-up scenes, and even mechanical toys mounted on pages. **It is not always essential to have the original object to share a story.** Our example is a 1982 quality reproduction of ***The City Park***, a stand-up book originally published in 1890 by Lothar Meggendorfer.



The City Park is a bound series of 20 sequential illustrated cut out scenes on sturdy, brightly coloured cardboard. It recreates the panorama of a large city park, and it can be viewed in a number of different ways by setting the book up in a circle, in a very long line or in a rectangle. You can walk round it. Lots of fun. It has no text, the child was encouraged to make up a story about what's happening in each scene, so it can be used numerous times.

For us today, it shows what a typical walker in the park would have experienced in the late 19thC. – a blind beggar and a military colonel, a young lady being courted by several gentlemen, a child having a riding lesson, deer grazing, a lady being rowed around the little lake by a top hatted gentleman. Children playing ring-a-ring-a-roses. The illustrations are not cartoons, but they are whimsical.

In a recent book on Victorian children's reading, the author Hannah Field found that unlike their respect for standard books, children ripped, tore, and coloured in their novelty books – so obviously they engaged with them really well, and reading became a physical activity as well!

In the 1940s, Blue Ribbon Publishing of New York first coined the phrase "pop-up book."

Do any readers remember their first pop-up book?

ACQUISITIONS

Ewan and Myf have been scouring the auction sites - again - well, *someone* has to do it.

1960s 2 piece Swimsuit and Men's Swim Trunks-purchase

These items come from a distinctive fashion period and were not represented in our costume collection. In fact, swimwear, generally, is rarely donated. We have vintage 1930s male thick cotton trunks with modesty panel, and a good Mambo brand men's beach outfit, but otherwise ... the cupboard is bare. If you've been hoarding that **original 1970s crochet bikini** or period identifiable vintage swimwear, we'd be delighted to hear from you!

"I DO" donation

Our public displays often jog memories about what could be donated. At the Bridge Opening we were approached by a lady offering a 1953 wedding dress and veil, in itself not unusual, but the kicker for us – it would include the Going Away outfit, including all accessories. A collection in itself. Accepted with pleasure.

'Netta' Doll circa 1950 -purchase

Netta were Australian manufacturers of dolls specialising in 'ethnic' models, including Aboriginal. Dolls were recognizable by their articulated, soft rubber bodies, and gender specific modelling. The doll will go into our Aboriginal space.



SOCIETY NEWS

Thanks to Angela George, Museum Advisor for Bega Shire, for organising and inviting us to benefit from **Marketing for Museums** – a recent Webinar, very useful as a reminder! We have built a good network for smaller museums sharing such opportunities, between Bega Eurobodalla and Shoalhaven Shires.

Funding for the workshop was generously provided by the Mumbulla Foundation, with support from South East Arts, Museums & Galleries NSW. *Much of this training is done outside Museum hours, so thanks to volunteers who make the extra effort to upskill.*

We welcome new Volunteers

3 new active members have joined us since our Summer Newsletter.

To our men's' team, super-versatile **Kim** and **Ross**, who add to our Men's' range of skills including carpentry, glazing, painting and general 'fix it' solutions to our every need.

A warm welcome to smiling **Maria** tackling Reception duties every Tuesday. Maria was 'tapped on the shoulder' by member and neighbour Fran.



Our chief gardener, Lynda, takes every opportunity to play dress-ups. Who thought museums were musty and boring! The hard part, of course, is weeding. Volunteers?



A project for old pallets



Constructing a new shelter at the side entrance to the museum, to display our spring cart and buggy.

Acknowledging the economic difficulties imposed on our volunteers by bushfire and Covid restrictions, ESC Annual Heritage grants to local museums were thoughtfully increased from \$1000 to \$2500 for the 2020-2021 financial year.

We are tucked away and not main street visible, so a small amount was allocated to enhancing the entrance to the Museum by bringing our buggy and spring cart forward, and purchasing a bright yellow 'Open' teardrop sign .

COME ON DOWN!

Vale Judy Whelan

Former Hon Secretary Judy, wife of former Hon president Tony Whelan, passed away in March. The Society sent flowers and several members attended a large funeral notable for the affection in which this feisty little lady was held. Our sincere condolences to Tony and family.

**** Seeking an ARCHIVIST** - suit a retired librarian or similarly skilled - to work with our admin team to structure our records. Limited hours required, very flexible.

To discuss what else we can offer through membership, please call in any time during our open hours, contact our secretary Lesley on 4472 1635, or email secretary@oldcourthousemuseum.com.



BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Can't make up your mind what to read? Spoilt for choice? Researching, with your references lying everywhere? The answer is this 300 year old rotating reader which can hold open **7 books at a time**. Whew!

A task for the home handyman would be craftsman... Only reading one book?

CALL INTO OUR BOOKSHOPS TO FILL THAT LOVELY MULTIPLE BOOK READER YOU'RE MAKING.

Donations: Always looking for quality modern fiction!

Our refurbished RURAL SHED is progressing very well as our Men's team have been cleaning rabbit traps and farming tools, and vacuuming up after the stacked straw bales fell apart. (Curator's idea – sorry). With a delivery of Vistaprint corflute signage for the Shed, there is a sense of visual harmony in illustration and text which we are introducing throughout the Museum. There'll be some fascinating information revealed as we continue to work on this project – **opening June!!**



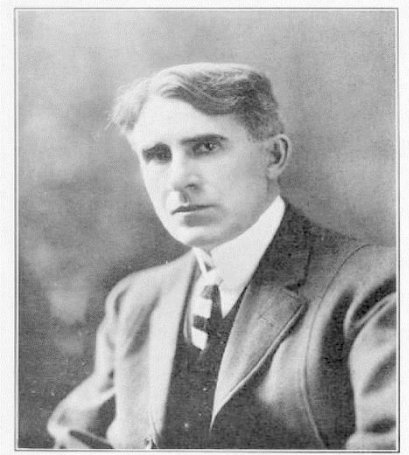
The White Death Shark

Zane Grey *Extract*Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. 8 April 1936)*

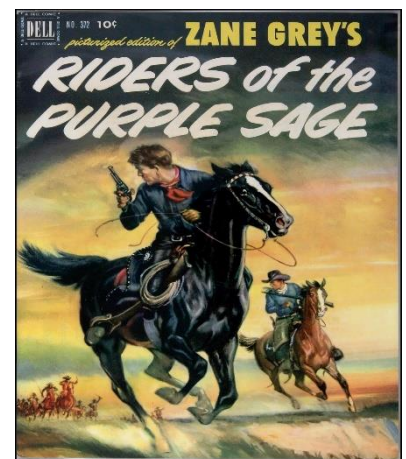
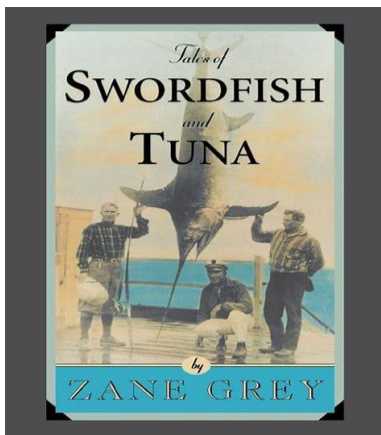
Author of classic country, wild west action, twin flame romance, and true grit tragedy, on the profits of his popular Western fiction, Grey toured the world as a big game hunter and sports fisherman; instrumental in establishing our game fishing industry.

"CROSSING the river on the ferry at Bateman's Bay, from which the wonderful Toll Gates can be seen out at sea, I conceived an idea that this place had marvellous potentialities for fishing. As a matter of fact the place haunted me so that I went back, motored all around the bay, walked out upon the many wooded capes that projected far out toward the sentinel Toll Gates, patrolled the curved sandy beaches, and finally interviewed the market fishermen.

The result was that I broke camp at Bermagui and chose a lovely site three miles out from Bateman's Bay, where we pitched camp anew. It turned out that the vision of my mind's eye had been right. This camp proved to be the most beautiful and satisfactory of all the hundreds of camps I have had in different countries. How it will turn out from a fishing standpoint remains to be seen, but I would like to gamble on my instinct. I fished all the way up from Bermagui, and the distance must have been all of 50 miles. I trolled a good-sized bonito for eight hours without a rise. The north-east breeze had freshened all day, and at four o'clock the sea was ridged white and blue. It was rough enough to make me hold on to my chair with one hand and my rod in the other. I wanted to take the first swordfish into Bateman's Bay.



Zane Grey



It appeared we would never reach it; But at last we did, and saw the grand opening at Bateman's Bay guarded by those noble Toll Gates, great bare rocks, standing aloof and august, facing the sea, and shadowed with the western sunset lights.

It was with most unusual excitement that I sighted the familiar and thrilling purple flashes of a sword-fish back of my bait. "There he is!" And he had the bait, to swerve and speed away. "Well, it's about time. Nine hours!" called Peter, as he threw out the clutch. "Be sure you hook him." I made sure of that, and for half an hour, in a rough sea, I, had a hard fight with a game fish. He almost got away. We were proud to run into Crescent Bay, where my camp had been pitched, while I fished the day through.

There was an enthusiastic crowd waiting, but nothing to the large and vociferous one that greeted us when we trucked the swordfish up to town. Most, in fact almost all, of the inhabitants had never seen a sword fish. The reception the townspeople gave me was second only to that they gave the fish. So, my start at Bateman's Bay was auspicious."

Thanks to member Fran who spotted the story.

BACKGAMMON – EVIL?

What makes a game popular enough to not only survive but evolve across millennia? Perhaps its combination of luck and skill that makes a game endlessly re-playable. If you can strike the right balance, you get something that's easy to learn, tough to master, but has enough variability that a bad player can sometimes beat a great one.

We all love a good round of “guess a number, then see if you roll that number.” But even the



ancients got bored, and boredom is the mother of invention when it comes to creating board games.

The second oldest backgammon board, about 5,000 years old, was discovered in 1926 by archaeologist Sir Charles Leonard Woolley in the digs of the Royal Tombs of Ur of the Chaldees, an ancient city of southern Mesopotamia built by the Sumerians, the same civilization credited for the invention of the wheel, the first written language and the first known math system

Backgammon and its proto-types are basically a dice game for two players, where each is trying to get all of their pieces off the board first. A simple enough endeavour you'd think. So, people would shoot dice and bet on the outcomes for money. Which brings us to gambling. The medieval church declared backgammon an evil game that should be burned. Chess was still OK, though.

The game known in the West as backgammon is played widely in the Middle East and Central Asia. Early versions had been mentioned in Old English records from the 8th and 9th centuries, but backgammon didn't really take off in Europe until the Crusaders caught the fever. It was so popular with soldiers in the Christian army that playing it for money became subject to strict rules—betting was only allowed for the knightly class and above.



*The Backgammon Players
Theodoor Rombouts 1674*

The game became especially popular in England, where it was called “tables” by the 1200s. King John liked to play with some of his court, the King noting his payouts in his book of daily expenses.

If the nobles enjoy something, common folk will follow suit if they can afford it, so backgammon spread across social stratification. The final snag preventing full cultural acceptance of ‘tables’ appears to be its classification as a game of luck, rather than one of skill, since it uses dice, and that makes it sinful?

It wasn't until 1645 that the term ‘backgammon’ was finally coined. H. J. R. Murray refers to the game as “backgammon” in his work, *A History of Board Games Other Than Chess*.

Known for centuries as ‘tables’, why “backgammon”? A plausible source comes from Middle English: *baec gamen*. This means “back game,” which describes how the point of backgammon is to make your pieces go *back* home, and then get *back* off the board.

Fancy a game?

Extract from article by Alex Johnson, Museum Hack©

FROM THE ARCHIVES



The Bergalia, off Pebbly Beach 1928. Can anyone hazard a guess at the people?

Annetts General Store in Orient Street. Prior to demolition for Annetts Plaza.



MILITARY HISTORY

On This Day



16th March 1942
9th April 1942

Darwin bombed for the first of 64 occasions.
 HMAS *Vampire* and HMS *Hermes* sunk by Japanese bombers in the Bay of Bengal.

25th April 1915

British, French, Australian and New Zealand troops commenced coordinated landings in the **Gallipoli** campaign.

26th April 1942

US 41st Division arrives in Australia. One million troops were stationed here between Dec 1941 and August 1945.

4th May 1942

Battle of Coral Sea This was the first naval engagement fought by aircraft alone.

6th/11th May 1969

Warrant Officer Class 2 R.S. Simpson, VC Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, performs the action for which he was awarded the VC in fighting in Kontum Province, South Vietnam

7th May 1945 **Germany's surrender**, signed at the French city of Reims, ended the Second World War in Europe.



Canberra times 12 May 1985

THE N.S.W. Department of Agriculture has begun a campaign to reduce the illegal marketing of fish on the South Coast. Regional Fisheries officer Mr Neville Fowler, of Goulburn, says **fishermen's cooperatives** are complaining about the level of illegal sales by professional and amateur fishermen "through the back door of cafes, restaurants and clubs".

Do you remember either of these events?

Canberra Times 8 Dec 1985

The Anglican Parish of Batemans Bay has expressed surprise that the Eurobodalla Shire Council has proceeded with the relocation of the Batemans Bay Police Station near the junction of Herarde Street and Beach Road, without the preparation of a local environmental study.

Representatives of the church said the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Bob Carr said council could not approve the use of the site without such action.

The church has opposed the relocation of the police station, adjacent to the site of its new church building.

**History remembers the celebrated—Genealogy remembers them all.
 Can our Family Historian help you?**

Temporary Exhibitions

BAPTISM

In our Community display space, Society member Joan Robinson helped create a charming display featuring items from our costume collection – **Christening gowns.**

Dolls from around the museum were briefly re-purposed to display a range of outfits, supported by photos and text on the origins of Baptism/ Christening occasions. The two terms have become almost interchangeable but baptism does refer to body immersion,

The fun thing about creating displays is that you invariably learn something every time. For instance, swaddling bands - what are they? In Jesus' time strips of white cloth were used to symbolically bind the hands of those being married, then used again to tightly wrap the firstborn child.



STEAM

In direct contrast, 'Simple Science' brings together a range of homely wood and iron objects relying on handpower to operate.



Items include a handsome 19thC knife and scissor grinder as used pre stainless steel; iron measuring weights, cast iron whisk and mincer, and the fondly remembered metal-lined timber ice chest.

This type of display illustrates the value of a volunteer encouraging visitors to look deeper into a small artefact. For example, the tiny crafted wood bead part of the handle on the egg whisk. Once engaged, it is very pleasing to hear visitors recall the usage of these objects and recognise the craft in their manufacture.

Children are most intrigued by the portable typewriter, of course. They can be pretty rough on the keys as they adjust to the difference in pressure required from typewriter to keyboard, so we use a modern (1970s) model for them to experience the process.

"In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future."



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Vroom Vroom..! A visit by 30+ members of the **Newcastle & District Classic Car Club**, booking in for a break on their way to Wollongong.

Max 'working the crowd'. 5 new Lapidarians!



Working as a team with members of the Batemans Bay Lapidary Club, the Museum hosted a very successful morning tea with a lapidary theme. This is the 5th year in a row we have been grant funded for innovative Seniors Week events.

CONGRATULATIONS to local real estate company, Beaches & Bush Properties, which had the foresight to appreciate the broad interest in local heritage by using some of our archival photos as part of its marketing strategy.

MANY THANKS to the **Bay Theatre Players** for loan of 'blacks' curtains and a magnificent replica 19thC mourning outfit designed and sewn by Sam Haslam. These items were intrinsic to our display 'At Peace' which closed in February.

Catch their new show '*The Drowsy Chaperone*', **closing May 1st**.

Our collections go 'on the road'. If your organisation would like to be part of our **Heritage Outreach** Program, we are happy to visit and discuss requirements.

Book a group visit. We offer guided tours, with/without catering. Groups are welcome *any day* by early arrangement, from 6 to 30 people on site.

We are SO grateful to these supporters for in kind/project funding.
All financial donations are tax deductible.
Details on our website.



Ron Price Signs

M&G