



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 92 NOVEMBER 2015

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:

Frank Lightfoot

Tel: 54833965

Secretary:

Ralph Richardson

Tel: 54839418

Mob: 0408616709

Treasurer/Editor:

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**Junior Vice President/
Historian:**

Allan Blackman

Tel: 54828828

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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

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

DECEMBER dates: 6TH, 20TH

(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 announced in 2016

2015 EVENT:

**INVITATION TO THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
FOR VOLUNTEERS/MEMBERS
ON SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER
AT GOLD MUSEUM CAFÉ 12 NOON**

(see back page for details)

THE GENERAL MEETING will be held on WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2015
at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: Work Projects, Forward Planning

In the Laundry...

The Evolution of the Washing Machine from the Wash Board to the Washing Machine



Rearrangement of the Laundry in the Cottage ... another instance of what the Volunteers behind the scenes do. In this much improved laundry display in the Cottage, it is evidence of a different era, to what most people in to-day's society are not accustomed to. Looking around the room are many different laundry items in comparison with a modern day laundry room of to-day.

The Poss Stick or Wash Dolly - Before the invention of the washing machine women had to scrub dirty clothes on a washboard in a tub.

During the early 1800's when many families were working in the English coal mines and in ship building, clothes were so dirty that the poss stick was invented.

The poss stick works on the same principle as a washing machine, it is designed so that the sudsy water is forced through the holes in the cone shaped head as the stick is worked up and down - thus cleaning the very soiled clothing.

The plain wooden stick used for lifting the laundry from a tub of boiling water to a cold rinsing tub was also called a dolly or dolly-stick

Steeping was a term used in the laundry process, which preserves materials and lessens the labour of washing: the cold water and soap in which clothes are steeped softens and loosens dirt, thus making it easier to be removed; less rubbing is required, therefore there is less strain on the material and less expenditure of energy. After the clothes are wrung out of the steeping water, they are then washed in clean warm water with soap.

Washboards - Ribbed wooden scrubbing boards is believed to have originated in Scandinavia and the manufacture spread to other countries during the 19th century. Other variations besides wood include tin, and glass in this particular display.

Soap Jelly was used also and maybe some readers are not aware how this is made. Soap is shredded into a saucepan, cover with hot water, let stand for 10 minutes, then place over the fire and stir till dissolved.

In the Laundry (Cont.)...

A **washing wringer** and a **wire soap holder** is in place over the set of three concrete **Wash Tubs**. Under the concrete tubs is a **copper tub**, but is obscured in this photo.

The **Tin Wash Tub** is a small metal tub and is complete with a cake of **Sunlight Soap**.

A wooden **Rinso box** has the inscription 'Rinse for the Family Wash Creamier Lather More Washing Powder.'

'Out of the Blue Comes the Whitest Wash'Have you ever seen this wording? Well, the knobs of Reckitt's **Blue Bag** is where it will be found - some of us would remember these blue bags. Using solid blue is preferred, and is placed in the middle of piece of flannel, a piece of calico should be put over the flannel, and the two materials tied tightly round the blue by tape or white string. The blue bag should be soaked in water, and squeezed till the water in the tub is the right tint. The water should just be sufficiently blue to remove the yellow look given to clothes by soap. If blue is allowed to settle at the bottom of the tub the clothes will become streaky. Too many clothes should not be placed at the same time in the bluing water.

A calico **peg bag** containing **wooden dolly pegs** is conveniently placed on the wall.

In preparation for ironing , a packet of 'The very best since 1890,' you guessed it...**Silver Star Starch!** made by Robert Harper & Co. Ltd, Victoria, and here is the catchy wording that appears on the packet!

Mistress - "Well Laundress you certainly have turned out my dress nicely this week"

Laundress - "Yes it is the 'Silver Star Starch' that has made all the difference"

Mistress - "Oh look at that shirt I can almost see my face in it"

Laundress - "There is no doubt about it the 'Silver Star Starch' is the best I ever used".

To remove an old starch on articles, boiling was the only effective method. Articles (such as collars, cuffs, and stiff shirt fronts) were dipped separately into cold starch, squeeze out the starch, and rub between the hands to get the starch well into the material, then repeat this method.

Some articles were rolled up tightly or laid in a cool place before being ironed.

Ironing hints were to take a good hot iron, rub it on wax to prevent sticking, and test it on a piece of calico.

If the iron is too hot it causes small creases which cannot be removed, and the linen is said to "mackerel".

If the iron is too cool, the linen will not become stiff, because the heat is not sufficient to burst the starch grains.

On the walls there is shelving with a small assortment of old irons. A few examples of these are an all British Pumpless Shellite Iron, Manufactured by Handiworks, Brisbane was donated by Pedro Doran of Tin Can Bay, and a Wood Heated Iron, Manufactured by Enterprise MFG Co. Ltd, Made in Philadelphia U.S.A.

Some Info. from Laundry Work, Dept of Public Instruction Qld

Ornament Collection...

The Cottage has many and varied displays, but a unique number of creations in particular that attracts attention is a collection of Mrs June Riley's ornaments that depict settlement in Gympie around 1900 (shown in photo).

In addition to June's ornament display are Aborigines, and the first fleet characters.



Calico Creek State School (Building No. 3)...

History... This school was opened on 11 July, 1936 by Councillor Hensen of Widgee Shire. It was a one teacher school to accommodate 40 pupils. The first headmaster was Miss Daphne Smith (1936-1940).

In 1970, the school closed, a victim of better transport and larger centralised schools.

Acquired.... The Society explored the possibility of purchasing a redundant school building from the district. It was decided that the Calico Creek School was the best option, and its removal could be achieved without dismantling part of the building's roof.

This building was relocated by house removalist Clyde Kunst to the Museum in March 1971 at cost price (estimated at \$600) and was placed on concrete stumps. The total cost of this project was just over \$900. In 1975 the Apex Club painted the exterior walls of the school building, and power was connected by November 1971.

Exhibits.... When the materials in the schoolroom were rearranged after the building was raised in 1982, a display of sporting items and photographs was set up in the side room. A working bee to rearrange the materials in the school room was organised for 22 September 1982. Organisation of this display was co-ordinated by Jim Buchanan. Exhibits for the school display came from various schools and organisations.

Gunalda State School donated a "grey ghost" radiogram, several maps, the Good Manners chart and a number of old text and reading books.

An old school press was donated by the Principal of the Kin Kin Junction State School.

A bell was donated by the Lockrose State School in the Lockyer Valley.

Several old school desks were redundant at the Widgee State School and were donated by the Widgee Hall and Recreation Committee.

The whole display is a creditable representation of an old time one teacher school. The verandah of the school building was enclosed to provide more display area. This also served to seal off the basement area from water leaking through the verandah.

Today... These exhibits mentioned are included in the school room, additional are ink, inkwells and slates - now unknown to the current generation of students, and also teaching aids on exhibit to give an idea of the furnishings of former small country schools. In the room is an original Wertheim piano, made in Melbourne from the Tin Can Bay School was delivered by the Vietnam Veterans 28th April 2008.

The appropriately equipped principal's office is on the verandah.

Framed photos of many schools, school desk/seat sets are in the side room. Items of interest donated by Robert Lonegran from the Widgee State School is a Kodak Ektagraphic EF Visionmaker, made by Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, New York, and a Telex Group Listening Centre,

Volunteers...

Work in progress...

Reconstruction
of the bullock wagon wheel



Chris making souvenirs in the
Blacksmith Shop



- * 'You are Here' signage has been placed on each building
- * The Bollard has been removed from the tank and now in position on a cement pad beside the gold room foundation
- * Shelving in the Radio Room has been repainted. The larger unit will remain where it is, and the two smaller units have been placed in the Communications building.
- * Interior painting is complete in the Monkland Railway Station - looks totally refreshed!
- * The missing link of cement path near the Cottage has been completed.
- * Site preparation of moving the fence for the ruston engine and earthmoving work has been carried out.
- * Repairing/painting of decking and beams for the gantry well underway and heading towards completion, also maintenance to the winding engine walkway.
- * Mould has been removed from exterior of buildings including the House, Cottage, Andrew Fisher House, and the Scouts Building.

Work planned...

- * Interpretive signage on exhibits in the Communications Room
- * In the Cottage, the telecom room, and hospital room, will be rearranged. The Radio Room will also have a refreshed appearance for the exhibits.
- * Building maintenance will continue
- * The roof has been removed from the Aveling Barford roller in preparation for painting
- * Maintenance and painting of the demountable building
- * Cementing of path from Breezeway to Bungawatta Hut
- * Construction/replacing the Calico Creek School stairs and landing
- * Underhouse storage excavation includes a post replacement
- * Leyland Cub Bus mechanical maintenance includes the water pump to be finished and refitted
- * Refit Bedford door
- * Assemble and make parts for the Petter engine

Note some of the work mentioned in progress and planning is being carried out by the Skillcentred Project Team.

Museum News...

ADOPTTEES Buildings can be adopted too, but presentation of exhibits is being undertaken by a few people:- David has adopted the Tank, Fire Station, and Gold Room, Max maintains the Calico Creek State School and the Implement/Truck Sheds exhibits, while Allan B. has interest in the area of Communications building and the Radio Room.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST to operate the Gympie Gold Museum Cafe for a period of 2 years from 26th February 2016 are invited and close on 30.11.2015.

Copies of the draft terms and conditions are available from the Gympie & District Historical Society Secretary telephone 0408616709 or info@gympiegoldmuseum.com.au

(This notice appeared in the Gympie Times 18.11.15.)

EVENT DAYS for 2016

Aussie Breakfast - 26 January **Steaming Day** - 2nd May **Steam Festival** - 1st/2nd/3rd October

Remembrance Day...

Remembrance Day in Australia is dedicated to Australians who died as a result of war, particularly from World War I onwards. A minute of silence is dedicated to the deceased, especially for soldiers who died fighting to protect the nation. This day is annually observed on November 11 at 11 a.m., and many workers stop work for a minute of unified silence, then resume work again.

Many people wear artificial poppies. Poppies were among the first plants that came from the battlefields of northern France and Belgium during World War I. Some people believed the popular myth that poppies were rich in their redness because they blossomed from grounds that were saturated with soldiers' blood.

Mindfulness...

The following mnemonics are sentences or phrases in which the initial letters of the words spell out a word which many people find rather tricky to spell.

BECAUSE

Betty Eats Cakes and Uncle Sells Eggs

or Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants

ARITHMETIC

A Rat In The House May Eat The Ice Cream

Imagine trying to remember the phrase, it would be harder than spelling the word!

The silly season is almost upon us...

People can be divided into three groups. Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
THANKYOU to all the Museum Volunteers/Members for your continued support.

Merry Christmas

From the Committee - Frank, Bennett, Allan B., Ralph and Marilyn

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Christmas Celebration...

INVITATION to Volunteers & Members

You and your Partner are invited to the Christmas
Celebration

on Sunday 13th December

at the Gold Museum Cafe

12 noon for a (FREE) Luncheon.

Please Reply to the Gold Museum Café (54 823995)

if you are attending by 6.12.15



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