



The Old Courthouse Museum

# PASTIMES

Newsletter of the  
CLYDE RIVER AND BATEMANS  
BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC  
Issue 35 June/July 2018

**STOP PRESS !**

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## UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

A delegation from the Society's Executive recently met with senior staff at ANU to facilitate a student internship program at the Museum for curatorial and archaeological projects.

We are delighted with ANU's positive response and are currently working together on the structure, to commence third quarter 2018.

This initiative was developed by our Society President, Ewan Morrison, in line with the Strategic Plan for 2018-2022. More details to come regarding this exciting prospect.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's **AGM** will be held at the Batemans Bay Community Centre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August. 10.30am.

New committee members are sought, so please consider supporting our work by contributing your expertise and energy. New ideas refresh and challenge.

This is an excellent opportunity to catch up with fellow members and review the year's achievements and plans for the year ahead.

**A BBQ will be provided** – we would appreciate some accompanying dishes to share! A quick call or email to Leslie, our secretary, will help us plan catering. Election results and Annual Report will be posted immediately on our Website.

## "WHAT'S ON SHOW"

**In the Courtroom, a tantalizing 'taster' from every themed room in the museum.**



To be followed  
**Sept/Oct 2018 by**  
**'Shackleton:**  
**Escape from**  
**Antarctica'**

A travelling Panel exhibit from the National Maritime Museum, featuring iconic Frank Hurley photographs.

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# National Science Week Short Film Festival at the Museum

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> August 10.30-11.30**

A special screening of  
**'Understorey'** by David Gallan.

Duration: 1 hr.

Beautiful cinematography blends with archival footage to share the community story behind the creation of **South East Forest national parks**.

Introduced by Mike Thompson.



**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30 and 2pm**

Direct from the International Science Film Festival in Sydney.

**Best Film: *How Fungi Made Our World***

From creation to today - a hidden world

**Best Experimental Film: *Astroturf***

In space no-one can hear you scream?

**Best Animated Film: *Kcloc***

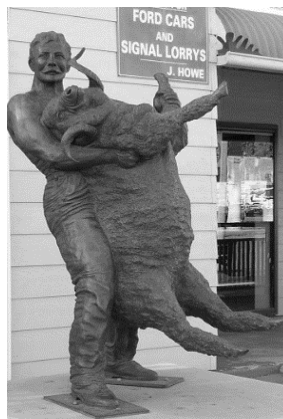
A witty and nuanced view of Time.

**Cost: Gold coin donation for Museum entry.**

**BOOK NOW! Limited seating. Phone bookings 02 4472 1630**  
**email [secretary@oldcourthousemuseum.com](mailto:secretary@oldcourthousemuseum.com)**

## KEN ANNETTS' VALVE RADIO

Hand made by Ken Annetts, owner of the Bay's Picture Theatre and large general store, we can date this artefact precisely to 1928, because Ken built it specifically to follow the long-haul exploits of flying ace Charles Kingsford-Smith.



## THE 'JACKIE HOWE' OR THE 'BLUEY'

The blue singlet – recognised as a classic item of labourers' clothing - not many would know its origin was a gun shearer on Alice Downs station in Queensland.

Jackie Howe (1861- 1920) was a legendary sheep shearer. At that time, most shearers wore a flannel undershirt while shearing. The flannel had short sleeves covering the biceps and absorbed the shearer's sweat. Jackie Howe found the sleeves of his flannel restrictive so one day he tore out the sleeves. This caught on and, before long, all the shearers were wearing sleeveless flannels. In 1892, using the old hand blades, Howe sheared 327 merino ewes 7 hours 20 minutes. One sheep every 80 seconds. It still stands as a world record, and his simple singlet a monument to perhaps the first quiet achiever.

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## Around the Museum

As part of the 2018 'River of Art' festival, the Museum hosted a workshop for those with a passion for Macrophotography. Locals and visiting Canberrans were led by our own 'Ace' photographer Ted Richards, exploring techniques to reveal the small beauties of flora and insectlife.



Lots of hammering, welding and tool wielding over the past six weeks, with more to come as a new outdoor space is created to display blacksmith artifacts. The 1940s laundry has also been extended. Our red telephone box, originally gracing Benandarah, has started the renovation process to encourage Superman to call in and fight for heritage issues in Batemans Bay.

**MEMBERS OF THE 'WE'LL FIX IT' TEAM  
BILL, LES, BRIAN AND BOB  
WORKING ON THE NEW SMITHY DISPLAY**



**Our own Superman, Les Smith**





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## HERITAGE NEWS

- **The Batemans Bay Bowling Club** will shortly be demolished by the RMS, which has been granted a 5 year lease on the ESC owned property during construction of a new bridge across the Clyde River. On behalf of the community, we have been in contact with the RMS to seek their assistance in developing a strategic plan to secure physical heritage elements, and celebrate its story.

**The Society has proposed hosting a morning tea get-together for any member of the community who wishes to share stories, anecdotes and photographs associated with the old bridge's construction, birthday celebrations, and importance to the town.**

**Please contact the Society ASAP if you wish to be notified of the date. ACTION!**

- **ESC Heritage Advisory Committee**  
Council is seeking three volunteers to sit as community representatives on this Committee. You would join regular contributors including the three historical societies, heritage advisor and Council staff. Your skills are valued. See ESC website for details.  
**ACTION!**
- **Albert Ryan Park – Your Input** Local residents interested in directing the future of this community asset, have joined the Society in a sub-committee capacity. Repainting of the historic roadmarker, and toilets, have already been achieved. Enquiries via our secretary, Leslie.
- **U3A** – Society members Chris Bendle (family historian) and Myf Thompson (oral historian) are contributing workshops to the current U3A programme on their respective subjects. Enquiries for guest speakers are welcome.



**2018 1 August 2018 – starts National Family History Month.** Now's the time to write details on photos so you don't drive your descendent family historians mad with frustration.

**2018 NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. Annual Conference at Batemans Bay – September 14/16<sup>th</sup>. Old Courthouse Museum OPEN SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**2018 South Coast History Day – October 27<sup>th</sup>, Club Sapphire, Merimbula.**

Publisher of 'Recollections' magazine offers a Third in a series of Seminars with a host of interesting speakers. Details: <https://www.southcoasthistory.com>



Visiting Amsterdam? This capacious mediaeval camel-hide handbag offers 16 pockets, some are secret. [You wouldn't want to misplace your iPhone in a seniors moment. *Ed*].

**The Museum of Bags and Purses**  
<https://tassenmuseum.nl/en>



**Off to Sydney soon?**

The **Powerhouse** becomes a Fashion house with 'Reigning Men: Fashion in Menswear, 1715–2015'.  
Gorgeous.

2 May-14 Oct 2018.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS



We continue to invest in items which tell a story of social history.

Members Chris and Joan model two recent artifacts which enhance the Museum's Costume Collection. At left Chris has a hand-made formal dress, possibly bridal, we believe from the 1960s. It has a specially stiffened underskirt to keep a bell shape when it was ankle length. It has been cut to knee length to get best value for the work and cost involved.

At right, Joan fondles a mock fur stole, *and* the real thing.



Other recent acquisitions include a male pin striped suit with cuffed trousers, tie pin and cufflinks; a 1960s 'Disco' pointed collar polyester body shirt; a boxed vintage 1970s 'Glo Mesh' evening bag, and a hand-made ivory silk nightdress embroidered with a floral motif and crocheted edging.

Toto, how could we forget the red shoes!!



## GIFT OF THE GAB



Members are bringing in a steady cash flow from activities around the new 'Makers and Growers Market'. Every Thursday, at the community centre across from the Museum, we sell craft, books, preserves, and set up a BBQ in our grounds. Congratulations Team!

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## GRANTS AND GRIMACES

- **Museums & Galleries NSW 'Leg Up' training grant** *successful* for member Frances Gray to attend a costume and mannequin workshop at the Castle Hill facility of the Powerhouse Museum. Fran works in our costume collection area and will bring back some valuable tips on textile conservation and mannequin construction (as we move thankfully away from unwieldy discoloured plaster models).
- **Australian National Maritime Museum.** *Unsuccessful* in applying for assistance in professional translation of the digitised data of the Illawarra Steam Navigation Company. But we persevere!
- **Heritage Near Me** Activation grant: 'Windows to the Past' (\$129,027). This application is for the horribly expensive replacement of the sash windows throughout the Museum. TBA.
- **NSW Clubs Grants.** We have received quotes for painting the buildings inside and outside (total approximately \$90K), carpeting the whole building and electrical work (probably a new power board). The Aboriginal Land Council has offered a letter of support. TBA.
- **Country Art Support Programme** We have applied to undertake a community history project for Greek residents of Batemans Bay. The story of their journey to Australia and then to the Bay will involve inter-generational recordings, digital stories and creation of Memory Boxes for personal artifacts. If we are successful, the exhibition will be toured to other coastal towns.
- **Royal Australian Historical Society.** Research project: Convict History of the District. An impressive application prepared by member Julia Hill. TBA.
- **Museums & Galleries NSW** We are about to acquit a Significance Assessment of our Collection conducted by **Angela George** (Bega Valley's Museum Advisor). More work will need to be done on object research as a result of her detailed report identifying the range of our significant artifacts.

*Volunteers needed to research! You can even work mostly from home ....*

## ADVICE ON TAP

A warm welcome to Lynn Collins, newly appointed Museums Advisor to the Eurobodalla volunteer-run museum sector. Lynn offers background experience in the visual arts and music, as well as museology, bringing that expertise into the culture and professional practice of the Old Courthouse Museum. He will address all aspects of collection management, conservation and display. Lynn's role is for 20 days across 12 months, funded by M&G NSW and Eurobodalla Shire Council.

**Lynn Collins, VP Chris Ruzsala and President Ewan Morrison, on Day Two of our planning sessions.**



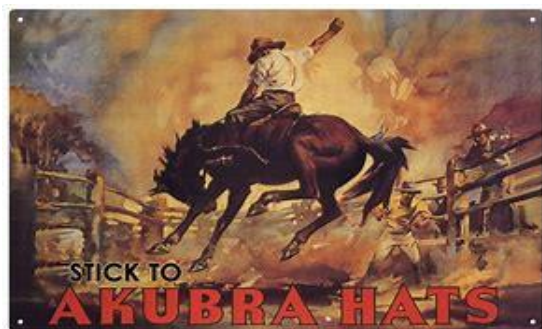
### BUNNINGS DONATE A SPARKLING NEW BBQ

New equipment vital to our fundraising has been donated. Once again, we are the beneficiary of Batemans Bay Bunnings' **generous** support for our local heritage.





## 'AKUBRA' HANDCRAFTED HISTORY



Gosh, all these admiring women. What are you waiting for, chaps? Reject US baseball caps!

One of our recent acquisitions is a genuine rabbit fur felt Akubra 'Cattleman', fortunately third or fourth head as this classic headwear is quite expensive. It takes five to 12 rabbits to make one.

In 1874 Benjamin Dunkerley arrived in Tasmania from England and decided to start a hat making business in Hobart. His skills as a hatter were backed by his ability to invent machinery, and soon after his arrival he had developed a mechanical method of removing the hair tip from rabbit fur so the under-fur could be used in felt hat making. Previously this task had to be done by hand and his invention transformed the process of felt hat making world wide.

Dunkerley moved the business to Crown Street, Surry Hills, an inner suburb of Sydney, setting up a small hat making factory. In 1904 Stephen Keir I, who had also migrated from England, joined Dunkerley. Keir had hat making experience from England and was a valuable acquisition for the business. In 1905 he married Ada Dunkerley, Benjamin's daughter and soon after was made General Manager. Increased sales resulted in the move to Sydney, and the trade name "Akubra" for all hat models came into use in 1912. The 'slouch hat' of WW1 cemented its popularity. Since that time the hat making firm has been in the hands of succeeding generations of the Keir family. The manufactory is now located in Kempsey, mid north coast NSW.

[www.akubra.com.au](http://www.akubra.com.au)

## FUNDRAISING THROUGHOUT MAY AND JUNE 2018 – QUIETER, BUT OPTIMISTIC!

The Society requires around **\$1300 per month** to open its doors and continue heritage work.



Book Emporium – May:	<b>\$565</b>
Book Emporium – June:	<b>\$229</b>
Makers & Growers Markets – May	<b>\$828 (Craft + BBQ)</b>
Makers & Growers Markets – June:	<b>\$464 (Craft + BBQ)</b>
Bunnings, 11 <sup>th</sup> May:	<b>\$415</b>
Bingo:	<b>\$50</b>
General donations:	<b>\$340</b>

That's a total of **\$2891 clear** for the two months to end of financial year. Well done Volunteers!

**Note:** Entry Fee donations excluded



## KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

- Local Craft/Home Produce Market, Community Centre: Thursday weekly
- Bunnings BBQ fundraiser for Museum Sat 28 July
- Museum AGM, Community Centre – 10.30am for 11am: Sat 4 August
- **Vroom 'Rally of the Bay'** fundraiser, Corrigans Beach Sat 11 August
- SCInema film showings at the Museum Wed/Thurs 15/16 August
- Family History Forum, Soldiers Club 14/15/16 September
- **"Shackleton" Touring exhibit from ANMA** 3 Sept – 3 Oct
- **Museum OPEN DAY** (Family Fun Day): Sat 20 October

## MEMBER NEWS

**New Members:** We warmly welcome **Maureen Law**, whose interests are guiding, family history and research; **Teresa Henshaw** whose interests are Aboriginal and maritime, **Chris Row**, who will be making sure we sparkle with gardening and maintenance duties, and **Sharni Brownbridge**, final year Uni student who is getting hands on artefact research before seeking a career as an archivist.

**Sympathy:** After a lengthy illness we sadly note the passing of member **Sean Whelan**, son of our friends former president Tony Whelan and former Treasurer Judy Whelan. The Society was represented at Sean's funeral, and our thoughts are with the family at this very difficult time.

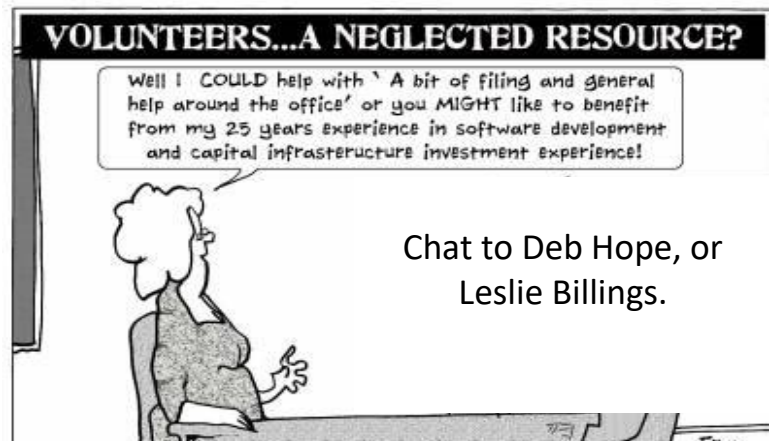
Also, we extend our sympathies to **Di Morrison** on the recent death of her sister.

## VACANCIES: Enthusiastic and enquiring minds

Do you have an interest in our heritage, our built and natural landscapes? Have a few hours to commit per week/fortnight/month? We *do* value your time and skills.

Maybe a *specific* interest :

- build /repair
- craft/costume repair
- display design
- visitor guide
- horticulture
- IT Microsoft/Linux
- plan and promote
- research
- sell things (fund- raising team).
- train and mentor volunteers
- update social media



Our warm thanks to Chris Ruzala for establishing 'Pastimes', and keeping us up to date and entertained. Chris is now focusing on his other executive duties as the Society's Vice President.

**Your Contributions and Suggestions for the Newsletter are very welcome.**

*Myf Thompson, Editor.*