



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 112 JULY 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

AUGUST 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> AUGUST 2017 at 9.30 a.m.



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

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**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 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2017**  
at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: Work Projects, Steam Festival,  
Followed by the *ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING* at 8.00 p.m.

## One Mile School...

The first teacher - Mr James Alexander McLeod was born in September 1842. His task was opening the first Government school at the One Mile arriving in mid September, 1869. He was paid £100 per year, plus fees. (Fees from scholars ceased after 1869, so the benefits he received from fees were negative). He was a man of determination, and undaunted by hard work that lay ahead, he enlisted the help of some local carpenters, and within three days, they had sufficient desks and forms to accommodate the new pupils.

Other necessary materials like slates, pencils and blackboards, were to come later.

Mr McLeod proudly enrolled 39 pupils on that first day of school, 20<sup>th</sup> September 1869, and within three months, there were 160 listed. Attendances increased rapidly, reaching 360 in the following year. By 1870, overcrowding at the school was evident. Though technically separate, the boys' and girls' Departments were taught as one.

As years went on - By 1891 it was necessary to extend the buildings once again. During these years, as gold continued to be mined in the mines nearby, the crushing of metal, the falling of stones, the ringing of picks, and the explosion of dynamite, became familiar sounds to the children attending the One Mile schools, and the buildings reached their peak of development with well over a thousand children between them, forming possibly the largest school in Queensland at that time. The maximum enrolments were boys - 530 (1900); Girls and Infants 639 (1889; Girls 480 (1901); Infants 519 (1893). Mr McLeod sought for all that was best and fine in each individual, and won the respect and affection of his pupils during his 45 years as Headmaster.

Mr Leod's successor - On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1915, just after the outbreak of World War I, Mr Thomas Benjamin Ferguson, affectionately referred to, behind his back, as "Ben" by his many pupils, proved to be a very worthy successor.

The school houses (for inter-house sports) were named after the Head Teachers McLeod and Ferguson.

School grounds -With each expansion of the buildings, the grounds were extended until the original acre (bounded by John Street and what for obvious reasons became known as McLeod's Lane), extended south and east to One Mile Gully and One Mile Road, swallowing up the site of Murphy's Hotel on the lower corner, until it became nearly five acres.

A theatre ran for about eighteen months on a site in the school grounds. Apart from memorable concerts and the staging of vaudeville, the theatre was used for free- and-easy shows, usually on Saturday nights.

The first Church of England was also constructed in the present school grounds, but was destroyed by fire, and later rebuilt at Mt Pleasant. The husky voices of miners, singers who have since become famous, entertainers, the voice of the Minister preaching to his congregation—all echo from the dust of the grounds of this famous school.

The school grounds and buildings were affected by many floods with the 1870 looked upon as a record, but the great flood of 1893 was of more concern.

Gympie and District Historical Society considers it a privilege to be associated with the Centenary of One Mile School, which in common with the schools established later, has a record of distinguished service in many walks of life by its former pupils. One Mile has been fortunate in the dedicated service of its teachers from its first year, and this has been amply repaid by the very successful careers of many who studied there. The thorough grounding received prepared them for the highly specialised educational standards which are now being increasingly demanded by modern technological developments.

Mr W Mulholland, President

## Gympie Profile...

Clyde Kunst was a life member of the Society who passed away on 4<sup>th</sup> July aged 94 years, condolences are conveyed to Esme and family.

What a remarkable man!  
Clyde's achievements were numerous over his life time.



From the pages of the Gympie Times 23.11.1989

Clyde remembers his early school days.... With his brothers, he walked two miles to the Enterprise School.

One day, they were very late for school. They had to cut through several paddocks and in one paddock, five bulls were having a ding-dong fight.

They were not game to venture through, so they waited until the bulls retired, dashed through the paddock, and arrived at school at lunch time.

Frequently, on their way home from school in the summer, they went swimming without clothes on. One afternoon somebody pinched their clothes, but it was all in fun, and they later got their clothes back.

Later, they moved to East Deep Creek, and Clyde walked five miles to the One Mile School.

Clyde said that Ben Ferguson was teaching at the One Mile School at that stage, and he was a very strict teacher, but also an excellent one, and Clyde admits that they grew up to be good, honest citizens through his discipline.

They rode logs from Normanby Bridge to the Channon Street Bridge.

During their trips to Sunday School at the Salvation Army Hall, which was then situated in Mary Street, they walked through the storm water drain from Albert Park to the Olympia Theatre, and then down the street to Sunday school.

At the age of 13, Clyde left school and went working in the timber with his father until 1950. They carried their tools and provisions in sugar bags on their push bikes.

Clyde attended many country dances, and it was there that he met his future wife, Esme Weber. He bought a cream carrying business.

Clyde was also a keen cricketer, and participated in many important cricket matches at Albert Park.

As for Gympie's future, Clyde feels that Gympie has a lot of potential, what with tourism for the museum, and other attractions.

Info. from the pages of Gympie Times 6 October 1999

Clyde has been a tireless worker for his community - At the age of 76 years when he was working at the Gympie and District Historical and Mining Museum, he was a recipient for the Commonwealth Recognition Award for Senior Australians at the age of 76 years.

During the years of being a house removalist, Clyde transported buildings to the Museum.... Cottage, Light Horse building Andrew Fisher house and the Calico Creek School free of charge. Clyde was a well-known face at the Museum and also worked on various tasks with the poppet head as well as steam engines.

## Spanners...

The brand emerged when Royston Siddons' Siddons Drop Forgings Pty Ltd turned to tool making to fill post-war shortages after World War II. Original production of Sidchrome tools in Australia was in the Brunswick area in the city of Melbourne, Victoria.

The Sidchrome brand built its reputation with high quality products. Sidchrome until 1996 were manufactured in Australia, but since being acquired by The Stanley Works (named Stanley Black & Decker since 2010) production is now undertaken in Taiwan.

www.wikipedia

### **Ode to a Spanner** by Noel Paton

To avoid a situation of rank insubordination  
From a nut that will not shift its old position,  
I would say, from observation and a bit of  
conversation

That a Sidchrome would dissolve the coalition.

A Sidchrome is a spanner which in no uncertain  
manner

Tells a nut precisely what it has to do;  
It loosens up or tightens and, if necessary,  
frightens

But it makes all nuts obedient to you.

Men who earn their bread and butter using tools  
are heard to mutter

That a Sidchrome is the sort they always use.  
So demand a Sidchrome spanner, for you canna  
hand a man a

Grander spanner—that's the brand you should  
choose.

### The importance of being 'well tooled' ....

Whether you be a tradesman, home handyman  
or just a good old-fashioned tinkerer, the right  
tools are vital if you want the job done  
properly.

If you were a boy, your Dad would give you an  
education in tools with their names and  
purposes .

You may have become a trainee mechanical  
theatre nurse, selecting the correct instrument  
from amongst the bewildering array of  
spanners, shifters and sockets in the tool box  
and handing it over on request.

Only one spanner can boast to be  
'Unconditionally guaranteed for 100 years', the  
proudly Australian-made, owned and  
manufactured Sidchrome.

(Info. from Suburban Icons by Steve Bedwell)

## Rob McFadden...

**Robert Jas McFadden,  
Bob to all who knew him was a man gifted with many talents ....  
entertainer, poet, artist.**



He gained his first taste for music when he attended the One Mile School. His natural, original humour and spontaneous rhyming was evident even as a child so no wonder he was laureate of the school.

Upon leaving school he went to work in one of the crushing batteries until gaining an apprenticeship as a tinsmith. Eventually his creative talents led him into signwriting and painting. Every Friday night, Bob did up the windows (about 10 of them) on Norm Lister's Butcher Shop in Apollonian Vale. People would go there just to read the windows.

It is said that he painted nearly every backdrop in Gympie. His reputation was widespread and he painted scenes on the walls of the theatre in Mount Morgan. In his numerous paintings, mainly in water colour, he incorporated his face somewhere in the picture. As a cartoonist his brilliant wit shone through.

Bob was one of the six original members when the Gympie City Band was formed in 1883. He was a member of the Minstrel Quartet with Ben Ferguson, the other members being Tommy Watts and pianist Eunice Stitt. The minstrel troupe, "Skylarks" was under his directorship and in which he was a leading actor.

Info. from One Mile State School 1869-1994

## Gympie City Band...

A black and white photo taken in 1896 of the Gympie City Band is displayed in the Church building. The band took part in many competitions, mention is made below.

Gympie Times 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1910

**The Gympie City Band have an enjoyable programme of music in the Botanic Gardens yesterday afternoon, in the presence of many thousands of persons.**

Gympie Times 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1915

**The City Band are securing the services of Mr. W.M. Parkington of Sydney for three weeks (says the "Gympie Times") to coach them for the forthcoming big band concert in Maryborough at New Year. Mr. Parkington is classed as Australia's best in brass band work. He is at present conducting the Rozelle Band, which has had a number of successes of late, their last win being the championship of Australia. He will arrive in Gympie on the 11th December and will leave again for Sydney on the 2nd January. The Band hope this time to capture the championship of Queensland.**

## Cooloola Pottery Group...



**Members of the Cooloola Pottery group are busy creating their masterpiece for showing at the G150 celebrations in October.**

**There are several separate sections of pottery that have a theme e.g. railway, mining and timber industries, which are then stacked from the timber base - to create a totem pole. A centre pole holds each tier in place finishing with leaves at the summit.**

**A contribution from each member to add their own creative object completes the layer.**

Thankyou to Anne Price for the photo

**A lot of artistic creativity is required to form items/objects with clay by hand. A pottery wheel is used for bowls, plates, vases etc. For small objects that are moulded, the surface can be smoothed with a damp sponge.**

**Firing in the kiln is for a number of hours, and there are low fire clays, and high fire clays. After the temperature has completely cooled, the object is removed, and may be glazed. The bottom of the pottery could be covered with wax to stop sticking to the kiln itself.**

**Glazing takes on a number of forms - dip, brush, sponge etc. Once again the object is fired to melt the glaze and seal the object. The finished article can have felt attached to the base if necessary.**

## Markets...

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July was a typical winter's morning with foggy conditions that led onto a fine sunny day. There was no performance by the Gympie Museum Re-enactment Group on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July. Many market patrons were there to check out the bargains and stock up with fresh fruit and vegetables.**

## Museum News...

**Café at the Museum** This month has been a busy time for the café staff preparing food for the influx of travellers due to the holiday season, and the weekends breakfast are also proving popular. The new menu board takes up a large area of wall space, and there is something there to suit everybody's taste!

Thankyou to the member of Heritage Bank for contributing to the Society.  
Many thanks to Jan Mulholland for the donation of a display case.

*2017/8 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS* are now due  
\$20 single, \$25 double membership

\* During the Queensland School Holidays, there has been a few extra activities at the Museum for visitors - Chris and Len with boiler operations, Frank and Max miniature train rides, Chris operating the blacksmith shop. Visitors also tried their luck at gold panning in the tubs. There has been a noticeable increase in numbers of visitors over the two weeks.

\* The new entrance project is making headway with lining of the toilet walls and ceiling, and lining of the ceiling in the Café area in progress.

\* Painting of the Calico Creek School has recommenced.

\* Work is being carried out on the stampers and the shaker table.

\* Other repairs, maintenance, sanding and painting is continuing as required.

\* Garden bed edges are being progressively achieved.

\* A new sign has been erected for the 'Box "Fox" Evans Memorial Walk District Commissioner 1981-1984' that leads to the Scout building.

\* The Society has purchased navy blue work shirts for Volunteer Tour Guides and steam engine operators who attend event days and tours. A coloured embroidery Museum logo is available if Volunteers wish to purchase.

\*Volunteers will be at Kybong Rockfest & Minerals Friday 4<sup>th</sup>/Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>/Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August.

Any Volunteer/Member who may have had ill-health recently,  
hope you will recover soon back to good health.

## Volunteers...

### What's happening in the Blacksmith Shop?



Museum Volunteer Chris is operating the bellows, as he is in the process of forging a hammer head, a tool to be used in the blacksmith shop.

This process takes a minimum of an hour to appx. four hours, and the weight of the finished tool is about 3 lbs (1½ Kg).

Various thongs for holding the object, depending on shape, can be seen hanging at the front of the forge.

## Blacksmith Shop Equipment...

**Bellows** These were used by Blacksmiths to push a stream of air up into the fire to keep it hot enough for their metals. Generally bellows were made out of leather with a metal pipe at the end, and with a wooden frame to keep it upright, held by chains.

**Blacksmiths' Forge** The all important forge is never a missing item in the Blacksmiths' shop. Here was the place for manufacturing horse-drawn vehicles, wagons, coaches, farm machinery, tools, and of course horse shoes for the farrier.

All of these things plus more had to have extensive ironwork for supporting and strengthening their construction. In small mines the forge was used to smelt the gold bullion and melt into a bar.

**Anvil** These were a must have in the Blacksmith's shop. The different ends and shapes made out of heavy steel were used when, bending metals e.g. making a horse shoe. The anvil can not be seen in the previous photo, but it was brought to Gympie in 1867 by Cockburn Bros. Engineers and Blacksmiths.

***THE***



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