



The Old Courthouse Museum

# PASTIMES

*Newsletter of the  
Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc.*  
Issue 30 Jul – Aug 2017

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

## **PUBLICITY LAUNCH FOR 2017**

### **FAMILY FUN ('OPEN') DAY**

**SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2017**

**Floor it, Daddy-O!**  
to the  
**50's**  
Family  
Fun Day

**Sat Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 2017**

**9.30am - 3pm**

**Old Courthouse Museum Batemans Bay**

Market Stalls + Displays + 'Cut a Rug' Music

Antique Working Machinery + Craft + Art

Kids Space + Pre-loved Books

Milk Shakes + Cream Teas + BBQ



[www.oldcourthousemuseum.com](http://www.oldcourthousemuseum.com)  
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Yes, here it is folks! Not just an Open Day, but a 50s-themed Open Day!!!! Lay out your best gear for this event, if you can still find it at the back of your wardrobe, or in an old suitcase in the loft or garage!!!

#### **FEATURED ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE OF PASTIMES**

#### **Memories of a Nelligen childhood – Pt 2:**

We continue with the second of a three -part personal journey by Bill Simpson, into life in 1920s Nelligen.

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

## **RALLY OF THE BAY 2017**

### **ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS**

More than 20 members and partners assisted with catering for this year's Rally of the Bay – a great turnout and thankyou for your support!



We were well received by the officials, drivers, support crews and spectators, especially when the steak sandwiches were ready! The weather was glorious and Corrigans Beach looked terrific!



Check out all the photos inside this issue of 'Pastimes'. Roll on Rally 2018!!

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## MEMORIES OF A NELLIGEN CHILDHOOD (Part 2) - by Bill Simpson (as published in the CANBERRA TIMES of 19 February 1983)

*On the opposite side of the river was a cow bell fastened to a post and I can recall that on many occasions, when returning from Moruya or Batemans Bay late at night, Dad would ring the cow bell and some 15 minutes later the punt would appear out of the gloom for Syd to wind us across to the Nelligen side, to the accompaniment of grunts and an audible commentary on inconsiderate people who insisted on being abroad at such unreasonable hours.*



The SS Moruya served on the Clyde River from 1906 – 1912. The photo shows the old Cheese factory on the left with the small Presbyterian Church slightly behind it and up the slope. There is a gable roofed shed between the cheese factory and the ISN Co building. Manning's shed is to the right of the wharf.

*Even today I have only to close my eyes to see again the countless jellyfish moving slowly beneath the smooth surface of the clear green water and to hear once again the low vibrant thrum of the cables on the pulleys and the sharp change of note and the sudden clang as a cable jumped from one pulley to the one above it, as Syd wound us across the Clyde, much as old Charon must have ferried departed souls across the Styx in the Hades of Greek mythology.*

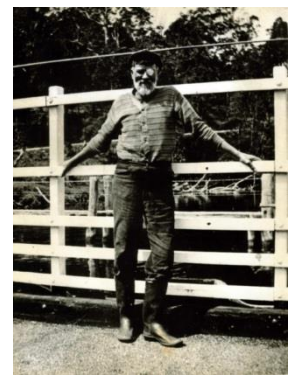


Nelligen Cheese Factory, with Bill Dayball (on right) of the ISN Co. Ltd..

*All the products of the district - Ben McCawley's home-made cheeses, the bundles of wattle bark, the railway sleepers, the timber - were transported by the coastal steamers that visited Nelligen regularly. The Bergalia, the Eden, the Bermagui, all well-known and welcome visitors to the Nelligen wharf and the sheds of the South Coast and Illawarra Navigation Company, and on their return voyages brought much merchandise from Sydney.*

*My parents regularly received boxes of goods despatched from both Anthony Horderns and McIlwraiths, usually foodstuffs from the latter. My clearest memory of these is of the huge blocks of drinking chocolate that were always included. My surreptitious visits to the old sideboard where the "drinking" chocolate was kept ensured that a large part of it was doomed never to be drunk, but rather to be secretly devoured, piecemeal, behind the door.*

*There were, of course, a number of shops in the village: Middleton's*



Charles Thorp, Nelligen Ferrymaster



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*General Store ("Old Midds" we called it), which, in my eyes, was only slightly less impressive than Anthony Horder's itself. Directly opposite was Thorpe's General Store and, later on, a butcher's shop was opened by one "Ginger" Ryan. I still remember my excitement when the first sausages were available, made on the premises by "Ginger" himself, with his own fair hand. What a red-letter day that was.*

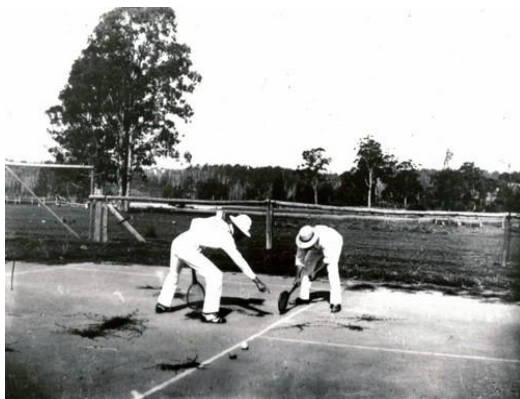
*Next to Thorpe's store elderly Miss Maggie Whyte conducted a confectionary shop. We also got our supply of milk from her shop and it was my job to go down each day and get the milk in a billy can. How I used to, eye-off the musk sticks and bullseyes displayed in the big glass jars on the counter while I waited for her to fill the billy with milk. Miss Whyte always slipped me a lolly or two until, I confess, I came to expect - and one day, even to demand - my ration of lollies from the kind old soul. Perhaps there were other children present, perhaps I was rude in my asking (more likely, I fear) but, whatever the reason, on one memorable occasion Miss Whyte declined to provide the usual hand-out and I ran out of the shop in childish pique and indignation.*

*My method of "pay-back" was simple and immediate, if unwise. I gathered up a handful of horse manure from the street and returned to hurl it through the open door into Miss Whyte's immaculate premises, at the same time shouting my considered opinion of old ladies who reneged on their obligation to provide lollies for needy children, before I fled up the hill to safety - or so I thought!*

*The consequences of that intemperate act of violence are best forgotten. I received a sound belting from my father and was then required to return to the scene of the crime and apologise to Miss Whyte. She, poor soul, was so overcome with remorse that she plied me with lollies as we cried quietly together. God bless you, Miss Whyte - you figure clearly in my fondest memories of 60-year-ago Nelligen.*



Nelligen baths 1935-36, downstream from the Steam Packet Hotel and Punt crossing.



Alfie Campbell pointing, while Charlie Webber does the work! (circa 1930's or 40s)

*A number of unusual industries were developed around Nelligen during the years that we lived there. The Webber family conducted a very successful spokes factory for many years, some three miles out of town, where they produced wooden spokes for the wheels of every type of waggon, sulky, cart and buggy, all made from local timbers. I remember Mr. Webber, senior, as a very impressive old gentleman, driving into town in his gleaming buggy, dressed in a cream suit of tussah silk and looking for all the world like a twin brother of Colonel Sanders.*

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*The Webbers, more as a community service, I suspect, than as a commercial enterprise, also acted as the local undertakers and the same buggy was used as the hearse on those sad occasions when it was needed. I remember my mother making wreaths from the meagre supply of flowers and leaves available to her to honour some deceased resident about to be laid to rest in the old cemetery behind the township. People and communities seemed to be closer in those days.*

*A most interesting industry was developed further up the Clyde, above Shallow Crossing, where a starch factory was established by a Sydney firm to manufacture starch from the "nuts" of the burrawang palms that grow, in countless thousands, in the area. The manager was an industrial chemist named Robinson and starch was indeed produced in commercial quantities. The coastal steamers were able to steam beyond Nelligen to the company's own wharf, where the starch was loaded and transported to Sydney. I cannot remember the brand-name under which it was marketed.*

**(End of Part 2 – Part 3 features in the next Issue of Pastimes).**

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## UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENT

### ***Is your Family Tree 'Fake News'? -***

Celebrating National Family History Month, you are invited to a relaxed workshop led by Chris Bendle, Family History Officer at the Old Courthouse Museum, 10am -11.30am Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Over morning tea, Chris will share her tips for analyzing information, to ensure the people on your family tree *really are* your relatives:

- what to look for on online trees;
- when to get suspicious about documentary evidence; *and*
- how to distinguish between people of the same name.

*Internet access is available.*

Numbers are limited, cost is \$2 p.h. for catering. Please book via [secretary@oldcourthousemuseum.com](mailto:secretary@oldcourthousemuseum.com) or on 4472 1635.



## What's been happening at the Old Courthouse Museum?

### NEW MEMBER MERRIE INSPIRES LATEST COURTHOUSE EXHIBITION – *'The Apron as Art'*



In the picture (left), member Merrie Hamilton is seen proudly wearing her 'Sugarbag Apron'.

Merrie and her husband previously ran a gallery in Braidwood, before retiring to Batemans Bay.



Practical, Decorative, Ritualistic  
Featuring the Merrie Hamilton Collection

Aug 8th - Sep 27th

Old Courthouse Museum Museum Place Batemans Bay

Tel 4472 1635

[www.oldcourthousemuseum.com](http://www.oldcourthousemuseum.com)



**Left:** Part of the 'Apron as Art' exhibition

**Right:** Member Zoe Brassil 'keeps an eye out for blackbirds', as she pegs the last of the aprons.



### IMPRESSIVE TURNOUT AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

More than 30 members attended the 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July at the Bay Community Centre.

When formal proceedings were over, lunch was served (provided by the members) and sausages were sizzled!! Added to that was an impressive cake to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the CR&BBHS Inc. (team photo on right).





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Edna Veitch continues in her role as Patron of the Society, with the following positions filled for 2017-2018:

- President – Ewan Morrison;
- Vice President – Chris Ruzala;
- Secretary – Lesley Billings;
- Treasurer – Sandra Smith; and
- Executive Committee – Myf Thompson, Nerida Castle, Les Smith and Ray Mooney.

### UPGRADED VISITOR TOILET FACILITIES GIVEN AN OFFICIAL LAUNCH!



The Old Court House Museum has passed on its thanks to all who purchased CD/DVDs at the recent Batemans Bay Past and present reunion on the 6th. May at the Bay Soldiers Club. Half of the funds were donated to the Museum.

The money raised from the sales has enabled us to purchase all the materials to upgrade the visitor bathroom for disability access. All refurbishments 😊 were performed by our own volunteer members. (thanks to Les, Bill K, Brian, Martin and the

team). In the picture above, Museum President Ewan Morrison is seen pressing the 'inaugural' flush. Curator Myf Thompson was heard to say: "Thanks again! Call in and see your donation at work".

### OUTREACH PROGRAMME TAKES OFF TO SUNSHINE BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL

In August, the Outreach Team, comprising members Myf Thompson, Glen Tulip, Jude Matchett, Judy Ramsey and Brian Nason (transport) took the Museum 'on the road'. On this occasion, they visited Sunshine Bay Public, providing Year 1/2 children with an informative insight into various aspects of life in the Bay several generations ago.

In the picture (right), one student discovers what 'Bath Time' was really like in the old days!



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**PHOTOS FROM THE 2017 RALLY OF THE BAY – great weather and location**



**Above left & middle:** Cake-making and coleslaw supremo Lynda Thompson prepares her wares.  
**Above right:** Les Smith and Bill Keenan chill out a bit after consuming too much tea and cake!!!



**Above left:** President Ewan Morrison tries to keep order in the kitchen!!!  
**Middle:** Chef Chris 'Marco' Ruzala looks for another unsuspecting customer in the crowd.  
**Right:** Ray 'Body Beautiful' Mooney lurks in the background, ready to pounce!

**Right:** Myf Thompson:  
*"This book is so exciting, I  
can hardly stay awake!"*



**Above right:** A real Rally Car!

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## FUNDRAISING THROUGHOUT JULY AND AUGUST 2017 – IT'S RAINING CASH OUT THERE!



Bunnings BBQ – 28 <sup>th</sup> July:	<b>\$401</b>
Book Emporium – July:	<b>\$129</b>
Book Emporium – August:	<b>\$204</b>
Rally of the Bay – 12 <sup>th</sup> August:	<b>\$627</b>
Ladies Stall – July:	<b>\$200</b>
Ladies Stall – August:	<b>\$150 (est.)</b>
+ General donations:	<b>\$50</b>

That makes for an impressive total of **\$1761** (clear) for the two months. Once more, well done to all of our fundraisers!

## KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FROM SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2017

- Ladies Stall, Bridge Plaza - Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September;
- Bunnings BBQ – Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> September;
- MATAMA Machinery Rally at Moruya Showground – Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> October;
- Museum Annual Family 'Open Day' – Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> October;
- Ladies Stall, Bridge Plaza – Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> October; and
- Bunnings BBQ – Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> October.

## LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON Perry's Mill (second request)

New Member Chris Bendle, who also happens to be our Family History Researcher, has asked the Editor to make the following request: ***"Looking for any information on Perry's Mill, Batemans Bay. We are particularly searching for information on employees of the Mill or any photographs of the Mill and its workers."*** Please contact Chris if you can assist her.

## VACANCIES: ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE FOR GARDENING, GOOGLING OR GUIDING ACTIVITIES



Do you have a general interest in our towns, our history and our cemeteries, with a few hours to commit per week/fortnight/month?

Maybe a specific interest in helping to build things; grow or mow things; sew things; restore things; display things; research things; and/or an ability to talk under wet cement (guiding and fund- raising).

Please contact us for a friendly chat on how we can get together.