



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 117 DECEMBER 2017

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

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ELECTED OFFICERS

2.8.17

President:

Frank Lightfoot

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Tel: 54839418

Mob: 0408616709

Treasurer/Editor:

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Tel: 54812157

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Junior Vice President/

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OTHER POSITIONS HELD:

Property Officer:

& Firearms Licensee

Ron Owen 54825070

with Assistant Jo Carson

Mob. 0414015302

Historian:

Chris Kapernick

Mob. 0439535139

Alan Dundas

Tel: 54821022

Wayne Sachs

Tel: 54832850

Museum Markets



at the Duck Ponds (Lake Alford)

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

JANUARY dates: 7TH & 21ST

(7 a.m.-12 noon)

Ring Museum Café 54 823995 for Site Bookings

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

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

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COMING EVENTS 2018

Australia Day Friday 26th January

Steam Festival 5th/6th/7th May

THE GENERAL MEETING will be held on **WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2018**

at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: Work Projects

MR THOMAS DUNSTAN

Mr Dunstan was elected for Gympie at the general election, 22 May, 1915, and served through the whole of the 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th Parliaments. He was defeated at the polls on 11 May, 1929. He was re-elected as member for Gympie at the general election, 11 May, 1935, and served through the 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st and 32nd Parliaments; the latter Parliament as member for Nash.

He was Minister without portfolio from 26 February, 1925, to 22 October, 1925; Appointed Secretary for Public Lands on 22 October, 1925, and occupied that position until 21 May, 1929; Temporary Chairman of Committees for the Sessions of 1920 to 1924, inclusive, and 1939 to 1949 inclusive. He died on 19 June, 1954.



Mr Speaker, most hon. members in this Parliament today had the opportunity and privilege of knowing the late Thomas Dunstan. I think he could be described as a very colourful figure in his own modest, unassuming and quiet way. He was a man of considerable learning, a man who had spent many hours with the aim of improving his knowledge. He was a man of whom it could be truly said burned the midnight oil to equip himself for his profession as a journalist, in his capacity as a printer and in his ability to represent his fellows in this Parliament with distinctive merit and to their advantage. Mr Dunstan was a small man in physical stature but a big man in mental ability and outlook. He was a man of great individuality and strength of character. He was a man who was prepared to stand on principle, nevertheless prepared to compromise in the interests of the welfare of others. In other words, he did not stubbornly pursue his own ideas to the disadvantage of others. He was one who understood what the term freedom meant in a democracy. Freedom does not mean to do as one likes, when one likes, where one likes without having regard to the welfare of others.

The late Mr Dunstan was born in New Zealand. He was educated in Gympie and served an apprenticeship as a printer in the office of the Gympie "Times." He later became editor of the Gympie "Truth" which he acquired early in the century and which he edited and controlled until cessation of publication in 1942.

He has been a Minister of the Government and in the position he occupied, that of Secretary for Public Lands, he discharged his responsibility, I believe, with credit and with advantage to the Government. Tom Dunstan, as he was affectionately known, was always a man of the people. Those who knew him for a very long period, in particular the people of the electorate that he had the honour to represent, always credited him with being a humble, sincere and conscientious individual who was at all times accessible and who always had an ear for the requirements of the district and the difficulties of his people. He possessed that confidence of his people up to the time that he decided to retire from public life in this State.

In short, it can be said with truth that he served Queensland well, that he served the political party with which he had been associated for so long with distinction. He belonged to the Australian Labour Party at a time when it was looked upon less favourably than it is today at a time when men were boycotted and discriminated against for being members of it, at a time when the Labour Party did not enjoy the same measure of respect and freedom that it does today. Nevertheless, Tom Dunstan, in common with many others, fought for its principles, the implementation of which has meant so much in building the democracy in which we live.

The information above and certificates mentioned below are displayed in the Cottage.

Certificate from King George V to Thomas Dunstan Esq. appointing him to be a
Member of the Executive Council for Queensland, dated 26.2.1925.

Certificate from King George V to the Hon. Thomas Dunstan,
Secretary for Public Lands, dated 22.10.1925.

Bungawatta Hut...

Bungawatta Hut
in the early days



THE HUT by Vera Mallett (1985)

**The hut from Bungawatta
Stood sad and all forlorn,
For it had heard the bushland chatter
Of other places, pushed and torn.**

**It stood for near a hundred years,
Sheltered man and beast alike,
From cyclones, hail and other fears
And now the end's in sight.**

**But what's this coming round the bend,
My goodness! cars galore!
It's the Tin Can Pensioners, not the end,
And the brown snake slithered from the
floor.**

**They stood around and talked a lot
Of things that used to be,
Then someone said, "let's boil the pot"
And the ladies served the tea.**

**Slowly and carefully, they worked all day,
Stacking each slab with care,
All ready for the move to Tin Can Bay,
While the hill, without the hut, looked
bare.**

**Today the hut from Bungawatta stands,
Once more straight and sound,
Thanks to the skills of the Pensioners'
hands,
And filled with old items they found.**

**And when the old folk gather
On seats outside the door,
The old grey slabs remember
The good days of yore.**

**And now in their twilight years
Both pensioners and hut alike,
Can show the young ones hope, not fears
As their future comes in sight.**



Crown Dover Wood Stove



Meat Safe



Wooden table and chairs



These exhibits shown above are placed in Bungawatta Hut

Café at the Museum...

Julia (pictured) is the welcoming face at the counter.

Groups are welcome for devonshire teas and lunches, bookings in advance by phoning 54 823995 for catering purposes would be much appreciated.

The café will only be closed on Christmas Day over the holiday break, and the staff are looking forward to the influx of visitors who call in on their way to far away places.



Christmas Celebration...

Thank you to the catering staff of Café at the Museum for a most enjoyable buffet meal at the Christmas Celebration held on Sunday 10th December.

Each year a Christmas Celebration is held for Volunteers/Members, as a way of thanking them for their effort and contribution to the Museum.



President's Report...

This year we again say thank you to all our volunteers and members for all the work that you have done.

Condolences to all who lost loved ones in the past year.

Changes to government practices have seen a decline the number of Centrelink driven volunteers but the contributions from all our volunteers have still been significant.

As you came in today you may have noticed that the first part of the new entry project is effectively complete. We are also close to finishing the upgrades and extensions to the café area.

In the past year we have had about 10,500 people pay to come to the museum. That is a significant increase on the numbers of 2 years ago.

Café trade has increased significantly as well to something around 25,000 people in the past year. The extra Café trade has contributed to the extra museum entries.

About 6 years ago we started on cleaning out under the house so we could dig out, level and concrete extra storage areas. The hard work is complete; we only need to erect a small amount of shelving in the last bay.

The museum markets continue to provide good financial support for what we do.

The painting and other maintenance volunteers do never ends.

A few months ago the potters moved to Coinda. That area is now being prepared for Lloyd Elliott's model train set that we agreed to take after the Rattler did not want it anymore.

Speaking of the Rattler, on Thursday we received a letter effectively saying that MVHR is planning to wind up without formally acquitting the items on lease or paying for the repairs needed on our loco. The documents effectively said that, of the 80 items on lease we could only find the 10 really big ones and we have no intention of paying the \$250,000 invoice you sent us for damage to the loco. We already knew some historic items were sent to the scrap merchant. If they find any of our other bits they plan to give them to RRC. Our management committee is working on suitable responses.

Tougher building regulations mean we have had to change our approach to getting a shed over the big Ruston engine. We have at last managed to collect the parts of the Ruston that were out at Wilson's Pocket and those at Tamaree.

During the year we agreed on a very conservative value for our collection. As a result of that, our books now show total assets of 1.6 million dollars. That excludes most of the buildings.

Finally, thank you again to every one who contributed to the running of the museum.

Frank Lightfoot

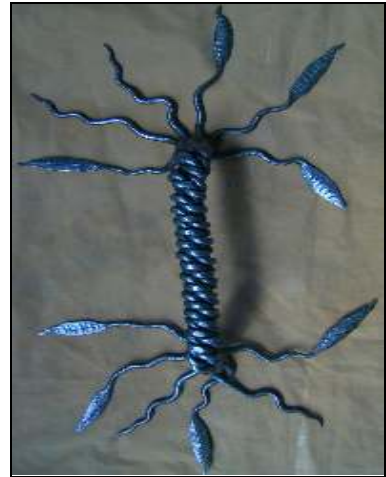
Hobbies...

Most people have a hobby - These photos below show skills of Museum Volunteers.



Ken's carving out of stone with the right hand tools are the key factor, and a lot of patience needed to do 100 hours of work of this gold miner in detail.

It took two days of blacksmithing to create Steve's unique door handle with the unusual twisting on the handle accompanied by the leaf design.



Volunteers...



Everything must be going to plan with Rob, as he looks to be enjoying updating the database.

Max deals with the incoming donations of exhibits. This portable forge with buffalo blower was donated by Wayne Mengel. The forge belonged to his father, came from the Glenbar mines, and he bought it at the auction sale held at Glenbar Homestead many years ago. It has a heavy pot for melting gold and mercury,



Thank you - to Dodt's Floorcoverings and Cooloola Carpets Centre for the donation of vinyl remnants which is used on shelving for exhibits.

School Holidays - On some days there will be Demonstration/Tuition of Gold Panning, Blacksmith shop operation. Miniature train rides are planned for Monday & Tuesday 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., and Thursday at 11 a.m. , and Steaming Day the first Monday of the month.

(Note: The Café and Museum are closed on Christmas Day)

Australia Day - Friday 26th January - The early morning breakfast starts from 8 a.m. at Café at the Museum. Museum Entry Fees apply to the morning activities with a working stamper. Then during the day there will be gold panning demonstrations, blacksmith shop operating, miniature train and historic bus rides.

Members and Volunteers



HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM The Committee Members -
Frank, Max, Allan, Ralph and Marilyn

THE



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