



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 116 NOVEMBER 2017

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

215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

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**ELECTED OFFICERS**

2.8.17

**President:**

**Frank Lightfoot**

Tel: 54833965

**Secretary:**

**Ralph Richardson**

Tel: 54839418

Mob: 0408616709

**Treasurer/Editor:**

**Marilyn Soanes**

Tel: 54845211

**Senior Vice President:**

**Max Travis**

Tel: 54812157

Mob. 0414015302

**Junior Vice President/**

**Historian:**

**Allan Blackman**

Tel: 54828828

Mob: 0428332291

**OTHER POSITIONS HELD:**

**Property Officer:**

**& Firearms Licensee**

**Ron Owen 54825070**

with **Assistant Jo Carson**

**Mob. 0414015302**

**Historian:**

**Chris Kapernick**

**Mob. 0439535139**

**Alan Dundas**

**Tel: 54821022**

**Wayne Sachs**

**Tel: 54832850**

# 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

DECEMBER dates: 3<sup>RD</sup>, 17<sup>TH</sup> & 31<sup>ST</sup>  
(7 a.m.-12 noon)

Ring Museum Café 54 823995 for Site Bookings

Come along and browse the markets  
for some bargains and catch up with friends!

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

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**COMING EVENT 2017**

**Christmas Celebration for Volunteers/Members**

**Sunday 10<sup>TH</sup> December 4.30 p.m.**

**COMING EVENTS 2018**

**Australia Day Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

**Steam Festival 5th/6th/7th May**

*THE GENERAL MEETING* will be held on **WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: Work Projects

## Exhibits of Interest...



### ← Pile Driver

The owner of the pile driver Leslie L Atkinson (originally from Rifle Range Road), was a bridge contractor in S.E. Qld.

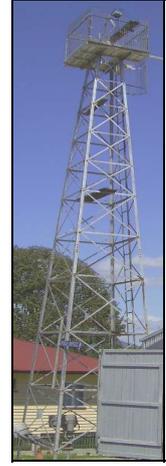
He constructed timber bridges from 1941 and concrete bridges from 1962 until his retirement in September 1985.

The Six Mile Creek bridge on the Bruce Highway just south of Gympie was constructed by Les.

The ironbark structures are made from a single piece of timber.

### Light Tower →

Stephanie and Glenn Blackett of Gympie Crane Hire donated and erected this Light Tower which is located beside the Fire Station building.



### ← Switchboard for the alternator

This Industrial Control Switchgear was manufactured by Electric Control and Engine Ltd. Sydney, and is currently in the workshop.

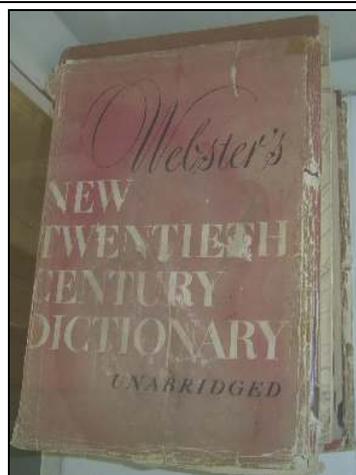
There are four gauges of frequency, amperes 0-100 and 200-1000 and volts, as well as an Emmco meter and other important monitoring equipment.

### Regulator Clock →

The Gympie Central State School donated this regulator clock that was made in Germany.

Presented by the Old Scholars to the Glastonbury State School on its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary August 14<sup>th</sup> 1929 is on the plate.

P McKenna & Son Ltd Gympie is printed on the clock face, and it is displayed on the Calico Creek school room wall.



In a display case in the Calico Creek School is a huge Dictionary.

(Left) Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language Unabridged which is based upon the broad foundations laid down by Noah Webster (pictured right) (1758-1843)



This book is newly revised, authoritative and up to date reference work containing a storehouse of valuable information and many special features. Included are the latest additions to the language in the natural and social sciences, the arts, and specialised branches of knowledge. There are 388,000 vocabulary entries, and 3,000 illustrations including full page pictures in colour and black and white drawings.

The book is particularly useful because skilled lexicographers have made it easy to find the meaning, pronunciation, spelling and derivation of every word. Each entry is fully defined. Each word is self-pronouncing. In addition, special supplementary sections make this single volume general reference book of inestimable value, and numerous supplementary sections. (For example a World Atlas of maps in black and white and colour).

## Andrew Fisher Cottage...

### The Cottage

It was the birthplace in 1874 of Margaret Jane Irvine, who was destined to become the wife of Andrew Fisher. The Irvine family moved, but still retained ownership of the cottage.

Andrew lived as a boarder for six years and it was here presumably that he met his future wife.

Miss Margaret Fisher ((daughter Peggy) said that her parents were married in 1901 in the front garden of the Crown Road home and then spent part of their honeymoon in the Maori Lane cottage.

Mr & Mrs Fisher lived briefly in the cottage before Parliamentary duties necessitated their taking up residence in Melbourne.

Evidence indicated that over at least of a few succeeding years, they lived at the cottage at various times when visiting constituents in the Federal electorate of Wide Bay.

### Building Removal



Removal contractor Mr C Kunst transferred this house from its original site in Maori Lane to the Gympie and District Historical Museum. The project to shift and restore the house was financed by the State Government, Gympie City and Widgee Shire Councils at an estimated cost of \$2,000.

### Restoration

The cottage is typical of miners' cottages of the 1870's. The restoration of Andrew Fisher's cottage at the Mining Museum was a project of national importance.

It was acknowledged by the fact that the Federal Government grant of just over \$21,000 was made after a direct appeal to Prime Minister Paul Keating.

The project included restumping the building, replacing roofing iron, timber supports and external weatherboards. Painting the building, special concealed display lighting and glass partitions installed inside the home.

- . S.E.A.Q. provided free supervision for the removal operation.
- . Glazing had been provided at no cost by Gympie Glazing Works
- . A distinctive stove, dating back to 1900 had been donated the McKinlay Estate
- . Mr H McDonald, chief chemist of Taubmann Paint had inspected the house, and his company donated the preservative and paint required.

This weatherboard cottage consisted of four rooms with a front and side verandah. The whole structure is extremely modest in design and execution. Furniture donated locally enabled the ladies' committee to furnish the cottage in the style of the period. A number of items in the cottage actually belonged to the Fishers.

Info. from The Observer 17.1.96, Gympie Times 30.3.1972, 20.1.1973, 13.6.1973 & 10.10.1985

Miss Fisher travelled from Melbourne to attend the official opening of the Andrew Fisher House on January 20<sup>th</sup> 1973 by Hon. J.D. Herbert, MLA (Minister for Tourism, Sport & Welfare Services). Other accepted invitations to attend included Senator & Mrs Cavanagh from Adelaide, Senator & Mrs N Bonner. The opening was videotaped , and available to ABC and commercial TV channels.

## Subjects of interest...

A book with valuable information advertised in the Radio News for February, 1921 was **The Third Edition of the Consolidated Radio Call Book** which is the only book in print officially listing all the Radio calls as issued by the Bureau of Commerce. Every vessel and land station in the world is represented and listed alphabetically, according to names of vessels or land stations. Included in the cost is a free copy of **A Wireless Map of the World**. This map shows the locations of all the high powered Radio stations in the world, including the time signal stations, and how far away these stations are. Of greater interest are the time zones, which enable the amateur to compute instantly the correct time for the zone in which the person is located from any time signal station.

Info. from Radio News for June 1921

**The Radiophone Transmitting and Receiving Set** is of handsome design and unequalled efficiency. It will transmit speech 30 miles on the average amateur antenna, and 500 mile range possible under favourable conditions. Reception possibilities are unlimited. One 6-volt battery is required for filaments and microphone; power supply may be motor-generator unit, rectifier unit or "B" batteries. Interpanel consists of a series of panels, each panel comprising a complete piece of apparatus in itself.

Info. from Lettering and Signs on Buildings c.1850-1900 Tech. B'tin 2.2. Aust.C'Cil of Nat.Trusts

The most ephemeral feature on buildings built before the First World War has been the signs and lettering originally on them. Of the many buildings surviving from the nineteenth century, virtually nothing remains today of the great variety of those signs. And yet, at the turn of the century, old photographs from all over Australia attest to the fine displays of nineteenth century signs and lettering which were then a vibrant and sometimes dominant feature of city and country buildings.

Actively looking for the remains of these details has its rewards. Perhaps one of the most important benefits of cultivating such acuteness in observation is that it helps one develop an understanding and feeling for the styles of this type of lettering including raised lettering, and the placing of these signs on buildings such as banks, hotels, shops etc.

Old photographs show lettering used for external signs on buildings being characterised by boldness and clarity of expression. Even in poor quality and amateurish signs the lettering was always clearly formed such that from a distance it remained legible.

Info. from Qld. History Journal Nov.2011

In 1843 Joseph Backler began advertising his services as a 'Portrait, Miniature and Landscape Painter, in oils and watercolours' and was travelling around the countryside making his living by painting portraits.

Mr Backler sometimes raffled his town landscapes as he did in 1870 when he painted a landscape of Gympie from Calton Hill which overlooks the settlement along Mary Street from Commissioner's Hill to Nash Gully, where gold was first found. He advertised the painting in the Gympie Times of 12 and 15 January 1870.

The various buildings in Mary Street were minutely represented and easily recognisable.

Old gold diggers, who have never seen the place, would at once pronounce the picture a good representation of a goldfields town, with its one street, its wooden buildings, and the ragged appearance of the forest surrounding it.

## Museum Markets...



Gripping the attention of youngsters!  
at the Markets on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

This building is..you guessed it..is a cubby house!

The Gympie and District Woodworkers Club skilled members have constructed a silky oak building, that has a wooden table and chairs inside, and is the raffle prize that every youngster dreams to have in their backyard.

Stallholders at the Market  
on 19<sup>th</sup> November....



Looking for something unique -  
great gift ideas for Christmas!

← Mary's Craft - Such an array of craft work including Cup/Tea/Coffee Bags, bubble-look Coat Hangers, Hand Towels, Novelty Lingerie and Shirt peg bag holders  
Nappy and Towel Cakes by Alison West →  
Tiered Cakes (not edible!!) with intriguing creativity for special occasions such as baby showers, anniversary, valentines, or birthday. Alison also has a range of Aboriginal print carry bags.



## Café at the Museum...



The face of the new Café counter is made of pine timber, and has a clear timber finish

A quote from the visitor's book reads: "Fantastic Exhibits well displayed a credit to your town and all the volunteers involved Thanks!"

## Christmas Celebration...



INVITATION to Volunteers/Members

You (and your partner) are invited to the Christmas Celebration to be held on  
Sunday 10<sup>TH</sup> December 4.30 p.m. at Café at the Museum

for a (FREE) Buffet Meal !

For catering purposes... If you are attending,  
please phone the Café 54 823995 by 3<sup>rd</sup> December



## Old Photos...



**Stepping back into the past...**

(Circa 1926). This photo is displayed in the transport section in the House.

**N K Dawson - Contractor, George Meads & Percy Brunjes' team of 20 horses. The 22 ton boiler is being taken from No.3 Scottish Mine on Brisbane Road, near the Duck Ponds to the Monkland Railway.**

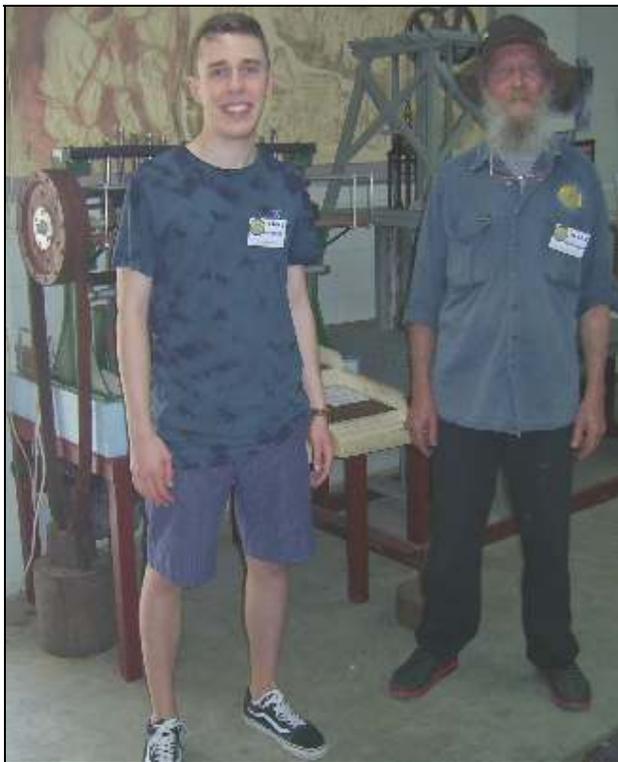
## Museum News...

**Work programme and completed jobs:**

- . Concrete has been poured in the last storage bay under the House, and construction of the retaining wall is in progress.
- . Upgrading of the breezeway room is underway with painting, and sorting exhibits
- . The task of setting up the model railway set has been started
- . General repairing, and repainting is continuing on exhibits and the gantry
- . Mechanical maintenance on machinery continuing
- \* Phone line maybe reinstated upstairs of the Gold Room
- \* Completion of floor covering in the Café, and finishing of the counter
- \* Completion of the disabled toilet in the Cafe

**Thank you to Murray for the donation of Gazania plants**

**Get well wishes to any member/volunteers who have recently had a health problem.**



(L) Winding down! It has been a busy year for the Volunteer Tour Guides. Luke and Allan B. are in the Gold Room after the last school tour for the year.

(R) Admiration for plants! This large stunning deep red coloured flower of Hibiscus Honeymoon (Hibiscus moscheutos) is planted near the cream shed. Vicky is showing the size of the flower head of this 30 cm high plant.

# Members and Volunteers

THANKYOU for your contribution of time and effort to the Museum



Wishing you and your family  
a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year

**FROM The Committee Members -  
Frank, Max, Allan, Ralph and Marilyn**



THE



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