



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 108 MARCH 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

APRIL dates: 2<sup>ND</sup>, 16<sup>TH</sup>, 30<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 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 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

## Work in Progress...

In the stamper shed...  
Work is in progress on the silt trap to  
stop silt getting into the main tank  
to avoid causing a problem



Karen is grouting floor tiles  
in the new entrance of the Café



On the left hand side is the back  
view of the newly constructed  
entrance building that is a similar  
shape to the Café structure.  
During spreading some gravel with  
the Ferguson Tractor (the work  
horse!) there was a need for minor  
mechanical maintenance which is  
being attended to by Frank with  
Darrel looking on.

## Café at the Museum...

Guess who had a birthday in February !

Café at the Museum, I was one year old on 26<sup>th</sup> February!

The balloons said it all, that a party was going on.

I joyfully celebrated on that Sunday, with my customers, although I didn't formally invite them, chose the \$10 Eggs Benedict and \$2 Coffees for Breakfast/Brunch.

I was elated with the number of lunch-time customers, as there was almost a full dining room that has the fantastic view of the Museum Gantry and Poppet Head that towers above the well-maintained surrounds of the Lake Alford duck ponds.

My hostess Vicky and her energetic team look forward to seeing you readers on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018, as my party will be bigger and better in a smart new look Café appearance!

It's a date!!



## G150 Celebration...

(Extract from a Letter of Thanks from Joolie Gibbs, Gympie Regional Council, Gallery Coordinator)

I write to thank the Gympie Gold Mining & Historical Museum staff and volunteers, Ralph, Allan, Barry and others for the excellent cooperation you have given the Gallery in advice, knowledge and supplying items for our two exhibitions - 'G150 Now & Then', and 'Edward Bytheway'.

Because of your willing attitude in working with our staff, volunteers and curator Judy Barrass, we will provide two great exhibitions, referencing Gympie's history as part of the Gympie 150 year's celebrations.

We hope you can attend either or both of the exhibitions.



The Gympie Regional Art Gallery will be borrowing some selected exhibits for a short time for their exhibitions.

(Shown) Coolabah Studio artist June Reilly's collection of hand sculptured figurines of the Aboriginal with the kangaroo on his back, and the Gold Panner make interesting subjects.



Exhibitions at the Gympie Regional Gallery in Nash Street:

1 March-22 April - G150 Now & Then

28 March-22 April - Harland Nichole Harper

## Exhibits...

The museum has a large display of railway equipment. Among the collection is a couple of very small, ornate, cast iron stoves that were used by railway workers.

Standing about 50 cm or 19 inches high, and of a similar width, they are marked as "The Queen No 6" and "The Crown No 7".

In their day they were known as Queen Anne or Queenie stoves, and were useful for cooking and keeping warm.

Able to burn coal or wood, the design was very popular all around the world, and is even being cast again now to meet the modern demand. The knee high size can be gauged by comparison to the adjacent piece of railway line.

They can be seen in the railway display in the breezeway, and in the Monkland Stationmaster's office.

### Queenie Stove



## Petter Oil Engine...

Brothers Ernest and Percy Petter revolutionize England with horizontal, single-acting, high-speed steam engines and the horseless carriage Petter engine.

"In those days the law required that every mechanically propelled vehicle should be proceeded by a man walking with a red flag, and, as the horses were quite unaccustomed to 'Horseless Carriages,' they usually took fright when they saw one coming, and this gave us a lot of trouble." - from the memoirs of Percy Petter

The Petter Oil Engine story began in 1894 with twin brothers Ernest and Percy Petter, who were employed in the family business of James B. Petter & Sons, ironmongers of Yeovil, Somerset, England. The family owned a foundry and engineering works in Yeovil, to which an application for work was made by a Ben Jacobs. A versatile and clever young engineer and designer, Jacobs was hired by the Petters and thus began a partnership interested in designing and building engines.

Initially, a batch of horizontal, single-acting, high-speed steam engines were produced, called the "Yeovil" engine, but an article in "The Boy's Own" paper, which appeared under the heading of "Model Gas Engine," inspired the trio of young designers and engineers to look at the possibility of designing their own gas engine. Jacobs then designed his first gas engine for Petter; it was intended to drive a "horseless carriage."

The Petter Oil Engine was first introduced in 1896. The actual working of these engines in daily use has won for them an acknowledged reputation for simplicity, workmanship, and careful selection of materials.

On account of its system of working and simple mechanical methods, does not require the great number of valves, levers, pumps and other complications found in most old engines. It is very easily understood and can be kept in order by an ordinary farm hand, gardener or other person without previous experience or mechanical knowledge. Ample provision is made for lubrication in all sizes of these engines.

The engine has many purposes to mention - electric lighting, irrigation works, pumping, sawing, driving mills, chaff cutters, cream separators, sheep shearing machines, draught plants, hoisting, meat chopping, laundry and other machinery. These engines have been selected by the British and Foreign Governments for use as connection with wireless telegraphy stations.

### **At the Museum -**

**The Petter Oil Engine is currently in the old workshop being restored. The Petter Patent Oil Engine, Yeovil, England also shows when ordering spare parts:**

**T Robinson & Co Pty Ltd,  
Sole Agents, Melbourne.  
Draw off water from cylinder in  
frosty weather.**

**The Petter Oil Engine is mounted on a timber frame on a metal trailer which has steel wheels and a metal draw bar. There is a large flywheel on one side and pilly on the other. There are numerous brass fittings at the front of the engine, and a metal water tank at the rear of the trailer.**

Some advantages are:

Indestructible Ignition Tubes - The tubes last for years instead of weeks as in other engines.

Quick starting - All sizes of these engines can be started in five minutes.

Continuous running - These are particularly suitable for long continuous running on account of its perfectly automatic action and simple provision for lubrication and oil supply.

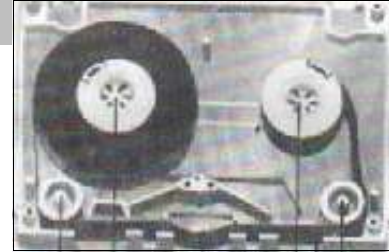
Simplicity of construction - They have very few working parts, and require no skilled attention to use and no attention at all after starting.

Perfect safety - There is no flame or continuously burning lamp. If, while running, any accident should happen to the governor gear, the oil is automatically cut off and the engine stops.

## Tape Recorders...

(Info. from Look & Learn No. 724 29.11.75)

### **Tape Recorder - how it works**



When a tape is placed in the cassette recorder and the button is pressed to record -

A motor starts running at a constant speed drawing the tape across three main units: the record-playback head, erase head and tape drive mechanism. Anything previously recorded will be “wiped off” by the erase head.

The tape is a plastic ribbon coated with particles of iron oxide, which are scattered at random on the tape. The sound is picked up by the microphone and turned into electrical signals, that are of varying strength, and fed to the recording head. This changes the electrical signals into magnetism, which turns the random scattering of iron oxide particles on the tape into a pattern.

When the tape is played back, the pattern remains and is converted by the magnetic head into electrical signals. These are fed through an amplifier and loudspeaker to reproduce exactly the sounds picked up by the microphone.

Cassette tape recorders were introduced in 1963. Previous tape recorders were of the spool-to-spool type, which this method is still used for very expensive tape recorders which provide reproduction of a high quality.

Where continuous background music is required as in hotels or large shops, players containing cartridges are used. A cartridge contains an endless loop of tape would round a central hub, usually carrying eight tracks of recording. Tape for all these systems is made of thin, strong plastic.

## Anzac Day...

**On 25th April 1915, Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula.**

**In 1916 25th April,  
Anzac Day was officially named.**

**'ANZAC' stands for:**

**Australian and New Zealand Army Corps**

**It commemorates all New Zealanders killed in war and also honours returned servicemen and women. The date itself marks the anniversary of the landing of New Zealand and Australian soldiers – the Anzacs – on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915.**

**Anzac Day, 25 April, is one of Australia's most important national occasions.**

**During the 1920s Anzac biscuits were known as “soldier’s biscuits” which were sold at fetes and markets to fundraise for the war effort. The symbol they represent of the spirit and sacrifice that soldiers made.**

**After the First World War, the poppy was adopted as a symbol of Remembrance.**

**In Flanders Fields  
by John McCrae (1872-1918)**

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from falling hands we throw  
The torch: be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.**

## People...

Miss Anne Watson was born in Gympie, and lived at Clematis Street. Watson Road on the Southside was named after her family, and her Scottish-born father was one of Gympie's early miners. The family's home was situated on the corner of Watson and Pie Creek Roads. Miss Watson was a seamstress at the General Hospital for more than 40 years.

Living at "Cooinda" she is well known for the beautiful hand worked goods which she makes for flower shows and similar functions conducted by the Gympie Presbyterian Church.

She was asked by members of the Fisher House Committee if she would undertake the making of the patchwork quilt for use on the bed in the front bedroom of the Andrew Fisher House in the Museum grounds. The Committee provided all the materials for the quilt, which lined with calico and bordered with maroon headcloth. Approximately 350 individual squares, rectangles and triangles of differently-coloured and patterned materials were used. The work took Miss Watson appx. three weeks to complete, during which she spent most of her spare time at the sewing machine.

Info. above Courtesy of the Gympie Times 6.2.1973

Early iron beds that arrived in Gympie were four posters with canopies and side mosquito nets. As time went on the more practical half-tester beds were developed to solve the problem of hot, dusty canopies while still providing protection from mosquitoes. In spite of its size and weight this bed is quite portable being easily assembled and dismantled without any need for screws.



This patchwork quilt that Miss Watson sewed is draped over the end of the half-tester iron bedstead

This bed belonged to Mrs Wallace (and donated by Jack Wallace) who lived in a cottage similar to Fisher House, situated beside Monkland Post Office, until it was demolished in 1972. Some timbers from that cottage were used in the repair of Fisher House.

## Museum News...

\* Noosa Museum (at Pomona) Heritage Day will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Volunteers from the Museum will be manning a working exhibit display, along with books, gold pans for sale and promotion pamphlets.

\* Café Upgrade - the red cedar slab counter top is presently being prepared, the first stage of tiling has been completed, outside concrete steps, and retaining wall have been constructed, laying of drainage pipes, fitting flashing to rear bullnose, making balustrades/hand rails, and also waterproofing store room. As you can see, Volunteers have been busy during this month.

Get well wishes to anyone who has had a recent health problem or a short stay in hospital.

Thankyou: Drakes Supermarkets for the donation to the Society from the Community Dollars Program.

## Gympie Museum Re-enactment Group...

Do you know anyone who is interested in acting?

The Gympie Museum Re-enactment Group welcome new members to join the actors in a performance on the third Sunday of each month (Except December & January)

If interested, come along to the Gympie Museum Markets (Duck Ponds) view their performance and talk to the actors.

***THE***



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