



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 95 FEBRUARY 2016

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

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**ELECTED OFFICERS  
at A.G.M. 5.8.15**

**President:**

**Frank Lightfoot**

Tel: 54833965

**Secretary:**

**Ralph Richardson**

Tel: 54839418

Mob: 0408616709

**Treasurer/Editor:**

**Marilyn Soanes**

Tel: 54845211

**Senior Vice President/  
Historian:**

**Bennett Suthers**

Tel: 54823315

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**Junior Vice President/  
Historian:**

**Allan Blackman**

Tel: 54828828

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**OTHER POSITIONS HELD:**

**Property Officer:**

**& Firearms Licensee**

**Ron Owen**

with Assistant Jo Carson

**Publicity Officer:**

**Max Travis**

Tel: 54812157

# Museum Markets

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

MARCH dates: 6<sup>TH</sup>, 20<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 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016 9.30 a.m.

## 2016 EVENTS:

**Steaming Day - 2nd May**

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

*THE GENERAL MEETING* will be held on **WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**  
at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: Work Projects, G150

## Commemorative Plaque....

Scouts from the Nashville Group formed a guard-of-honour for Lord Casey on his arrival, and the Governor-General was introduced to the small gathering by the Mayor (Ald. R N Witham).

Lord Casey then met members of the Society including Mr H V Tozer (President), Mrs Tozer, Mr R S Powell (Senior Vice-President), Mrs Powell, Mr W E Mulholland ( Junior Vice-President), Mrs W Jensen (Secretary) and Mr D Cassidy (Treasurer), also well known residents of Monkland: Messrs W H Runge,

W T Weller and T Smith.

The trowel used by the Governor-General during the ceremony is

inscribed: "This trowel was used by the Governor-General of Australia, Lord Casey, at the stone-laying ceremony at the Gympie Historical Museum, 16.9.67."

Lord Casey then unveiled the stone bearing the inscription: "This stone was laid by the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency, the Rt. Hon. Lord Casey, September 16, 1967, to commemorate the centenary of Gympie, 1867-1967."

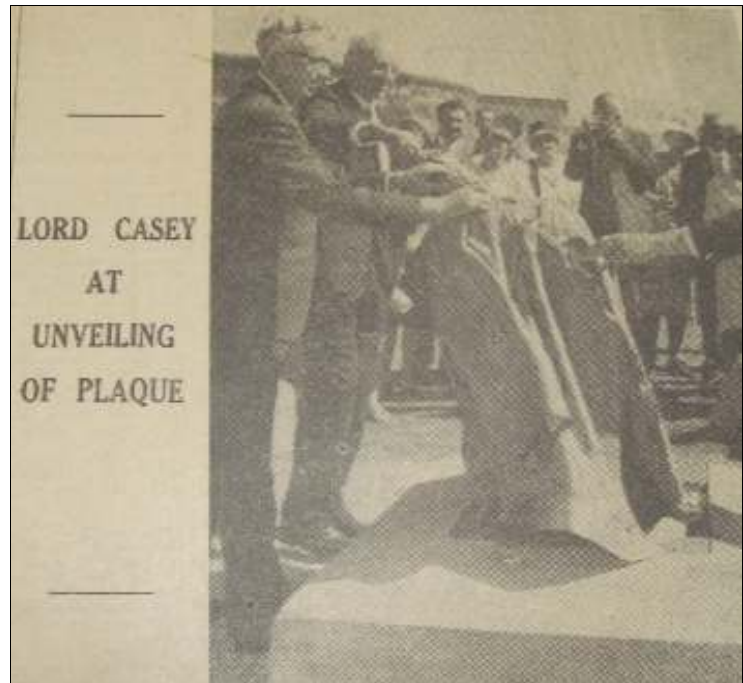
Mr Tozer, welcomed the Governor-General, told Lord Casey that the Society had an architect's drawing of what the museum would be like when it was completed.

Lord Casey said it was a good thing that every place of importance should preserve its history in this manner so that young people would know what had been behind them.

He said the Society had shown foresight and wished the Society and the museum good fortune.

Departing, on his way to Monkland, the Governor-General's motorcade moved through Mary Street, crowded by Saturday morning shoppers.

The Society chose a very appropriate locality for the museum - the site of what was once the No. 2 South Great Eastern, one of the richest mines on the goldfield.



Info. from Gympie Times 19 September 1967



The wooden handled trowel mentioned can be viewed in a display case in the Tank

## Australia Day Photos...



Pictured is Ralph fuelling up the 1937 Leyland Tiger Bus in readiness for taking passengers on a wild ride into Mary Street on Australia Day.



The 1938 International Truck , 1924 Austin 20, 1942 International Fire Engine, and the 1950 Aveling Barford Dump Truck were proudly displayed.



Reliving fond memories... taking a bird's eye seat !!

Privately owned historic cars attracted attention on the Lighthouse Oval for visitors to view, while Reg and Frank presently manning the back gate instructing visitors to use the front entrance.

Thankyou to Allan Blackman for the photos

*The Golden Way* (By Phyllis Shatte)

One hundred years have passed them by. Deep blue hills seem the same!  
Gone are the grey, drab mullock heaps, that marked our city's fame.  
The lazy Mary drifts on by; mist caps the early dawn;  
These were the things they knew and loved, when Gympie town was born!  
One hundred years ago, he came—JAMES NASH—from Yabba way—  
His dog and horse, his mining tools, and golden dreams—that day!

Now through the opened Golden Gates, that links them up on high,  
Down Golden stairs they merge once more, and phantom voices sigh!  
They hear the pick and shovel's ring; excited shouts of "GOLD!"  
And feel the warmth of camp-fire's glow, where magic tales were told.  
Yet when the shades of night closed in—and dangers lurked just near—  
Within those wooden shacks called "Home" they lived each golden year!

Nash did not ask for fame at all! He slept! And as he dreamed  
Seems destiny had led him there, where golden nuggets gleamed!  
He swung his pick and struck it rich, and from that very hour  
There sprang from rock and wilderness—this GYMPIE, grown in power!  
They felled tall trees and tilled the soil—and when the gold was won  
Endurance urged them "Keep right on! There's much that can be done!"

So through grim droughts, disastrous floods—through dust and blinding smoke;  
Through sweat and tears, dangers untold—our Gympie City WOKE!  
James Nash—Old Folk—we honour you—to-day, in future years.  
To you we owe this prosperous town—to you—dear Pioneers!  
A dreamer who sought not for fame—whose golden dreams that day  
Became for all, reality—and paved THE GOLDEN WAY!



Gold Panning stencils for signage were prepared by Rob for Allan B. to paint and place on the gables with a larger version on the length of the gold panning area shelter.  
These signs have achieved the purpose of definitely being visible from a distance at all angles.

## Museum News...

Roving around the Museum with Allan...



Allan is presently photographing this interesting reading in the Gympie Times (Gympie's iconic newspaper) for future reference.

This bounded book is one of the original editions from 1869 to 1997 donated to the Museum in 2013 by the Gympie Times Office, presently stored in the Gold Room cupboards.

Grant Ledger donated the **Sturtevant Fan**. Allan is holding the plate which is to be attached onto this huge piece of machinery....the Sturtevant fan made by B F Sturtevant Co., Boston U.S.A.

This company specialized in industrial equipment such as these fans which were also supplied for mine ventilation (but not in Gympie). They claim to be America's first fan maker.

The rusty scroll to embrace the fan had been originally bulldozed into a heap, but was subsequently delivered to the Museum in a state of a mangled mess that is currently being restored.

This fan came from the Mary Valley where it is believed to have been used for grain blowing (maybe that meant aerating silos).



When fully assembled, visitors will be able to view this powerful blower in action.

The inventor and mechanical genius was Benjamin Franklin Sturtevant, who was born into a small farming family in Norridgewock, Maine on January 18, 1833, and died in 1890.

## Exhibits...



This large bandsaw was donated by Greg Houghten, has considerable potential, and will need reconstruction/restoration.

These are good solid old units and would be of great help with the Bullock Wagon restoration, and are capable of cutting a 4' circle.

It was winched onto a trailer for transporting to the Museum, and the tables manhandled. The motor and some rollers were in a rotten wooden box which needed to be dismantled, and manhandled along with the contents. The motor was the heaviest and most awkward.

As it was in pieces and heavy, but said to be complete, it was easier for collection.

## Museum Cafe...

The Gold Museum Café is winding down by Elvie this week, with the new service contractor Vicky Dunford under the name of 'Café at the Museum' being effective from 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

Thankyou to all the Volunteers who played a role in the preparation process of the Cafe.

Thankyou to the Ollier family and staff for their support over the last eight years

## Museum Markets...

Rain marred the Markets on 31st January, but a big thankyou to those stallholders who braved the rain on the day, and it was unfortunate that you had to leave early. Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February was an improvement weather wise, but the magic day of sunshine with a cool breeze was on 21<sup>st</sup> February. The Gympie Re-enactment Group commenced again after their break with a varied and shorter version of the play. The next market on 6<sup>th</sup> March will be under new management of Vicky and her team.

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, I am wondering...what does a humanitarian eat? Ed.

## Upcoming Local Event...

An invitation has been received to attend:  
**Celebrating...The Noosa Museum Heritage Festival Day event at Pomona  
on Saturday, 16th April from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

The beginning of Heritage month starts from 16<sup>th</sup> April to 17<sup>th</sup> May.

There will be an official opening at 10.00am followed by morning tea and a fashion parade with local models.

At 1.00pm a guided Heritage Walk will take you on walking tour of Pomona where you will discover and rediscover Pomona's past.

Museum volunteers are intending to be involved in a working display of early pioneer days 'energy' equipment for visitors to see running, and will provide information about the use of same. Promoting/selling Museum's books etc. would take place during the day.

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