



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 100 JULY 2016

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

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

President:

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OTHER POSITIONS HELD:

Property Officer:

& Firearms Licensee

Ron Owen

with Assistant Jo Carson

Publicity Officer:

Max Travis

Tel: 54812157

Museum Markets

at the Duck Ponds (Lake Alford)

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

AUGUST dates: 7TH, 21ST

(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 AUGUST 2016 at 9.30 a.m.

2016 EVENTS:

The Heat is on!.....Steaming Day

first Monday of each month

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2016/7 are now due

THE GENERAL MEETING will be held on **WEDNESDAY 3RD AUGUST 2016**
at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: Work Projects
Following will be the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** at 8 p.m.

Food Bags

Food Bags to name a few are flour bags, ham bags, and poultry bags were printed with ink and made of muslin, calico and cotton. These two examples below are displayed in the kitchen of the House



(Left) The Mild Cured KR Darling Downs Christmas Raw Ham MFD by Darling Downs Co-op Bacon Assn. Ltd. Queensland, N.S.W. & Victoria.



(Right) The 20 lbs net weight of Cerevite Laying Mash was MFD by Queensland Cereal Industries Pty Ltd. Brisbane.

Dillybag

A dillybag or dilly bag is a traditional Australian Aboriginal bag, generally woven from the fibres of plant species of the Pandanus genus. It is used for a variety of food transportation and preparation purposes.

Dilly comes from the Jagera word dili, which refers to both the bag and the plants from which it is made.

The dilly bag, otherwise known as yakou, yibali or but but bag, is a bag worn around the neck to hold food like berries, meat, fish etc. This bag is normally woven out of vines or tough dried grasses and sometimes had feather or animal fur inside the bag to stop small pieces of food falling through holes in the weave. It was mainly used by women to gather food but can be used by men to help carry some tools for hunting.

Another use for the dilly bag (also named Mukurtu) was as a holder for personal or tribal artifacts. The "Dilly bag" term is used to describe bags used by non-aboriginal Australians, for example a smaller food bag carried by swagmen along with their swags. The term is also used by Australians to describe similar bags for other purposes.

If any readers were listening to Macca's program on Radio AM612 Sunday morning, there was mention of the Aboriginal language, and you may have heard the catchy song the red kangaroo. There are several Australian Aboriginal languages and dialects. Many, but not all, of these languages are endangered. An endangered language is a language that it is at risk of falling out of use, generally because it has few surviving speakers. If it loses all of its native speakers, it becomes an extinct language.

Seniors Week is celebrated 13th-21st August to recognise the valuable contributions that older people have on their families and the community. The theme for this year is: 'It's on for young and old'. The aim is to improve community attitudes towards older people and ageing; facilitate community participation and activity by older people, including those from Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; and enhance community connections and inter-generational relationships.

Signal Knocker

A replica of the “Signal Knocker” that was used in the No. 2 Great Eastern mine is displayed in the winding room of the boiler house. Knockers were a common communications device in the Gympie Goldfields and elsewhere in Australia. The knocker was used to signal from underground to the winding engine driver on duty above. The winding engine driver was essential for the safe operation of cages moving up and down the mine shaft to the galleries below. The knocker’s striking hammer was connected by a light steel cable leading to the operating levels within the mine.

Messages were passed as follows:-

1	Knock	Stop cage and/or haul up cage
2	Knocks	Lower cage
3	Knocks	To speak (operator/miner calls out at mine shaft)
4+1	Knocks	Men coming up
4+2	Knocks	Men going down
5	Knocks	Send down explosive charges
6	Knocks	Accident

These messages coming up from the mine or from the winding engine operator are crucial for the safe operation of the poppet head.

Mistakes resulted in serious damage, injury and death.

On the wall is a Code of Signals under the Mines Regulation Act 1946-1974 of the winding signals that includes:- for firing warning, hoist men to surface or brace and change of levels.

As a matter of interest the No.2 South Great Eastern had 12 main levels.

870 ft. (265m)	1190 ft (363m)	1450 ft (442m)
970 ft (296m)	1230 ft (375m)Inglewood	1568 ft (478m)
1100 ft (335m)	1282 ft (391m)	1750 ft (533m)
1120 ft (341m)	1320 ft (402m) Walkers	2000 ft (610m)



Winding Engine No. 756

The **1899 Walker Winding Engine** was manufactured for the No.3 shaft of the Scottish Gympie Mine, and later used for some 35 years at Rhonda colliery near Ipswich, finishing its service life on compressed air. The winder was donated to the Society who restored it to working order with the assistance of Peter Olds. It is believed to be the only machine of this type built for the Gympie goldfields in existence.

Markets...

A frosty morning on Sunday 3rd July showed a slight decrease in numbers of stallholders, most probably due to coinciding with school holidays.

The coming and the going...



Maybe Lake Alford should have a name change!

Perhaps Swan Lake would be a suitable name!

Anthony (pictured) is intrigued with this sociable character, who wasn't afraid to venture from the lake. With grass and bread on the menu, a visit to the Museum Markets (on 17th July) was a must.



The Gympie Museum Re-enactment Group cancelled their July performance due to showery weather conditions.

Museum News...

Photos below Courtesy of Vicky Dunford



New Entrance Project... Considerable work has been performed including: Moving the centenary rock (1.2m south and 150mm east), removing the retaining wall, moving the golden cane palm, removing topsoil from the upper site along with all stumps and rubbish, redistributing most of the topsoil around the new access path. As seen in the photo above, excavating most of the lower level is in progress for the new entry foyer. Safety fence has been erected around the work in progress which also includes the area of cementing paths, drainage, and spreading/levelling of soil at the rear of the Cafe.

Thankyou's

- Anthony for your time and operating your machinery on the new entrance project
- Dashhound Test & Tags for your contribution of time to the Society
- IGA Community Chest donations from the Community Dollars Program.
- The contributor of a Voucher to the value of \$200 at Bunnings Hardware for garden plants to be planted in the new entrance project
- Society Member Len for maintaining the supply of firewood for the boiler.
- Society Member Rose who gave a donation for postage.
- Life Society Member Joyce who contributed postage stamps for posting future newsletters

These contributions are very much appreciated

THANKYOU to all volunteers for your contribution to the Society.

- . Gurneying cement by Jo has made a noticeable difference to the paths.
- . The Information Centre Volunteers were given a familiarisation guided tour of the Museum by Allan B. on 6th July to enlighten their tourists of the attractions the Museum presents.
- . For visitors convenience the baby change table has been installed in the women's toilet near the gold room.
- . The train sign has been refurbished.
- . While Ralph was holidaying for a couple of weeks, Frank has been captain of the ship (so to speak).
- . The International fire truck was displayed at the Vintage Machinery, Market and Swap two day event at Wolvi.

School holidays...A large number of visitors browsed the Museum during School holidays, and the mining machinery operating was of particular interest. Miniature train rides were also a draw-card operating on Monday and Tuesday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Thursday at 11 a.m.

Mural on the Coachhouse wall is a unique masterpiece, with the finer detail taking many time-consuming hours, as the artwork is nearing completion. Experienced artists Tina and Matt have excelled in their presentation of this artwork, that enhances the Museum's Coachhouse building appearance.

News of Joyce Runge... On behalf of Joyce a short note was received from Peter, Sue and Don. The note was a thankyou for sending the newsletter, and that Joyce enjoyed reading news of the Museum and of her friends who continue to meet and volunteer at the Museum. Although rather frail, she continues to do well at ninety and reads regularly. Mum's heart will always remain in Gympie - we reminisce often of the special times spent working at the Museum, and her dear friends there.

**(I thought I'd share this news with you readers,
as some members may have had the pleasure of knowing Joyce. Ed.)**

Café at the Museum...

- . Hopefully Vicky has a speedy healing process with her wrist injury that happened in early July.
- . Placed on the dining room tables are fascinating finds booklets for visitors to browse. These booklets are a glimpse of the Museum's exhibits. Table numbers have been also been printed.
- . A large Group of Matthew Flinders College students were guided around the Museum by tour guides Allan B., Bill and Bevan on 20th July, a boiler demonstration was included, followed by a Sausage Sizzle lunch provided by the Café. Also on 22nd July these tour guides were in demand again for the large number of students from Sienna School.

I noticed a sign while driving around the streets of Gympie -
It's choice not chance that makes your destiny! Ed.

Catherine Nash (nee Murphy) (1853-1931)

Catherine met James in Gympie, they married on 6 July 1868 and she bore him six children, a daughter and two sons surviving to adulthood.

After James finished gold mining they tried farming at Tiaro. After James' death 5 October 1913 Catherine retired to a home in Monkland, Gympie, and was granted an annual pension of £50.

In the early days of the Gympie gold rush, when still living in Brisbane with her family, Catherine had a splendid view of the road to Gympie. She later wrote "...drays and spring carts, and horses, packed head to tail with tin dishes, picks and shovels and blankets, and billycans, all rattling and noisy, filling the air with their sound as they all rumbled along. The men would be talking and laughing as if they were going to a race meeting instead of facing, they knew not what privations..."

In 1867 Catherine's youngest brother headed to the gold field. The whole family soon followed. Catherine observed "When we got to Gympie we were amazed at the grotesque looking township of very primitive buildings and tents dotted all over the place and hundreds of men filling the spaces making it hum like a huge fair. The place was vibrating with life, music, singing and men shouting (in more ways than one) and fighting too, as they did from morning till night."

Catherine soon fitted into the life. She also wanted to fossick but "women were at discount" and so she didn't.

She further tells how James Nash, her future husband was set upon one night by a well known ruffian who would have succeeded in throttling him had not "an American black bravely rushed to his assistance." The ruffian may have known James Nash kept a quantity of gold buried in a camp oven in his humpy. But Nash had a number of reliable men working for him who camped about the place. "Therefore, he was not afraid of being robbed of his pot of gold."

Steam Festival...

Programme (subject to change) for the Steam Festival to be held on **1st/2nd/3rd October**
Thankyou for the support from the Wide Bay Historic Machinery and Gympie Historic Auto Club

Saturday 1st

From 9 am to 11 am Small and medium engines, boilers and stampers

11am - 1 pm Winding engine

1.30 pm Official Opening

2.00 pm Grand Parade

3 pm -5 pm Winding engine

6 pm Meal & Movie

9 pm close

Sunday 2nd

Market till noon with exhibit on the grounds

1 pm -3 pm Winding engine and medium engines

Monday 3rd

9 am - noon Model, small and medium engines, Stamper

Noon till 3 pm Winding engine

Gympie Regional Gallery - Rush Art Competition... A variety of categories for artists.

Entry forms are available from the Gympie Regional Gallery, 39 Nash Street, Gympie.

Entries close 9th September.

Coming Event...

Kybong Rocks & Minerals Fest

will be held 5th/6th /7th August, which is in memory of Cecile.

Stallholders will be selling their gems, opals, minerals, crystals, fossils and rocks, and Museum volunteers will be present with promotion and demonstrating gold panning. There are other interesting activities on the day and entertainment provided by the local dance groups and performing artists. This event is located beside the Gympie airport which there will be a celebration of opening of 'Cumulus Park' including 30-49 aircraft and an expected large attendance of people.

Location is Cnr. Lobwein Road, Kybong

Did you know? Saturday 27th August is a 'Just Because Day'

wouldn't it be self-satisfying to do something nice for someone!!

THE



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