



MACLEAY RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

February, 2015

Number 10

President Report

Effie Curnoe announced her retirement during 2014 which was well deserved after 40 years of dedicated service. As well as counter duties, Effie worked in cataloguing artefacts (especially bottles). We farewelled Effie in style at a function on 16 December which was well attended. We hope Effie will continue to keep in touch and drop in for a cuppa although they will never be as good as the ones she made.

Tim Mecham of Environmental Services who is doing our Fire Control Plan has offered assistance with our Construction Certificate and we are currently waiting on new plans from the builder. We were unsuccessful in two Grant Applications during 2014 which would have met some of the costs, as it is these will now all have to come from our retained earnings.

The Spinners and Weavers Display attracted a lot of attention and they succeeded in gaining a couple of new members despite the Friday clashing with the Kempsey Cup. The Museum Fun Day on Saturday, whilst successful, didn't attract as many children as the previous one despite increased attempts at publicity. I think this was due to the clash with the Kempsey Truck Show family day and absence of most of the volunteers who made the last Fun Day a success. Lee Hoinville is currently planning educational programmes for the ANZAC Centenary and already there has been quite a lot of interest from the local schools.

In December 2014 we were invited to participate in a study of Glenn Murcutt's architecture by Dr Giamilia Quattrone, 2014 Endeavour Research

Fellow at the University of New South Wales. As part of the study *At the Edge of Glenn Murcutt's Architecture*, we were asked to provide information as a client of Glenn Murcutt. This involved a site visit and an extended interview with Dr Quattrone. I was able to add to my knowledge of Glenn Murcutt's architecture as a result. The study will be published in a range of prospective academic publications, including international peer-reviewed journals and books.

Our new masthead depicts Anzac Day 1932 at the East Kempsey War Memorial and will be in place for the duration of the Anzac Centenary, 2015-2018.

Members of the MRHS are advised that the Annual general Meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, March 17 2015 at 3 pm.

Phil Lee

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Research Report

Thank you to Ross Walker who supplied a hard and a soft copy of research about Leo Joseph Hardiman.

A thankyou was received from Noela Wilks for the completed research on the Wittig-Lynch research.

Thank you to Peter for working on the filing backlog, we all appreciate it.

Thank you to Mr. Desmond Hickson's family for providing four photographs of Des (in Army uniform in 1953), for scanning and adding to the MRHS database.

Phil and I are still working on the street naming request from RMS.

Research on the Connely/Connelly family for Amanda was completed. An error on the enlistment paper of Pte Connelly shows the two surname spellings and illustrates the ease of misspellings found in research work. Margaret Jopling was able to add quite a lot of information.

Lance Egan requested research on George Brooks which has been assigned to Garry Munday.

Thank you to Phil Lee for preparing and typing up a cross referenced list of the Family Studies held by MRHS.

McKell family research was done to locate more about an early Police Magistrate on the Macleay. After searching many sources, an absence of formal information in the various registers and Index's became apparent. However, information and one photograph have assisted the requester, Mr Tim McKell, with his research.

A request from Vanessa Standing for information on Koalas, H.J.Moses, and Greenhill store was handled by Phil.

Bronwyn Howell made an inquiry as to what information is available on Thomas and Rose Mooney. Prolific contents were located in the

family file and when advised, Bronwyn decided not to have research done.

Garry worked on the request from Les Sullivan about Frederickton's Chapman family.

An early surveyor, Nalder has recently become a topic of interest with a visit from Mr David Collett who owned the site at Willi Willi from the early 1970's, (and still has an old map of the site) which has only recently been sold to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Photographs of Nalder's mark on a rock and the surrounding area have been donated by myself.

Hat Head business history is being collated by Phil if you can help please let him know.

Phil attended the Open Day of Bellimbopinni Public School, which has now formally, and many artefacts were on display. A soft and a hard copy of the formal history of the school by Trudi Nugent will be available for research purposes along with other items planned to be donated to MRHS in the coming months, which will assist many people connected with the area who seek research.

Dr Julie McIntyre, who put together the Migration Heritage Project currently with Port Macquarie Council, enquired about Dr Charles Louis Gabriel. Phil provided some information and a newly scanned photograph.
From the Research Desk

Family names researched during December and January were:

Day
Riley
Huxley
Connelly (Connely)
Charters
Brooks
Moses
White
Delaforce (Delforce)
Salmon

Other research has included an old Kempsey Shire

Council Bedford truck, koalas, and ownership of a home in Gabriel Avenue, Kempsey.

Sandra wanted research done on around eighteen of her ancestors who served in World War I to post on ancestry.com. She was interested in the direct descendants of John Abel Avery and Charlotte Davis, as well as soldiers who had married into this family as there were ongoing issues related to their war experience. We were able to assist with a majority of names given including Nelson, Manning, Barber, Walker, Avery and Coleman, others were outside our area.

The major street naming research was completed for Kempsey Shire Council by myself and an appreciative letter from Robert Scott indicated it was well received.

Thank you to the research team and if any of these names are familiar to you then the research team would like to hear from you. Please email mrhs5@bigpond.com and if you need some help with your research you can also visit our website www.kempseymuseum.org and consider volunteering or becoming a member before you use our research service, as there is a discount for members and more volunteers would be most welcome.

Dianne Nolan
Research Manager

Photography Report

We had a proposal from a Brisbane company to provide an outlet for sales of our photographs on a new website they are designing. The project is currently commercial-in-confidence however we hope to be able to release details later in the year.

Jenny Colling from Kempsey Shire Council called regarding War Memorials. She sent a photograph of the main Memorial now in the stairwell of the Council Chambers, in return I sent photographs of our Honour Boards.

A Lancaster family album from the 1890's was scanned and images catalogued and added to our

database for the first time. Many of the photos could not previously be scanned as they were deeply embedded in the old album, however our new Flip-Pal Mobile Scanner has now made this possible without having to remove the old photographs and risk damage to the album.

? from Western Australia bought an Angus McNeil photograph at a garage sale and donated it to us in the hope that someone in Kempsey could identify the couple. The photograph is reproduced here if you can assist.

As promised, Ross Lane called in on 24th October and met with Margaret Ennis discussing and planning a Journal on his family. Both went away satisfied which is a good thing

We have done the groundwork for Caroline Carey's final reprint of Tales of Trial Bay. Debbie has begun scanning more than eighty images including seven others Caroline has selected to replace those photographs that are now unavailable. Caroline has advised that some of the plans and a few other diagrams and information used in the previous editions, will have to be rescanned as there is some problem with those too. Fortunately we hold them in our files so Caroline will not be disadvantaged by having to chase them up.

Don't stop looking for Hat Head information for our proposed new booklet. We will accept anything at all, photographs, letters and notes, newspaper cutting, family stories, anything at all. Please see Phil if you can assist.

Photographics is still looking for names and information on photographers from the 1950's. Just a name will help and may be enough to point us in the right direction. Michael Scott is doing a great job searching the newspaper files for us but a name or year would assist him greatly.

This month marks the 50th Anniversary of Charles Perkins and the Freedom Riders' visit to Kempsey and other regional centres. Peter Smith from the Aboriginal Land Council has asked about

photographs and information which we have given to him.

Judy Waters
Manager Photography

Museum Report

Display cases are being built for our model ships the *Padua* and *Oceanic*. This was a recommendation of our Preservation Needs Assessment (PNA) last year. We will need to spend around another \$200 for Perspex. The PNA Grant has now been acquitted meaning we are now in a position to apply for a PNA Materials Grant early next year for up to \$15,000.

Our glossy brochure has now been completed, if you can think of suitable places to leave copies please let me know. I have included a section on volunteering at our Museum. Our website now also has information on volunteering and an enquiry form, as well as a section on our education programmes. Our Museum Profile has now been updated by our Standards Programme Assessors.

We completed the Museums and Galleries NSW 2014 Standards Programme with a celebratory event and presentation at Coffs Harbour on 8 December. It was a lot of work but I believe it will be very beneficial in the long term. Many thanks to those volunteers who helped out with the Programme. The Macleay Argus ran our Press Release with a photograph on Tuesday 10 February.

The Library catalogue is now up and running with over 1,800 titles and Sue is adding more as they come to hand. The research catalogue is finished ready for data entry. The list of names in the Family History section has been updated, sorted alphabetically and is now on a spreadsheet for easier location of names.

I attended the Bellimbopinni Open Day on Sunday 16 November (same day as FAWNA 25th Anniversary Luncheon!) where we were given a table to display books and articles on the School and the Lower Macleay. \$101.30 in sales were

made, mostly calendars, which we sold out of in about one hour. The School has donated books, records, the school sign, sporting trophies and photographs to us.

A dedicated display to World War 1 has been completed for the year 1914 and will stay up for another couple of months until April when it will be replaced by a 1915 display commemorating ANZAC.

Donations during this period included a model of the paddle-steamer *Diamantina* (see later article), a World War 1 memorial plaque for Wellington Cooper from Jerseyville, killed at Passchendaele in 1917, the minutes book for the first Kempsey Chamber of Commerce in 1914 and early documents relating to the Grassy Head and Hat Head Reserves.

We welcome two new volunteers so far this year, Noeline Kyle and Peter Lovedee. Noeline will be a valuable addition to our Research Department, whilst Peter will be working in our Photography Department on the Digitisation Project. We still need more volunteers so if you or anyone you know are interested please contact us. You can also fill in a Volunteering Expression of Interest on our website (www.kempseymuseum.org) and send this off to us.

Phil Lee

Exploring Our Collection – Our two new ship models



Fairy Queen Ship model

During last year, we were fortunate enough to acquire two new model ships, bringing our total in this category to four.

Firstly, we were donated a model of the *Fairy Queen*, crafted by Henry Ernest ('Harry') Sullivan in 1977. This ship was a brig, a two-masted square-rigged vessel built at the David Burns shipyard in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1853. This ship had a registered tonnage of 213 tons (216 tonnes) and was 107 feet (32.6 metres) long. In 1873 the *Fairy Queen* carried the first consignment of wheat from Port Pirie in South Australia, to Sydney in under the captaincy of Magnus Thompson, later to settle on the Macleay. For his part, Captain Thompson was awarded a silver medal which was also donated along with the model by Harry's daughter, Carol.

A native of South Ronaldshay, Orkney, Scotland, Captain Thompson went to sea around 1846 at the age of around thirteen or fourteen years. It was said he had run away from home. Hearing of the fortunes to be made in Australia in gold-mining, Magnus arrived there and spent several years prospecting in New South Wales and later in New Zealand. After returning to the sea and shipping for a time, Magnus settled on the Macleay where he had married Joanna Hilliar in 1869.

Harry Sullivan was born on the Macleay at Smithtown in 1895 and was a great nephew of Captain Magnus Thompson. In that same year, the family moved to Arakoon House then owned by his great uncle. At the time, the small settlement of Arakoon was mainly inhabited by families connected with the operation of the penal settlement at Trial Bay and Harry's father was a building contractor engaged in building warden's cottages. Harry served his country in the 5th Australian Light Horse Regiment during the First World War. Upon his discharge in 1917, Harry started up a cargo and passenger shipping business at Tweed Heads.

The other model we were donated was of the paddle-steamer *Diamantina*. The *Diamantina* bore



Henry Ernest Sullivan

the NSW Governor, Lord Belmore, on a visit to the Macleay River in 1870. Lord Belmore had become NSW Governor and Commander-in-Chief in 1868. The *Diamantina* arrived in Trial Bay on the evening of Friday 24 June 1870 and crossed the bar the following morning. The Governor and his party then transferred to the steam ship



Ian Goulding with model of *Diamantina*

Nautilus and proceeded up river. At Darkwater, the party landed at the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's wharf where they were met with a loyal reception headed by Otho Orde Dangar. After inspecting the works, Mr Dangar informed his Excellency that the local inhabitants had deemed the name Darkwater very objectionable and asked if his Excellency would allow his name to be given to it. His Excellency acceded and that arm of the Macleay was then called the Belmore River. Dangar continued that the village there had never been named and asked if it could be named after Lady Belmore. Once again, Lord Belmore agreed and the village was named after Lady Belmore's family name, Gladstone.

The Viceregal party next visited Frederickton, Kempsey and Warneton. They then proceeded to Enoch Rudder's house where they were guests for the rest of their stay in the district. On Monday they proceeded on horseback to Boat Harbour where they embarked on the river tender *Catherine* to rejoin the *Diamantina* for the trip back to Sydney.

The model of the *Diamantina* was made and donated by Ian Goulding of Port Macquarie. It is displayed in our Museum against the panoramic photograph of the Macleay River at Kempsey

taken around 1865. In the background of this photograph can be seen a similar model paddle steamer, the *Fire King*.

The *Diamantina* was built in 1869 at Newcastle-on-Tyne, United Kingdom and originally weighed 239 tons (242 tonnes). She was scrapped at Townsville in 1907.

References

Macleay Argus Newspapers

Autobiography of Henry Ernest Sullivan

Research of Lyn Workman

The Forest Devil

In October 1885, the Macleay Argus reported that the "Forest Devil" was doing good work in clearing the Mountain View Estate in West Kempsey. Described as being on elevated ground and being free from floods, this subdivision was described as being located next to the Pound, close to the Agricultural Ground and a short walk to the public offices.

But what was the Forest Devil being used to clear the land? The Argus Glances column had reported earlier that "the operations of his sylvan Satanic majesty" were worth witnessing. An internet



Painting of the Forest Devil utilising lever

search led me to a painting of a “Forest Devil” engaged in land clearing during the 1800’s. It was a device to pull down a tree by mechanical advantage. In the painting on previous page, a chain is attached to the upper reaches of the tree to be pulled down. A second tree is used as a fulcrum with a log chained to its base as a lever to provide the mechanical advantage. A horse team is hitched to the log and driven forward using the leverage obtained to pull down the tree.

Other versions known employed a winch to provide the mechanical advantage.

An article in the *Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales*, April 1904 (reproduced in *The Settler’s Guide* by Keith Smith 1992) describes yet another similar device used to clear the site for the Cowra Experimental Farm. The materials employed are listed as follows:

200 feet of 2-inch circumference wire rope.
150 feet of 2½-inch circumference wire rope.
Two pieces, 20 feet long, of 3 inch circumference wire rope

Three pulley blocks, size of sheaves 8 inches x 2 inches, viz one treble, one double and one single sheave

The use of it is described as follows:

One of the short pieces of 3-inch rope, with the single sheaf block hooked on, is placed round the barrel of the tree that is to be pulled down, a ladder being brought into requisition to fasten the rope as high as possible. The 200-foot rope is reefed in pulleys of double and treble sheave blocks. The double block is hooked on to the other short piece of rope, which is then fastened round the butt of a neighbouring stump or tree, on the side on which it is intended to pull the tree. The end of the 150-foot rope is hooked onto the treble block, passed through the single block attached to the tree, and after the slack is taken up, is anchored by winding it around the butt of the stump or tree, where the other block is anchored, or if the stump or tree is small and not likely to stand the strain, to another tree in the line of pull. A pair of strong steady

horses is hooked on to the end of the 200-foot rope, and everything is then ready for the pull. The slack is taken out of the ropes, and, by means of a strong, steady pull, the tree will come down.”

This method would ensure that with soft ground after rain, green trees up to 2 feet in diameter could be pulled down, taking all their roots with them.

Note:

1 inch = 25.4 millimetres

1 foot = .305 Metres

References: *Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales*, April 1904 reproduced in Smith, Keith 1992 *The Settler’s Guide*

Obituaries

Now seen less often in newspapers, obituaries can be a rich source of information when researching family history. Information contained in an obituary can include date of death, name of cemetery, date and place of the funeral and burial; place and year of birth; names of the towns and how long they lived in each one and occupations engaged in; names of children, where they lived, and their position in the family’s birth order; age of spouse at death and how long ago that was; details of parents and grandparents and count of descendants, by generation.

Our Society is currently continuing on with a project began earlier by Bruce Cain to compile a collection of obituaries from our local newspapers from 1885 to the present day. To date we have over

Benefits of Membership

Membership Applications and Renewals start from February in the New Year. Members of the Macleay River Historical Society now enjoy the following benefits:

Quarterly Journal (posted or pick up from Museum)
Quarterly Newsletter (posted, emailed or pick up from Museum)

Discount of 20% on basic Research Fee (\$20.00 instead of \$25.00 per subject)

Discount of 10% on Photograph orders (excluding postage)

5,000 records which we are adding to weekly. The database can be searched by name if a date of death is not known. To provide print or electronic copies of obituaries, we charge a flat fee of \$10.00 per name including postage for print copies if necessary. This can include up to two obituaries, ie one from the Macleay Argus and one from the Macleay Chronicle (up to 1954). Both of these should be compared for accuracy, for example the obituary in the Macleay Chronicle of November 1934 for Mrs Katherine White correctly gives her maiden name as Huntress whilst that in the Macleay Chronicle gives it as Hunter.

Recent Additions to our Library

Hicks S 2010 *Your Family History Archives: A Brief Introduction*

Jaunay, Graham 2011 *Cracking the Code of Old Handwriting*

Jaunay, Graham 2011 *Solving Riddles in 19th Century Photo Albums*

Kyle, Noeline J, Russell, R. Lynette and Blundell, Jennifer 2015 *Nurses and Midwives in Australian History*

Murrin, J & A 2013 *Insights into the New South Wales Births, Deaths and Marriages Index*

Riley, C 2012 *Land Research for Family Historians in Australia and New Zealand*

Smith, N 2013 *That Elusive Digger: Tracing Your Australian Military Ancestors*

Smith, N 2013 *War on the Veldt: Tracing Your Australian Military Ancestors in the Boer War 1899-1902*

Telfer, E J *Amongst Australian Aborigines* (download from Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies website)

Our Affiliations

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations
Australasian Telephone Collector's Society Inc
Australian National Maritime Museum
Historic Houses Trust
Macleay Valley Coast Tourism
Museums Australia
Museums and Galleries NSW
Royal Australian Historical Society



Macleay River Historical Society

Office Bearers:

President

Phil Lee

Vice Presidents

Garry Munday

Tom Plunkett

Secretary & Public Officer

Ruth Woodward

Treasurer

Barbara Coughran

Patrons

Billie Crawford

Terry Eakin

Geraldine Yabsley

Ald. Liz Campbell

Postal Address

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Email: mrhs5@bigpond.com

Website: www.kempseymuseum.org

Membership

\$18.00 single

\$23.00 plus journal and postage

Committee Meetings

Meetings are held at 3pm

every third Tuesday of the month

Research

Tuesday: Desley Nunn

Wednesday: Dianne Nolan

Thursday: Garry Munday

Photographic

Friday: Judy Waters, Debbie Reynolds, Phil Lee

MUSEUM OPEN

10.00 am to 4.00 pm daily except

Good Friday and Christmas day