



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 109 APRIL 2017

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Museum Markets

at the Duck Ponds (Lake Alford)

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month

MAY dates: 7TH, 21ST

(7 a.m.-12 noon)

Site Bookings to Museum Café 54 823995

Come along and browse the markets
for some bargains and catch up with friends!

The next performance of entertainment
by the Gympie Museum Re-enactment Group
will be 7TH MAY 2017 at 9.30 a.m.

→ **Steaming Day** first Monday of each month

COMING EVENT 2017:

Annual Steam Festival

Saturday 30th September/ Sunday 1st/ Monday 2nd

October (Queen's Birthday)

THE GENERAL MEETING will be held on **WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE 2017**
at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: Work Projects

Ploughs...

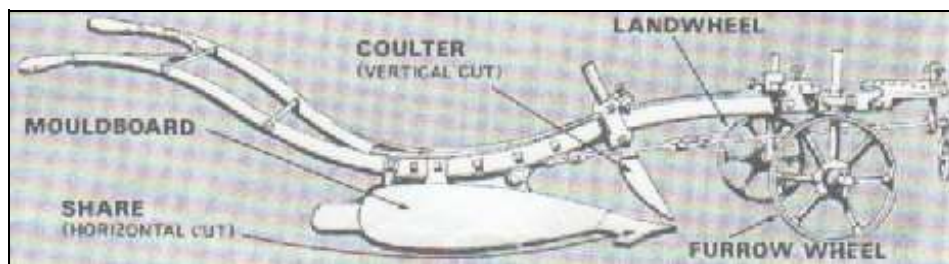
A plough is a farm implement used in farming for cultivation of soil in preparation for sowing seed or planting to loosen or turn the soil. The plough is drawn through the soil creating long trenches of fertile soil called furrows.

The first plough was invented by John Deere, a steel plough in 1837 when the Middle-West was being settled. The soil was different than that of the East and wood ploughs kept breaking.

Ploughs were traditionally drawn by working animals such as horses or cattle, but in modern times are drawn by tractors.

Farmers plough fields to turn organic matter into soil increasing decomposition and adding nutrients from the organic matter to the soil. Many farmers spread manure from cattle onto their fields, which is rich in nitrogen, essential for plant growth. (Info. from Plough - Wikipedia)

What is the mouldboard Plough?



A “coulter” blade is for making vertical cuts ahead of the “share” for horizontal slicing. The “mouldboard” at the side turned over the freshly-cut earth, making a ridge at the right of each furrow. The adjustable furrow wheel and small wheel for running alongside on unploughed land replaced the “foot”. (Info. from Look and Learn No.774 13.11.76)

The Museum has an assortment of ploughs in the cow bails.

Butter...

Butter is a dairy product containing up to 80% butterfat (in commercial products) which is solid when chilled and at room temperature in some regions and liquid when warmed. It is made by churning fresh or fermented cream or milk to separate the butterfat from the buttermilk. It is generally used as a spread on plain or toasted bread products and a condiment on cooked vegetables, as well as in cooking, such as baking, sauce making, and pan frying. Butter consists of butterfat, milk proteins and water, and in some types, added salt. Butter may also be sold with added flavourings, such as garlic butter.

Most frequently made from cows' milk, butter can also be manufactured from the milk of other mammals, including goats. Salt such as dairy salt, flavorings and preservatives are sometimes added to butter. Rendering butter produces clarified butter or ghee, which is almost entirely butterfat.

Wikipedia

Butter (Cont.)...

Museum Exhibits

Butter Churns



Butter Paddle



How to make Butter...

Collect cream and let it sit until it sours. Butter will not separate from the cream if the temperature is too hot or cold. 10°C to 19°C is best. Put the cream into the butter churn (half full). Use a steady and methodical motion. With a vertical plunger raise it all the way up and push it down in one second, turning the plunger as you do it. With a paddle churn turn it about one revolution every second. Butter separation is not a fast process depending upon conditions it will take you about ½ hour to forever.

Using a butter paddle carefully scoop the floating butter off the top of the buttermilk and place in a bowl. Using the butter paddle work the butter back and forth and as the buttermilk comes off pour it out of the bowl. Pour in a small amount of cold water and work as before, pouring off the buttermilk. Keep adding cold water and working until the water remains clear. It is important to remove all the buttermilk, as it will go rancid.

Sprinkle salt (approx. 1 teaspoon per pound) mix and taste. When it tastes right place the butter in a mould and press firmly, then push the butter out of the mould and wrap.



- ← Butter Washing Machine on a wooden frame
- ↘ Roller for Branding Butter with the inscription 'Australia' in the centre of the roller



(L) Steel **Butter Cooler**, Donated by Mrs Pringle (R) Clay **Butter Cooler** Donated by Jack Kelly.

As the Australian Heritage Festival is being held 18 April to 21 May, the dairy museum is being showcased as part of the G150 celebrations. In particular in this display, the emphasis is mainly on butter production.



On the southern wall in the dairy museum is the John Herbert Award for Excellence in Heritage Conservation Works or Action Awarded by National Trust Qld to the Society for Dairying (Butter) Industry Exhibit 1986/87 Commendation.

G150 Celebrations Display...

James Nash registered his claim for having found gold “about 50 miles from Maryborough” on 16 October 1867. 1867 is seen as the founding year for the Gympie township. 2017 marks 150 years since that pivotal event, which is being celebrated by a wide range of special activities.



Individual displays are located in the centre row of the tank for the purpose of enlightening visitors of the exhibits that can be seen in each building. David Hill has a flair for presenting displays, and has included the G150 Celebrations.

The First Day Covers were donated by David Hill. Limited edition commemorative first day covers were specially commissioned for the Gympie Gold Rush Festivals of both 1986 and 1987. The covers illustrated ‘A History of Gympie District Qld’ by including sketches drawn by local artist Jeff Douwes. Many of the sketches include items held in the Museum. These covers have now become historical items in their own right and were recently added to the Museum’s collections.

The Artist - Geoff Douwes Geoff came from Holland with his family at the age of three. He is a self-taught artist who produced his first sketches of Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble for his Grade 3 school mates. This was the start of his career as an illustrator and cartoonist for which he has had numerous commissions and won a variety of prizes. He is best known as the regular Saturday edition satirical cartoonist for The Gympie Times. His wit and ability to capture local issues and identities brings life to the newspaper and delight to its Gympie readers.

Local Museum...

Gympie has a new Museum that opened in late March.

Owen Guns Museum 24 McMahon Road, Monkland, Gympie



(Above photo is the rising sun) The Museum pays tribute to pioneers and soldiers, has over 3,000 firearms displayed, and also various military memorabilia.

For a coin donation Entry Fee, this Museum is well worth a visit - the presentation is first-class, unique, and is a significant historical gun collection.

Open Monday to Friday 9am -5pm, Saturday 9am-4pm, closed Sunday.

Gun Collection...

In the tank there is a modest gun collection....

Pictured is this 1890 Model Belgian .380 cal. Bulldog Revolver, 6 shot, was very popular and commonly used by miners on the Australian goldfields 100 years ago. It was donated to the Society by Mr Geoff Lyons of Gympie (ex-deceased estate) in 1999.



Other interesting exhibits include:

- . American made single-shot bolt action .22 Winchester Rifle that was probably a farmers rifle.
- . 1937 Model, Single Shot .22 Long Cal. Rifle, made by Gecado G.m.b.h. Voere Furtwangen, Germany with a Plinker barrel. The Company is well known for its Gecado and Daisy Air Rifles. The accurate weapon was donated to the Society by a local person, Mr Norman J Flint. This rifle was restored by Angus Hutton.
- . 1880 Model, American made, 12 gauge Harrington and Richardson Shotgun. Single choke barrel hammer action was donated by the Anderson family, whose grandfather was a pioneer in the Gympie District.

Café at the Museum...



Morning tea at Café at the Museum
(Errol and Shirley pictured)

Shirl is also a familiar face at the Museum markets as a stallholder, Shirl's Creations, consisting of card making for every occasion, and open book cards, craft work such as care bags, fridge towels, coat hangers and many more items.

Museum News...

Museum has acquired a historic vehicle!
- Viewing for one day only!

This privately owned Fiat was a one-off display at the Museum recently. Much interest was shown and many photos were taken by Museum visitors to show their family and friends.

Perhaps one day a historic vehicle of this calibre will be housed in a Museum showroom highlighting the means of transport in earlier times.



Sharing Gympie's history

School Holiday Activities

It was a busy time for Tour Guides with gold panning, and miniature train rides. On 3rd April, 60 visitors in conjunction with Gympie Regional Council organised holiday fun activities, consisted of a guided tour and a lunch-time sausage sizzle. Thankyou to the tour guides (Bill, Max and Allan B) for your presence over the holidays.

Guided Tours

Monkland State School students visited in late March, more recent, Federal School students, and 83 students from the Good Shepherd Lutheran College.

Volunteer Tony took a video of the boiler operation, and was given permission from the teacher to video this large group of college students gold panning.

Coming Event

The Noosa Museum
Heritage Day
29 Factory Street
Pomona
on 6th May
9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

The Society is planning to have a historic vehicle displayed, and a table of saleable items and promotional material.

Heritage

. Heritage is inherited traditions, monuments, objects, and culture and it is a range of contemporary activities, meanings, and behaviours that we draw from them.

Preserving, excavating, displaying, or restoring a collection of old items. It can be ideas and memories of songs, recipes, language, dances etc. as well as historical buildings and archaeological sites. There are many more instances.

. Heritage is an essential part of the present we live in--and of the future we will build.

Heritage preservation and interpretation can play a constructive role in the social evolution of nations, regions, and local communities.

Readers let's take a step back in time. Imagine life without automobiles, petrol, diesel, electricity.

Life long ago was walk everywhere or ride a horse, sit around the piano and sing songs.

. Many items were available in large amounts and came in calico or hessian bags. After washing, these bags they had many uses.

. Food packed in jars could then be used to store or hold home-made jams, pickles and chutneys.

. Meat was usually wrapped in white paper, then in old newspaper.

. Pressed steel safes were used to store food. Wet hessian bags on the outside helped to keep the food cool. Often these safes hung from the verandah to keep out the ants or sometimes they stood on the floor - old tins containing kerosene were placed under the legs.

. Kerosene tins were used to make items such as photo frames, buckets or feed troughs for the animals. The wooden boxes the tins came in were often turned into furniture for storage, or used as kindling to light the wood-burning stove.

. Candles, kerosene or pressure lights were ways of lighting.

. During cold weather, stone or ceramic bed warmers could be filled with hot water and put in the bed to warm it.

. Washing was in a copper, with a fire underneath to boil the water and the washing, which was then lifted into a wooden trolley to drain. The washing was rinsed and squeezed by hand, before hanging with wooden pegs on the line to dry.

. Ironing was done by solid irons, placed on top of the stove to heat. As the iron cooled it had to be re-heated.

. Telephone exchanges were operated manually.

. Mail from small post offices was delivered by the Postman, walking along the street, carried in a leather bag. He would blow a whistle to let the person know there was mail in the letterbox.

For many years Gympie streets had no lighting, so travel after dark was dangerous.

When the gas works opened, the streets and public buildings were lit by gas lights.

Work performed by Volunteers

- . The database is progressively being updated with the underhouse storage items, and the bottle collection.
- . Bricks have been placed around the embankment of the path at the Café to combat erosion of soil. Under the steps of building is gradually being made more tidier to reduce weeds.
- . Gantry maintenance is on-going with repairs/replacing, sanding, and painting sleepers.
- . Volunteers have been mainly concentrating on the new entrance, work includes cementing, drainage, construction of hand rails, painting interior walls, and counter structures.

Achievements are made through great efforts!



Work is in progress with painting of the Museum Counter

THE



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