



Museums Australia (NSW)

Chapter Representatives Conference 2010

CHAPTER NEWS & ISSUES

MAY 2010

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1 INTRODUCTION

This summary of chapter activities was prepared from reports and other material submitted before and after the chapter representatives' meeting in March. The Branch is grateful for reports from individual museums, which are a good way of keeping the branch informed about work in the regions and of flagging issues that need to be addressed. An edited version of these reports appears in Museum Matters July 2010.

2 FAR NORTH COAST

Far North Coast held its first meeting of the year at Port of Yamba Historical Society. The meeting acknowledge the work of the late Dot Sawatzki, a 2007 Heritage NSW Volunteer Award recipient, who passed away in early January.

Lois Randall from Arts Northern Rivers spoke about the achievements of Regional Museum Development Officer Joan Kelly after three years of working with 21 museums in the region. Joan was instrumental in the development of a strong regional network, a professional development program (13 workshops attended by 253 participants), a regional significance assessment program with related training, development of *Rivers, Roads and Rail*, a multi site regional curated museum exhibition, recording and editing of 12 local oral histories, now available online, development of strategic plans, stronger partnerships with local government; and raising the profile of the museums in the region.

Joan's recent resignation as a result of funding uncertainties highlights the importance of the Chapter in continuing to provide networking and training opportunities to all the museums. Future priorities, subject to future funding and support, include

ongoing professional support for museum committees, ongoing liaison with each local government to ensure that MOUs with councils are negotiated; ongoing development of volunteer recruitment and support programs; audience development strategies; organizing travelling experts to visit museums and assess items in collections where requested. Funding options include working towards professional assistance possibly through MGNSW Museum Advisers Program. Ideally such a program would involve a museums adviser to work with 5 museums in Richmond Valley Council area and a museum adviser to work with 4 museums in the Ballina and Byron Shires. Kyogle Council has recently engaged a consultant to advise on the development of a combined heritage and cultural facility. Should this proceed it is desirable that Kyogle Council engage a museum adviser to work with Kyogle Historical Society to prepare for setting up in the new facility.

Arts Northern Rivers is committed to continuing to work with the volunteer museums, where possible, to assist with; funding applications, supporting professional development, and liaison with local government.

With assistance from Powerhouse Museum's Regional Services, Margaret Juraszek conducted a workshop on paper conservation. The workshop was funded by an MGNSW leg-up grant covering 50% of the travel costs, with the remaining amount provided by the host museum from contributions made those attending the workshop.

The next meeting of the chapter is tentatively scheduled for 3 September, possibly at Alstonville or Evans Head, possibly with a workshop on the Powerhouse Museum's Dress Register. Other reports flesh out the evidence of interesting work being undertaken within individual museums within the chapter.

Evans Head Living Museum

- **Headline:** Celebrated 70th anniversary of the RAAF at Evans Head.
- **Management and resources.** Continued strategic planning with the assistance of Joan Kelly. Has been administering a grant on an environmental theme through the Dirawong Trust and Northern Rivers Catchment Authority for eradication of Bitou without the use of destructive chemicals. Obtained a \$3,000.00 grant to purchase of 4 new computers for the Community Technology Centre, enabling the museum to make its premises available for hire for computer classes. Received assistance from the Evans Head Bowling Club in conducting Cash Bingo sessions during the Christmas Holidays. Three members attended a MOSAIC Workshop conducted by Geoff Foley. Needs new volunteers and a part-time manager for the Community Technology Centre and Museum.
- **Exhibitions & public programs.** Celebrated the 70th anniversary of the RAAF at Evans Head in October 2009. This involved liaison with support groups from the Woodburn-Evans Head RSL Sub-branch and RSL Club, local businesses and residents to produce an event attended by the Governor-General Quentin Bryce and her husband Mr. Michael Bryce, preparation of a special display of air force memorabilia and hosting a special dinner.

Richmond River Historical Society

- **Headline.** Recognised in the 2009 IMAGinE Awards.
- **Management & resources.** RRHS hosted a two-day course on Mosaic in November 2009 and conducted Mosaic Workshops presented by Geoff Foley in Macksville and Lismore. Restored 8 maritime paintings with a grant of \$10,000 from the Australian Maritime Museum. Purchased a Canon Reader-Printer (\$14,000), with the assistance of a grant of \$2000 from Lismore City Council. Upgrade its IT capability with installation of seven copies of Windows 7 Pro, supplied by Donortec at a cost of \$11 per copy as part of Microsoft's support of charities. Was a winner in the collection management category in the 2009 IMAGinE Awards.
- **Exhibitions and public programs.** Is providing advice and material to consultants involved in refurbishment of Lismore Visitor's Centre. Supplied historical images to the Byron Bay International Film Festival centenary. Provided a display in the Italian Festival in October 2009. Has attracted research on the museum's operations from post-graduate students in museum studies (Suzanne Gibson, ANU and Lel Sebastian, Edith Cowan University, Perth). Music Research Dr Jenny Gall, of the ANU School of Music has been researching musical instruments and types of music played in domestic settings in the Richmond River area. Her research is being presented to national and international musicological conferences.

Yamba Museum

- **Management & resources.** Membership continues to grow with new people seeking volunteer work. The opening of The Old Kirk, following its restoration as the oldest church in Yamba, in December, is providing additional income to the museum as a cultural heritage function facility. Restored and relaunched Billy Black's Skiff, as dramatic link with the early days of Yamba and with the beginning of the fishing industry on the Clarence,

with funding from the Australian National Maritime Museum. Installed insulation batts in the museum ceiling after received funding through the NSW Government Public Facilities Program. Hosted a Paper Conservation Workshop in partnership with the Powerhouse Museum, MGNSW and the Chapter. A recent movie afternoon provided a social outing and raised funds for the coffers. Intends to hold further strategic planning sessions.

- **Exhibitions and public programs.** Organised a good ole Aussie BBQ, which helped attract a record number of people to our Annual Australia Day Flag Raising Ceremony. Presented the *Hats, Bats & Balls* Exhibition (March-May) highlighting the history of sports in the region. Visitor numbers are rising from group visits, bus tours, and research enquiries.

Mclean District Historical Society

- **Headline.** Celebrated its 40th anniversary.
- **Management and resources.** Painted veranda rails, louvers and signs at the Cottage. Continuing to purchase microfilm. Has experienced a major problem with ants. Received, among other donations, a grant for photo conservation and an RAHS grant toward reprinting of *Maclean and The Scottish Connection*. Has completed indexing of fishing and sugar books. Members attended the Mosaic Workshop at Lismore.
- **Exhibitions and public programs.** Celebrated its 40th anniversary with afternoon tea and celebration cake. Opened every day for History Week with a photographic display in Libraries at Maclean and Iluka. Printed a small booklet *Maclean To the Reef and Back*, the story of a trip by a local doctor.

Casino & District Historical Society

- **Management & resources.** Increased its membership to 53. Received a grant of \$3,500 from Museums & Galleries NSW in November 2008 for a Significance Survey by the Regional Development Officer. Has restricted acquisitions to photographs and smaller objects owing to the lack of space. Employed someone on work experience to assist museum operations. Members enjoyed 2 bus trip to visit other museums, one to Lawrence and one to Alstonville.
- **Exhibitions and public programs.** Continued to open 3 days a week. Experienced an increase in visitor numbers, with 595 people signing the visitor's book. These included people from the UK, New Zealand, China, Canada and Germany, as well as all Australian states, 224 students and people researching families and subjects of interest. Published *Main Camp: Memoirs of a Country Gentleman* by Cunningham Henderson reminiscing on Goulburn, Crookwell and the Casino – Coraki district from 1888. Prepared off-site photographic displays for Australia Day Celebrations at New Italy and in the Pavilion at Casino Show. Attracted publicity in the Richmond River Express Examiner and COW FM (Casino's Own Wireless)

Crawford House Museum

- **Management & resources.** Is awaiting final DA approval for extensions. Celebrated the work of its volunteers at a Volunteers' Christmas Party. Organised 2 workshops for volunteers, one on computers and the second on training volunteers as guides. Has updated its strategic plan and a draft memorandum of understanding prepared for presentation to Ballina Shire Council. Its research procedures have been revised and reporting sheets developed.
- **Exhibitions & public programs.** Organised stalls at Lismore and Alstonville Show and Alstonville markets during October-December last year. Arranged for local Federal

member, Janelle Saffin, to launch its displays on dairying and the Red Cross. Encourages other groups to present displays at the museum. A book on dairying is being prepared. Several other books are planned over the next few years. Acquisition of material as a result of excavations for the Alstonville attracted local publicity. Research requests are beginning to grow. These are helping the museum us to build text files relating to these requests.

3 MID NORTH COAST

The chapter celebrated two years of activity, after being reactivated in 2008, when it held its AGM at Kempsey RSL on 30 March 2010. The following members of the committee were elected or confirmed: Debbie Sommers (President), Terrie Beckhouse (Vice-President), Leonie Laws (Treasurer), Tom Jones and Chris May (Committee). Liz Gillroy continues as chapter Representative and acting secretary. Membership now stands at 17 (14 institutions & 3 individual).

Initial enthusiasm has been overtaken by time constraints and the tyranny of distance. However, the chapter has maintained its momentum by meeting twice over the past year, an Upper Mid-North Coast sub-committee has been formed and there are some interesting plans for the next twelve months.

Achievements for the year include a Caring for Historic Dress workshop by the Powerhouse Museum held at the Port Macquarie Historical Museum in September 2009 and an introduction to social media workshop with Joy Suliman from Thinkspace in March 2010, also at Port Macquarie. Two workshops have been held in 2010: Making Sense of Significance with Kylie Winkworth (on 9 April, funded by an MGNSW VIM Skills Initiative Grant) and Organising Historic Photograph Collections with Geoff Barker from the Powerhouse Museum (30 April, courtesy of Powerhouse Museum Regional Services Program).

The Upper Mid North sub-committee was established in 2009 at the instigation of Terrie Beckhouse (Coffs Harbour Regional Museum) and Richard Holloway (Executive Office and Regional Arts Development Officer). A meeting of the sub-committee on 17 February 2010 at the Coffs Harbour Education Campus attracted representatives from Bellingen Museum, Urunga Museum, Coffs Harbour Regional Museum, Dorrigo Train Museum, and Bowraville Folk Museum. Apologies were received from Frank Partridge Military Museum (Bowraville), Nambucca Headland Museum and Mary Boulton Pioneer Cottage. Minutes were also sent to Glenreagh Museum, Yarrowarra Aboriginal Corporation: Keeping Collection, Redrock Museum.

The sub-committee plans to meet twice a year and attend the full meeting of the Mid North Coast Chapter once a year. Richard Holloway and Terrie Beckhouse have agreed to serve as contact points and organisers. Richard will be following up with other organisations in the north about membership ie Dorrigo Train Museum, Glenreagh, Red Rock, Bellinger Valley Historical Society.

Training and workshop needs and opportunities have been identified as Dress Register training, use of Mosaic software, setting up email groups, disaster preparedness and recovery, the special needs of Aboriginal collections. Grant opportunities were identified as Volunteer Equipment Grants up to \$5000, Museums Galleries VIM Grants up to \$1500, Arts NSW Communities funding \$5000-\$300000, Holiday Coast Credit Union grants up to \$5000, Community Heritage Grants, and NSW Heritage Office grants.

Summary of current issues: Use of new technologies and software programs like 'mosaic' specific to the Museums Sector; the increased use and access to email; ageing volunteers, attracting new members, attracting young members; inadequate facilities; access and applying for larger scale infrastructure funding; the need for increased support from local government; isolation; access to a variety of resources and particularly cash; access to a variety of professional development and training on an ongoing basis; growth and culling of collections; lack of a specific 'Aboriginal Keeping Place' on the MNC; Maintaining a contacts database.

Reports on each museum provided a good understanding of regional circumstances and issues to be addressed.

- **Bowraville Folk Museum.** 40th Birthday planned for November. Serves as contact point for researching local family histories. Vandalism has been a recent and ongoing issue. Require access to ongoing professional development and training, particularly in collection management and the use of modern technologies. There is a need for a regional 'hotline' for advice and support. There is a need for data entry of a large and growing collection and back-up procedures to be implemented. Diminishing availability of exhibition space and storage is also an issue.
- **Bellingen Historic Museum.** Opened in 1983. Currently has 50 members. Has a broad collection and variety of exhibits. Has limited space. Issues: development of infrastructure; ageing membership and the need for ongoing recruitment; lack of youth involvement despite high levels of school visitation.
- **Urunga Museum.** Under the same incorporated structure as Bellingen Museum. The facility is currently exposed to major flooding and was inundated in March 2009. Has similar issues to Bellingen.
- **Dorrigo Train Museum,** Has a strong membership although the majority of members live outside the area, particularly in metropolitan areas of NSW and interstate. The Museum's collection includes 66 locomotives, 380 Carriages and a large number of related exhibits. The collection is thought to be the biggest of its type in the Southern Hemisphere. Their main issue has been obtaining a DA approval to open the collection to the public. A 'Conditions of Consent' is estimated to cost conservatively \$1.5 million. Approximately \$3,500 is generated by the membership every week. Damp and moisture is one of the biggest issues in maintaining the collection. Issues in the past between the Dorrigo Train Museum and the Glenreagh Mountain Railway have been resolved. There have been major issues in gaining state government financial support.
- **Coffs Harbour Regional Museum:** Was flooded for the second time in ten years last March with water levels rising 22 inches through the Museum. A significant number of exhibits, particularly works on paper, were either damaged or destroyed. The Museum is now a 'collection' stored in two facilities. There are some issues in the use of basic industrial shed and Salvation Army owned storage facility for the ongoing protection of fragile museum/heritage related items. These facilities have issues associated with dust, high humidity and the lack of temperature controls. Recent attempts to combine the role of the Museum and the Bunker Gallery have foundered due to the inherent differences between the display of visual arts material and museum exhibits. At this stage there is no adopted plan for the provision of a new Regional Museum for the Coffs Harbour LGA; Options are currently being explored. A pop-up display in a vacant shop at the Palm's

Shopping Centre attracted great exposure and good donation boxes. The museum is still in a storage shed and no immediate plans to re-open.

- **Trial Bay Gaol.** Has completed a disaster preparedness plan completed and will now embark on a disaster recovery plan. Is compiling a prisoner database. The Gatehouse is being re-painted. Will close temporarily next year for structural restoration to walls.
- **Port Macquarie Historical Society & Museum.** Celebrated its 50th birthday with a Community Open Day on 10 April. Was successful in winning the \$20000 Panthers Community Grant being used to replace museum roof and guttering.
- **Frank Partridge VC Military Museum.** . A successful year for grants with the NSW Heritage Office Grant of \$40 000 for extensions to exhibition space and storage areas. Bill Storer completed a significance assessment with an MG NSW grant

4 NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST CHAPTER

Many exciting events and activities have taken place in this chapter over the past twelve months.

A seminar was held at the Land of the Beardies Museum and Research Centre, Glen Innes, on 20 August 2009, sponsored by the New England North West Chapter. This was attended by 27 people from historical societies, family history groups and museums at Dorrigo/ Guy Fawkes, Glen Innes, Inverell, Stanthorpe, Tamworth, Tenterfield, and Uralla. The program included Alex Roach (Heritage Pest Management) on the identification and reduction of infestations of the pests, and Wendy Watts (Textile Coordinator, Land of the Beardies Museum & Research Centre) on her internship at the Powerhouse Museum, the Australian Dress Register, and dealing with textile disasters. Kent Mayo (Museum Director Uralla McCrossins Mill) challenged participants to review their thoughts on exhibition design.

A workshop on disaster recovery preparedness workshop was held at New England Regional Art Museum in Armidale on 8 February. About 30 people attended a Disaster Preparedness Workshop at New England Regional Art Museum on 8 February 2010. The workshop was presented by Dr Leigh Summers, Director and Curator of the Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery.

Uralla Historical Society held its AGM on 23 August 2009 at McCrossin's Mill. A record 36 attended, including many new members. Two members attended the Working Spaces3 Conference in Galong. The Thirty Years Anniversary and Official Opening of the New Kitchen was attended by nearly 100 invited guests and members, including Kristina Keneally, Steve Widders, representing the Anaiwan people, Meg Larkin (Chair of Regional Arts NSW), Maisy Stapleton (CEO, Museums & Galleries NSW) and the Hon Richard Torbay (Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and member for Northern Tablelands). Kent Mayo reported that the society had devoted all its resources over the past few years to the construction of the new Function Centre and will now concentrate on upgrading and installing several exhibitions including *Trickett's Triumph*, *Corporal Cecil Stoker*, *Sunny Jim Mackay*, *She'll Be Right Mate* and *Moving Stories in the Chaff Shed*. An application for funding through Arts NSW for the upgrade of our website was successful. Kent Mayo won the top award for Individual Excellence in the IMAGinE Awards for his outstanding contribution to McCrossin's Mill over the last thirty years. Robyn Rogers undertook a one-week Powerhouse Museum internship in 2010.

One tragic event in the region was the destruction of records of the Inverell and District Family History. Records dating back to the foundation of the town, documenting the history of the early pioneers in the District, were destroyed in the fire in January 2010. These included more than 1000 books, hundreds of microfilms, microfiche, computers, microfilm readers furniture and 5 filing cabinets. Some files were burnt beyond recognition. Others were almost unscathed except for the acrid smoke smell. Fortunately, all administration records were off site along with some second copies of library books. Since the fire the Group has found new premises and our members are determined to carry on. Many offers of donations of research material and money have been received, keeping spirits up. The Group's website www.inverellfamilyhistory.org.au has a donation registration form to assist donations of material relevant to the Inverell District.

Chapter concerns

- **Grants.** System of grants provided through the Regional Program to country museums & galleries. It is generally felt that Museums & Galleries Grants under \$5,000 are too difficult to access and discriminatory against small and/or volunteer museums & galleries. There is too much paperwork involved and the detail required for these grants, far too pedantic and demanding. Is it felt that it might be appropriate for professional staff and/or larger museums to have to complete this paperwork, but unfair for volunteer organisations, many of whom often do not have the membership or expertise to complete them. Is there a more equitable and fair way of distributing funds to museums and galleries that eliminates this time consuming, frustrating and onerous grant application process?
- **Professional advice.** Of equal concern to chapter members is the consultancy support available to country museums and galleries. Once again, this support is seen as extremely difficult to access. Country museum members and volunteers indicate that they feel disappointed by what they see as a city centric bias in the museums and galleries sector. Once again, the detail and paperwork required to access consultancy support is onerous and appears designed to deter applications and requests. Museums would like consultancy support to be practical, helpful and responsive. I think it is fair to say that non metropolitan museums and galleries feel poorly served by city-based professionals. City based consultants appear reluctant to spend any time in the country assisting country museums and galleries. Is it time to employ country based Consultants and Professionals who are accessible, responsive and keen to assist country museums and galleries? This would be an effective solution to the problem. It would be more cost effective and satisfy the demand for practical, responsive and more immediate support to country museums and galleries.

5 HUNTER

The Hunter Chapter held its AGM in March at Fort Scratchley in Newcastle. It is currently producing a revised chapter brochure promoting Hunter museums using income from the 2009 national conference. Workshops are planned in September and December, one Australian Dress Register, with a focus on photographing textile collections. The chapter has also produced information sheets on pests, citric acid and photographing collections. As an example of inter-chapter cooperation, the Mid North Coast Chapter has invited Hunter chapter members to the MNC Social Networking workshop planned for 2010. The next chapter meeting will be held at Richmond Vale Railway & Museum on 5 June.

Dungog Museum

- **Headline:** 2010 - a year of change and improvement
- **Management & resources.** Opened refurbished museum after receipt of funds for exterior and interior painting in January. Also update its computer system. .
- **Exhibitions & public programs.** Launched new display in the front reception. There is increased interest in family history and in resources as a 'family tree museum'. This has necessitated a re-think on museum priorities.

Wyong District Museum & Historical Society Aliston Homestead Museum

- **Headline:** Celebrated 30th anniversary in 2009.
- **Management, resources & public programs.** The museum building (homestead) has been fully painted both inside and out and the lawns and gardens maintained. Erecting a slab hut used at Yarramalong School. When completed it will become a classroom highlighting Education in Wyong Shire. Volunteers from Bunning's are also assisting. Have purchased a new ride on Lawn mower at a cost of \$3000. Experimenting with Radio advertising on Radio-Five-Plus FM 93.3, a community based radio station with an audience of 40,000.

Morpeth Museum

- **Headline:** A year of change and challenges.
- **Management & resources.** The Court House building is undergoing major restoration, with financial support from Maitland Council. The Maitland Historical Society has vacated one room leaving more space for the museum. All the extra rooms need renovation before they can be used. Will reopen as soon as the roof is completed and the court room painted.
- **Exhibitions & public programs.** Has begun to freshen up its exhibition. A grant has enabled the development of a new research area for volunteers. The committee is working on a full new display in the Court room emphasising some of the important aspects highlighted in the new book *Morpeth Courthouse: A Place of Justice, A Place of Community*.

Richmond Vale Railway and Mining Museum

- **Exhibitions & public programs.** Involved with Heritage Hunter in a display at the Newcastle Show and also the train layout display at the same event (March). Also organised displays during National Trust Festival, Hunter Valley Steamfest, and at Maitland Railway precinct and Our Town Model Exhibition. Have become involved in the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival and Cruise running a Murder Rock and Roll express.

Port Stephens Historical Society

- **Management & resources.** Has produced a quarterly newsletter. Has recruited new ordinary members, student members, family members, and corporate member. Is digitising its photographs. Is beginning the process of preparing a Collection Management Plan as a framework for grant applications. Is planning social activities, including a Christmas Luncheon, and an educational cruise on the Danial Thain, the main lifeboat of the NSW Marine Rescue, based at Nelson Bay.
- **Exhibitions & public programs.** Is undertaking ongoing research projects, especially with schools such as St Phillips Christian College, where Year 11 students undertake research for eight weeks in preparation for their Higher School Certificate Year. Continue

to provide staff for the Society's Research Rooms at the Tomaree Community Centre and Library three days a week. In conjunction with NSW Marine Rescue, contributes to the staffing of the Inner Light and Historical Museum, which is open daily throughout the year. Gives presentations to community groups such as U3A, Probus, National Trust [NSW]. Is staging historical reunions. Participated in Australia Day celebrations and other events such as Anzac commemorations.

Raymond Terrace & District Historical Society

- **Management & resources.** Sue Sokoloff was appointed Curator with Moira Saunderson as her assistant following resignation of Jean Spenser. Has purchased a digital SLR video camera and hard drive back up with a Fiesta Theatre project grant.
- **Exhibitions & public programs.** Will be part of a group mounting an exhibition at Port Stephens Shire Council Chambers during 2010 Heritage Festival in April. Judy Birmingham, who conducted the archaeological dig at Irrawang, has offered RTHS some items of pottery and documentation from her collection to augment its display at Sketchley Cottage.

Brisbane Water Historical Society

- **Headline:** Celebrating its 60th year of operation.
- **Management & resources:** Now has a membership of 73. Seven new members joined during the year but sadly lost Glenys Hill, Harold Hitchcock, Robert Clinch, Eric Hingston, Marjorie Hancock, and former members, Harold Bryant, Una Parry-Davis, and Joan Hargraves. Held 11 general meetings and other forums. Liaised with RTA over concerns on the upgrade of the Brisbane Water Drive/Central Coast Highway intersection. Members attended functions at Wyong Historical Society, Central Coast Tourism Networking Functions, Breakers Country Club at Wamberal, and Woy Woy Branch Library. Fund-raising and social activities included a Rotary Club raffle, a street stall, handicrafts and plant Sales, Bunnings BBQ. Social outings were to Dobell House, Wangi Wangi in June and Hunter Valley Gardens in September. Working Bees assisted with cleaning, setting up displays, and sausage sizzles. Sub-committees were formed to handle grounds & gardening, cleaning and administration, displays and other aspects of operations. Obtained grant for new photocopier and a grant for a computer/projector, laptop computer, and cash register. Is experiencing a shortage of active volunteers, which is making it difficult to cope.
- **Exhibitions and public programs.** Continued visits by coach tours and school groups. Education Packs are sent to these Schools and copies of our Monographs are donated to their School libraries. Exhibitions, displays and information tables have been mounted to coincide with public events such as National Trust Heritage Week, Volunteers' Expo at San Remo, Gosford City Library's Kitchenalia exhibit at Erina Fair, Anzac display at Erina Library, French Market Day at Beach Farm, Kincumber.

6 SYDNEY

The chapter is planning its AGM and a seminar aimed at students and young professionals entering the Museum/Gallery workforce on 23 July 2010 at Sydney University.

7 CENTRAL TABLELANDS CHAPTER

The Central Tablelands held its AGM and Social Day at the Golden Memories Museum Millthorpe on 15 May, hosted by Millthorpe and Orange Historical Societies.

Trevor Pascoe was re-elected President. Other office bearers elected were Phil Stevenson (Vice-President), Sue Milne (Secretary), Elizabeth Griffin (Treasurer) and Sam Friend (Chapter Delegate). The excellent turnout of thirty at the meeting was in large measure due to the effort of the chapter executive in travelling in the weeks leading up to the meeting to museums in Mudgee, Rylstone, Kandos, Sofala, Oberon, Rockley, Lithgow, Blayney and Carcoar. Trevor Pascoe is hopeful that future meetings and workshops planned for August 2010 and April/May 2011 will galvanise interest in the region after a recent hiatus.

8 LACHLAN CHAPTER

The major event of the Lachlan 2010 calendar is Working Spaces 4, to be presented in October. Check the details at <http://www.lachlanmuseums.com.au/>.

Other events during the year have included a meeting in May, which focused on the standards program. Concerns expressed at the meeting included lack of storage facilities, lack of volunteers and suggestion planning, building maintenance, collection registration, significance, collection and de-accessioning policies, and outreach to the local community and schools. The chapter is finalising its 2010-2011 Chapter Directory, which will be issued at its meeting in Temora on 31 July.

9 SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS & ILLAWARRA CHAPTER

The next chapter meeting will be at Berry Church Hall on 20 June. The chapter will hold a training session on Collections MOSAIC Plus software, with Sally-Anne Whittington, at Shellharbour City Council 30 June-1 July, with financial support from a MGNSW grant. .

The chapter acknowledges the passing of Kevin Bindon, one of the original members of the Chapter in the 1980s and President for a time, who died on Anzac Day aged 89 years. Kevin was a life member of the Shoalhaven Historical Society and he and his late wife Betty had much to do with the establishment of Nowra Museum at its present location.

Wollongong Museum

- **Headline.** Increasing visitor numbers is a priority in 2010.
- **Management and resources.** A five year lease has been signed with Wollongong City Council and a Memorandum of Understanding is being prepared. Grants received: \$5000 from MGNSW to continue development of a strategic plan with the assistance of museum consultant Colin Jones; \$7500 for the development of a significance statement with the assistance of Kylie Winkworth. Has also received a grant to restore the dead eyes from the Queen of Nations.
- **Exhibitions and public programs:** Three functions were drawn together to create an extravaganza: the dedication of the Joyce O McCarthy OAM Room, the launch of Osborne's latest book, *Wollongong's National School 1840-1884, the First in Australia* and the opening of Carol Herben's exhibition, *Wollongong 1811-1900*, commemorating 175 years of Wollongong's 1834 town plan by Thomas Mitchell.

Shoalhaven Historical Society

- **Management & resources.** Received a FCaSIA grant for the purchase of a computer, printer and the MOSAIC program. Has been an advocate on heritage issues relating to the

Nowra Gas Works, preservation and display an 1870 flood boat, Nowra Recreation Area, and closure of Nowra Pool.

- **Exhibitions & public programs.** Relaunched Back to Shoalhaven, a 1926 book and its companion volume, Spirit of the Back to Shoalhaven Week. The launch was held in Nowra's School of Arts where an audience of approximately two hundred were entertained by the Nowra Town Band. Is hoping to mount an art exhibition of the works of Samuel Elyard later in the year to mark the centenary of his death. Participated in International Museums Day with free admission.

Berry and District Historical Society

- **Exhibitions & public programs.** Mounted a display depicting the social impact on Berry residents during World War 11, incorporating rationing, fashion, home life, entertainment, barb wire reinforcements on Seven Mile Beach, plans to evacuate cattle and plane spotting. Also held a display at the Berry Show in February.

Tongarra Museum

- **Management & resources.** Kevin and Dorothy Gillis were the recipients of the 2010 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards in Shellharbour City. Kevin and Dot have been volunteering at the Museum and with the Heritage Society for 18 years.
- **Exhibitions and public programs.** As part of Shellharbour Council and Shellharbour Public School's Sesquicentenary events in October Held a street fair and set up an exhibition of Shellharbour's pioneers and heritage buildings. In November Dorothy Gillis launched her revised edition of History Notes of Shellharbour City Area. A copy of Dorothy's book was placed in the time capsule that was buried at Memorial Park Shellharbour, and will be opened in 50 Years time. Dr Richard Reid from the National Museum in Canberra visited the Museum and others in the Illawarra and Southern Highlands area when conducting research for the NMA's exhibition on Irish Settlement in Australia.

Berrima District Museum

- **Headline.** Recognised in an iMAGine Award in October for its Prisoners in Arcady exhibition, the story of German mariners interned in Berrima during World War 1.
- **Exhibitions & public programs.** Mounted Stage 1 of Early Industries in the Berrima District exhibition, curated by Lyn Hall. The centrepiece is a scale model of the Fitz Roy Iron Works top works, c 1860, at Mittagong, the first iron works in Australia. Obtained sponsorship for two of the panels and are seeking further sponsorship to expand the exhibition. Stage 2 is currently in the planning stage.

Camden Museum

- **Exhibitions & public programs:** In November 2009, launched its latest publication, *The McAleer Story, A History of a Camden Family*, by Ian Willis. Upcoming events in Heritage Week include the exhibition *Camden, the Inter-war Heritage of the Country Town*, the launch of the website Camden Remembers.

Lady Denman Museum

- **Headline:** The Old Lady will soon be 100!
- **Management & resources:** Installed new water tanks as part of refurbishment plans.

Wollondilly Heritage Centre

- **Exhibitions & public programs:** Recent exhibitions: *Workers Built the Nation* and accompanying DVD *Beneath Black Skies*, a history of the Illawarra coal mines; *Faces in the Street*, *The Oaks 1900-1970*, centring on a tablecloth embroidered in 1907 with the names of several families in The Oaks and a collection of glass plates taken between 1920-1940 by James Littlewood, a talented amateur photographer; *With The Best of Intentions*, digital stories from the Barnardo Farm Training School at Mowbray Park. Is working with Pam Browne, a Museum Studies student, to add items to the PHM Dress Register and are also assisting the Rural Fire Service research team.

OTHER CHAPTERS

The **Golden West Chapter** and **Murray Riverina Chapter** are currently under the administration of the NSW Branch, which is currently exploring options for their continuation with the assistance of Barbara Moritz (Golden West) and Libby Newell (Murray Riverina). The **South West Chapter** is being wound up at the request of the chapter.

Paul Bentley

31 May 2010

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