



The Old Courthouse Museum

# PASTIMES

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

*Issue 32 Nov – Dec 2017*



## **STOP PRESS !! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!! FAMILY FUN ('OPEN') DAY XMAS LUNCH A GREAT SUCCESS**

Members enjoyed themselves at this year's Xmas Lunch, held at the Soldiers Club on 12<sup>th</sup> December.



See inside for more photos from the party.

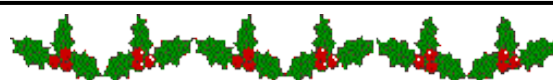
## **XMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS**

Please note that the Museum will be closed between Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2017 and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2018. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2018.

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

**The 'Bling Bill':** Curbing the excesses of materialistic behavior during the reign of Elizabeth I.

**Five Run Away Together, by Enid Blyton:** Curator Myf Thompson takes a look behind the scenes of author Enid Blyton's series of books about the 'Famous Five'.



## **STOP PRESS !! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!! BREAKING RECORDS AT BUNNINGS!!**



Well, we nearly did it again on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. The team cleared **\$1026.00** on the day. On top of this, only two days earlier, the team cooked at the Bunnings Xmas Family Evening. We raised over **\$400** from customer donations, while Bunnings awarded us a **\$100** Gift Voucher and a box of chocolates!

Great work from all of the volunteers on those two days – Judy Ramsey, Glen Tulip, Deb Hope, Myf Thompson, Ewan Morrison, Jude Matchett and Ray Mooney.

## **BOOK EMPORIUM XMAS OPENING**

**Courthouse Museum Book Emporium**  
**PRE-LOVED BOOKS**  
**Holiday Reading from \$1.00!**  
**Browse by author/theme:**  
 A fantastic collection of **quality** books -  
 modern fiction, hobbies, sport, bios, children,  
 lifestyle, history, & more to explore.  
**Stocking fillers, gifts, old favourites.**  
**10am - 3pm Mon Dec 18 - Sat Dec 23**

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## The “BLING BILL”



Researching Elizabethan drama , a trawl through the British Library website turned up what is in essence a “Bling Bill”. How helpful might a Royal Proclamation of this nature be in restraining the rampant excesses of a materialistic society? Not hers, ours.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, specific laws were in place relating to dress codes, which dictated the colours and fabrics that people were permitted to wear, based on their social rank and wealth. These were called sumptuary laws and aimed to regulate personal spending on luxuries such as clothing.

Restrictions were placed on a range of fabrics including cloth of gold, velvet, silks, furs and damask and even on buttons and swords. Historically, clothing had been a clear indicator of ones place in the social hierarchy, but that was challenged during the reign of Henry VIII by the rise of the wealthy merchant classes, who started imitating the nobility in dress.

During her reign, Elizabeth I passed the Statutes of Apparel and issued no less than eight proclamations on the theme of ‘excesses of apparel’. These proclamations were intended to enforce the statutes and to justify these laws by emphasising:

- fear of the rise in extravagant spending on clothes and its impact on the nation’s wealth;
- concern for young gentlemen who were running themselves into debt with excessive spending;
- concern that these men would turn to crime to fund their habit; condemnation of pride; and
- dislike of the subversion of order represented by people flouting existing laws.

The chief reason seems to be the dislike and fear of people – particularly ‘the inferior sort’ – dressing above their station, which Elizabeth complained was causing ‘disorder and confusion of the degrees of all states’.

Other laws, such as the compulsory wearing of woollen caps on certain days, were passed to bolster the country’s textile industries. The upper classes were exempt from this law.

NB Elizabeth herself adored finery and was bejewelled from head to foot. One law for them, one law for us. “Twas ever thus.”

**Myf Thompson** [doffing woollen cap].

[ <https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/proclamation-against-excess-of-apparel-by-queen-elizabeth-i> ]

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## ‘... AND LASHINGS OF GINGER BEER.’ - by Curator Myf Thompson

“Sorting through donations for our popular secondhand Book Emporium, I came across a 1955 edition of *Five Run Away Together*, by Enid Blyton.

As Christmas rolled round again, so did the chance of another book in the series just in time for my school holidays, and in which all *their* hazardous activities were set. They were always returning from boarding school and looking for adventures – which turned up 21 times.

The first book, *Five on a Treasure Island*, was published in 1942. The novels feature the adventures of a group of young children – Julian, Dick, Anne and Georgina (George) – and George's dog Timmy. Georgina insisted on being called George, and wearing her hair ‘boyishly’ short.

Some of the idyllic images of children running free, cycling all day and endless buns and lemonade in a picnic basket, seemed a little far-fetched. But that was part of the charm to readers.

Blyton was a nature writer early in her career, and the books are strongly atmospheric, with a detailed but idealised presentation of the rural southern English landscape. The books present children exploring this landscape without parental supervision as natural and normal. In some books, the children go camping in the countryside, on a hike or holiday together elsewhere. The settings, however, are almost always rural and enabled the children to discover the simple joys of cottages, islands, the English and Welsh countryside and sea shores, as well as an outdoor life of swimming and sailing.

Blyton's publisher, first used the term "The **Famous Five**" in 1951, after nine books in the series had been published. Before this, the series was referred to as The 'Fives' Books. Blyton intended to write only six or eight books in the series, but owing to their high sales and immense commercial success she went on to write twenty-one full-length Famous Five novels, as well as a number of other series in similar style following groups of children discovering crime on holiday in the countryside. By the end of 1953, more than six million copies had been sold.

They spawned TV series, electronic games, movies, videos, a theatre musical, and many spoof parodies, along the lines of *Five go to Rehab*. In modern n reprints, George still wants to be a boy, but the statement that her short hair makes her look like a boy has been removed as it is now considered offensive to assume that girls need long hair to be considered feminine. Anne's statement that boys cannot wear pretty dresses or like girl's dolls has been taken out. Julian and Dick now help the girls with cleaning the house and washing dishes.”



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## What else has been happening at the Museum?

NOW SHOWING IN THE COURTROOM - How to Make a Pinhole Camera



### “A Camera Named Oscar”

Display by local photographer Ted Richards: Re-purposing an Oscar Wilde Volume into a pin camera, based on his ESC Library Services artwork 2017.

Our visitors can take away an Instructions Sheet and a free substantial Volume, to experiment at home.

COMING TO THE OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM MARCH/APRIL 2018

## SUBMERGED

STORIES OF  
AUSTRALIA'S  
SHIPWRECKS

A dramatic 8 panel illustrated display featuring stories from around the country. In an innovative international first, content for the display was developed by the Australian Maritime Museum Council, and merged into a nationally touring display by contributions from the ANMM membership. Funding is provided by the Visions of Australia-Development program.



### ONLINE EXHIBITION AT THE NSW STATE ARCHIVES

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/magazine/galleries/windows-into-wartime>

This online gallery is an abridged version of the *Windows into Wartime* exhibition, which was at the Western Sydney Records Centre from 17 October 2016 to 24 August 2017.

A society mobilised on the home front in support of Australia's military effort overseas, government photographers were on the ground in Sydney and across NSW shooting the image. They photographed a raft of activities and produced an extraordinary body of work that not only documented, but promoted and shaped how the people of NSW responded to the impact and upheaval caused by the 'Great' War.

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/> The Archives provide an excellent source of online research and advice.



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## Party time at the Museum 2017 Xmas Lunch

All inhibitions were dropped at the Bay Soldiers Club on 12<sup>th</sup> December, as members tucked into a fine traditional hot Xmas lunch. As you can see from the photos (thanks to Myf), we occupied the 'Bubble' again, with expansive views of the Clyde River and ocean beyond. Thankfully, nobody fell in, in spite of all the beer and wine consumed at the tables!



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## FUNDRAISING THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2017 – “LOADSA MONEY!!!”



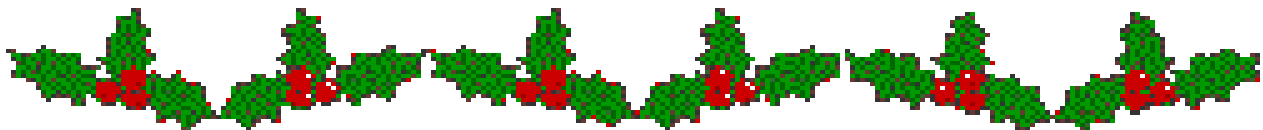
Book Emporium – November:	<b>\$200</b>
Book Emporium – December:	<b>\$250 (est.)</b>
Ladies Stall – November:	<b>\$100 (est.)</b>
Bunnings BBQ - 10 <sup>th</sup> November:	<b>\$410</b>
Bunnings Xmas Family Event, Dec:	<b>\$508</b>
Bunnings BBQ – 9 <sup>th</sup> December:	<b>\$1026</b>
Bingo:	<b>\$50</b>
<b>General donations:</b>	<b>\$71</b>

That’s a total of **\$2615** (clear) for the two months. Once more, well done to all of our fundraisers!

### KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2017: Book Emporium Xmas opening: 10am – 3pm;
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2018: Museum re-opens for a whole new year!!!: and
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018: Bunnings BBQ – first one for the new year,



**Please note: This will be the final Newsletter for 2017. Accordingly, your Editor would like to wish you all a.....**



**.. and a very**



**....in 2018**