



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 107 FEBRUARY 2017

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

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**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

MARCH dates: 5<sup>TH</sup>, 19<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 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017 at 9.30 a.m.

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

**COMING EVENT 2017:**

**Annual Steam Festival**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September/ Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>/ Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**October (Queen's Birthday)**

*THE GENERAL MEETING* will be held on **WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017**  
at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: Work Projects

## Profile...

### **The Profile of Mr William Henry Couldery, J.P.** (Extract from Gympie's Heritage No.1 Dec. 1996)

Mr Couldery landed in Sydney 1855 from England after his health demanded a change in life due to lung troubles. An attack of fever and ague, the result of a droving trip, sent Mr Couldery south. It was the proclamation of Gympie goldfield, on 16 September 1867, that he thought of forsaking the nomadic existence.

In January, 1868, Mr Couldery first arrived in Gympie, and immediately turned his attention to mining, with some initial success. He had a thorough belief in Gympie's future, and backed his opinion with his money. As a result, his name has become identified with all the enterprise and progress that have distinguished that field. Mr Couldery adopted an up-to-date style of mining. Windlasses and whims gave way to the latest inventions in machinery and cages.

Science was brought into play and thanks to Mr Couldery's initiative, the electric light displaced the dripping hollow candle in the big mines. He held interests in every mine of any note. With the Phoenix, Smithfield United, and the No. 2 and 3 Smithfield, he is more particularly identified. Indeed, his name may be quoted as signifying the mines themselves, so greatly are their successes due to his capital and enterprise.

Outside of Gympie, his interests are many and varied. He took up land in the Logan district and planted cane, built a sugar mill, into which vacuum pans were introduced at his instigation for the first time in Southern Queensland. A sawmill, distillery, and a brick-mill owed their existence to him.

Then Mr Couldery gave these industries the go-by, and went in for cattle-breeding, being the first to introduce pure bred Ayrshires into Queensland, and his stock are well known. The celebrated St. Helena herd sprung from cattle of Mr Couldery's breeding.

An attempt to introduce New Zealand farm horses was not so successful.

His conversation is that of the cultured man, while his opinions and ideas on all subjects are alike attractive and valuable. It has already been said that Queensland is fortunate in her prominent men, and it is certain that in her annals a prominent place will be given to the name of Mr William Henry Couldery.

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## Steaming Days...

Steaming Days are the first Monday of the month.

This photo below was taken on a Steaming Day, February 6<sup>th</sup>, which shows that Chris and Len have the mining machinery operating in the Stamper Shed.



## School visits...

It was gratifying to hear of the interesting and humorous comments from the Monkland State School Years 1 to 6 students when they visited on 9 November 2016.  
(Spelling errors below as written)

Dear Max

. I would like to thank you on the behalf of Monkland state school for your time. We all enjoyed the Gold Mining Museum. I wish I had found my great uncle medals, maybe next time. I still think the museum was very fun and I would like to see the mouldy old books. My favourite thing at the museum was the gold panning because I found real gold and looking at all those beautiful rocks. If I had a chance to go visit again I wouldn't miss a thing.

(After the signature...On behalf of the monkeys of Monkland State School)

. Thankyou for showing me all of the marvels of the Gympie goldmining museum and for your time that you've spent there with Monkland State School. I myself really enjoyed how you joked about the cane and putting us in prison, we all thought that was pretty funny. I also liked gold panning, even though I didn't get any gold it was still a great experience for me and my classmates. Your tour guiding skills were really relevant in this tour especially for our grade. I found the old school quite interesting and fascinating and how the displays were all set out seemed really realistic. All of the rocks in the rock collection were really colourful but the ones that really stood out were the beautiful thunder eggs and the amazingly patterned crystallised rock formations. I hope to visit again soon.

. Cheers for showing me and my class mates around the museum. I really liked the panning because I found a nice rock. I also liked all the models. My favourite part was hopping in the old bus at the driver. I think the school was a little bit strict because I wouldn't be allowed to do my favourite thing; putting my head on the table.

Dear Mr Moore

. Thankyou for being our fantastic tour guide for our excursion to the gold mining museum. I loved the class room the most because it was fun sitting down and being with my friends. I hope you can write back to me soon and I wish that my school can come back to the gold mining museum next year. I loved going to the gold mining museum and walking with my friends. I also loved seeing all the things that were at the gold mining museum. I can't wait to go back there one day.

. Thankyou for being the best ever tour guide for our excursion. I loved lerning about more the exsiting past and I'm glad that you tought us about it. You see I love lerning and now I can teach my sister all about the past. Can you please write back. Thankyou again for being our best ever tour guide.

. Thankyou for being our awesome tour guide for our excursion to the gold mining museum. I loved walking across the bridge. I hope Monkland S.S. com e back.

## Australia Day Celebrations...

(Right) Anthony awaits the Davey-Paxman boiler being fired up.  
(Below) Len is unloading timber in preparation for the boiler operation on Australia Day.



**Cooloola Potters Group**  
artistic talents  
(L-R) Cheryl Williams,  
Ruth Subramaniam,  
Barbara McDougal,  
and Gayle Robinson

**Thankyou** to the Volunteers/Members and Gympie Regional Council for your support  
**Thankyou** to the Café at the Museum staff for catering.

## Café at the Museum...

Sharon is pictured with the toasted sandwiches and coffee ready for serving. Check out the Coffee deal !

- The week-end early breakfasts have now reverted back to the normal opening times.
- The kitchen was a buzz with baking the carrot cake, chocolate cake etc.in preparation for the Gympie Historic Car Club group morning tea on 15<sup>th</sup> February.
- The Cross Country Tour group of seniors on 16<sup>th</sup> February were shown around by tour guide Allan B.
- In the dining area is an information board with numerous tourist attractions which visitors can help themselves to pamphlets including sights to see outside the Gympie area.



## Work in Progress...



There is a plan of attack to upgrade the radio room with painting the ceiling, walls, and shelving. In the meantime there has been a re-arrangement and cleaning of exhibits, which has made a vast improvement with the presentation.

The eye catching showpiece on the floor on the right hand side is a **Phonograph Record Player with Record**. This gramophone was powered by a wind-up spring drive mechanism with a mechanical governor, and played 10 and 12 inch shellac discs that ran at 78 rpm. The Edison disc phonograph, Model H19 was available from 1918 until the late 1920s.

After the second World War, this machine was replaced by electric ones that could play 45 and 33 rpm vinyl discs, and in the 1970s and 1980s vinyl records almost disappeared in favour of the compact cassette and the CD. Ultimately the CD/DVD format will be replaced by solid state memory chips.

At the far end in the middle is a unique **Murphy 6 Valve Radio**, Model TA156 is made by Murphy Radio U.K. England. It was purchased in 1951 and donated to the Museum by Murray-un Hasler. For reception there is a list of different cities around the world.

On the shelf above are a collection of Mantle Radios including makes of Kriesler, Stromberg Carlson, BGE Dapper, AWA Radiola, HMV Little Nip, Malvern Star, Calston, and Dison.

Readers, has anyone heard of a **Sound Blimp**? This particular one was donated by Ken Stegeman, and was believed to have been used in the making of the Skippy television series.

A sound blimp is a large projector shape with square glass lens in the front. The concertina back has screw knobs to adjust the length. A side lever opens the side and the workings can be seen, the top opens up by a lever to place the 35mm movie camera inside, which is lined with a corduroy type of material. The back has a small spirit level, has two eye viewers, and a handle on the front is for carrying around.



## Exhibits...



There are so many unique exhibits on display.

This exhibit 'Gympie Gold Mine 1994' is a unique ceramic pot, made by Bryan Moore of Inglewood Hill Pottery. It is hand carved and decorated with coloured glazes and slip using a graffito to highlight the images. It has been fired to 1265c, and is displayed in the Cottage.

## Museum News...

**Correction to front page: Publicity Officer Barry Smith has resigned from this position due to computer problems.**

### Thankyou's

- . **Bernie Short** for donating a boiler wedging pump, which is used to fill the boiler after use to prevent erosion.
- . **Mike Thatcher** for the red cedar timber which has been made into mouldings for the new counter.
- . **Bill Cairns** for the large red cedar slab which will be attached to the top of the new counter.
- . **Rob** for his time spent over the last few weeks monitoring and working on the computer database.

**New Entrance Project/Cafe: A mighty big effort of work has been carried out by volunteers: Painting of exterior weatherboards, extended outside roofing, interior floor tiling is progressively being carried out in sections to reduce disruption with visitors entering the café. The Café roof has also been cleaned and spray painted. Work is continuing.**

### Launch of the Lady of the Mary Sculpture

Allan Blackman attended a special event on Tuesday 14 February, at 10.30am.

This event is a first for Gympie and for Mary Street, and will be adding to our Mary Street Heritage Trail and the public art of the region.

It is the Official unveiling of the life size bronze statue 'Lady of the Mary' by artists Gillie and Marc, in Mary Street.

The Governor, Sir Charles Augustus Fitzroy ordered that the Mary River be named in his wife's honour in 1947 i.e. Lady Mary Lennox.

The proceedings started at 10.30am at the City Centre Stage with speeches by the Mayor Mick Curran and Cr Dodt, before moving to the actual location of the sculpture, unveiling, and then moved back to the City Centre stage for refreshments.

## Group Visits...

**Café at the Museum catering for groups -**

**Thankyou to Vicky Dunford for the photos**



A luncheon attended by the Cooloola Cancer Support Group



Members of the Gympie Historic Car Club receiving their Life Member Certificates

## G150 Celebration...

**Edward Bytheway - the founding father of Gympie, was a business man, mine owner, and a community pioneer. The official opening of an exhibition, and launch of the book on Edward Bytheway by author Linda Atkinson is on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 3 p.m.**

## INVITATION...

### MEMBERS/VOLUNTEERS -

An INVITATION from Gympie Regional Council to attend the  
Gympie Regional Art Gallery official opening of the Now → & ← Then,  
an exhibition to celebrate Gympie's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, 6.30 p.m.

***THE***



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