



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 99 JUNE 2016

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

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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

at the Duck Ponds (Lake Alford)

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

JULY 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 17TH JULY 2016 at 9.30 a.m.

2016 EVENTS:

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.

Incorporation

Some readers may not understand what it means to be an Incorporation.

This explanation below might clarify the meaning of the word.

The Society became Incorporated on 13th September 1984, under the Associations Incorporation Act of 1981. Application was made to the Justice Department in January, and the name now becomes Gympie and District Historical Society Inc. and is numbered 498 on the register.

But what does it all mean?

The Associations Incorporation Act of 1981 became operational on 1st July 1982, and it provides a simple inexpensive means by which an Association or Society can:-

1. Sue or be sued in its own name
2. Hold property without the necessity of appointing trustees.
3. Enter into contracts in its own name.
4. Remove the possibility of liabilities becoming enforceable against individual members.

Generally, the Act applies to any Association or Society carried on for any lawful object, but not for any pecuniary gain for its members. Certain Associations are not eligible to become incorporated, and these include Trade Unions, Friendly Societies, Parents and Citizens Associations, and any body in which the members hold a proprietary interest in its property or activities.

Certain requirements must be fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Justice Department, and the proposed Rules and Constitution must be approved. A Model Set of Rules is recommended, and this was used by the Society, with amendments to suit our particular circumstances, but certain mandatory rules must be retained in the application.

Under Incorporation, a certificate is issued whereupon the present and future members of the Society become a Body Corporate by the name shown on the certificate, and the present members of the Committee become the Management Committee.

Commemorating the stone

Readers you may recall reading in the February 2016 Newsletter about the trowel used at the stone laying ceremony used by Lord Casey, though at that stage the site was by no means decided, and several others were being investigated.

The locality was covered by a dense mass of grass and weeds, and an area about 20 feet square, close the Brisbane Road, was cleared and prepared for the ceremony, the City Council providing the stone and plaque.

The stone had a chequered career. Some months after the unveiling, when work on the Museum had begun, landscaping of the surrounding area required its removal, and the City Council crane was borrowed to carry it bodily to the foot of the hill, where it rested in a definitely lop-sided state. Some months later it was again necessary to remove it for the same reason, and this time it was carried to the rear of the Museum, where it lay upside down in the long grass for two years.

Finally, with the approach of the opening of the Museum, the present resting place was decided, and it is expected it will remain there in peace for many years.

Diversions (Nineteenth Century Style) by Ailsa Dawson

One of the questions on the research sheets carried by the pupils who visit the Gympie Historical Museum in ever increasing numbers, is “What did our pioneers do for entertainment a century or more ago?” A good question, for in the present time so much of our entertainment is “canned”, and comes from a box at the pressure of a switch. Long before the invention of radio, television and video, our ancestors were dependent on their own efforts and talents to entertain themselves, and their creative powers had freer rein and more scope than they do now.

In those days, when home lighting was by candles, and later by kerosene and acetylene lamps, singing was enjoyed round piano and organ in more prosperous homes, while jew’s harp and accordion were treasured instruments in humbler homes. With so many of our migrants from places in the British Isles famous for their music, choirs and bands flourished, and part songs brought fame to many of our municipal and church choirs. Even in remote country districts local dances were well patronised, the music being supplied by accordions, often with an old time player helping out with fiddle or mouth organ.

Keeping diaries was another popular pastime, and young diarists committed their thoughts and ambitions to paper. Original verse was composed, and many happy evenings were spent not only with music, but with readings from original literary efforts. Hand printed invitations were sent to friends, and some of the cards still in existence were most artistic. Not only were the reader’s own efforts read, but extracts from famous authors were presented. Sometimes these evenings were held in public, and we read of the “Penny Readings” which drew large audiences in the days of such popular authors as Dickens, Byron, Shelley etc.

The readings were followed by light refreshments. “Cakes and Wine” seems to have been a popular method of catering. What a long step to the modern barbecue and pop music.

All info. above taken from the Quarterly Journal January 1985

Colours

Primary colours are red, yellow and blue, while Secondary colours of green, orange and purple are created by mixing the primary colours. Tertiary colours for example of yellow-orange, red-orange, are mixed with a primary and a secondary colour which would mostly be used by artists.

Different names for colours of blue, green, grey, black and red can be cerulean, jade, nutria, ebony and cardinal.

This extract below is from ‘Off the Slate’ Gympie Central State School 1990 entitled Red by 2W.

Red is flowers like roses, strawberries, apples, tomatoes,
capsicums and cherries are all juicy and red.

Nash is red!

Woolly jumpers are red and warm.

Hot, fiery lava burns and melts.

Cheeks blush red when they’re hot.

Red is your tongue when you eat a red iceblock.

The red sun goes down in the afternoon.

Red is inside a Cherry Ripe!

Exhibits...

All exhibits below are displayed in the Fire Station Building



(Left) Matthews Fire Alarm Panel

This panel when located in the Gympie Fire Station, was connected to fire sensors in a range of Gympie business premises. When a premises sensor detected a fire the corresponding section in the panel lit up to indicate the location of the fire. Cullinanes Plaza, Shepherds, Tafe College, and Laminex Industries Toolara are just a few panels to mention. It was in use until 1990.



(Right) This bell was originally attached to the windscreen support of the Dodge fire engine used by the Gympie Fire Brigade in the 1940's.

The sign beside the bell says:

You are welcome to ring this bell!

But not too much

they might hear it at the Gympie Fire Station
and dash down here with a fire engine!

Street Fire Alarms



These alarms were erected in public areas where, if a fire broke out, it could easily spread to other properties and endanger people.

The two alarms pictured were originally located in the main street of Maryborough.



To activate the alarms the glass had to be broken and the button pressed. Each alarm was wired to the local fire brigade and activating the alarm set off a notifying bell in the fire brigade building.

Inside the alarm is a precision brass clockwork mechanism which was set in motion when the alarm button was pressed. It drives a rotating on/off electrical contact set to a specific code. This set the bell in the fire brigade ringing to the on/off code and enabled the fire fighters to recognise which alarm was ringing and thus the location of the fire.

Café at the Museum...

Late in May unexpected visitors on a bus tour called in for lunch, so it was all hands on deck to cope with the demand.

Early morning Breakfasts were popular during the month with a meeting of the Monkland State School teachers, and on another occasion a Pastors group also chose the Café venue.

'Supporting Chemotherapy in Cooloola' group
who dined at the Café for morning tea and lunch in early June



Photo courtesy of Vicky Dunford

'Café at the Museum' was decorated with a tone of maroon celebrating Queensland Week 4–12 June. A few large groups have visited including a group of forty-four Nambour Probus Club for a luncheon and tour on 14th June.

* Signage of Museum Entry Fees is in place. Upgrading at the rear of the Café is taking place with a new timber storeroom - presently being painted, and an access ramp. Following this completion, steps will be constructed. Removal/relocation of plants has been dealt with also, so pop-up gardens are appearing around the buildings.

Markets...

What a crisp autumn morning to be setting up market stalls on the 29th May, as the stallholders would verify - this was followed by an almost perfect day of sunshine. Many patrons appeared mid-morning, enjoying brunch while browsing the markets. The first winter market day on 5th June had the chill factor from the domineering, gusty north-westerly wind, which noticeably tested the firmness of the stallholders tent shelters. Sunday June 19th was basically a no-show day as the showers increased to heavy rain, and it was an early retreat for the keen stallholders. However the Gympie Museum Re-enactment group conducted their normal performance, which was well received by the spectators.



'Hammer and Forge'

The production line trickles out of
the Museum Blacksmith Shop!

Chris is pictured with the hammer and tongs
Items on sale at the Museum markets
include metal brackets with a twist in the
middle support rod, its use is an underneath
support for a wooden shelf. Other intriguing
pieces are leaves which are suitable for
fashion necklaces, and camp fire equipment
of tripods for billy cans, clothes hooks and
tools.

Museum News...

Boiler House Early June, it was noticed that a person had written a note on the boiler with presumably charcoal, which was promptly cleaned.

A visit from the Kingscliff Probus Club on 26th May proved to be an exciting event with the Gympie Museum Re-enactment Group entertaining the visitors which went off with a bang! from the two cannons being fired. Following was a demonstration of the Davey-Paxman boiler in operation running the stampers and browsing of the many buildings.

On 22nd June the Torquay State School of 70-80 students were given additional demonstrations of the boiler operating by Chris and the blacksmithing by Jack.

In the database hut....Volunteers are progressively recording and updating exhibits on the database. Denise has also been checking/ recording information of the Implement and Truck Shed exhibits. Barry is taking on the task of bringing the media up to date for the massive number of exhibits associated with the Fire Station building. Rob is proficient in the area of interpretive signage, and presentation which includes images/history of exhibits displayed, and also compiling booklets for the Café dining room tables. Mark is a more recent volunteer, who is proof-reading additional interpretation for the John Foster Gympie Calendars Collection 1885-1901, and researching information in relation to the Gympie Dredge under David's direction.

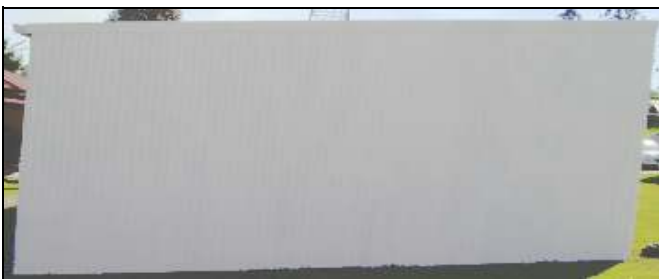
Tour Guides As many visitors including school groups enjoy the panning for gold in the tubs, there is a need for more Tour Guides. If you readers know of anyone who may be interested in training to become a Tour Guide to inform visitors of Gympie's rich history, please contact Allan Blackman (Ph. 54 828828) for information.

Coming Event Gold panning demonstrations at the Kybong Rock and Mineral Fest will be held 5th to 7th August

Correction There is a correction for the May Newsletter that the International Fire Truck was manufactured in 1942.

This truck was in service with the Gympie Fire Brigade from 1944 until 1980. It then served the people of Tiaro until August 1998 when it was returned to Gympie for preservation as an historic vehicle which is housed in the Museum Fire Truck building. The truck carried everything to fight a fire except water, which was obtained at fire sites, from street fire hydrants and available tanks or dams.

Progress Report



From a blank uninteresting wall, there is no doubt that creative artwork can make a difference!

The paint selected has been purchased from the Painter's Pit Shop on Duke Street.

Early days with the first stage of the scene starting to take shape.

Readers, you have heard of a horse with no name, well this horse has no tail!

Mural on the Coachhouse wall has begun with the expertise of Tina and Matt brush in hand.



Looking forward...

On 23rd June the Gympie Regional Gallery launched the
G150 Gympie Sesquicentenary Celebrations in 2017.

In 2017 it will be 150 years ago since James Nash discovered gold in Gympie on his way down the Mary River valley in 1867. It was when he followed the mailman's route, that he came upon the goldfield at Gympie Creek where the aboriginal name Gimpi Gimpi, or stinging tree grew abundantly.

The Museum has an alcove of James Nash's history, and a bust by Sculptor Vonnie Selhofer displayed in the tank, and a DVD of the Gympie Story can be viewed in the Gold Room.

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