



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 106 JANUARY 2017

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Museum Markets

at the Duck Ponds (Lake Alford)

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

FEBRUARY dates: 5TH, 19TH

(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 19TH FEBRUARY 2017 at 9.30 a.m.

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

COMING EVENTS 2017:

*

Annual Steam Festival

**Saturday 30th September/ Sunday 1st/ Monday 2nd October
(Queen's Birthday)**

THE GENERAL MEETING will be held on **WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2017**
at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: Work Projects

Café at the Museum...



Setting the scene at Christmas time with a colourful light display.

Thankyou to Jo Carson
for the contribution of this photo

It was the silly season...

The last week before the Christmas break is a good time to experiment with different drinks.

It started as a spider party, but a slight variation of drinks were preferred by some with the Gourmet Coffee.



(L-R) Barbara, Bill, Marilyn, Barry, Denise

Readers, do you know why this delicious drink is called a spider?

An ice cream float is known as a "spider" because once the fizzy comes in contact with the ice cream, it then forms a spider web like reaction. (In my younger years, I never thought of this fizzer resembling a spider web, it was just really a treat to have a lime spider! Ed.)

The ingredients are fairly basic with a large scoop of vanilla ice-cream in a tall glass and pour over your favourite soft drink or flavoured cordial and water - a most enjoyable refresher on a summer's day. In some countries these spiders are called an ice cream float or soda.

Market Stallholders...



Sue & Armin of Oasis Fruit Trees
Various varieties for the Garden
Incl. the Ice Cream Bean!



Mrs Doolittles Mobile Pet Food
Incl. Complete Meal,
Chicken, Beef, Roo Products

The Year of 2017...

Now the year of 2017 has arrived, resolutions can be made which is an incentive to strive for, bearing in mind that a resolution is realistic as well as being an achievable goal. However if it doesn't eventuate in 2017 then there's always 2018!

Highlight of the year will be the G150 celebrations (Gympie Sesquicentenary) in October. It's the 150th anniversary since the discovery of gold by James Nash, originally in October 1867, and it is recognised as the founding date of the Gympie Township. The Gympie region will be hosting community-led festivals, events and concerts, exhibitions and activities

2017 is the Year of the Daffodil and on 28th January Chinese New Year of the Fire Rooster.

If any members/volunteers had a recent health issue, hoping the new year will be a healthier one for you!

Computers...

A more recent display under the Church building is a Computer section, which shows a vast advancement in technology over the years.

Casio PB-300

Basically, the PB-300 was a PB-100 with more RAM and a built-in thermal printer. To our knowledge, Casio was the only company who designed real pocket size computers with integrated printers.



Of course, the PB-300 was substantially larger than its elder brother, therefore the keyboard could be laid out more generously, with a real space bar and an additional key for paper feed.

Due to the different physical dimensions, the main PCB had a different layout. However, the logic circuits were identical to the PB-100, with an additional HD61914 RAM chip. No further RAM expansion was made available.

As printers needed much more energy than the computer components, a 4 x 1.2V NiCad battery pack had to be integrated, which needed to be charged with an external power adaptor. The necessary printer and battery charging circuits were built onto a second PCB.

The printer used thermal paper of 39 mm width and was able to print 20 characters per line, making printed listings a little bit more legible than on the 12-character display.

To sum up, the PB-300 was a really cute machine. Imagine taking it with you in 1983 and impressing your friends by printing business cards when needed.

The PB-300 was also sold in Europe under the name Olympia OP-644.



1980's Laptop Computer with External Disc Drive. As used and donated by Peter Goldsworthy-Optometrist.

Telecommunications in Australia 1854 -1900

Before 1854 - A postal service established in 1809 conveyed people's mail in Australia by various simple means of transport, including coach and horses, but there was no rapid telecommunications.

1854 - Telecommunications arrived! The first electric telegraph line in Australia (Williamstown to Melbourne) was opened - ten years after Samuel Morse's first American line.

1858 - The first inter-colony telegraph links were built between Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. Three years later, in 1881, Brisbane was linked with Sydney.

1869 - The first successful telegraph cable linking Tasmania to the mainland was laid.

1872 - The Overland Telegraph Line was completed under the direction of the South Australian Post Master General, Charles (later Sir Charles) Todd. At Darwin it connected with a submarine cable from Jarra, putting Australia in telecommunication contact with the rest of the world.

1877 - The Perth-Adelaide Telegraph line opened. In that same year, South Australia became the first Australian Colony to join the International Telegraph Union, later to become the International Telecommunication Union.

1878 - Following the invention of the telephone by A. G. Bell in 1876, several experiments were conducted in Australia. By early 1878 the first long distance telephone conversations were successfully conducted between Semaphore and Port Augusta (approximately 400 km) and Sydney and Maitland (225 km).

1880 - Only two years after the first exchange in the world was built, Australia's first telephone exchanges were opened in Melbourne and Brisbane, followed by Sydney in 1881. By 1883 exchanges were opened in Adelaide and Hobart. The Perth exchange opened in 1887.

Communications Building



Displays are continuing to be upgraded in the Communications Building.

The telephone wall cabinet on the left was from the Queensland Treasury Building Brisbane Circa 1970, and was donated by Brett Green, Gympie.

Many different types of phones are also shown in this display.



Exhibits...

Willcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine c.1878

Of this type of machine, Alex Askaroff, a self-confessed sewing machine nerd, says:

“The Willcox and Gibbs chain stitch machines are one of the most collected sewing machines of all time.”

Some say they represent the finest piece of Victorian precision engineering in the world.

This beautiful line and superb stitching make them a collectors dream. “Sewing machine candy at its best.”

This unique feature of the Willcox and Gibbs is that it was a single thread machine. The major rival, Singer sewing machines, had two threads was complex to set up and prone to entanglement. The W & G was simpler, cheaper and easier to use. Willcox and Gibbs formed a joint company, based in London and New York, in 1857 and produced the machines into the 1970's. Singer, etc, beat them in the end as the W & G machines could not produce the range of fancy stitches that are now a key feature of all domestic sewing machines.

This sewing machine is contained in a wooden carry box and was donated by Mrs Olga Scott



This Poem praising the Willcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine appeared in an 1859 issue of Scientific American:

If one thread will do, why bother with two,
To break, to confuse, and to tangle?
There is, not a sound when my looper goes
round,
No shuttles or bobbins to jangle.

All have confessed, that I am the best
For fine robes for dear baby I prepare;
While the boisterous boy will fail to destroy
My work with the roughest of wear.

I am quick, yet I make not a single mistake,
You have only to keep me a-going.
And never will I shirk the least bit of work.
But do all the family sewing.

And when the fair maid is for bridal arrayed
I make with the neatest of seams;
The elegant trousseau, that gratifies you so,
And fills the fond lover with sweet dreams.

The morgue trolley
is placed in the operating theatre display.



Next to this trolley is the 1930's circa operating table from the Gympie General Hospital which was donated by Graeme Marshman Gympie

Australia Day Celebrations...



Australia Day Thursday 26th January

Supported by Gympie Regional Council

Breakfast is from 8 a.m. at Café at the Museum

Museum Entry Fees apply for the morning activities including a working stamper, gold panning, free miniature train rides and historic bus rides.

Museum News...

Thankyou to the member of Heritage Bank for contributing to the Society.

* Publicity Officer, Barry Smith has been focussed mainly on the Australia Day promotion, and has also probed in expanding the possibilities of additional advertising/websites.

* Painting of the Calico Creek School eastern wall has commenced again.

* Multiple agaves have been removed from the Andrew Fisher House garden to enable easier access for checking stumps on the building as part of termite control.

New Entrance Project...



The original Gympie Post Office counter is currently being restored by Frank K. The woodwork is being sanded back showing an impressive grain in this piece of furniture, which will be incorporated in the Café upgrade, that certainly will be a stand-out feature.

Thankyou to Anthony Dunford for your excavation work on the new entrance project.

(Left) This is a photo of the newly constructed front entrance to the Café that shows the delivery of the curved colorbond roof panels on the right hand side of the work site area. (Right) The panels have been placed. The volunteers are to be commended for their efforts in getting the building to this stage of construction, particularly in the hot weather conditions.



G150 Celebration...

The **Australian Heritage Festival** will be held from 18 April to 21 May - the Museum is planning to have a display on the Gold Room verandah with the theme 'butter', the display being part of the G150 celebration.



The G150 celebration has began...at the Gympie Regional Art Gallery, Rhonda Rhettker has been inspired by objects in the museum. This felt hat (left) is one of the six that has been made of which is an artistic version of the old switchboard (right).



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