



MACLEAY RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2017

Number 20

President's Report

Unfortunately, we have decided to scale back the size of the Newsletter due to the heavy workload in assembling multiple articles. From now on the Newsletter will be made of our quarterly reports only. Apart from that, the combined Journal and Newsletter was close to the maximum size allowed for \$1 postage.

The remainder of the year is becoming very busy. In August the South West Rocks Roxy Cinema is having an historical Saturday Matinee and I have asked for us to be involved with a small display.

In September-October we display of wedding dresses in the Nulla Nulla at the Slim Dusty Centre. Our display at the Nulla Nulla Gallery has the working title "Here Comes the Bride". Noeline has assembled around half a dozen dresses of varying eras and members of the public have been invited to loan items.

On 27 November we have the Centenary of rail main event at Kempsey Railway Station with a display at our Museum in the week leading up to this event. The Centenary of Rail Commemoration is progressing nicely with a Committee now formed and our first donation.



Vice President Noeline Kyle and her new book "Women's Business"

We need volunteers/interested people to assist with these events.

I have accepted an invitation to address the Port Macquarie and District Family History Society on Saturday 14 October 2017. The subject will be the history of our Society and what we do.

I have initiated proceedings to get quotes and submit a Development Application (DA) for the Dondingalong Uniting Church replica. There was a suitable grant closing soon but we do not have time to have the DA ready for it.

Phil Lee
13 August 2017

Research Report

The following is a summary of research requests received over the past three months.

Family names included: Parish, Flanagan, Anne Dangar (artist), Hampson, Ducat, Zupp (nee Blight), Martin, Hughes, Rose, Ruth Rudder (artist), Taylor, Reeves,

Topics: Eliza Ducat's wedding dress, Kempsey Rifle Club, Hospitals of Kempsey, traffic accidents in West Kempsey in late 1940's, Kempsey Apex Club, Kempsey Show, King Edward Paddle Log Punt, Sanders and Cooper Memorial Tablets in Military Display, Smithtown sporting heroes, 1st NSW Mounted Rifles (Boer War).

Locations: 19 Short Street West Kempsey, Gooloondurry Receiving Post Office, All Saints Catholic Church, Old Lodge Pottery, Walcha Pastoral Run and Kempsey Museum Crescent Head (UNSW History Group), former part of Collombatti Road (Kempsey Shire Council for new name)

Thank you to all researchers for their continuing effort. We received an email from Rod who was very pleased with the packet of research material he received concerning his Yarra-bandini Research Request.

Completed research also included 19 Short Street, West Kempsey for the new owner, Geoff. The house was found to be on the site of Sydney Verge's house "Strathmore" built in

the 1870's and if still the same building it has been altered somewhat.

Thank you to all researchers for their continuing efforts.

MRHS Research Manager
Dianne Nolan
14 August 2017

Museum Report

The storage shelving acquired under the Museums and Galleries NSW VIM Grant was been installed in our storage shed and has been filled already.

We have started selling merchandise with pens, tea towels and tote bags. The Harvey girls (Angus McNeil photograph) have been returned to their normal position at the entrance to the Museum and our secondhand book sales wound up.

The promotion of our books for sale over the print media and radio is having an effect. We sold a copy of Riverboats of the Macleay last Monday just after Garry would have finished up his Tank Radio promotion.

We are putting in for a grant to have our Museum building assessed. If the EOI is successful, we can then put in for money to get some things fixed.

We have already applied for a Community Heritage Grant for conservation of some of our artefacts such as the bark paintings. Thanks to Noeline for all the work she is putting in for grants, we have a lot of irons in the fire and a couple of successful grants ready for acquittal.

Colin is working on our Artefacts Database again which is several years behind. He has finished up on the Research Records database for the time being but it has already proved valuable in identifying some of our maps and other documents. Sue is bringing our Publications for Sale database.

We welcome new volunteers George and Shirley.

Phil Lee
13 August 2017

Photography Report

1. We have two centenaries that we hope to acknowledge this year, both relating to this town and district.
i). 31- October 1917 is the centenary of the Battle of Beersheba which is an extraordinary story of courage not only of our soldiers but their incredible horses. It is recorded as being the turning point of the war in the Middle East and has gone down in history as the last great cavalry charge.

A number of men from this district were involved and we are in the envious position of having photographs taken at the time by David Rowe of East Frederickton and Warren Barnett of Gladstone who were both there. We thank Ruth Woodward for allowing us to copy David Rowe's extraordinary album of personal photographs and Vicki Barnett (granddaughter of Warren Barnett) who donated copies of his photographs.

ii) We are looking forward to the community celebrating 100 years since the railway came to town on 28th November 1917. There are a number of activities being planned and it should be a great way to bring people together. The town needs a bit of a boost at present.

Our section is working on a Railway photographic display for our gallery area within the museum. Any offers of relevant photographs to be scanned and returned or other memorabilia we could use, record or photograph would be gratefully accepted. If you can assist, please contact one of the team so we can record what you have.

2. Scanning and cataloguing continues. We can see that light in that tunnel at last. Debbie scanned the last of the 7x5" glass negs and that left a small quantity of 4.5x3.25" negatives which presented a small problem as we did not have a carrier of that size to fit in our scanner. Peter Lovedee came to the rescue and came up with a tiny cardboard "frame" that did the trick. Debbie got to work and filled a box with the tiny negatives. Many thanks to Peter who is so obliging - whatever we ask him is considered "done". And we only have to mention we need wooden boxes for our glass negs and they arrive. Thanks Ken. We appreciate the assistance from these busy people.

We are now on to the large glass plates in the Angus McNeil collection. We are looking forward to what they might contain.

To date we have scanned and numbered 28,623 glass negatives from the Angus McNeil Collection.

20 JUNE 2017
JUDY WATERS

Recent Additions to our Library

Some of the books recently acquired for our Library are as follows:

Berrie, George 2010 *Under Furred Hats: 6th ALH Regiment* (CD-ROM)
Blainey, Geoffrey 2003 *Black Kettle and Full Moon: daily life in a vanished Australia*
Combes, Rosamonde and Berry, Lesle 2017 *Weingarth Family of West Kempsey*
Davies Alan, Wickman Warren, Wilson Andrew 1989 *Going Places: A Pictorial History of Transport in New South Wales*
Gaddes, Alex S 1990 *Red Cedar, Our Heritage*
Herman, Morton 1954 *The Early Australian Architects and their Work*
Kyle, Dr Noeline 2017 *Women's Business: Midwives on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales to 1950*
Loney Jack 1982 *Australian Shipwrecks. Volume 3: 1871 to 1900*
Loney, Jack 1987 *Australian Shipwrecks Volume 4: 1901 to 1986*
Moremon, Dr John 2002 *A Bitter Fate: Australians in Malaya and Singapore December 1941-February 1942*
Rudder, Augustus 1897 *My Voyage to England* (transcription by David Rudder)
Witting, Amy 1977 *The Visit*