



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 98 MAY 2016

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

213 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

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

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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

JUNE dates: 5TH, 19TH

(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 19TH JUNE 2016 at 9.30 a.m.

2016 EVENTS:

Steaming Day

first Monday of each month

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

THE GENERAL MEETING will be held on **WEDNESDAY 1ST JUNE 2016**
at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: 2016/7 Budget, Work Projects

History of Gympie's Early Days...

Info. from Back in Time - A pictorial celebrating 145 years of The Gympie Times

1903 ... Traffic Jam - What has for some time proved to be a great source of inconvenience to vehicular traffic continues at the railway gates on the Brisbane road, Monkland, where on any day may be seen numbers of teams whose progress with their loads of timber or quartz are temporarily delayed owing to the shunting and other operations. It is a pity the railway department can not devise some scheme whereby the state of affairs may be altered.

1904 ... Gympie Town Council - A petition was presented to the major asking that a drinking trough be placed at the corner of Reef and Monkland streets for the convenience of teamsters, travellers and the public. The mayor said it appeared that those who would benefit the most would be people not residents in the town. It would cost £10 to erect and £8 per year to maintain. He moved that the petition be laid upon the table for a fortnight. The motion was carried.

1907 ... Engine Arrives - The coming of the traction engine has long been expected in Gympie, but yesterday (August 26) it arrived with flags flying and, as might be expected, created a mild sensation along its route. The engine weighs 11 tons and cost £900.

1911 ... Cars in Gympie - Motor cars are becoming quite common, and Mr Chalk's new Ford car showed that bush roads can be easily managed when it left Gympie on Sunday morning at 7 a.m., and reached Maryborough at 12 p.m. The car came through without mishap.

1916 ... Electricity for Gympie - It will be of interest to the residents of Gympie to learn that the installation of electric light has been finally decided upon, and Mr W F Turk has undertaken the work on behalf of the company.

1919 ... Memorial Park for Fallen - At a meeting of the planned park last night, Mr N K Dawson was appointed to supervise the clearing of the park. Returned soldiers who are looking for employment are to apply to Mr Dawson. The arrangement will give the men £3/4/- for a 44 hour week.

1920 ... Royalty Visits - Never before have such numbers of people assembled in the streets of Gympie for any ceremony as on Tuesday (August 3) to accord a hearty reception to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Mary Street was decorated as it had never been before.

1921 ... Visit of Hinkler - The visit of Bert Hinkler to Gympie, which had long been anticipated, took place on Saturday (April 24) when a fair crowd assembled at the racecourse and all eyes were directed to the north where Mr Hinkler commenced a series of thrilling stunts.

1922 ... Motor Omnibus for Gympie - It has been rumoured that a motor omnibus service was to be started in Gympie. The rumour is now practically a fact, for yesterday (July 11) a Ford motor omnibus owned by Mr Lewis was running around getting into its stride before taking up actual work.

1926 ... Bitumen in Mary Street - Some time ago the city council decided to adopt the recommendation of an engineer to lay about 10 chains of bitumen in Gympie. This work will be commenced as soon as the road plant arrives.

1933 ... Bicycles for Horses - It is reliably stated that the two postmen, carriers at the local office and who use horses for the purposes, will, in the near future, carry out their duty on bicycles. At least one employee is utilising the moonlight nights in learning to ride the two-wheeled "steed."

1937 ... Coronation Glideway Opened - The official opening of the Coronation Glideway on Young Street took place last night (May 19). The hall was built to meet the demand of roller skaters and among good, bad and indifferent performances, fun was enjoyed by all.

Bungawatta Hut...

The “Bungawatta Hut” was moved to its present site at the Museum in 1997 and reconstructed as a “settler’s hut” approximating the style of dwelling common during the tough years from the 1890's to the early 1900's.

The Hut

(Written by Vera Mallett - 1985)

The Hut from Bungawatta
stood sad and all forlorn,
for it had heard the bushland chatter
of other places, pushed and torn.

It stood for near a hundred years
sheltered man and beast alike,
from cyclones, hail and other fears,
and now the ends in sight.

But what's this coming round the bend,
my goodness! cars galore,
it's the Tin Can Bay pensioners, not the end
and the brown snake slithered from the floor.

They stood around and talked a lot of things
that used to be,
then someone said, “let's boil the pot,”
and the ladies served the tea.

Slowly and carefully, they worked all day,
stacking each slab with care,
all ready for the move to Tin Can Bay,
while the hill, without the hut, looked bare.

Today the hut from Bungawatta stands
once more straight and sound,
thanks to the skills of pensioner's hands
and filled with items they found.

And when the old folks gather
on seats outside it's door,
the old grey slabs remember
the good old days of yore.

And now in their twilight years
both pensioners and hut alike,
can show the young ones hope, not fears
as their future comes in sight.

What's in the Tin?...

Most kitchen items back in the early days were packaged in tins, whereas in to-day's pantry, it is cardboard packets that have replaced these tins. There are many shapes and sizes in the collection of tins located in the House kitchen. A few of these fine examples below are: Foster Clark's Custard Powder; Gunter & Carter Ovenkist Biscuits Est'd 1868; and English Breakfast Tea - Blended and packed in England for the Regency Preserve Company Speen Buckinghamshire England.



Gympie Show...

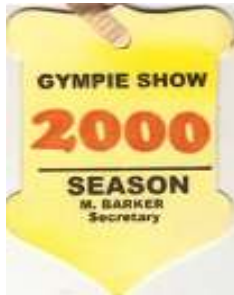
The first Gympie Show was held on the site of the Old Gympie Railway Station more than 120 years ago. There was a procession from the centre of town to the event for the opening of the show. In the very first show a silver cup was a prize won by the Mullholland family.

In 1877 the show was named the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society Exhibition and timed to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of gold being discovered in Gympie.

There was no show in 1881, 1882 and 1883, because government bought land for railway station.

In 1884, the show moved to the present site after signing a deal with the turf club. Residents were upset at the move, saying it was too far from the centre of town.

The First World War in 1916, the Depression in 1930 and the Second World War from 1940-45 stopped the show.



Included in the Museum's collection of the Gympie Show are these two Season Tickets which were donated by Mona McIntyre. The dairy industry is well represented in this early photo of the grand parade - notice the one that got away in the left of the centre! Also included in the collection is a banner for the Fruitgrowers Assn., a trophy shield of the Gympie Show Society, Gympie Times newspaper cuttings, and an aerial photograph of the Gympie Showgrounds.



Alan Dundas is doing the final mechanical check on the 1926 International Fire Truck in readiness for the Gympie Fire & Rescue Service to collect, which will then be included in their display at the Gympie Show.

Café at the Museum...



Vicky is pictured above serving a Devonshire tea order, while Emilie has prepared a salad sandwich.

It was a busy day at the 'Café at the Museum' on the first Sunday of May with breakfast orders and a luncheon. Some customers are now booking a table on Market Sundays. When there is an increase in customers in the dining area, the tea garden is an ideal outdoor setting providing extra space.

Mother's Day was even busier with extra kitchen staff called in to cater for several groups enjoying the dining out experience. Breakfast and lunch were popular times, and catering for 160 people during the day was full-on. Mention has been made that at 10 a.m. eleven staff were working at that particular time. A raffle was held with prizes made up of treats for indulgence including a brekky voucher, and books of historical gold information for the lucky winners.

Decor in the Café has been refreshed with old-style wooden branded boxes, potted plants and demodded metal food signs. The Society has improved a clearer presentation of the Gympie Goldfield map on the wall in the dining room.

Necessary upgrading work that is being carried out in the Storeroom area includes plastering, and painting to make the room vermin-proof, and retiling above the kitchen bench.

Markets...

May 1st Market Day started with rain and led to a mid morning of welcome sunshine. Numbers of stallholders were down due to the earlier conditions, but did not deter the fruit, vegetable, plant and variety stalls. With the timing of the Garden Expo also, it was understandable to have a reduced market. It was a magic day after the foggy morning of the 15th May, and market patrons stocked up their supplies after the three day Gympie Show event.

**Thankyou to all the stallholders
for your continued support of the Museum Markets.**

Museum News...

- * On some days visitors will see Chris with the 'hammer and forge' in the Blacksmith Shop exercising his skills at blacksmithing and metal work for camp fire equipment.
- * Signage in the medical rooms of the Cottage is in place. A slight re-arrangement in the dental room shows the thematic visual aspect of the display.
- * 'Look out for train' railway sign has been repainted.
- * Gantry maintenance of painting and replacing sleepers is continuing.
- * A larger overhead cover is in place over the Ruston Engine to protect from weather conditions.
- * Painting is progressing well on the Aveling-Barford roller panels.
- * Fencing and gates have been removed/relocated as part of the upgrading at the Café entrance.
- * Preparation for a cement slab outside the Café is in progress for the cardboard collection container.
- * Maintenance of garden areas has progressively been brought back under control.

Queensland Week will be held from 4–12 June 2016 and is centred around the state's birthday on 6 June which is a week to create, innovate and celebrate. Merchandise has been ordered to decorate the 'Café at the Museum' maroon.

Looking ahead.....There are many ideas in the planning to celebrate G150 which include to conduct tour(s) of the Scottish mine site and other mining related tours, a heritage tour of historic sites, maybe including the Steam Festival, and producing postcards.

Many thanks for a donation of products, maps, posters from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Thankyou to the member of Heritage Bank who contributes the Community Grant to the Society

Condolances It is with sadness to learn the passing of Society member Ron Lawrence. Thoughts are with Julia and his family. Ron was a well-known and respected Gympieite. The Society has exhibits in the Ambulance Station in relation to Ron's working days at the Gympie Ambulance.

Volunteering The Annual Celebration of Volunteering was held at the Gympie Civic Centre with a Morning Tea, guest speakers and musical entertainment by local artists. This event was hosted to thank the countless volunteers that contribute to making our region the natural choice to live, work and play. Museum Volunteers Len, Allan B, and Bill were in attendance at this function on Friday 6th May.

Thankyou to all the Museum Volunteers for their on-going contribution.



Speaking of volunteers, who would be armed with a historic ambulance door at the Sunday Markets?

One guess, the person who did the paintwork on the ambulance symbol!

Grants...

The Society was successful in receiving the Volunteer Grant from the Department of Social Services for much needed power and construction tools to be used by the volunteers.



Another grant application was also successful for the artists impression of a mural of a horse on the Coachhouse building southern wall. The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Gympie Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.



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