



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 85 APRIL 2015

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

Postal Address: P.O. Box 626, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

ELECTED OFFICERS

at A.G.M. 13.8.14

President/Historian:

Bennett Suthers

Tel: 54823315

Mob: 0412434961

Secretary:

Ralph Richardson

Tel: 54839418

Mob: 0408616709

Treasurer/Editor:

Marilyn Soanes

Tel: 54845211

Senior Vice President:

Frank Lightfoot

Tel: 54833965

Junior Vice President/

Historian:

Allan Blackman

Tel: 54828828

Mob: 0428332291

OTHER POSITIONS HELD:

Property Officer:

& Firearms Licensee

Ron Owen

with Assistant Jo Carson

Publicity Officer:

Max Travis

Tel: 54812157

Mob. 0414015302

Museum Markets

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

MAY dates: 3RD, 17TH, 31ST

(7 a.m.-12 noon)

Site Bookings - Museum Café 54 823995

Entertainment by the Gympie Museum

Re-enactment Group will be on the

3rd Sunday of each month

Undercover seating, and lots of laughs!

(next performance 17TH MAY 9 a.m)

2015 EVENT

STEAM FESTIVAL 3rd/4th/5th October

THE GENERAL MEETING will be held on

WEDNESDAY, 3RD JUNE 2015

at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room.

Business includes: Budget 2015/6

INVITATION TO MEMBERS/VOLUNTEERS

for a **FREE MORNING TEA** at 9.30 a.m.

On **SATURDAY 6TH JUNE** at the Gold Museum Café

To **CELEBRATE 45 years** since the Official Opening

of the Gympie Gold Mining & Historical Museum

followed by a few words, and concluding with the firing of the canon by the

Gympie Museum Re-enactment Group

Bookings Essential - R.S.V.P. Phone 54823995 by 1.6.15

"A Legend" ...

Leonard Victor (Vic) Summers - born on 8 September 1918, he was the eldest of five sons to Percival and May Summers.

His father was a scrub feller, ringbarker and fencer, so perhaps it was inevitable that Vic became involved early in what was to be the love of his life.

Vic was just nine when he competed in his first woodchop, and in 1933 he won the first open chop - Condamine - Easter Saturday - Age 14.

From the age 16 to 22, Vic was a scrub feller and ringbarker (ringbarking gang) at Warkon Station near Surat, where he continued to compete in a number of sporting events. The wages were "ten bob" a day and tucker taken with them being two or three 20" diameter dampers, a couple of similar-sized "Brownies" (sometimes made with emu eggs), a hunk of corned beef, a few tins of jam - hard tucker for hard men!

Info. from the Gympie Times

In 1954, Vic performed before Queen Elizabeth at Dubbo where he won the Tree Felling Championship, repeating the performance two years later before the Queen Mother.

Vic lost his eye in a timber accident in the later 1950s and retired from competition in 1965 to pursue other interests.

In 1968, he bought a Caterpillar D6 dozer for clearing areas of the Toolara Forestry for pine plantation, and went on to buy two D7 dozers and other earth moving equipment.

In 1982, he retired from his earth moving business and his sons Mick and Donald took it over.

With the opening of the Gympie Woodworks museum, in 1986, he could no longer resist the urge to chop. He came out of retirement at the age of 68, and has since totalled more than 55 wins, mainly in the veteran classes.

Swinging an axe had been second nature to this bush character.

The extract below is a letter dated 12 July 2002 from the Australian Axeman's Hall of Fame and Timberworks in Latrobe, Tasmania - Chairman Dudley Parker.

On behalf of the Australian Axeman's Hall of Fame and Timberworks I congratulate you on your selection as "A Legend" for inclusion in the Legends Axeman's Exhibit.

With the project nearing its operational phase the need to select 12 legends of the sport of woodchopping has finally arisen. With such an outstanding number of champions, administrators and supporters from which to choose just 12, this task has proven to be a difficult one. As such, a series of criteria has been ratified by the Australian Axemen's Association to provide a basis from which to choose the successful candidates for the Legend Axeman's Exhibit.

Your career, which includes eight world championships representing Queensland in the tree felling, certainly qualifies you to be a "Legend".



We hope that your inclusion among the luminaries of our sport goes some way to recognising your contribution to woodchopping. We also hope that you and your family will support the project by donating or lending some items of memorabilia which can illustrate great moments of your career.

Congratulations once again and we hope to see you at the upcoming official opening of Stage One of the Australian Axeman's Hall of Fame and Timberworks.

Vic passed away on 24 March 2015 aged 96 years
There were appx. 4,000 ribbons at Vic's funeral service
for anyone to take one as a keepsake.

Gold Mining...

Methods of Gold-mining

Fossicking	Fossicking is the searching for gold-bearing rocks and nuggets which may be discovered at, or near, the surface. Alluvial mining was the most widespread method in the 1850s. This involved the use of water in both panning, cradling and puddling. The principle involved depended upon the high density of gold.
Panning	The gold extracted by this method was usually found at, or near, natural water courses. The pay dirt was swirled together with a good quantity of water, in a tin dish, gradually spilling off the unwanted mud and gravel until only the heavier gold (usually gold-dust) remained. This method is easy and can be practised today where surface gold still exists.
Cradling	This was a more sophisticated form of panning, imported from California. It could treat much more pay dirt in a day. It consisted of a wooden box, resembling a baby's cradle, which was rocked from side to side whilst buckets full of water were passed through it. The gold remained caught on shelves inside, while the other matter passed through. 
Puddling	Troughs of water were used as the first stage in separating the heavy particles from the light
Deep Sinking	 Miners found rich gold deposits by sinking shafts and tracing the buried courses of old rivers.
Dry Blowing	In very dry areas (e.g. in W.A.) wind, instead of water, was used to blow away the dust, leaving the heavier gold to fall to the ground.
Reef Mining	As the alluvial gold became more difficult to find, the original vein of gold, found in hard white quartz, was followed deep underground. This was chipped out, crushed with heavy, expensive equipment, and then the gold was separated.

Exhibitions on view at the Gympie Regional Gallery:

28 April-13 June Mirror Image: prints and plates

28 April-16 May Journey, Through My Eyes and Language of the Goddess

On a not so serious subject - If you readers missed purchasing the Gympie Times, I thought it was worthwhile sharing this joke with you, entitled Little Johnny learns to count.

The teacher asks little Johnny if he knows his numbers.

"Yes" he says, "I do. My father taught me."

"Good. What comes after three?" "Four" answers little Johnny.

"What comes after six?" "Seven"

"Very good," says the teacher. "Your dad did a good job. What comes after ten?"

Little Johnny smiles and says, "Jack!"

Request to Readers

Many readers may not know about (or have forgotten) the days when we all needed to pay a licence fee to receive radio and television broadcasts.

This funded the ABC. The Whitlam government abolished the licences in 1972, and funded the ABC from general revenue. Britain still charges a fee of £145.50 to fund the BBC TV.

The Gold Mining and Historical Museum would appreciate the donation of some of these old licences to display in our up-coming Communications Museum in the old Lower Wonga School building.

Allan Blackman

Work continuing -

Site preparation for footing of the ruston engine, repairing bearers and deck boards on the gantry, big stamper project, constructing the Ambulance Station extension, painting of the east wall of the Calico Creek school, painting verandah walls of the new school building, and attaching doors/handles on the archive cabinets upstairs.

Queensland Day is celebrated each year on 6th June to commemorate the day in 1859 when Queen Victoria signed Letters Patent making Queensland a separate entity from the Colony of New South Wales.

Also on 6th June the Society is providing a free morning tea at the Gold Museum Café 9.30 a.m. to celebrate 45 years since the official opening of the Gympie Gold Mining & Historical Museum.

This invitation is to Members/Volunteers and your partner.

A reply would be appreciated if you are attending by 1.6.15 (Ph. 54823995).

Thinking of you -

Bev, a Museum member - hope you have a quick recovery after a recent stay in hospital.

Karen, a Museum volunteer - had a recent mishap - looking forward to having you back on board soon.

Get Well Wishes to any volunteers/members who may presently have a health problem.

Thankyou - to Adrian, an industrious volunteer, of which much has been achieved by your presence over several months. Good luck for the future.

* At the Memorial Park in Gympie on Anzac Day, the public could see the Museum's restored 77mm Turkish field gun, which was built by Krupp in Germany, weighing about a ton.



* The Museum has loaned mannequins to display various military uniforms in the R.S.L hall on Anzac Day (pictured left).

A thankyou was conveyed in the speech by the M.V. R.S.L. President Phil Jensen to the Museum for their exhibits on loan.

In the near future, display cases will be a permanent fixture in the hall for the community to appreciate the collections. Unused display cases are being donated by the Museum to present their exhibits in a secured manner.

Other static displays and private collections also were on show to the public. An impressive piece of WWI Trench Art exhibited was a lamp created by artistic means from a French Hand Grenade.

Anzac Day...

Anzac Day is observed on 25 April each year, and is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that broadly commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders “who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations” and “the contribution and suffering of all those who have served.”

The Spirit of ANZAC is an intangible thing. It is unseen, unpredictable, an unquenchable thirst for justice, freedom and peace. This phrase is synonymous with ‘The Spirit of the ANZACs’ which is frequently used to describe particular actions by, and qualities of people. However, despite being intangible, the Spirit of ANZAC is a cornerstone which underpins our Australian image, way of life and indeed is an integral part of our heritage.

The Spirit of ANZAC was suggested by official war historian C.E.W. Bean to have ‘stood, and still stands, for reckless valour in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship and endurance that will never own defeat.’ The Spirit was epitomised in the deeds of Simpson with his donkey at Gallipoli - comradeship, courage and sacrifice: others before self. It also encompasses the laughter, the pride and the love of life that is in every Australian. To really understand this Spirit one must delve back into our country’s past.

Australia is a huge land. In the early days, settlements were scarce and far apart yet pioneers built our society’s foundations in these fragmented tiny communities. The sun and the open land, the independence and the freedom of living under these conditions was a flame in the blood of our pioneers, a flame that burns whenever men are free, wherever there is a spirit which is willing to help those in need. If there were rumours of trouble, immediately someone would saddle a horse and ride off to see if they could help.

www.anzacday.org.au

The Community Anzac Centenary Committee organised Anzac Day commemorations at the Imbil Memorial Park



Historical military vehicles as a Stuart Battle Tank, and Communications vehicle (pictured above) took leadership of the parade. The vehicle and the tank were totally rebuilt except for the gun, and was certainly an extraordinary sight to see being an added attraction for the huge crowd attending.

To name a few of the other participants in the best and longest 100-year Anzac parade which was a combined effort of the community with students from the four Mary Valley Schools, the Gympie Caledonian Pipe Band, Gympie Naval Cadets, and the Gympie Military Brotherhood Motorcycle Club (who are undertaking valuable service work in the area).

Canned Food...

Australian canned foods have been part of our daily lives for many years, and contributes to time-saving, and convenience.

Millions of cans of food are eaten in Australia every day, most probably because of variety - combining canned food with fresh food to vary the diet.

It is surprising how few people really know the facts about canning and canned food.

In 1795 a prize of 12 000 francs was offered by the French government, at Napoleon's request, for a new method of food preservation to supplement the French Army's diet of dried potatoes, salt beef and pork. These foods were too bulky for easy transport, very unpopular with troops, and (because they were deficient in vitamin C) caused scurvy.

(Apparently, in 1796 Nicholas Appert claimed success, but for some reason, he did not publish his results until 1810. His first successful batch of preserved meat and vegetables was tried out by the French Navy. It was an immediate success and won the inventor the prize.)

“If only I could seal these jars so my confectionery would keep longer”
thought Nicholas Appert in his Paris shop.

Who discovered the principles of canning in 1809? Nicholas Appert. He experimented with heating jars to exclude the air, sealing them with corks and wax. He was able to preserve meats, fruits and vegetable from spoiling by heating the jars. An outstanding achievement for someone who had, no knowledge of the microbiological principles underlying the process.

Who developed the first metal cannisters in 1810? Peter Durand. The Englishman took Appert's idea, patented it in England and developed a “tin cannister” - an hermetically sealed can. Peter's patent claimed the use of vessels made of ‘glass, pottery, tin, or any other metal or fit material.’ He tried containers made of sheet steel and plated with tin, which had advantages over glass or pottery because they conducted heat better, and were much lighter and less fragile.

In Australia who produced in 1843 the first canned foods? Sizar Elliot layed the foundations for a major industry.

It is interesting to discover why food preservation has been so important in the advancement of civilisation.

A large part of man's history has been devoted to solving his food problems. Even after bumper crops, there was no way of preserving a range of foods to feed a family adequately during a long, cold winter. Stored food lost a lot of its goodness - it was virtually impossible to eat a balanced diet for many months of the year.

Food preservation was developed to free people from total dependence on finding or growing enough food on a day to day basis. It has probably done more to increase the world population, and create better living conditions than any other revolution recognised by historians.

In fact, the canning process is so effective that if it were new today, it would be considered a major revolutionary breakthrough.

Today, you can think how completely cans are part of our everyday lives, and how important they are in providing us with a continual safe and varied food supply.

Fascinating Find...

This old Parker 12 gauge 2.75" shotgun reloading press was manufactured in Birmingham, England.

It is largely constructed of solid brass, with a couple of small steel components and a wooden knob. It is about 12" high (30cm) and weighs around 2.5 lbs (1.2Kg).

Reloaders like this were in use until the 1960s when plastic cartridges took over from the older paper ones.

The various tools on it are for removing and replacing the priming cap, adding the powder, wads and lead shot, and roll crimping the paper cartridge.

This press can be viewed in the tank in the Fascinating Finds display.



THE



The Gympie & District Historical Society Inc.
215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE QLD 4570
Postal Address: P O Box 626, GYMPIE QLD 4570

NEWSLETTER