



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 93 DECEMBER 2015

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

P.O. Box 626, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

(07) 5482 3995, Fax: (07) 54825686

Email: info@gympiegoldmuseum.com.au www.gympiegoldmuseum.com.au

**ELECTED OFFICERS
at A.G.M. 5.8.15**

President:

Frank Lightfoot

Tel: 54833965

Secretary:

Ralph Richardson

Tel: 54839418

Mob: 0408616709

Treasurer/Editor:

Marilyn Soanes

Tel: 54845211

**Senior Vice President/
Historian:**

Bennett Suthers

Tel: 54823315

Mob: 0412263189

**Junior Vice President/
Historian:**

Allan Blackman

Tel: 54828828

Mob: 0428332291

OTHER POSITIONS HELD:

Property Officer:

& Firearms Licensee

Ron Owen

with Assistant Jo Carson

Publicity Officer:

Max Travis

Tel: 54812157

Museum Markets

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

JANUARY dates: 3rd, 17TH, 31st

(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 21ST February 2016

2016 EVENTS:

Aussie Breakfast - 26th January

Steaming Day - 2nd May

Steam Festival - 1st/2nd/3rd October

THE GENERAL MEETING will be held on **WEDNESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2016**
at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: Work Projects

Famous Poet...

ANDREW BARTON 'BANJO' PATERSON was born in Narrambla, NSW, on February 17 1864. Banjo grew up in the Yass region in southern NSW, but he left the area at age 10 to finish his schooling in Sydney.

In his twenties he found work as a lawyer, a journalist, and started publishing poems.

Most of his life he lived in the city, and he became wildly famous in the colonies for the poems and stories he wrote about life in the Australian outback.

Before the turn of the century he composed *Waltzing Matilda*, the much-loved ballad about a swagman who drowned himself in a billabong. He also wrote *The Man from Snowy River*, a collection of verses (including the poem by the same name) that sold out of its first edition in a week.

Stories he created about the lives and struggles of bushmen, shearers and drovers in rural farm country struck a chord with Australians.

His poems have been added to the school curriculum, and there is now a film version of *The Man from Snowy River*.

At the time of his death in 1941, Banjo had produced several volumes of poetry, a book for children, two novels, many short stories, an anthology of bush songs, and dozens of newspaper articles.

I thought I would share this poem below with you readers by this famous poet, and as you will notice it says it all with the closing line 'The founders of our nation's life, the brave old pioneers.'

PIONEERS

They came of bold and roving stock that would not fixed abide;
They were the sons of field and flock since e'er they learnt to ride
We may not hope to see such men in these degenerate years
As those explorers of the bush— the brave old pioneers.

'Twas they who rode the trackless bush in heat and storm and drought;
'Twas they who heard the master-word that called them farther out;
'Twas they who followed up the trail the mountain cattle made,
And pressed across the mighty range where now their bones are laid.

But now the times are dull and slow, the brave old days are dead
When hardy bushmen started out, and forced their way ahead
By tangled scrub and forests grim towards the unknown west,
And spied at last the promised land from off the range's crest.

O ye that sleep in lonely graves by distant ridge and plain,
We drink to you in silence now as Christmas comes again,
To you who fought the wilderness through rough unsettled years—
The founders of our nation's life, the brave old pioneers.

Renowned Pioneers...

* In exploration include Oxley, Flinders, Eyre, Burke & Wills, Ludwig Leichhardt, Sturt, Stuart (although none of these was born in Australia).

* Aviators - Sir Charles Kingsford Smith and Lawrence Hargrave.

* School of the Air -Reverend John Flynn.

* Statesmen include William Charles Wentworth (who was actually born on a convict ship on the way to Australia), Sir Henry Parkes and Sir Edmund Barton.

Christmas Celebration...

A luncheon was held in the Tea Garden on Sunday 13th December, as a way of thanking Volunteers/Members for their contribution to the Society during 2015.



Thankyou to the Catering staff at the Gold Museum Café for providing a scrumptious smorgasbord lunch, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Ralph presented awards to the volunteers, which was followed by four lucky seat prizes - Chris, Sam, Luke and Max took away the goodies.

President's Report at the Christmas Celebration

We are gathered here to say thank you to all our volunteers, to our members and to our contributors.

The Society started about 50 years ago. We opened the tank as our first display about 45 years ago. This year we opened the Communications building to the public.

More significantly we recommissioned the 10 stampers with steam power from the Paxman boiler. We believe the stampers to be a very important local mining relic as they are original equipment on their original footings.

We still need to tweak a few things if we are to meet the committee's target of being able to demonstrate the stampers with the flick of an electrical switch.

The Society thanks Gympie Regional Council for its support in making a DVD of the Bushranger Re-enactment, the Steam Festival and the re-commissioning of the stampers.

Our volunteers have built the footings for a big Ruston straight 8 diesel engine that had been the driver of back up power for Nestle's and the hospital back in the sixties. We have moved a large amount of earth so a crane can come in tomorrow and set the engine on those footings.

As part of the continuing repairs on the gantry and repairs to all sorts of other items the team affectionately known as the "old farts" have applied buckets of paint to all manner of things.

New for this year are Noel and the team from SkillCentred. They are involved in the building and repair of footpaths, maintenance to a large number of buildings and some exhibits.

All of this work has come at significant cost to the bank balance. However as we no longer get much in the way of interest on what cash we have set aside there is less incentive to hang onto the cash.

Many of the volunteers perform well above what can be expected of them. Only a relatively low number give us some grief. 8 of Noel's group have found paid work.

Thank you to the Re-enactment troupe for their entertainment at the markets etc. Thanks to the less obvious volunteers who do the paperwork, guide the tour groups, clean up around the place and bring cake.

We thank each of our volunteers for their input. Ralph will put some names to them and give insights into their talents.

Frank Lightfoot

Exhibits...

The Monkland Railway Station has many exhibits typically of the era, which could be observed in a Station Master's Office.



Wooden Pigeon Holes at arms length in an organised order over a wooden desk along with an assortment of necessary office items including Paper Weights, Metal Stamps, Ink Bottles, and Glass Stoppers.

Three Kosmos Kerosene Lamps appear in the photo with brass bases.

As brass will tarnish, it is believed that a good grade of automotive polish could be applied for that perfect look.

Donations by Qld Government Railway



(Above) **Warning Bell** - Made by McKenzie & Holland (Aust.) Pty Ltd Melbourne & Brisbane

The two side boxes show 'Blocked' and 'Clear' inside the glass panels.



(Above Right) **The Crown No. 7 - a Wood Burning Stove**

of the 1945 era - a very impressive cast iron stove with decorative front panels, ornate legs and the flue was at the back.

Relocation of the Fordson

The donor is unknown for this old timer, a 1930s Fordson tractor, that now has a new location beside the fenceline near the Church building.

(American engineer, inventor, and businessman Henry Ford built experimental tractors from automobile components during the early 20th century, and launched a prototype known as the Model B in August 1915.)



Work in Progress...



This photo is the early stages of replacing the set of steps at the Calico Creek School by Skill Centred Work for the Dole under Supervisor Noel. The steps and railings are now in place, and the next task to complete will be the roof landing.

This raging fire in the Blacksmith Shop drew much attention, but all is under control!

Chris is intending to straighten a length of metal by the heating process. Allan D. is also pictured on the left.



New arrival...



(Left) Wide Bay Crane Hire carrying out the preparation work for the unloading of the Ruston Hornsby Engine which can be seen covered in position in the photo on the right.

Markets...

* A thoughtful gesture by a stallholder at the Markets on 29th November, gave a \$5 donation to the Museum because he made sales during the morning.

It's not the amount, it's the thought that counts!!

* Sunday 20th December, visitors experienced a miniature train ride, and Santa eagerly did the lolly handout. Maybe a card of elastic would be an ideal gift for Santa at Christmas time!
Thankyou to the Volunteers, Ralph, Rex and Max, on this Market day.

AUSTRALIA DAY...

IN A TRUE BLUE AUSSIE WAY on AUSTRALIA DAY!...

A day out for all the family to enjoy on Tuesday 26th January 2016

Full price Entry Fees apply.

Demonstrations of Museum historic machinery in operation incl. the Davey-Paxman Boiler and the shaker tables. Historic cars displayed.

The Gold Museum Café will be catering.

For further info. visit www.gympiegoldmuseum.com.au

Thankyou to Gympie Regional Council for the support contribution.

Museum News...

* Museum signage upgrading is noticeable on Brisbane Road, in particular the huge sign with 'Gympie The Town That Saved Queensland' situated near the Café

* Bungawatta to Breezeway path cementing has been completed.

Thankyou to Heritage Bank Com Grant member for the contribution

Thankyou to a young Volunteer Sam for helping out for a few days during December.

Get Well Wishes to Bennett, and Frank who has had a recent stay in hospital and now at home.

Work Planned

Gantry - Repair decking and beams; Big Stamper Project upgrading; Mechanical maintenance on engines; General Building maintenance; Bullock wagon reconstruction; Exhibits - Communications room - move big projector, and recoat painting of wheelchair ramp; Cottage - old telecom room converted to a babies room when painting is finished; Pidgeon proofing of buildings; Railway signals - clean and paint ironwork, and replace footboards; picket panelling under Church.

The Aveling roller "restoration" is under way.

Gympie Regional Gallery...

Exhibition Dates at the Gympie Regional Gallery:

Safe House - By Jo Williams 5 - 30 January

Offshoots - a Florilegium from Cairns Botanic Gardens Plant Collection 5 January - 20 February

Stories in Small Places - the power of the miniature 2 - 20 February

Andrew Fisher Portrait - 23 February - 2 April

The Society is grateful to the MEMBERS and VOLUNTEERS
for all your hard work during 2015.

Hoping you all have a healthy and safe 2016

Happy New Year!!

From the Committee Members -
Frank, Bennett, Allan, Ralph & Marilyn

THE



*The Gympie & District Historical Society Inc.
215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE QLD 4570
Postal Address: P O Box 626, GYMPIE QLD 4570*

NEWSLETTER