



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 101 AUGUST 2016

**THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**

215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

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**ELECTED OFFICERS**

at A.G.M. 3.8.16

**President:**

**Frank Lightfoot**

Tel: 54833965

**Secretary:**

**Ralph Richardson**

Tel: 54839418

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**Treasurer/Editor:**

**Marilyn Soanes**

Tel: 54845211

**Senior Vice President:**

**Max Travis**

Tel: 54812157

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**Junior Vice President/**

**Historian:**

**Allan Blackman**

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**OTHER POSITIONS HELD:**

**Property Officer:**

**& Firearms Licensee**

**Ron Owen**

with **Assistant Jo Carson**

Mob. 0414015302

**Historian: Bennett Suthers**

Tel. 54823315

Mob. 0412263189

**Historian: Chris Kapernick**

**Museum Markets**

at the Duck Ponds (Lake Alford)

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month

SEPTEMBER dates: 4<sup>TH</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup>

(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 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 at 9.30 a.m.

**2016 EVENTS:**

**The Heat is on!.....Steaming Day**

**first Monday of each month**

**Steam Festival - 1st/2nd/3rd October**

*LAST REMINDER...MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2016/7 are now due*

**THE GENERAL MEETING** will be held on **WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016**  
at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: Work Projects

### 'Hitching an Iron Horse'



Acknowledging -

The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Gympie Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.



This outstanding artwork 'Hitching an Iron Horse' is a credit to the local artists (pictured) Tina Van and Matt Drewett

The old grey mare is in readiness - harnessed to pull the historic buggy up one of Gympie's steep inclines. The idea of the mural was to attract attention by visitors taking a few steps further to view the sulkies and buggies in the coachhouse building.

Happy Birthday to the old grey mare on 1<sup>st</sup> August!

A true understanding of art entails the balance of contrast between light and dark, which measures and enhances the depth of colour. The mural was painted with several coats, and by a process called 'under-painting', basic shapes were blocked in first, before additional layers of light and finer detail were added, bringing the subject matter to life - in this case the life-sized horse. Creating a life-like image on a surface made of corrugated iron brings its own set of challenges for any artist, and every artist has a different technique, influenced by their own experiences, observations and culture. Bringing in the clouds above the horizon from the east and moving out to the west indicates the wind direction we know so well. The detailed landscape of a grassy paddock, with fencing, leading towards the hills sets the Gympie country scene perfectly.

The mural is ideally located in a prominent position within the Museum for visitors browsing through. It is envisaged that the mural will become a popular back-drop for visitors to take photos with their families: especially with the popularity of social media, the mural could well become a 'silent billboard' for the Museum, with people posting photos of themselves in front of the mural.

How observant are children? There are two ladybirds in this mural just waiting to be found!

Many thanks to Tina and Matt for the 211 hours (27 days work) it took to complete the mural, and for their contribution to the Society with a number of extra days.

## Exhibits...

The centre panel summary consisting of fifteen panels is now in place of the John Foster Calendar collection, which was donated by his daughter, Florence Gilliland.

Panel 1 - 1885 "British Beauties - past and present" Woodrow & Son, Grocers

Panel 2 - 1895 "Move On!" Wm A Jones, Wholesale Fruiterer

Panel 3 - 1895 "Breaking the Record" W Richardson, Butcher, Mary Street

Panel 4 - 1891 "A Critical Moment" W. Shanks & Sons, Aerated Water and Cordial Makers

Panel 5 - probably 1886 "Apples and Crabs" J.W. Harris, General Draper and Outfitter

Panel 6 - 1885 "Sunny Days" D. McNab, General Draper, Tailor and Clothier, Glasgow House, Cnr Queens & Albert Streets, Brisbane

Panel 7 - 1886 "Spring Time" Ambrose & Asmussen, Cabinet Makers, Upholsterers

Panel 8 (pictured right) - 1887 "No Dogs Allowed" Mrs E Moodie, Ironmongery, Holloware, Paints, Oils & Colours, China, Glass & Earthenware, Mary Street, Gympie



Mrs Moodie opened her ironmongery and hardware business in Mary Street in 1875. The premises were next to the Union Sawmill.

She died in 1897, aged 69 years. A short obituary in the Gympie Times described her as an 'old identity in the goldfield' and 'an active worker in the temperance cause and in other branches of Christian work.'

Panel 9 & 10 - 1900 & 1901 "Trouble & "An Awkard Fix" Maynard & Pilcher, Produce Merchants & Commission Agents

Panel 11 - 1886 "The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone M.P. & Mrs Gladstone", Patterson Bros.

Panel 12 - 1895 "Called to the Lifeboat" Wm D Sinclair, Watchmaker & Jeweller

Panel 13 & 14 - 1884 & 1887 "Who's Coming" & "The Death of Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar", John Lyons, Wholesale & Retail Tobacconist

Panel 15 - 1895 "Loch Maree", J. Foster, Ironmongery, Machines etc

**This collection of calendars were printed in Britain and then over-printed locally to include the sponsor's name and business activity, and are located in the Tank.**

## Gardens...



### The long awaited event...

Situated beside the Scout building, this Agave is a succulent which is commonly seen in most gardens.

The huge blue-green soft spined leaves form into a rosette from which the lengthy arching spike of yellow flowers slowly opens to the end over several weeks. Native bees are definitely attracted to the flowers.

These plants multiply by forming clumps, will grow in poor soil, and need not much attention.

Agaves are in abundance in the garden at Andrew Fisher House, but presently there are no flower spikes.



## Boiler Room...



(Left) The **Weir Pump** is a steam driven water pump made in 1909 by Weir of Edinburgh, Scotland, and sold to Toowoomba Foundry by Bourke & Radford (Brisbane).

The Toowoomba Foundry donated this pump to the Society in 1983.

Their records show the last rings were bought in 1956. The present rings cost \$86.05 plus 20% sales Tax.

The Pump is 5 inch (12.7 cm) Water Pump, 7 inch (17.78 cm) Steam Cylinder, and 12 inch (30.5 cm) Stroke.

This is the main pump that feeds water to the Cornish Boiler.

(Right) **Schwade Pump** is steam driven horizontal, twin cylinder, double acting pump used as a back up pump to feed water for the **Cornish Boiler**.

This type of boiler was invented in 1800 by Cornish Engineer Richard Trevithick, and was made in 1906 by Walkers Ltd. Maryborough. In 1936-37 it was brought to Gympie to the Inglewood United (old deep shaft) mine by the Oriomo Exploration Company.

Local Timber millers, Straker Bros. later acquired this boiler for a storage tank for timber treatment. Borax was one of the ingredients used in this treatment, which was an excellent preservative for the boiler.



After some years later, this boiler was then donated to the Society.

Measurements of the Boiler:-

Diameter: 1.98 metres (6ft 6ins)

Length: 7.46 metres (24 ft 6 ins)

Furnace Tube Diameter: 1.06 (3 ft 6 ins),

Consumes appx. 1136 litres (300 gallons) of water per hour when steaming.

Several interesting photos are on display showing the construction of brickwork that encloses the boiler. 17,500 bricks were used (1½ brick veneer houses). The thickness of the brick side wall is 19" (485 mm).

The chimney that was donated from the Maryborough Hospital Board was completely stripped down to bare metal inside and outside and painted with a special rust preventable paint.

There are 12 x 11/2" (38mm) steel holding down bolts for the chimney.

## Steam Festival...

**Programme** (subject to change) for the Steam Festival to be held on **1st/2nd/3rd October**

**Thankyou** for the support from the Wide Bay Historic Machinery and Gympie Historic Auto Club

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>

From 9 am to 11 am Small and medium engines, boilers and stampers  
11 am - 1 pm Winding engine  
1.30 pm Official Opening  
2.00 pm Grand Parade  
3 pm - 5 pm Winding engine  
6 pm Meal (Hamburger night at the Café), followed by an old-time great comedy Movie  
9 pm close

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Market till noon with exhibit on the grounds  
1 pm - 3 pm Winding engine and medium engines

### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>

9 am - noon Model, small and medium engines, Stamper  
Noon till 3 pm Winding engine

## Recent Event...

**Kyborg Rocks & Minerals Fest** was held 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> /7<sup>th</sup> August, which was in memory of Cecile.



**Thankyou** to John for his hospitality, and **many thanks** to Roger (pictured) MC, for promoting the Museum at numerous times over the weekend.

A very modest display of tins donated by Rita Lees-Dowdle was viewed by many visitors at Marilyn's stall, along with sale of books and gold pans which were most sought after on Saturday morning.

**Thankyou** to Allan B. (pictured right) for demonstrating gold panning to this large number of enthusiasts.

## Markets...

A reduced number of stallholders were at the 7<sup>th</sup> August market, as the day started with a few morning showers, but by mid-morning the weather had improved considerable to a fine day.

On 21<sup>st</sup> August - a magic day! - that had a noticeable increase in casual stallholders, and also more patrons who were entertained by a few buskers, and the Gympie Museum Re-enactment Group.

## Interactive Displays at the Museum...

- . Experiment with the three Morse Code machines in the Communications Building
- . On the desks in the Calico Creek State School there are examples of Copy book writing for students, and also visitors can test their skills and give themselves a score out of ten. In the early days slates were used, children can use a slate pencil to do a sample of their hand writing.
- . Ring the fire bell in the Fire Station building
- . Visitors are welcome to try their luck gold panning in the tubs, if a successful find, a vial is available from the Café to take the gold home.

## Museum News...

It is with sadness to hear of the passing of our Society member Burt Searle, our thoughts are with you Roni, and your family.

**Thankyou** to the member of Heritage Bank for the community grant contribution.



The latest addition....

just what was needed at the Museum!!

Everyone should have one, if you would like an alternate way of commuting on a large property -

I'm talking about the 'Gympie Gopher'.

(When I first laid eyes on it I thought it was an oversized go-cart. Ed.)

Luke is quite comfortable in the driver's seat of this crude piece of machinery and its capabilities!

Seriously, this wondrous vehicle is the mastermind of Ralph Richardson. Complete with a solar panel, a battery, head lights, and radio, apart from all the normal mechanical necessities of a steering device, throttle and brake. This mean machine has provision to carry much needed work tools and equipment throughout the complex to the work site, which happens to presently be the new entrance at the Café.

### **How I created the 'Gympie Gopher' by Ralph Richardson**

It developed from the 95 year old fiat starter motor which I modified for an electric bicycle competition . Some steel which was previously used for an aquarium stand became surplus and as they say the rest is history. I had come by an 80W solar panel and some \$2 batteries and already had the Fiat 500 front suspension and king pins surplus along with various meters, and thought the environmentally friendly mechanized wheelbarrow would be useful around my property (which it was until I donated one of the batteries to the Museum's International Log truck) and then borrowed the solar panel for my garage car battery maintenance system. About a month ago I looked at the forlorn remnants taking up valuable garage space and decided to resurrect it rather than cut it up. That is what happened and I thought that it may save a lot of walking up and down the museum grounds getting and replacing tools, so then I thought I would give it a trial. At this stage it has proved to be helpful, although as suspected, it is challenged by some of our gradients. Untrained drivers are a danger to themselves and the mechanism!

## Café at the Museum...

A busy month with four groups -

12 Bribie Island Mens Shed group visited 1<sup>st</sup> August, and the tours continued from there with 14 Japanese students from the Victory College (3rd), St Josephs Primary School, Childers included a Sausage Sizzle (4<sup>th</sup>), 60 Riverside Christian College, Maryborough (11<sup>th</sup>), 70/75 Talara State School Grade 5 students, Sunshine Coast (17<sup>th</sup> /18<sup>th</sup> ), 56 Chancellor State College (22<sup>nd</sup>), 60 One Mile State School (24<sup>th</sup>), and 30 Expanding Horizons group (25<sup>th</sup>).

Do you need an excuse to celebrate an occasion?

Phone 54 82 3995 Café at the Museum for bookings to cater for Morning Tea, Lunch or Afternoon Tea for small groups, on special occasions

such as baby showers, birthdays etc.

## Sketching...



Dare to be different.....

This character is an imitation of a well-known Museum volunteer who has replaced the gold pan in his hand with a bottle of ?? water!

The artist was a member of Men's Shed Bribie Island, who has a natural flair of capturing a relaxed moment.

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