



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 88 JULY 2015

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

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ELECTED OFFICERS

at A.G.M. 13.8.14

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OTHER POSITIONS HELD:

Property Officer:

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Ron Owen

with Assistant Jo Carson

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Museum Markets

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

AUGUST dates: 2ND, 16TH, 30TH

(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!

Entertainment by the Gympie Museum

Re-enactment Group will be on the

3rd Sunday of each month

NEXT PERFORMANCE 16TH August 10 a.m.

2015 EVENT:

STEAM FESTIVAL 3rd/4th/5th October

REMINDER

Membership Renewals 2015/6 are now due

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

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

Fol lowed by the *ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING* at 8.00 p.m.

Pianist...

Some Gympie residents may have known Joyce O'Brien -

Just three months before the commencement of World War I on April 9, 1914, Alice Matilda "Joyce" Rovinsky (later changed to Ravensby) was born in Toowoomba.

Memories of her childhood included wonderful times with her parents and sisters singing around the piano.

After five years at a rural government school, Joyce attended a convent until she completed her education in Grade 8, when 14 years of age.

She was taught music there and, in return for lessons, Joyce passed on her knowledge to the infants and also became the accompanist to the school choir.

Joyce studied her music diligently and was awarded her A.Mus.A. (Assoc. Music Australia) in 1932 and Australian Trinity College, London, in 1934 at the age of 20 years. She also played the violin and began teaching others the skills she had mastered.

At the age of 25 years, Joyce went to a dance at Belli where she met her future husband James O'Brien, and married in November 1940 settling at Belli Creek on an established

and prosperous dairy farm. Her life was hard by many standards - the story of early rising, milking cows, cooking on a wood stove, droughts, floods and bushfires.

In 1948 Joyce and James moved to the Gympie District on a farming property now known as Nahrunda Park Estate outside Gympie. She always had a tune for every occasion and was always ready to share her music.

When James died in 1971, Joyce got on with her life, and was a catechist at South Side State School and a pianist for the Cooina Aged Day Care and Blue Nurses Day Care for about 10 years, also being an active member of the Gympie branch of the Bible Society for many years.

She was a woman who lived with very strong values, and firmly her beliefs and opinions that no one could change. She plunged herself whole-heartedly into the community to actively inspire or help others.

The last eight years of her life were spent at St Patrick's Villa, which was often filled with the sounds of her much loved music. On 10 November 2003 Joyce O'Brien died.

Extract of info. written by Pat Towner for the Gympie Times

A music case, music sheets and documents were donated by Pauline Daunt.

In recognition of Joyce's service to the community,
a framed history of her life is displayed in the Church.

There is also a framed photo of another Gympie music teacher, Ethel McFadden.

The Church building has many and varied exhibits of musical instruments including the flute, harmonica, tenor horn and tin whistle to name a few.

Glancing around the room, there are a number of organs, one donated by Alvie Williams which was purchased in 1925, a Wurlitzer organ donated by the Gympie Salvation Army, and another organ of the 1900's on loan from Mrs Joyce Sexton made by Estey Organ Co. U.S.A. A very compact piece of furniture is the world famous folding organ, made by Bilhorn Brothers U.S.A. Style C.

A unique exhibit is the Pianola that was donated by Hugh Harling of Gympie, and a piano made by Beale, that came from Sunday School at the Church of Christ.

The walls of the church are adorned with framed photos of the early Gympie bands such as the City Brass Band, Juvenile Mouthorgan Band of 1930, City Boys Band of 1935, along with the Gympie Philharmonic Choir that was established in 1898, and the Gympie Junior Choristers who were winners of the juvenile competitions at the sixth Gympie Eisteddfod in 1904.

School Teacher...

'Sixty Years in Queensland Schools' by Thomas Hanger
includes some very interesting reading on the Gympie High School,
and I would like to share with you readers the inner feelings expressed by this teacher
in the following extract.

It was always a thrill for me to go to a new school: I enjoyed the prospect of new surroundings and meeting new people, and I had always a feeling when I left a place that I was making a fresh start, getting away from any mistakes I had made and felt myself unable to remedy. A new school to teach was the dawn of a new day.

My pleasure in going to Gympie was tempered by two or three factors:

I knew nothing of the work I was to teach, and I was frankly afraid that the training I had in primary teaching would be little help to me in secondary work and might be a drawback. World War I was at its most depressing stage and staffing the school would be a difficulty.

In 1916 Gympie as a city and centre of population was on the down grade, so much so that, when I went to a commission agent to see about the possibility of a loan if I wanted to buy a house there, he laughed at me: "You don't need money to buy a house in Gympie: you can easily have one rent-free if you'll promise to keep it free from cobwebs!" Mining activity became less and less, the attendance at the primary schools grew smaller and smaller as people left the field - some to go to other mining centres, many to move into the surrounding district to start dairy farms and orchards.

Nominally I was to come to the school in March, but actually I did not arrive until October. As the result of my years of service with the department, I had due to me six months' long leave, and I was led to spend these months at the University as a day-student with a view to a course in higher mathematics: I also hoped that my personal contact with the University would prepare me in some measure for my work in Gympie, would lessen my nervousness.

The result, as a preparation for secondary work, was negative. The experience of students, who, since then, have gone from Gympie to the University has taught me what I did not then realise about the first year at the institution - how strange, almost hostile, is the new environment to the fresher.

I knew nothing of conditions and my age precluded any friendship, even acquaintance, with another student: the war made it difficult to get text-books: altogether the half-year was unsatisfactory and I just didn't fit in.

In October, before I went to Gympie, I called to see the head of my department, who inquired how I had spent my long leave. I told him and he commented curtly: "I did that same work 40 years ago before I left England, and I have never used it since. The war will make it difficult for me to send a teacher to Gympie to take physics or chemistry: If you had spent the half-year on those subjects you might have taken them yourself."

A quick look at the work needed in the school when I did get there a fortnight later cured me completely of any desire to go on with higher mathematics. I have no hesitation in adding my half-year's experience as a day-student at the University to the twelve months spent in North Queensland as wasted time. Well, perhaps not wasted, since action and reaction are equal and opposite.

Nevertheless I was very glad to go to Gympie.

My appointment was an experiment and I know now that it had no university support: I was quite without experience in that type of work for when I walked into the building which then housed Gympie High School, I was entering a secondary school for the first time in my life. It is of course sometimes an advantage to go to a job untrammelled by rule or convention, but the procedure has its drawbacks.

I certainly did not begin work in Gympie with a definite picture in my mind of a smoothly running secondary school.

I'm inclined to think that ideals are what you finish with rather than what you begin with.

I remained in Gympie until I retired in 1940. Twenty-four satisfactory years they were, particularly the last fifteen when I had learnt my job: toward the end I had a feeling that I was being taken care of by the staff, but I taught honestly to my last day there. When I left the place, I felt I was leaving behind a school with a sound scholastic tradition, and a staff imbued with high ideals of teaching practice.

Inventor...



Johannes Gutenberg was born c.1398 and died c.1468 in Mainz at the age of 70. During his life he was a German blacksmith, goldsmith, printer and publisher who introduced printing to Europe.

His invention of mechanical movable type printing started the printing revolution around mid 1400's.

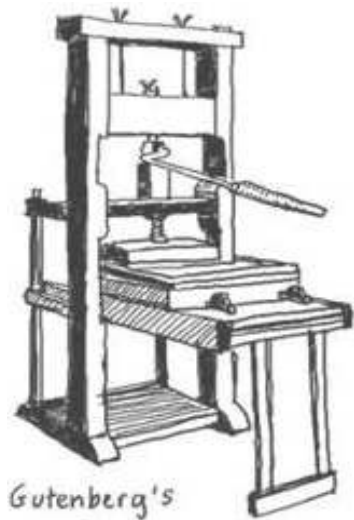
Among his many contributions to printing are: the invention of a process for mass-producing movable type, the use of oil-based ink, and the use of a wooden printing press similar to the agricultural screw presses of the period.

The method for making type is traditionally considered to have included a type metal alloy and a hand mould for casting type. The alloy was a mixture of lead, tin and antimony that melted at a relatively low temperature for faster and more economical casting, castwell, and created a durable type.

The use of movable type was a marked improvement on the handwritten manuscript, which the existing method of book production in Europe.

In the 19th century, the replacement of the hand-operated Gutenberg-style press by steam-powered rotary presses allowed printing on an industrial scale.

Many printing presses displayed in the printing area of the Stamper Shed are manufactured by different companies.



Gutenberg's Press

Exhibits...

Potato Masher

This potato masher or ricer was manufactured by Archibald Kenrick & Sons in England.

It is constructed of cast iron and sheet steel, and dates from the late 1800s.

The same design is still used today, but in stainless steel.

It was donated by Allan Robinson and can be viewed in the house alongside other kitchenalia..



Leak Detector Lamp

This Leak Detector Lamp is made by Tilly Lamp Co. Ltd Hendon, and possibly maybe a mid 1950's LD1 model. It runs on kero and has a copper catalyst in the burner so the flame will be coloured. The flame changes colour in the presence of the refrigerant used in commercial refrigeration plants. A flexible hose from the air intake which has a regulator screw, searches for leaks. There are some Tilley collectors who have a wide range of lamps, but this particular one shown was donated by Clyde Kunst, and is displayed in the Breezeway.

Work in Progress...



Activity in the Stamper Shed...
Smoking on the premises!

Operating the engine for the
amalgamating tables -
Chris at the controls evidently
trying to reduce the smoke problem!

Thankyou to Allan Blackman for the photos below



(Above Left) The gateway opening has been heightened in the Stamper Shed for easier access of high machinery that may be entering for necessary work.

(Above Right) Frank and Jake are in the process of replacing decking on the Gantry. The tarpaulin canopy is necessary to combat the weather conditions, and works a treat.

Museum News...

* School holidays - do have advantages!

Thankyou to Charlie for spending a couple of days volunteering at the Museum. It was an opportunity to gain an insight into the Museum's procedures, for this young enthusiast to assist Denise with photographing exhibits, and resizing the photos on the computer under her supervision. There were a large number of visitors over the two weeks browsing around the Museum, and some tried their luck at gold panning under the guidance of Allan B.

Free stickers donated by Gympie Fire & Rescue Service were popular with the children - a youngster was noticed who had an instantaneous use for a Blazer sticker on his shirt.

* In preparation for painting the eastern inside wall of the Tank, an assortment of table lamps and mantel clocks are temporarily stored upstairs of the Gold Room.....When time stands still!!

A striking example of an antique steeple mantel clock was donated by T Metcalf, which has been reported that it was used in the Glanmire Hotel about 1900. The flared base is dark brown stained timber, a peak top and either side on the corner is a decorative turned piece of timber. A timber framed glass hinged door is decorated with a painted design of a bird, spider web and tree branches. The pendulum consists of two barrel shaped pieces suspended from a simple fretwork design. Black roman numerals are prominent on the white face of this distinguished looking clock.

Museum News (Cont.) ...

* The Ambulance Station extension is well advanced with the floor and walls painted, with some exhibits relocated from the medical room in the Cottage.

* General maintenance of buildings. Work continuing on the underhouse storage, gantrydecking, preparation for the ruston engine and surrounding location, and big stamper project.

* **Thankyou** to Dave for doing excavation work with his machinery.

* **Thankyou** to Jeff Lambert - a Society Member and Author for the donation of 100 hard cover copies of his book Pathways to Gold. 'This book is not only well illustrated with maps but also contains reproductions of many interesting letters written by the men who explored the country. - An insight into the conditions and the difficulties of the time.'

* **Thankyou** to all the volunteers/Members for your contribution to the Society.

* As the Fire Station turns 75 years on Monday 24 August, Gympie's old fire truck will be on loan from the Museum for their day of celebrations.

Get Well Wishes: To anyone who has a health problem - hope you are coping, and are showing signs of improvement.

Middle age is when you've met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else!!

Gympie Steam Festival...

Thankyou to Allan Blackman for the photo



The Gympie Steam Festival celebrates the contribution of steam power to the development of the region.

The recommissioning of the remains of the original stamper battery powered by the portable Paxman boiler. Demonstrations of the Walker winding engine and Thompson compressor powered by the Cornish boiler. Operation of steam pumps and generator Brown Boveri steam engine and Australian made horizontal engine both powered by the Galion Vertical Boiler. Model steam engines powered by Carmicheal boiler, hot air engines, and miniature railway operating. Exhibitors are welcome, and there is free camping.

Enquiries to Ralph - Phone 0408616709

Programme for the Steam Festival in October (subject to change)

Saturday 3rd 9.00 a.m. Small engine demonstrations, private collections, and Gold recovery tables demonstrations, boiler operation, and pre-heating of the Cornish boiler

1.00 p.m. Formal re commissioning of the big stamper by Gympie Regional Council Mayor Mick Curran. Operation and demonstrations in Stamper shed of all equipment.

Sunday 4th 8.30 a.m. Promotional demonstration at markets, Miniature train rides, and Cornish boiler brought up to working pressure

1.00 p.m. Winding shed operating and demonstrations

Monday 5th 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. All equipment operating subject to operator availability.

Local Event...

The Society will once again be supporting the Kybong Rock & Mineral Fest.
Volunteers will be demonstrating gold panning - promotion for the Museum and Gold Rush.

Kybong Rock & Mineral Fest

On **31ST JULY, 1ST, 2ND AUGUST**, the 21st Kybong Rock & Mineral Fest will be held at Cooloola Rocks & Minerals, 1 Lobwein Road, Cnr Bruce Highway, Kybong.

Entry is free to browse around market stalls, demonstrations during the day and enjoy the entertainment in a bush setting. Food/Drinks are available.

Visit the website www.coolrocks.com.au or Email: info@coolrocks.com.au for any enquiries

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