



The Old Courthouse Museum

PASTIMES

*Newsletter of the
Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc.*
Issue 23 – Apr/May 2016

NEW CEMETERIES RESEARCH PROJECT BRINGS CLOSURE TO FAMILY GENEALOGY RESEARCHER

Recent Correspondence received in March 2016 from Roz Gower, lead to our 'Cemeteries Project Team' providing crucial family information from a local headstone, resulting in completion of a life-long search. Extracts from Roz's letter are reproduced on Page 7, along with photographs of the family burial plot.



Headstone of John Alexander Rainey

MEMBERS OUTING TO ULLADULLA ON 6TH MAY

We are organising a trip to Ulladulla on Friday 6th May, to take on the 'Fossil and Time Walk'. Starting at 12.30pm, the cost is \$8.00 per head, including a guided fossil and time walk, plus a visit to the Fossil House. Please advise member Lesley Billings if you wish to attend, or phone.

OTHER KEY DATES TO NOTE:

- Members Meeting for 2016: next one 10.00am Tuesday June 9th;
- Ladies Stall dates at Bridge Plaza: 26th May, 30th June, 7th July 2016;
- Bunnings BBQ: TBA;
- 'Xmas in July' lunch at Oaks Ranch. \$48 pp. 27/7. Contact Sandra for details.

WORKSHOP COMPLETED FOR MUSEUM EDUCATOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Thanks to a grant from Museums and Galleries, we held a two day workshop with Museum Advisor Rebecca Jones, on Community Engagement and Audience Development. Visitors on day one included members from Moruya and Merimbula Museums. Day two was spent working hard on our own strategies, and still smiling at the end, were (back) Bill Maidment and Chris Ruzsala, front left Advisor Rebecca Jones, and member Lesley Billings. Our next Newsletter will have details of the program for 2016-2017



FEATURED ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE OF PASTIMES

Story of the Mariners Hotel: Thanks to Trove (again), we give you an insight into the impact on Batemans Bay of the opening of the Mariners Lodge Hotel-Motel in 1975.

History of the Batemans Bay Cinemas: Take a look at the chequered history of our local cinema. From one screen to two to multi.....!! Even a memorial to a beloved pet!

The use of tobacco as a life saver: Can this be true? Here is a device which should definitely take your breath away!

Historical Quiz (number 3): Try another brain teaser from Member Jude Matchett.

STORY OF THE MARINERS HOTEL

From the Canberra Times of **Friday 27 June 1975**, comes this two-page feature of the opening of the 'new' Mariners Lodge Hotel-Motel in Orient Street, Batemans Bay.



The Mariners Lodge Hotel-Motel at Batemans Bay seen from a point in the bay approximately where the new marina will be built. This attractive aspect of the motel is visible from many points around the Bay.

TOP STANDARDS AT NEW HOTEL-MOTEL

ONE of the latest additions to the accommodation list at Batemans Bay, the Mariners Lodge Hotel-Motel, brings international hoteliers' standards to this growing South Coast holiday resort.

A beautiful concrete-brick structure, almost sand-coloured with white concrete tiles and dark natural-wood trim, the motel is right on the waterfront in the heart of Batemans Bay with a large car park which will not only provide parking space for guests' cars, but also breathing space for the hotel in an area where space is at a premium.

The Mariners Lodge cost \$1.25 million and provides 40 units, 10 of which can become five double or family units. All but a handful of the units share the picturesque view across Batemans Bay to its northern shores and beyond the islands at the mouth of the Bay.

Other facilities incorporated in this hotel-motel include a restaurant, a beautifully appointed lounge bar with an adjacent terrace facing the waterfront and a swimming pool, and a coin-operated laundromat, and under-cover parking for resident guests.

Attractive colour schemes have been devised for the units to complement the wool-and-nylon mixture carpet which is used throughout the building. The carpet is multi-coloured, with brown and orange tones pre-dominating. The units are decorated in lime green, brown or a deep orange-red with pale woods

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Each unit is equipped with radio, TV, a number of the sea are colour, telephone and bathroom facilities. A limited number of units provide a full bath, the rest have showers, and all have a small refrigerator.

The striking lounge bar is about 20 metres long, by about seven metres wide with one wall of glass facing the sea with glass doors giving access to a terrace of the same dimensions overlooking the pool.

Full-length curtains, striped in soft shades of green, reduce the glare in the bar where all other walls and the ceiling are paneled in cedar.

The long bar itself is faced in the same carpet which covers the floor and has a luxurious deep scuff of black leather padding running around the top edge.

Furniture in the bar consists of olive-green padded stools and tables with iodo-style wooden chairs padded on seat and back with olive-green leather.

The terrace has white wrought iron tables and chairs and brightly-coloured floral umbrellas, and the same style of white furniture and umbrellas, plus long white wooden sun lounges, around the pool.

MARINERS LODGE

The Mariners Lodge Hotel-Motel at Batemans Bay seen from a point in the bay approximately where the new marina will be built. This attractive aspect of the motel is visible from many points around the Bay.

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orange-red, with pale woods and laminex surfaces and softer toning colours in the tiles in the bathrooms.

Each Unit is equipped with radio, TV (a number of the sets are colour), a telephone and bathroom facilities. A limited number of units provide a full bath, the rest have showers, and all have a small refrigerator.

The striking lounge bar is about twenty metres long by about seven metres wide, with one wall of glass facing the sea, with glass doors giving access to a terrace of the same dimensions, overlooking the pool. Full-length curtains, striped in soft shades of green, reduce glare in the bar, where all other walls and the ceiling are panelled in cedar. The long bar itself is faced, in the same carpet, which covers the floor and has a luxurious deep strip of black leather padding running around the top edge. Furniture in the bar consists of olive-green padded stools and tables, with Tudor-style wooden chairs, padded on seat and back with olive-green leather. The terrace has white wrought iron tables and chairs and brightly-coloured floral umbrellas, and the same style of white furniture and umbrellas, plus long white wooden sun lounges surrounding the pool.

The front entrance of the Mariners Lodge features pleasing off-white brickwork, dark timber panelling and the clean lines of white cement tiles. The shallow steps approaching the glassed entrance to the foyer are paved in dark red-brown quarry tiles. The building faces a large car park, with an entrance from the main street running through Batemans Bay.'

===== End of 'Story of the Mariners Hotel' =====

Tobacco can be used to prolong life, after all!?

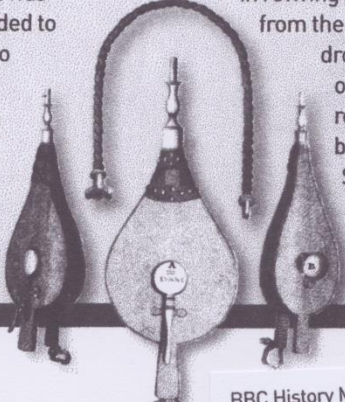
QUICK QUERY

? What was a tobacco resuscitator?

A Strange as it may seem to us, 18th-century physicians believed that one of the best methods of reviving the unconscious or the nearly dead was to blow tobacco smoke up their bottoms. Warmth and stimulation, it was argued, were needed to bring them back to life and tobacco was thought to be a particularly useful source of both. Tobacco resuscitator kits were built

by the leading makers of scientific and medical instruments of the day. The principal part of the kit was a kind of bellows to blow the smoke up the patient's rectum. In the 1770s, what later became the Royal Humane Society stationed boxed tobacco resuscitators at points along the Thames to assist in reviving people pulled from the river after nearly drowning. Examples of tobacco resuscitators can be seen in the Science Museum and the Wellcome Collection.

Nick Rennison



co resuscitator, now somewhat out of fashion

BBC History Magazine

HISTORY OF THE BATEMANS BAY CINEMAS

In August 1930 Mr K. Annetts, General Store owner, approached the licensing authority to ascertain picture theatre requirements. Plans for a wooden frame structure covered with galvanised iron, a small rear gallery with 35mm projection box and seating for 150 were subsequently approved, and the theatre at 10 Orient Street opened on 7 August 1931 as Batemans Bay talkies. Within six years seating had increased to 268.

Business must have been a great success because in late 1958 Annetts obtained approval to show movies in an open-air structure on the lawn alongside the original theatre, in front of his private residence. This second venture was carried out very much on the cheap as the same toilets were to cater for the additional 260 patrons, and an existing high fence on the street alignment would be the enclosure. 16mm projection would be through two casement-type windows in a projection box lined with fibro-cement and situated on the front verandah of the residence. Fire precautions would be by means of one soda-acid extinguisher and town water hydrants already safeguarding the other theatre. These arrangements, no doubt providing for additional holiday demand, did not last beyond 1961 when police reported to the licensing authority that screenings had discontinued. Within two years the open-air theatre had been demolished and the site returned to use as a private yard for the Annetts family. The wheels of bureaucracy ground on until formal cancellation of the licence in June 1964.

After almost 43 years showing movies in the Bay Annetts may not have enjoyed good health, as he requested cancellation of the roofed theatre licence in August 1973; television was probably also contributing to a downturn in business. Sadly Annetts passed away within two years. It would appear there were no further screenings until William Bardsley-Smith leased the premises in March 1975. He installed a wide screen to cater for numerous projection ratios introduced in the 1950s. He also upgraded toilets and provided a candy bar. In about 18 months K and D Clark took over the lease. They lasted for about three years, and are believed to have left the district due to financial problems. The licence then lapsed, and the theatre closed permanently. In its latter days the venue was known as the Carnelian Theatre (Movie Theatre Register for NSW 1896-1996).

The following decade saw an attempt by Catalina Country club in Beach road to fill the movie gap (The Examiner 7/9/1983), but pictures returned regularly and in purpose –built premises when a cinema opened in the new Citi Centre Arcade, a commercial redevelopment of Annetts property, extending from Orient to Perry Streets. An entrance from the latter gave admission to the 1st floor auditorium of the single screen Bay City Cinema which opened at the rear of the premises on 27 January 1984. Foyer, ticket box and candy bar were on the 1st floor, with projection suite at 2nd floor level. Seating for 200 patrons was confirmed in licence No5008 issued finally on 24 April 1985 after minor structural adjustments were completed to the satisfaction of authorities. By mid 1990s policies of the major distributors compelled owners John and Sue Kasoulis to construct a second auditorium. Bay Twin City Cinema opened on 19 December 1996 with total seating capacity of 330. A new upstairs foyer, improved box office facilities and enhanced snack bar were complemented by attractive admission prices (Southern Star bay Advocate 18/12/1996). In September 1990 regulatory control was transferred to the local council subsequent to repeal of the Theatres and Public Halls Act. Happily the cinema still operates.



Left: Batemans Bay Picture Theatre, 1949.

Below: Carnelian Theatre, late 1970s.



Left: Ken Annetts had a memorial for his beloved Pekinese dog laid out in the front garden, next to the theatre. Resident's memories of the dog, which was carried everywhere, were not so charitable.

===== End of 'History of the Batemans Bay Cinemas' =====

What's been happening at the Old Courthouse Museum?

LARGE TURNOUT FOR 'CLEAN-UP AUSTRALIA' DAY AT THE MUSEUM

You name it, we found it, uncovered, raised, dragged and re-claimed it for the Council to (hopefully) take it away and dispose of it correctly! Curator Myf Thompson set up base camp by the Water Gardens on Sunday morning 6th March, with the team of helpers arriving by 10am. Refuse bags and gloves were provided by the Organisers and Council, duties were assigned and off we went for about a couple of hours. The team retrieved bottles, food, old clothes, hardware and a large collection of shopping trolleys. In addition, volunteers Ron Price and Rob Devonald returned with a large mattress (see photo above). At the end of it all, morning tea was served and several horror stories shared. Well done to all!



MEMBERS OUTING TO BODALLA – Friday 18th March 2016



The dry weather held for the Museum's visit to All Saints Gardens and the Church at Bodalla. The gardens were a treat for the eyes, not unexpected, as owner Kelly Kershaw was named *Gardening Australia's* Gardener of the Year in 2014. Since the first plantings around the house about 10 years ago, the garden has grown to around 1.2 hectares, down to and around the dam. Kelly proved a helpful host, answering many questions and providing a few gardening tips. In the photo, Kelly is seen (in black

top) chatting to our group at the end of the tour. From here, we made the journey across the road, to view All Saints Church, and then finished the trip with lunch at the Bodalla Dairy Café. (**Note:** We need your suggestions for future Members outings – pls contact any Exec. member)

MUSEUM SECTOR NEWS

The Audio/Visual section of the **Royal Australian Historical Society** website (www.rahs.org.au) has been enhanced to make it easier to access recordings of the wide range of lectures at History House and regional seminars. Click on one of the images on the AV page, and you will be directed to RAHS' *YouTube* Channel. The latest addition to this collection is Historian Mark Dunn's presentation 'Your Heritage, Our Heritage'.

MARCH and APRIL 2016 – ANOTHER GOOD MONTH FOR FUNDRAISING



All fundraising teams performed well over these two months:

March: Almost \$600 at Bunnings, \$220 at the Book Emporium and \$150 from the Ladies Stall at Bridge Plaza;

April: \$830 from Bunnings, \$190 at the Book Emporium and \$110 from the Stall.

LADIES STALL CALLS FOR GARMENT DONATIONS

Vicky Quinn from the Ladies Stall group (pictured right) is requesting donations of quality handcrafted items (knitwear, sewn, crocheted etc.) and wool. Please contact Vicky or Nerida Castle at the Museum, if you would like to assist. You can also leave donated goods at the Museum during normal opening hours.



NEW CEMETERIES RESEARCH PROJECT BRINGS CLOSURE TO FAMILY GENEALOGY RESEARCHER

Recent Correspondence received in March 2016 from Roz Gower, lead to members Ray Mooney, Mary Maidment and Jennifer Mather (ace photographer) providing crucial family

information from a local headstone, resulting in completion of a life-long search. Extracts from Roz's letter are reproduced below, along with photographs of the family burial plot:

"Hello Ray, thank you so much for your email and all the very useful information it contained. I am so incredibly grateful to you for tramping around Bateman's Bay Cemetery to get me the info on my grandfather, John Alexander Rainey.



The inscription on his headstone does confirm some research I have been doing, particularly that of his second wife. I had seen a record of a marriage of John Rainey to Irene May Braham but had no way of knowing if it was the right one. It seemed both possible and unlikely as the marriage was in 1956 just two years before he died when he was 74. So I was wondering if maybe it was the marriage of a son or even grandson of his. Now, thanks to your research and the inscription on his gravestone I know that he did indeed marry May, in their later years, and after his first wife had died.

.....it's been wonderful to fill in a missing part of my family tree especially as both my parents are now dead. I'm so happy to know that my grandfather had such an interesting, if somewhat harrowing, life serving in two major and infamous wars but eventually ended up living in such a lovely place and that he found peace and happiness with his second wife May in later life, and that they're now both laid to rest together. It doesn't look like they would have had any children so my search ends there. My only small regret is, according to the details on the headstone you discovered, that John's wife May lived till she was 91 and so if I'd been able to start this search earlier I could reasonably have met her. But that was before we had the internet....Ah well.



My sincere thanks to you and the other members of the Old Courthouse Museum for all your generous help with my quest. If you can find the time to take a photo for me of John's grave then that would be amazing and something I could send on to my children, nieces and nephews (two of whom are in New Zealand) who have all been with me via email on this journey of discovery. For all of us, ANZAC day will now have new meaning and relevance. " Many,

many thanks and best wishes, Roz Gower.

CONSTRUCTION OF STORAGE SHED & COURTHOUSE ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENT COMPLETED



Left: Members Elliott Gregory and Peter Barnes prepare for the fit-out of the new storage shed.

Centre: Men just hanging out in the new shed! Well done to the team for getting the storage shed up so quickly! Our next step is to clear out the old storage area behind the Antique Tools display and fit it out as a permanent Eurobodalla Geology exhibition.

Right: The new air-lock and welcome area for the Courthouse entrance is well underway. A new set of double doors will complete the seal and ensure a draught-free Courthouse during those windy and wet days. Well done to Les Smith and the Building Maintenance Team!

AND FINALLY.... YES, IT'S QUIZ TIME AGAIN!!!



Pit your wits against our resident Quizmaster Jude Matchett. As before, answers can be found at the bottom of the newsletter.

1. What explorer (first Australian born officer in the Royal Navy), in 1823 named Snapper Island?
2. In 1859, cabin passage on the Steamer 'Hunter', from Sydney to Nelligen, cost how much?
3. What year was the ferry service across the Clyde River at Batemans Bay established?
4. Who was the first baby born in the new Batemans Bay hospital on the 12th August 1970?
5. Which explorer, surveying the Batemans Bay area in the 1820s, named one of the offshore islands the 'Tollhouse', leading to the present name of Tollgate Islands?
6. In 1954, 7,500 vehicles ferried across the Clyde River. How many crossed in 1963?
7. Nelligen Public School permanently closed in what year?
8. How long did it take Mr. & Mrs. Gibson to drive from Goulburn to Moruya in 1906?
9. What year was a license issued by the Board of Health for the Batemans Bay and District Nursing Hospital?
10. What year was the Canberra-to-coast road sealed?

Can YOU:

- Build things, make things, restore things, research things, and/or even talk about things?

Or do you just have an interest in our towns, our history and our cemeteries? Then let us know. Please contact us on secretary@oldcourthousemuseum.com or speak to a Committee member.

Answers to Trivia Quiz: 1. Lieutenant Robert Johnston; 2. 2 Pounds and 5 shillings; 3. 1871; 4. Leanne Ison; 5. Thomas Florence; 6. 30,000; 7. 1970; 8. 6 hours; 9. 1935; 10. 1962.