

# PASTIMES

March 2012

Issue No: 5

OLD COURTHOUSE & POLICE  
RESIDENCE MUSEUM:  
Museum Place  
BATEMANS BAY NSW  
[b.baymuseum@optusnet.com.au](mailto:b.baymuseum@optusnet.com.au)  
TELEPHONE  
(02) 4472 8993

## WE REMEMBER

### VICTOR'S PENNY

The Museum is very fortunate to hold a commemorative 'penny' given by the Empire to bereaved next of kin in World War 1. Officially called a **memorial plaque** it was commonly referred to by servicemen as the 'dead man's penny' for obvious reasons. *Continued on Page 4*

### THE MEMORY BOOK PROJECT

We're almost there! After five months of hard work, the editorial team led by Dianne Hantas has compiled, illustrated and edited the memories of those current and former residents contributing stories to Remembering the Bay. *Continued on Page 5*

### GADICAL NAWI - THE CANOE HAS LANDED

After an anxious wait, we were thrilled to hear from the Batemans Bay Land Council that the promised stringybark canoe had 'landed' and was ready for us to collect. *Continued on Page 5*

### OPEN MORE HOURS IN SCHOOL HOLS.

We will open from 9.00am to 4.00pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and from 9.00am to 12 noon on Sundays.

## FAMILY FUN ON EASTER SUNDAY! OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM



BATEMANS BAY

**\* COBB & CO  
COACH RIDES**

The Longvale Clydesdales

**\* FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY**

**\* HOT FOOD**

**\* DEVONSHIRE TEAS**



**\* WORKING ANTIQUE  
MACHINERY**

**\* MARKET STALLS**

**FREE entry FREE parking**

Next to the Town Water Gardens

**9.30AM — 3PM SUNDAY APRIL 8TH**

## *“Lest We Forget”*

This artefact was donated to the Old Courthouse Museum by the Backhouse family. A large family, this branch lived at Currowan Creek between Nelligen and Braidwood. Accompanying the artefact were two framed, enlarged studio photographs of the Backhouse brothers, Victor and Leslie. Victor died on the Western Front and it is his commemorative “Penny” that is on display.

Unfortunately we do not have the item that accompanied every ‘Penny’ - a scroll, 27 x 17 centimetres made of slightly darkened parchment, headed by the Royal Coat of Arms with a passage written in old English script,

*“He whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others may live in freedom.*

*Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.”*

Beneath this passage, written in the same style, was the name and rank

and service details of the deceased. To accompany the scroll, again in old English script was a personal message from King George V:

*“I join with my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War.*

*George R I.”*

The fact that the rarely awarded Victoria Cross medal is made from the same bronze gunmetal as the Penny gives additional impact to the context in which the Penny is viewed.

### **War Graves Register Notes:**

BACKHOUSE, Pte. Victor John, 4432. 54th Bn. Killed in action 19th/20th July, 1916. Son of John and Mary BACKHOUSE of Currowan Creek, Clyde Rd., Braidwood, NSW.

Research undertaken by Myf Thompson, CR&BBHS, 2009.

### **... the many who served at home**

The War effort wasn't confined to those in the Armed Services. Many served the Nation at home. For example, many men from Batemans Bay were refused entry into the services as the timber industry was considered vital to the war effort.

Find out more at the Museum's *Lest we Forget* room.



Victor John  
BACKHOUSE





Dianne HANTAS - Memory Book Editor

## Remembering the Bay



The front cover of our Memory Book - on sale at the Museum in late April

### The Memory Book Project (cont. from page 1)

Using an illustrated Workbook format as a memory trigger, we were delighted with the response to our request for anecdotes of life around the Bay. The material provides a valuable primary source and will be used to inform and illustrate many of the Society's exhibitions and projects in the years to come.

The response, in fact, was so great that within the budget and the April "Heritage Week" deadline, it proved impossible to include every detail of the stories we received. An edited selection of memories from all participants is the happy result.

Our book aims to capture the essence of Batemans Bay, particularly mid 20th Century and up until the early 1980s (by which time many significant buildings had been demolished for re-development). By drawing on direct experience of our district, we hope to encourage others to continue to record and share their

own stories, whether through family or Archives such as ours.

On sale through the Museum from the end of April at the nominal cost of \$15.00, orders for Remembering the Bay can be placed now by emailing your contact details to [b.baymuseum@optusnet.com.au](mailto:b.baymuseum@optusnet.com.au) or leaving a message on our telephone 4472 8993.

### GADICAL NAWI (cont. from page 1)

The 4.6 metre vessel was originally created in 2010 for a State Library of NSW Exhibition called Mari Nawi – Aboriginal Odysseys. The timber was taken from the local state forest here, which gave the Land Council 'dibs' on its final resting place.

The canoe is the first artefact in the proposed 'Keeping Place' – a dedicated display space within the Courthouse Museum, featuring artefacts from the Batemans Bay Land Council.



Member John CLEMENT admires the 'Gaical Nawi' on display at the Museum





Good Luck but certainly not goodbye to ANITA ELLISON, our very long time friend, member and 'walking history book' for the Bay, now calling Moruya home.

## CLEANING UP YOUR ACT

The Museum was a registered site for the Water Gardens area in the 2012 Clean Up Australia Day event.



Pictured are Secretary Janet BEESLEY and Curator Myf THOMPSON, getting down and dirty!

## EXTENSIONS FINISHED!

The Museum was delighted to receive an IMB Foundation grant to increase its exhibition space. Under the direction of members Tony Whelan, Les Smith Alick Trounson and Peter French, assisted greatly by a hard-working Wesley Uniting workforce, members erected an

external Antique Machinery Shed, and completely stripped and refurbished an old tool shed into a substantial display area. This will house the Courthouse collection of hand, trade and and agricultural tools.

A big thankyou to this terrific team who used their skills, labour, and a great deal of enthusiasm, to complete the project.

The new extensions and many other aspects of the Museum's activities will be on display at our Open Day on Easter Sunday, April 8th



Model N Fordson Tractor on loan from Daryl RIXON of the Moruya Antique Tractor & Machinery Assoc. The tractor is on display in the new extension.



## CAN YOU HELP?

*As part of the Museum's 2012 research program, we are preparing a permanent display of telephony.*

*If you worked for the PMG, Telecom or Telstra or you operated a switchboard, we'd love to hear your stories.*

*Please contact Myf Thompson, on 4472 8993*

## Museums & Galleries NSW Meet in Batemans Bay

*Show me the Money - Access to Funding* is a workshop that Museums & Galleries NSW (M&G NSW) put on every year in a different part of NSW. Previous Standards participants, local museums, galleries and community arts groups are given the opportunity to hear from a range of funding providers and even chat with them about potential projects for funding.

The M&G NSW team told us that they had a beautiful drive down the coast to Batemans Bay the day before the workshop, and also managed to have a good look around the Old Courthouse Museum. The museum successfully completed the Standards Program last year and have a range of projects on the go. The M&G NSW visit coincided with the opening of our new room built especially for the volunteers.

There was a great line up of speakers at the workshop – Dianne Dahlitz who

manages the Community Heritage Grants from the National Library; Einar Docker from the Powerhouse Museum's regional services; Grainne Brundson from Arts NSW, Andrew Gray from South East Arts who represented Regional Arts NSW; and Bea Brickhill from AbaF who spoke about how arts organisations can build relationships with businesses.

One of the highlights of the day was Sheena Boughden's inspirational keynote talk on the development of the Four Winds Festival – a music festival held every second Easter in Bermagui that Sheena and her team have built up to be a hugely successful enterprise.

M&G NSW said "The Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society put on some of the best catering we have ever seen", and understandably received a spontaneous round of applause from the delegates!

### CAN YOU HELP?

*As part of the Museum's 2012 research program, a permanent display on the history of the local oyster industry is under way.*

*If you can contribute stories, please contact Myf Thompson, on 4472 8993*



*Our own Dianne HANTAS chatting with other delegates about the Community Heritage Grant Program*



*Our team did your Museum proud*



## Say Cheese!



The double cheese press from the Runnymede property cheese factory, kindly donated to the Museum by Owen MASS

PLEASE REPLY TO:

THE EDITOR  
PASTIMRS

PO Box 448  
Batemans Bay NSW 2536

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### WANTED!

Information from anyone who has worked in the cheese production process, particularly in our district. The double cheese press from the Runnymede property cheese factory, kindly donated to the Museum by Owen Mass, will be displayed in the new Antique Machinery shed and we would appreciate hearing from anyone who owned or worked in a dairy or cheese-making capacity.



### Our Current Projects:

Meeting M&G NSW Standards  
The Memory Book  
Schools of the District  
Recording and naming our photos  
Recording the maps and drawings we hold  
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  
Help us with cleaning  
Help us with our website  
Help us with our IT

Or do you just have an interest?

Then

**DROP THE EDITORIAL TEAM A LINE AT PO BOX 448 BATEMANS BAY NSW 2536**

Dianne HANTAS, Ewan MORRISON, Myf THOMPSON