

# PASTIMES

July/October 2012 Issue No: 7

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

## THE CLARKE BROTHERS

This gang of bushrangers were active in a wide ranging area during the 1860's. They committed numerous robberies and it is quite probable that they were responsible for the deaths of at least six men including five policemen assigned to hunt them down. *Continued on Page 2*

### THE STORY OF OUR MUSEUM

The Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society was formed on the 25th of July 1977. Did you miss our 35th birthday? *Continued on Page 3*

### CAN YOU HELP

As we work our way through the various artefacts in our collection we come across things that send us "around the World for sixpence" as we research their stories. *Continued on Page 4*

### WHAT OTHER MUSEUMS ARE DOING

Our Museum is changing. To keep people coming back, it is important to rotate our displays and make them interesting. Knowing what other Museums are doing helps us to improve our own. *Continued on Page 5*

### Help Wanted

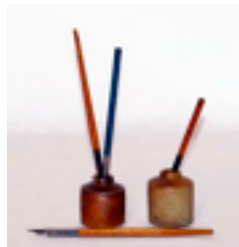
We have a lot of work to do keying in all of the great work that was done by our members before computers. If you have a friend with keying skills who can give us a couple of hours a week please talk to Myf or Gail.

*Volunteers Gail and Angela are busy recording all of our collection and entering it into a database.*

*It's a big job and for the first time, our Museum will have a readily accessible record of what we hold and where it is in the Museum.*



*A denture making device - this one was "home" made*



*Pens and ink wells - were you an ink monitor?*



*A pencil sharpener - remember this on the teacher's desk?*

*Our next Open Day will be held on  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Don't miss  
the visiting Display of Vietnam militaria!*

# The Clarke Brothers

The Clarke family were expert bushmen, even better horsemen and Thomas Clarke was a successful owner and trainer of racehorses.

The discovery of gold at Major's Creek and Araluen in 1851 increased traffic to and from the goldfields between Kiandra, the Coast and Goulburn. This provided rich pickings for a new breed of bushranger. Most notorious them were the Clarks who, with the Connells and others, formed a gang called the Jingera Mob.

The Jingera Mob prowled a wide ranging area around Cooma, Bungendore, Braidwood, Gundaroo, Michelago, Araluen, Nelligen, Nerragundah and Goulburn. While bailing up gold coaches and travellers was their mainstay, they also raided stores, post offices and private properties.

In 1864 a warrant was taken out for Thomas Clarke's arrest for horse stealing, highway robbery and shooting at three Chinese men. He was remanded on bail but failed to show up at court. Thomas was later arrested and taken to Braidwood goal but he escaped and the Jingera Mob became the Clarke gang.

In 1866 the gang was Thomas Clarke, Pat and Tom Connell, and Bill and Joe Berryman. They were later joined by Bill Scott and William Fletcher from Moruya.



On April 9 they carried out raids at Deep Creek robbing the hotel, the store, the mail boy, and John Emmet (a Moruya storekeeper). They shot Emmett in the leg, beat him and stole nearly a kilo of gold.

Moving on to Nerrigundah they robbed the Wallis Hotel and several individuals before becoming involved in a gun fight with the police. Constable O'Grady and

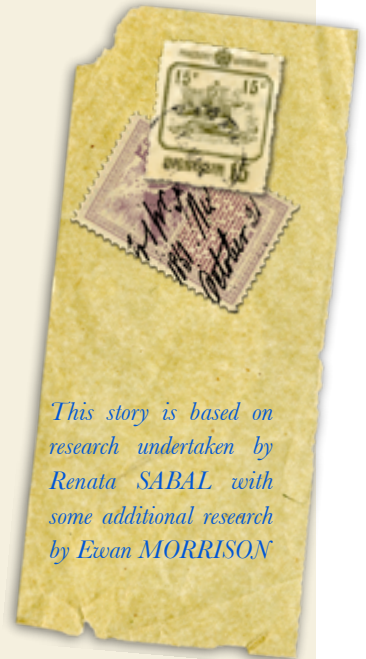
bushranger Fletcher were both shot dead.

In June 1866 Thomas Clarke was declared an outlaw and a 500 pound reward offered for his capture.

Four undercover police, called 'Specials', were sent from Sydney to arrest the gang. The police cover, as a party of surveyors, was discovered by the bushrangers and they ambushed and killed all of them. It is alleged two were killed after surrendering.

The gang continued to do robberies, but their numbers began to diminish as members were either captured, killed, or met their own misadventure. In April 1867 Tom and John Clarke were ambushed and captured by police. After being tied to a tree at Nelligen they were transported to Sydney for trial.

John and Tom Clarke were found guilty of five murders, and dozens of robberies. On 25th June 1867 they were hung at Darlinghurst gaol in Sydney.



*Did you know that a troy ounce of gold weighs roughly 31 grams (31.1034768 if you want to be precise)?*

*Let's make the maths easy. If the Clarke brothers took 930 grams of gold from Emmet (it was nearly a kilo) that is the equivalent of 30 ounces - give or take a bit.*

*At \$1600 an ounce that's \$48,000 in today's value!!*

# THE STORY OF OUR MUSEUM

Don't panic - a lot of us did!

I thought it timely to remind us all about the story of our Museum.

Our museum is housed in the former Batemans Bay Court House and Police Residence.

The first Batemans Bay Court House and Police Residence was opened in 1885. A two-storey wooden structure, it was situated close to where the Clyde River Lodge Motel now stands.

Senior Constable Kilfoyle, Officer-in-charge from 1902 to 1907 was on duty at Mogo on the 24 Oct 1903 when the building was gutted by fire and he and his family lost all their Possessions.

The second Courthouse, Police station and Residence was built on the corner of Church and Orient Streets. The building, of bungalow design, was constructed of hardwood weatherboard and roofed with galvanized iron. Local cedar was used for the door frames and the mantel pieces. The builder was a Mr Mudge and he built it at a cost of £930. It opened on the 14th Oct, 1905.

An interesting fact was uncovered when the building was moved in 1994. All the men who worked on the 1905 building had inscribed

their signatures on the back of the mantel piece in the court room.

By the 1980s it was plain that the town had outgrown its police station and in 1985 a new brick courthouse was built on the adjacent block. The then Attorney-General, the Hon. Terry Sheahan, handed over the old police building to the Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society. A condition of handover was that the old building be removed from its present site *before* the new Police station was built. This "temporary" arrangement continued for another ten years, until finally, in January / February 1994, the old building was moved to its present Water Gardens site, at the far end of Flora Crescent.

The third (current) Police Station was then built next to the New Courthouse, and on Thursday 16th March, 1995, the \$2.5 million building was opened.

The Department of Education also gave the Society Nelligen's former one-room schoolhouse, and the two buildings have been roofed as one historic precinct.



*The Old Courthouse Museum on 3 Feb 1997. This photo was taken shortly after the move to its current site*

Did our recent Memory Book spark your interest in the history of the Bay?

If so, you might be interested in our next book project called *Then and Now*. This will be a photographic look at how things have changed.

Contributions are welcome.

We'll keep you posted on a release date.



## Can you help

Welcome to our new regular column where we ask for help with identifying artefacts, people, places and other things.

### Photo help

The photograph below has us a bit puzzled. We have two photos taken some years apart but showing this scene. In one the place names are given as Mrs Ryan's House, Patrech's Boat Shed and Perry's Mill. In the other the photo is simply titled Pickett's House.

Which is correct?

If you can help please talk to Ewan, Di or Myf.

### Place Help

We are starting to put together a display of the timber industry and would like to know where the various mills were and what they were called.

We are having trouble pinning down one in particular. Where was Mitchell's Mill? Was it along Beach Road beyond Perry's, or was it closer to town than Perry's.

If you know, please talk to Myf.

### IT Help

The Museum is looking for a passionate and enthusiastic IT person to join the friendly, easygoing folk in the Museum's Office. They will be working to design, develop, test and deploy exciting front-end and back-end solutions for our Museum.

If you know someone who could give us a couple of hours a week, please talk to Ewan.



### EDITORIAL TEAM

Dianne HANTAS

Ewan MORRISON

Myf THOMPSON



## What Other Museums are doing

We travel so much these days, this column is an opportunity to share your reflections on what you've enjoyed.

Back in May, Curator Myf Thompson visited family in Scotland, spending a week in the historic town of Cromarty on the Black Isle. The town itself has historic interest, its peak period of growth being the late 1700s on the back of the export herring industry. Single storey stone fisher cottages crowd down tiny lanes in 'fishertoun' whilst the many 3 storey pink sandstone Georgian houses of wealthy Merchants look inland.

Its most famous son is Hugh Miller, 18thC amateur geologist and outspoken activist for the Free Church of Scotland. His birth cottage and the adjoining Courthouse are now a well set up museum in his honour.

Back on Skye the small crofting community of Staffin on the Trotterhish peninsula has a single room museum housed in a former school. Dating from the early 1800s the

building was almost derelict when purchased and restored by an amateur fossil hunter. Volunteer run, the museum has crofting items, but features fossil finds from the surrounding area.



*An Ammonite  
Fossil. The shell  
was alive 165m  
years ago and is on  
display at Staffin.*



*The Museum  
at Staffin on  
the Isle of  
Skye*

*Send  
us your photo and story  
of a Museum you'd  
recommend.*





A picture says a thousand words ...



*One of the photo's that Ted has taken of the scales from Annett's Store - an artefact in our Museum.*

## PASTIMES

PLEASE REPLY TO:

THE EDITOR  
PASTIMRS

PO Box 448  
Batemans Bay NSW 2536

### Our Current Projects:

Meeting M&G NSW Standards  
Then & Now - photographic history publication  
Schools of the District  
Recording and naming our photos  
Recording the maps and drawings we hold  
Recording our artefacts  
Photographing our artefacts  
Researching our artefacts  
Telephony Display  
The Local Oyster Industry  
Cheese production in the district  
Blandford House  
Maritime History of the District

Ted RICHARDS has been helping us out for a few weeks now. As a former professional photographer, Ted has been kind enough to give us a couple of hours a week to photograph our collection - a big job that complements the work Gail and Angela are doing in recording our collection in the database.

I think the photos of artefacts are brilliant and will be able to be used for many, many purposes in the years to come.

Ted came to us through his involvement in the Batemans Bay U3A.

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?

Drop the Editorial Team a line at  
[b.baymuseum@optusnet.com.au](mailto:b.baymuseum@optusnet.com.au)

Dianne HANTAS, Ewan MORRISON,  
Myf THOMPSON

