



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 87 JUNE 2015

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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ELECTED OFFICERS

at A.G.M. 13.8.14

President/Historian:

Bennett Suthers

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Secretary:

Ralph Richardson

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Frank Lightfoot

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Junior Vice President/

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OTHER POSITIONS HELD:

Property Officer:

& Firearms Licensee

Ron Owen

with Assistant Jo Carson

Publicity Officer:

Max Travis

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Museum Markets

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

JULY dates: 5TH, 19TH

(7 a.m.-12 noon)

Site Bookings - Museum Café 54 823995

Entertainment by the Gympie Museum

Re-enactment Group will be on the

3rd Sunday of each month

Undercover seating, and lots of laughs!

(next performance 19TH JULY 10 a.m)

2015 EVENT

STEAM FESTIVAL

3rd/4th/5th October

THE GENERAL MEETING will be held on
WEDNESDAY, 5TH AUGUST 2015
at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room.
Business includes: Projects, Scottish Site
Followed by the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 8.00 p.m.

Morning Tea...

June 6th is celebrated by Queenslanders as the day when the new colony of Queensland was established. From 30 May to 7 June 2015 workplaces in communities painted the town maroon.



On this particular day a Morning Tea was held at the Gold Museum Café on Saturday 6th June to celebrate 45 years since the official opening of the Gympie Gold Mining & Historical Museum.

This was an informal function, and many thanks to the Gold Museum Café staff's catering of the delicious morning tea of scones and pikelets.

Roger Harmon entertained with lively music played on the piano accordion. Many thanks to Roger and also the Re-enactment Group for their participation.



Firing of the two canons by the Museum Re-enactment Group was the finale.

The morning tea was well attended by the Mayor/Mayoress and representatives from the Museum's host groups i.e. Lighthorse, Scouts, Cooloola Potters, Gympie Gem Club, Union Church, Museum Re-enactment Group, Museum Volunteers and Members.

In the absence of the President, Bennett Suthers, Allan Blackman (Junior Vice-President) delivered his speech.

Welcome to You All!

Distinguished guests, members, committee, volunteers and any others who have assisted on several projects.

It must be noted the progress made during the past year - the portable boiler and stamper project, ambulance station and fire station, coach house for the horsedrawn carts and sulkies, new workshop under the old Wonga School that was removed from Queens Park, the excavation of area under the house, and repairs to the gantry deck.

There is also some preparation done for the construction of the motor museum.

I have been absent unfortunately in hospital for about 2½ months since December.

I am back and hopefully to stay, except for Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

I hope you all enjoy your morning tea.

You are all invited to browse around the Museum, and hope you have a safe journey home.

Regards
BENNETT SUTHERS
President

Work in Progress...

The Three Head
Rammutt Stamper
on the trailer



Pull and drag!



The stamper is slowly and gently being removed from the trailer with Frank at the controls of the Ferguson tractor, Allan B. and Allan S. (obscured) are assisting.

A pulley was used which made the task easier for unloading, and also enabled maneuvering into the upright position of this two ton piece of heavy machinery.

Wheel right?



(Left) Ralph and Allan S. positioning the wheel

(Right) The assembled machinery has been well restored.

(Below left) Karen doing the task of sanding the floorboards in the new Communications building.

Photo Courtesy of Allan Blackman

(Below right) Chris is in the Blacksmith shop heating a rod in the forge to make it malleable.

Assembled!



In small mines the blacksmith forge was used to smelt the gold bullion and mould into a bar. Also the forge was used to heat white metal (anti-friction metal), and brass for the pouring and moulding of bearings for various machines.

Where there's dust!



Where there's smoke!



Smithing process...

Blacksmiths work by heating pieces of wrought iron or steel until the metal becomes soft enough for shaping with hand tools, such as a hammer, anvil and chisel. Heating generally takes place in a forge fueled by propane, natural gas, coal, charcoal, coke or oil.

Colour is important for indicating the temperature and workability of the metal: as iron heats to higher temperatures, it first glows red, then orange, yellow, and finally white. The ideal heat for most forging is the bright yellow-orange color appropriately known as a "forging heat". Because they must be able to see the glowing color of the metal, some blacksmiths work in dim, low-light conditions, but most work in well-lit conditions. The key is to have consistent lighting which is not too bright. Direct sunlight obscures the colors.

The techniques of smithing may be roughly divided into forging (sometimes called "sculpting"), welding, heat-treating, and finishing.

Forging is the process in which smiths shape metal by hammering, differs from machining in that forging does not remove any material; rather the smith hammers the iron into shape.

Forging employs seven basic operations or techniques: drawing down, shrinking (a type of upsetting), bending, upsetting, swaging, punching and forge welding.

These operations generally employ hammer and anvil at a minimum, but smiths will also make use of other tools and techniques to accommodate odd-sized or repetitive jobs.

Bending Heating iron to a "forging heat" allows bending as if it were a soft, ductile metal, like copper or silver.

Bending can be done with the hammer over the horn or edge of the anvil or by inserting a bending fork into the Hardy Hole (the square hole in the top of the anvil), placing the work piece between the tines of the fork, and bending the material to the desired angle. Bends can be dressed and tightened, or widened, by hammering them over the appropriately shaped part of the anvil.

Info. en.wikipedia.org

Museum News...

The insert for the footing of the ruston engine (below) is deeply set in cement - about four truck loads in total.

The boat now resembles a submarine!

Ed.



* Correction to May Newsletter - under the heading The Gympie Post Office Postmaster - 'He remained in this position until 1876.'

* A Regional Arts Development Fund Grant is a Queensland Government and Gympie Regional Council partnership to support local arts and culture. The Society was fortunate to receive a grant in April which entails production of a DVD re gold re-enactment and steam driven gold equipment- under the theme of 'Capturing the Gold Era'. This promotional material of the Museum will include videos featuring the Gympie Museum Re-enactment Group.

* Excavating for storage under the House is well underway for another few bays, which is followed by preparation for cementing ,a retaining wall and drainage.

* The hardwood floorboards consist of a few species like Grey Gum, Ironbark in the Communications building, and sanding these boards back to an even surface was quite a task with the hired machine. **Thankyou** to Coates Hire for their generous discount for hiring the floor sander.

* New Museum souvenirs of Silver Water Bottles, Small Enamel Mugs, and Ceramic Mugs have been purchased from Murray Views last month, and can be purchased from the Gold MuseumCafé.

Museum News (Cont.)...

Work in Progress:

Recoating of the Café dining area floorboards. Oiling of the floorboards in the Communications building. Repairing bearers and replacing deck boards on the gantry. Ruston site preparation. Ambulance Station extension - There's a hole in the wall! Lining of the walls in the alcove, ceiling insulation, paint cladding. Big Stamper work.

Other work planned: Ballustrate is to be repaired on the Scout building, doors for archive cupboards, painting and attaching handles.

Membership Renewals 2015/6 are now due

Note: Members are deemed financial up to 2 months after 30th June 2015.

The truth is more precious than gold!

(This slogan appears on the James Nash High School vests.)

Exhibits...



Boot Stitching Machine

Pictured left is a Landis 12 Model F Boot Stitching Machine which was donated by Bruce Alder, and is on display in the Breezeway. It has a motor attached made by Higgs Motors, Birmingham, England. This machine was used in a leather shop where Drakes Supermarkets are now located.

Readers, if you know of anyone who may feel motivated to help out by "adopting an exhibit" to maintain or improve its presentation or educational value like this Boot Stitching Machine that is worthy of restoration, please contact Ralph (details on the front page of the newsletter).

Other options are a complete exhibit space, a motor vehicle or a piece of machinery.

Boot Makers Leather Roller

There are numerous Bootmaking exhibits of interest that can be viewed in the House.

Pictured right is a Boot Makers Leather Roller, which was donated by Ivy Alder (nee Campbell), the daughter of a boot maker Victor John "Jack" Campbell who made boots and shoes in Gympie in the mining days.



A Short Story...

Volunteers are definitely becoming more security conscious!

A volunteer walking past the under house storage door noticed it was unlocked, so he did the right thing by clicking the lock securely closed. The chance of someone being inside the storage area is quite slim, but on this particular day a volunteer by the name of Frank was investigating work to be carried out underneath the building. When it was time to leave, it was a fraction difficult with the door closed and being locked from the outside. Panic didn't set in at that stage, but thoughts of a solution how to get out was a real challenge, as spending the night inside there was unthinkable. Maybe calls for Help!! would attract attention to a passer-by. Luckily someone who didn't have a hearing problem came to Frank's aid, and the situation was quickly resolved so this poor sole could escape from his predicament. 'Next time I will.....'

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow!! Albert Einstein

Markets...

* The Military Brotherhood who support Legacy are stallholders at the Duck Pond Markets. This group of dedicated volunteers are literally run off their feet keeping up with the demand of their delicious donuts. Although the production line slackened off at one stage, it soon retained the fast pace to fill the outstanding orders, and keep the customers satisfied. Another winner, pumpkin soup, on these chilly mornings is a popular winter warmer.

* Kayiben Drummers entertained at the Sunday Markets on 7th June who were supporting Kayiben Community School Project - providing education in rural Sierra Leone.

* Buskers provide entertainment from time to time, and there is some great local talent here in Gympie. The monthly performance of the Gympie Museum Re-enactment group entertain the visitors with their humorous antics, and are a hard act to follow!

Australian Poet...

Birthday of the Month

Who am I?... I was born on 17th June 1867 in a town on the Grenfell Goldfields N.S.W. Attending school at Eurunderee from 2 October 1876, he suffered an ear infection at around this time, leaving him with partial deafness and by the age of fourteen he had lost his hearing entirely. Reading became a major source of his education because, due to his deafness, he had trouble learning in the classroom.

His most successful prose collection is *While the Billy Boils*, published in 1896. Below is a verse from the poem 'The Old Bark School' which was written in the 1900's by the best known Australian author, poet and balladist.

It was built of bark and poles, and the floor was full of holes,
Where each leak in rainy weather made a pool
And the walls were mostly cracks lined with calico and sacks -
There was little need for windows in the school.

He died at the age of 55 years on 2nd September 1922 in Sydney.
Well, by now you readers have guessed who this well known poet is.....

Henry Archibald Hertzberg Lawson

In 1949 he was the subject on an Australian postage stamp.



Local Event...

This 1918 Cadillac attracted much attention with visitors at the Wolvi & District Vintage Machinery, Market & Swap Day on 30/31 May.



The number plate on the back of this vehicle.

What a rare specimen!



THE



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