WELCOME TO OUR NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER

To celebrate our move to bi-monthly newsletter, we have adopted a sleeker more modern look. We hope you like it.

FEATURED ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE:

Nelligen Part 3 – we continue our exploration of Nelligen's history in this issue. In the last issue we explored the history of the town from 1860 to the turn of the 20th Century.

William Storey– Ship Builder – built vessels for Francis Guy in the 1860s

NELLIGEN WHARF 1914

NELLIGEN POST OFFICE 1910

OLD CHEESE FACTORY NELLIGEN

Nelligen - Part 3

In February 1900 Mr Michael White bought the old Steampacket Hotel. He demolished the hotel and had a new structure erected on the same site with its floor four feet higher than its predecessor so as to avoid inundation during flood times.

Nelligen's first official post office was erected on the Government reserve and officially opened on 26 May 1900. (It now operates as a bed and breakfast.) In March 1903 the Nelligen Mechanic's Institute was opened.

The Clyde River Dairy Farmers Co-operative built a cheese factory on Wharf Road in 1905 opposite the punt landing site. It was a gable roofed building with the gable facing the river.

Telegraph lines were installed in 1911. By 1915 Nelligen's principal local production was noted as timber, butter, cheese, maize, pigs, poultry, wattle bark, and gold. A new

police residence was constructed in 1920, and the war memorial unveiled in 1921. The new (replacement) school residence and classroom were opened in 1923.

On 25 June 1925 the two storey timber Steampacket Hotel burnt to the ground - having stood for 25 years. It was owned at the time by Mr and Mrs NEATE, who moved the business to the now abandoned cheese factory nearby following the fire. The building was extended circa 1930 and operated on this site as the Steampacket Hotel until the mid 1960s. Major floods occurred in 1925 and 1934. About 1930 a general store was built on the corner of Wharf and Braidwood streets where the two-storey Steampacket Hotel had stood. Known as Benny's Store for many years, it burnt to the ground in 2010.
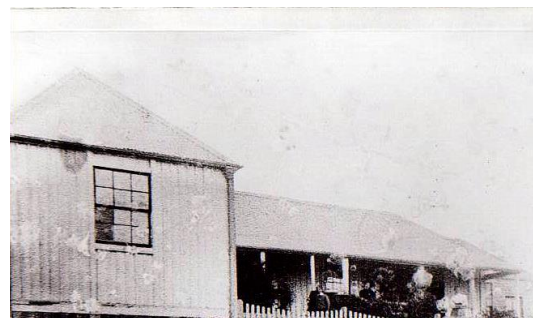
A devastating fire in 1939 burnt many buildings on the south side of Braidwood Street including ten houses, a café, the old Church of England and the Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian Church was on the hillside west of the Old Cheese Factory and in 1974, new land development associated with Currowan Road revealed the graves that had been on the site of the former Presbyterian Church. The C of E Church was just to the west of the RC Church, but is a vacant block now with a late 20th century house to one side. *This story will be continued in our next issue.*

Source: The Story of Nelligen that has appeared in *Pastimes* is drawn from work undertaken by Pip GIOVANELLI for the Eurobodalla Shire Council. It was published in 2010 and is titled *Nelligen Main Street Study.*

STEAMPACKET HOTEL – THE DAY AFTER IT BURNED DOWN, JUNE 1925

SCHOOL RESIDENCE AND CLASSROOM

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NELLIGEN

William STOREY – Ship Builder

William was born on 27 June 1838 in Monkwearmouth Shore, Sunderland in the County of Durham, England.

By 1851 he was an apprentice shipwright living with his family in 16 Dundas Street, Monkwearmouth Shore. William STOREY married Elizabeth GAHAN on 19 September 1853, in London, where he stayed as a shipwright until at least 1861 with his young family.

Australia calls

He travelled to New South Wales without his family in about 1863. Elizabeth, with their two children, arrived in Sydney aboard the *St Hilda* on 30 January 1865. The shipping records state William STOREY'S address as Mort Street, Balmain.

William initially built ships at Jervis Bay and in 1869 he moved to Bateman's Bay to set up a shipbuilding business. The Bateman's Bay business was tough as in 1870 he was declared bankrupt with his address then given as Hay Street, Haymarket, Sydney. He remained at Batemans Bay until at least late 1875 as his last child, Gilbert was born here. In the Grevilles 1872, and 1875-1877 Post Office Directory for Bateman's Bay is listed: STOREY William - shipbuilder.

Building ships in Batemans Bay

According to his family's history, in 1869 while at Bateman's Bay William built vessels for the CRAIG brothers and for Thomas BOOKS. He also built ships for Francis GUY –

two that we know of; the *Frank Guy* and the *Lizzie Guy*. We are not sure of the exact relationship between GUY and William, but it was common practice in those days for a man with money and materials to commission the construction of vessels, hire or partner shipwrights to do the actual building, and then register the documents in his own name as the builder. GUY is recorded as the builder of both the *Frank Guy* and the *Lizzie Guy*.

Family moves to Sydney

In Sydney, William's fortunes seemed to turn around and he sent for his family to join him in Balmain. Elizabeth made preparations to leave their home on the beautiful Clyde River, maybe she regretted leaving, but life would be easier in the city with shops and schools nearby.

Elizabeth and the children travelled to Sydney in their own sailing boat. Probably a ships boat it would have been about 22ft. long and very seaworthy. Although boats were a way of life for this family the 200 miles to Sydney with 8 children in an open boat, in the Tasman Sea, would have been quite an adventure.
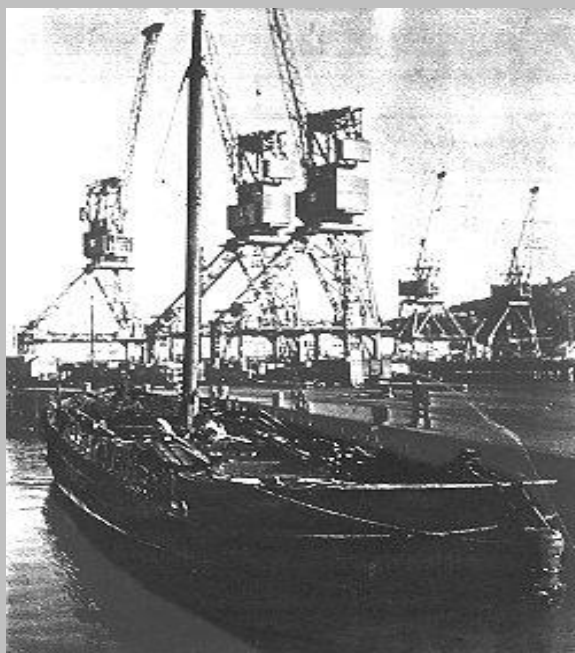
Tragedy strikes

Elizabeth settled the children into school and adapted to city life. Two years later William took ill, suffering fever and hemorrhaging from the bowels. He died within two months on 23 June 1877, aged thirty nine. Elizabeth was left alone to fend for herself and eight children, their ages were Mary-Ann 18, William 14, Jane 12, Elizabeth 10, John 8, Thomas 6, Henry 4 and Gilbert 2.

The *Frank Guy* photographed as a coal hulk at Lyttelton NZ in 1936 (source: http://www.nzmaritime.co.nz/frankguy.htm sighted 5 May 2013)

Source: This story has been drawn from the family history of Brian SPALDING.

William STOREY – Shipbuilder (cont)

The boys went to work at a very early age, even as young as ten. Elizabeth insisted they all attend night school and obtain a good basic education. Each of the sons was apprenticed to a company associated with building steel ships. Employers required an indenture fee, and wages were so low that a boy's expenses would have to be subsidised for several years.

This is an extraordinary tale, especially when you consider that if a family was starving, the only way out was to hand the children over to the State. Here, they would be placed into an orphanage, the mother would go to a workhouse and toil long hours for little more than food.

Children find success

Of the family, the girls made successful and happy marriages and the boys built outstanding careers in business and politics. William and Elizabeth's son John was elected the State Member for Balmain in 1901. He held that position until his death on 5th October 1921. He was Premier of NSW from 13 April 1920 until 5th October 1921.

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What's happening at the Museum?

REMINDER TO MEMBERS

The Society's **AGM** is to be held on Saturday 27th July, 11am, at the Community Centre Batemans Bay, followed by a BBQ lunch. Members are requested to bring a plate.

THE CUP THAT CHEERS!

Recently accepted into the Collection were this crocheted tea cosy, and embroidered Afternoon Tea knapery comprising tablecloth, napkins and tea cosy. At a time when middle class women did not have outside employment and socialising was principally done in the home, the equipment and presentation was a major social indicator.

Domestic guides provided detailed instructions as to how the table should be set, even the type of conversation. There were 'appropriate' table linens for morning/lunch/afternoon/dinner and supper. Although embroidered tea cosies have a long history (a 'housewifely' skill), patterns for crocheted tea cosies did not appear until the early 1900s. Typically the tea cosy would match the crochet lace on the cloth. *'The cup that cheers'* was a popular description of tea in the 19th and 20th centuries and was linked to the temperance movement. This pattern came from a women's magazine.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Society is very supportive of training opportunities for members, some courses directly related to museum activities, while others are of general interest to individuals.

- **Wednesday JULY 25th Members Only**
  Collection Management – 10-4 workshop in Narooma for Museum and Gallery volunteers.
  No cost, funded by Museums & Galleries NSW and South East Arts.
  We will car-pool. Register with Myf Thompson Curator before Tuesday 24th July.

- **From August 16 x 4 Public Course**
  Following two very successful courses for U3A members, we are again running 'The History of Batemans Bay'. Conducted by Ewan Morrison over 4 x Fridays, from 10-12 at the Old Courthouse Museum, with morning tea. Cost is $20. Registration is limited to 20, contact Ewan MORRISON ewan.morrison@gmail.com .

The Old Courthouse Museum
Batemans Bay NSW
PASTIMES

Newsletter of the Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc.

VICTORIAN VISITORS MAKE AN IMPRESSION

Holidaying in the Bay for an extended period, Margaret and Michael Henry, members of the Omeo Museum in Victoria, volunteered to do 'anything that helps' and they certainly did. Sorting and cataloguing the items we hold is the first step in our project to reproduce an Annetts Shop display. Up the ladder, Michael is assessing part of large bottle collection (a task studiously ignored by the rest of us) and it's recorded by Marg.   Our warm thanks to Marg and Michael for a valuable exchange of ideas, and best wishes for a safe trip home.

"ROYAL" CELEBRATION AT THE MUSEUM

'Prince Kynan' takes the St Edward's crown in his stride. A replica crown offered visitors a 'photo opportunity' as part of our temporary display marking the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.   Our original 1953 magazines and other relevant material rarely get an outing, so this was an excellent opportunity.

 ANNIVERSARY CORONATION COIN WITH PURPLE STRIPES – FOR RELEASE IN AUSTRALIA IN JULY 2013.

Our Current Projects

- Schools of the District
- Recording & naming our photos
- Recording our artefacts
- Photographing our artefacts
- Researching our artefacts

- Telephony Display
- The Local Oyster Industry
- Cheese production in the district
- Blandford House
- Maritime History of the District

Can YOU:

- **Build things,**
- **make things,**
- **Restore things,**
- **Research things**
- **Talk about things**

Or do you just have an interest in our towns, our history and our cemeteries?

Drop us a line at:
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Chris Ruszala- Editor