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MACLEAY RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2018

Number 22

Presidents Report

This Newsletter will be fairly brief as whilst the Museum has been very busy over the holiday period, our volunteers have been stretched keeping our doors open seven days a week whilst others took well-earned time off with friends and family. Many thanks to those who assisted, a tremendous achievement.

Congratulations to our Vice-President Dr Noeline Kyle on her Australia Day award of the Order of Australia. Noeline's citation reads as follows: "For significant service to history, and to higher education, as a researcher, author and educator, and through advisory roles for arts funding programs."

It is good to see membership renewals coming in, for those who haven't resubscribed yet, there is still time to help us in the running of the Society and the Museum.

We were unsuccessful in our expression of interest for our Dondingalong Church replica through the 2017 Regional Cultural Fund Grant, however we have been encouraged to reapply this year. At the time we applied, we didn't have a firm builder's quote or Development Application, we hope to be better prepared for our next Application.

The Centenary of Rail celebrations in November were a resounding success thanks to Garry and Debbie, and the Family Research Group for their efforts. Our display at the Museum will be open until the end of February so don't miss it. We still have commemorative booklets and postcards for sale.

We received another invitation from the Port Macquarie and Districts Family History Society to

provide a guest speaker for their 2018 programme on the subject of Angus McNeil and his photography and I will be presenting this in April.

I was nominated for a 2018 Citizen of the Year award. Thanks to Noeline for the nomination and to all who made contributions.

Thanks also to Barbara and all involved for my surprise 70th Birthday party at the Museum. Whilst the timing of the party turned out not to be a surprise, it was a surprise to see such a good turnout during the holiday period.

Phil Lee
29 January 2018

Museum Report

We have a new volunteer for 2018 and another potential three are currently under consideration. We welcome Therese to the "Tuesday Girls" team.

Kempsey Shire Council have promised attention for our leaking gutters and lighting problems.

New acquisitions included an old German rag doll with bisque head made by Armand Marseille around 1910, the tripod for surveyor Herborn's theodolite, and John Kemp's World War 2 medals including a Tobruk medallion.

Kempsey will be well covered by national media in the next few weeks. Michael Portillo will feature our railway line on a television series on great railway journeys, whilst a team from Australian Geographic will be in the Valley soon to prepare a feature for that magazine.

The SES have asked us to present a photographic

display to assist with both their community flood awareness workshop in Smithtown in March and the installation of a new flood marker in Clyde Street in May/June.

Phil Lee
29 January 2018

Research Report

The following requests were received.
Family names included: Fitzpatrick, Harvey, Holder, Baker, Gaddes, Smith (Clarence Sydney), Reilly, Minter, Fagan and Clarke.
Topics: 1960 Festival of Spring,
Locations: Turners Flat School, Jerseyville Schoolhouse, Tatersalls Hotel, 33 Tozer Street.

We were pleased to have had donated records from the former Kempsey Ambulance Station including subscribers lists and Ambulance officers Attendance Books.

Dianne Nolan

Photography Report

Our photographic exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary of the charge of Beersheba will continue on into 1918. David Rowe and his collection of photographs taken in the desert on that day, just an amazing record from the camera of a boy from the Macleay.

On Monday morning the 27 November, the

celebrations Centenary of Rail continued. The official part of the proceedings took place at the Station with official guests, school captains and choirs in attendance – and there was a fly-over of light aircraft. A Centenary plaque was unveiled by the Hon Melinda Pavey, MP, and a Centenary cake was cut and served at a special morning tea.

As of 21 November, photographs we have catalogued to date total 60,036 catalogued out of which Angus McNeil negatives make up 29,135.

Judy Waters
Photographics

New Additions to our Library

Bell, Katherine M 2016 *Life in the Lower Manning Valley: The First Thirty Years of Settlement*
Connah, Graham 1988 *Of the Hut I Builded: The Archaeology of Australia*
Cuffley, Peter 1981 *Buggies and Horse Drawn Vehicles in Australia*
Dunne, David 2001 *Precious Memories (A Photographic History of the Nambucca Shire)*
Irving, Robert 1985 *The History & Design of the Australian House*
Nothling, Clay *The Cheers Family Tree Book*
Reece, Ian H 2005 *Harold's Diary (War Biography of Harold Reece, former Clerk of Petty Sessions at Kempsey)*

Large collection of *Wartime* magazines, Official Magazine of the Australian War Memorial

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MACLEAY RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

The Annual General Meeting of members of the Macleay River Historical Society will be held on Tuesday March 20 at 2.30pm at Kempsey Museum.

Please contact the secretary for information forms or call the museum on 02 6562 7572.

Ruth Woodward
Honorary Secretary