



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 115 OCTOBER 2017

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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2.8.17**

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Museum Markets



at the Duck Ponds (Lake Alford)

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

NOVEMBER dates: 5TH, 19TH
(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 10TH December 4.30 p.m.

COMING EVENTS 2018

Australia Day Friday 26th January

Steam Festival 5th/6th/7th May

THE GENERAL MEETING will be held on **WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER 2017**

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

Steam Festival...



Case Threshing Engine

This 50 HP tandem compound was built in 1915 in the U.S.A. It was used for threshing, snigging logs and sawmilling, and was featured in many parades.



Aveling Porter Steam Roller

This 8 ton steam roller was made in Rochester, England in 1926. It was used by the Brisbane City Council.



The photo just above Tony and Dave are the model engines and toys which are on the bench beside them, powered by the Carmicheal Boiler.

The Galion Boiler that was on display is a vertical fire tube boiler made by Farrar and Trefts at their factory in Buffalo N.Y. for a Galion steam roller, probably in 1923. It features 88 tubes and was manufactured for a 200 psi working pressure, and is owned by Ralph Richardson.



The model grader of the 1980's was firstly donated to the Gold Rush Committee and then to the Society. It is difficult to find an operator to fit in it!

**Thank you to all the Volunteers for helping out at the Steam Festival.
Thank you to Café at the Museum for catering.**

Looking forward to next year's Steam Festival in.....May 5th/6th/7th!

Cooloola Potters Group...

On 5th October at the launch of a recipe book that I (Marilyn) attended, the Curra Art Group joined the potters at the Gympie Regional Library as a collaborative cultural display to celebrate Gympie's G150.

Acknowledgement shown in the commemorative Recipe Book -

Members of the Cooloola Potters Group would like to thank the Gympie & District Historical Society at the Gold Mining Museum for housing our workshop over the years, and we respectively enjoyed supporting events with them.

The G150 Gympie Tree of Life was a tower of local industries on each tier, cleverly created by members of the Cooloola Potters Group, was spectacularly displayed as a centrepiece in the library room.

Also displayed by members of the Curra Art Group who engaged the expertise of Mr Dion Channer, a well-known professional paper artist, to produce the G150 Papermaking Art Wall Hanging. The papermaking process was quite interesting with postcard sized images embedded in the wall hanger giving an eye pleasing result.

Various subjects of framed artwork were on sale, including an impressive acrylic painting of the Museum poppet head under the title "Just Google It!"

A quote from the book - Almost every Organisation has four bones:

There are the WISHBONES who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work, the JAWBONES who do all the talking and very little else,
the KNUCKLEBONES who knock everything that other folk do,
and the BACKBONES who get on and do the work!

This pottery group have been operating at the Museum for approximately 25 years. As the potters continue to grow strong, they have now moved to the Jean Beattie Hall, Cooina Aged Care Centre for their workshop space.

Their coming event titled "Some Like It Hot" is an exhibition that will be held at the Gympie Regional Gallery 15th August to 8th September 2018.

Volunteer...



The bottle collection located in the breezeway is presently being catalogued by Denise.

These two vintage wine decanters with an ice chamber were hand blown, and made in Italy.

The unique decanters were donated by Rita Lee-Dowdle of Gympie

There are some very interesting shapes and labelled bottles in the collection. One bottle in particular worth mentioning is a Mrs. Butterworth's, an American brand of syrup, of which was introduced in 1961. The distinctive brown glass bottle is shaped in the form of a matronly woman, and has a yellow metal lid.

This photo...

The railway goods crane was manufactured by Cowans and Sheldon Co Limited of Carlisle, England.

This company produced some of the world's biggest cranes but closed in the 1980's.

Cranes like this were used to load and unload goods wagons, and able to be slewed through 360 degrees.

An operator provides the power to lift and rotate by winding the crank handles.

The load capacity was 2 ton, and this crane came to the Museum from the Murgon Railway yard, originally being built in 1886.



This crane is located beside the trolley shed.

The Railway Signal Tower is a tall structure with two sets of coloured signal glasses, and ladders to access these.



The Wide Bay Historic Machinery Club has requested the loan of our Rota Frig to display with a rota pantry of similar appearance which will be available at their Tinana Rally on the weekend of 21/22 October.

(Photo) The Rotafrig was the original refrigerator in the Nash Street Ambulance Station when it opened in 1959 and remained in service until donated to the Museum by the Queensland Ambulance Service Circa 1980. It is presently located in the Dairy Museum display.

Apparently these fridges were the brainchild of a Sydney bottle depot operator called John and were on the market as early as 1938. They were also made in America in 1947.

G. Penrose wrote an article to the Gympie Times on 11 December 2010 regarding a photo of the Rotafrig in the Gympie Historical Museum. Information from his article mentions that he was personal secretary to HVR Norman, the designer and manufacturer of this refrigerator.

The factory was in Alexandria and the home in Vacluse Road, Vacluse, Sydney.

It was many years after the fridge had gone out of production, but there were/are quite a few of them around in sheds and workshops, still motoring on.

For its time, it was a popular and innovative industrial design, and the concept was similar to the circular "pantry" cupboard on a spindle, with its three tiers of drawers of graduated size.

It was a most practical mouse proof, ant proof and logical use of space.

Café at the Museum...

Thank you to the Café Staff for your patience due to upgrading the Café - on the positive side, it is nearing completion.

On Sunday 8th October, a small wedding reception was catered for in the cosy setting of the dining room.

New publications are on sale that would make an ideal gift for someone who enjoys reading.

* **Heritage Wonders** - As part of the G150, the National Trust Gympie Group and The Gympie Times have collated a commemorative book to identify and celebrate the region's heritage assets \$9.95

* **The Return of Steam Locomotive C17, No. 45** by R. John Stark including a **DVD Ol'45**, an Author's Special! \$10

Markets...

The much needed rain coincided with the Sunday 15th market, which deterred a large number of the stallholders. It was a challenging morning with intermittent showers, but at the same time it was supportive to have the fruit, vegetable and plant stalls braving the elements.

Gold Rush...

The vehicle of interest at the Gold Rush Street Parade was the Museum's International Fire Truck that was adorned with beautiful women! The privately owned Case Threshing Engine and Aveling Porter Steam Roller, machinery of this status were of great importance to participate in the Parade.

No Fooling by Morva Power

He burst into the bar room
His battered hat waved high,
Told the maid to serve good whiskey,
He was rich and he'd drink the pub dry.

Eureka! I have found it,
The best claim in these hills
And the richest mine around here,
is most surely old Nuggety Bill's.

Most drinkers showed no interest
They knew old Nugget well,
For he always claimed he'd found it,
Pretty wild were the yarns he would tell.

Now few men ever listened
So grand the tales he told,
And today seemed no exception
Till he paid for his drinks with gold.

Shock echoed round that bar room,
Men stared and stood stock still
While the miner laughed and asked them,
Now who scoffs at old Nuggety Bill.

(Gympie District Gold Rush Festival Literary Award 1986)

Christmas Celebration...

INVITATION to Volunteers/Members

You (and your partner) are invited to the Christmas Celebration to be held on Sunday 10TH 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 3rd December.

**Email of appreciation
from Judy Mawbey, Social Co-ordinator of the Buderim East Probus Club
during a visit on Tuesday 26th September 2017**

My Probus Club visited your museum yesterday and I would like to thank you for a very interesting visit.

Your tour guides were Allan and Luke, and they presented the history of gold mining in Gympie in an entertaining and informative way. Very enjoyable.

We also had an excellent morning tea at the Cafe at the Museum.

Would you please pass on my thanks to the Cafe.



(Left) Volunteer Max is in the gold panning area beside the newly invented/ installed vial dispensers by Allan B. A wooden shelf has also been added to the poles for use by the keen gold panners.

(Centre) Volunteer Allan S. is painting a girder, in preparation for attaching to the gantry, which will be the next challenge.

(Right) The Sunshine Coast Brochure Display has been replenished by Peter with promotional pamphlets of the region. A few new publications are now available - the Water Trails (Bundaberg to Gympie regions) of interest to the water enthusiasts, The Sunshine Coast Qld. Book (the visitor and event guide) is well presented and most informative, and the Sunshine Coast Hinterland 'The Art of Living Well' is also worth a read.

- * Painting , and renovation of the ex potters room in the breezeway is in progress
- * Ralph attended the launch of the publication Heritage Wonders.
- * Purchase of a Queensland Agents plate for the smoke box door on the Davey-Paxman Boiler

Thank you to:

**Cooloola Potters Group for the donation of the mini pottery picks and shovels souvenirs.
The Heritage Bank member for the contribution to the Society.**

Condolances are extended to Society member John Stark and the family for his wife Rosalyn who passed away recently. Thinking of you John in these sad circumstances.

Scout building display...



Shown is Part 1 of an extensive collection of scarves on loan from the Carter family that are displayed in the Scouting Hall of Memories (Building No.25)

A neckerchief is sometimes called a scarf,

which may be embroidered, fully printed, and ribbon bordered.

When Baden-Powell launched the Scout Movement with the book *Scouting for Boys* in 1908, he prescribed a neckerchief or scarf as part of the Scout uniform.

It is most commonly still seen today in the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and other similar youth movements.

A triangular piece of cloth or a rectangular piece is folded into a triangle. The long edge is rolled towards the point, leaving a portion unrolled. It is then fastened around the neck with the ends either tied or clasped with a slide or woggle.

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