



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 90 SEPTEMBER 2015

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

P.O. Box 626, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

(07) 5482 3995, Fax: (07) 54825686

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: 0412434961

**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

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

OCTOBER dates: 6TH, 18TH

(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 18TH October 9 a.m.

2015 EVENT:

**STEAM FESTIVAL 3rd/4th/5th October -
Celebrates the contribution of steam power to the
development of the region.**

www.gympiegoldmuseum.com.au

Also visit website: rushfestival.com.au/info

THE GENERAL MEETING will be held on WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2015

at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room.

Business includes: Work Projects

Gympie's first medico...

How did **"The Jumping Doctor"** get this nickname?
From his alleged habit of 'jumping' other people's claims!



Whenever Gympie's first medico, voluble Dr Theodore Edgar Dickson Byrne, rode about the goldfield, he was as likely as not to run into a hornet's nest of trouble.

Not for the worthy doctor the genteel calm of his profession; he believed in calling a spade a spade and to Hades if it hurt!

It was not long before Dr Byrne had been dubbed "the Jumping Doctor," and, in the rough and tumble community of those early days. There was more than an occasional snigger as he went by. Was the doc. abashed by the title? – not a bit of it! He in fact regarded himself as the champion of the miners – a view that not all these hardy souls shared.

Dr Byrne was "agin the government" on miners' fees, taxes, and the like and saw to it that he got himself onto the bench of the local Mining Courts as quickly as possible.

The court was elected each year and the good doctor had anything but a saloon passage in the election of November, 1869.

One of his rivals, Bill O'Regan, waspishly advertised, Miners of Gympie – Listen to clap trap and you will be deceived. Vote for the Jumping Doctor and he will physic you well, and also if you want to be bled. Vote for the Jumping Doctor and stultify yourselves. Remember, you may leave your shafts today without risk from jumpers.

Surprisingly, the doc. stayed silent – even after a broadside by his other rival, J D Collis whose ad. snorted: "Miners - look at this; 3B's – Byrne, Bounce, and Bunkum! . . . Collis, Confidence, and Commonsense."

Collis also could not resist a shot at O'Regan who, he prophesied, would bring only "rot and remorse."

It was quite an election in other ways, too O'Regan and his cronies strutted about the goldfield bedecked in bright ribbons and Collis raised eyebrows by cantering around on horseback – on his head. Truly an odd state of affairs!

Through it all, the doctor kept stolidly to the formality of public speeches. After one of his fiery addresses, another would-be orator mounted the soap box but the mob overturned him, box and all and made for the nearest pub, which happened to be Farley's Mining Exchange (now the Commercial).

The doc. surprised everybody except himself by topping the pool with a few hundred votes to spare. At the declaration of the poll, he displayed typical brashness, telling the then Gold Commissioner King that he was a nice fellow but really some of his decisions on mining disputes had been quite illegal.

Later, during a hospital dispute, the doctor was to lead a procession of miners around the Mining Court – the venue of nearly all meetings in those days – singing "Marching Through Georgia" and other rousing strains.

Dr Byrne never achieved his burning ambition to represent Gympie in Parliament. Oddly enough, he was not even a candidate and one day he packed his bags and left for a holiday in England, never to return to the goldfield.

Origin of a Name...

The Name Monkland by Ailsa Dawson

The surface of maps of our country is literally peppered with place names from overseas countries, from which so many of our earliest settlers came. This probably gave a little consolation to homesick migrants, serving to remind them of land and friends so far away, probably never to be seen again.

The first clue to the origin of the name Monkland came from Max McAulay, whose father Thomas had been born in the little Scottish coal mining village of New Monkland, in Lanarkshire, near Glasgow. He was one of a generation of coal miners from this village, and named the diggings where he settled after the place of his birth. By a strange co-incidence, Andrew Fisher also came from a small village in the same coal mining area, named Crosshouse.

The first registration of claims on this part of the Gympie Goldfield were recorded as “New Monkland”, but the “New” was soon dropped. The names Monkland and Crosshouse suggested strongly their connection with a monastery, and this proved correct.

On his return to Scotland, Mr Scott contacted the Glasgow newspaper “Weekly News,” which supplied the following:- ‘The district of Monkland in Glasgow, simply was a See of the Bishopric of Glasgow, and boasted a monastery; the earliest reference to Monkland is 1313.’

So our Gympie Monkland bears an old and honourable name commemorating an ancient mining field in faraway Scotland.

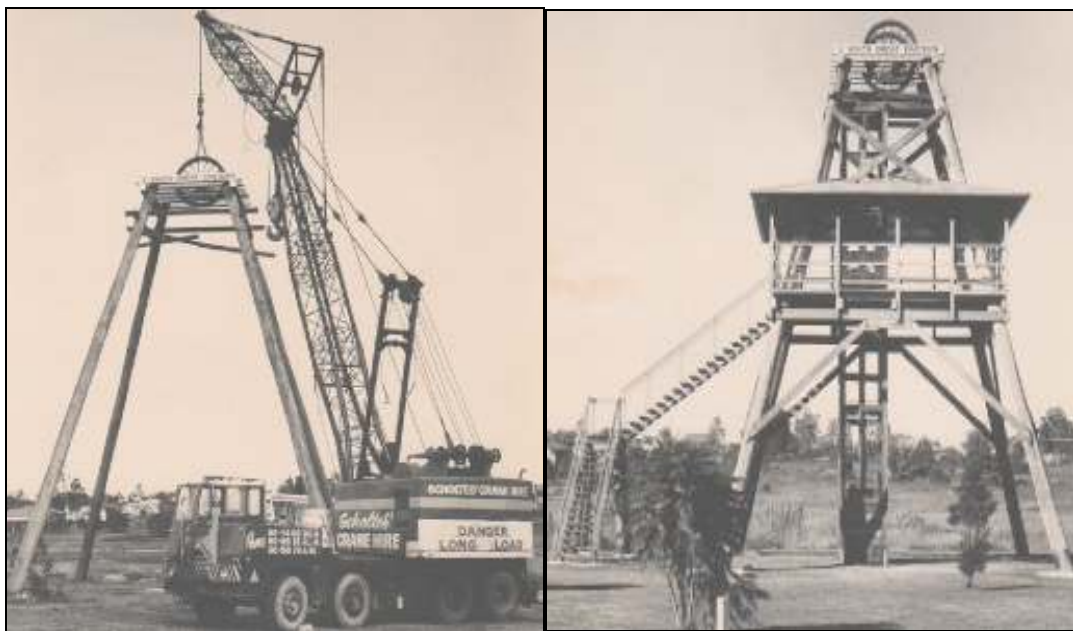
The McAulay family also kindly supplied a copy of Thomas McAulay’s birth certificate, recorded in New Monkland, Scotland.

Early Museum Photos...

Most head frames in Gympie ranged in height from 40 ft (12.2 metres) to 100 ft (30.5 metres).

This head frame has been reconstructed by the Society built with 50 ft. (15.2 metres) poles, and set into the ground approximately 5 ft. (1.5 metres).

Below is the stage of construction of the Museum Poppet Head in 1975, which stands directly over the original 2 South Great Eastern shaft.



Andrew Fisher House...



Readers, the June Newsletter mentioned about “adopting an exhibit” to maintain or improve its presentation or educational value, well enthusiastic volunteers, (pictured left) Anne and Joan were not afraid of taking on a challenge. These keen twosome have adopted Andrew Fisher House, by making a fresh start in the main bedroom .

The ornate beauty of the hanging kerosene Tilley lamp dominates the living room as seen in the centre photo, and is on loan from by Mr Gavin Lehr. He found it in a barn behind a slab cottage on his farm, and was in perfect condition, though very dirty. The brass work was cleaned by Mr Steele, of the Gympie Tinning Works. This American lamp can be pulled down on its chain for lighting and extinguishing.

In the kitchen (photo on the right) the room reflects the practical elegance of a past era. A 38 piece dinner set features plates, bowls, platters and serving dishes, also are two vegetable dishes - base and lid, soup terrine with lid and soup ladle on plate, one sauce jug with lid and small ladle and one gravy jug on plate. The white with green pattern, and gold trim table setting was made by J & G Meakin, England and donated by Miss E Woolgar.

Museum News...

* Numbers of participants were noticeably down for the **DUCK POND DASH** , due to the rainy day deterring some people. In attendance were Volunteers Ralph and Frank, and catering was provided by the Gympie Museum Re-enactment Group with a sausage sizzle and firing of the canon for the fun day held in late August.

* Museum Half Price Entry Fees applied on Wattle Day (1st September) and Father’s Day (6th September).

* Open day at the Gympie Ambulance Service included the loan of the 1924 Austin 20 replica ambulance.

* Andrew Fisher’s grandson and family members were guests at the Museum on Monday 7th September. During their surprise visit they were given a Museum tour in particular, Andrew Fisher House, which was their main interest, and many photographs were taken.

* A visit by Channel 7 cameraman on 10th September captured a number of historic photos including a visiting school tour in the midst of gold panning

* The Fire Truck will be in the limelight once again in the Mary Street Gold Rush Parade on 17th October.

Museum News (Cont.)...

- * Purchase of a Fuji Xerox colour photocopier/ printer has replaced the Brother.
- * The Bullock Wagon has now been moved to the Stamper Shed work area, which has been uncluttered and reorganised. The lengthy gantry decking boards are being painted there also.
- * The restored Historical Calendars in the Tank are closer for the eye to see on a display stand, previously they were being displayed high on the wall above the clocks.
- * Underhouse storage - cementing of another two bays is now complete with shelving in place.
- * Window tinting in the Communications building has been carried out by fitting clear safety film to panels of glass, and exhibits are progressively being positioned. The red post box is located at the steps, and a cement base has been poured for the placement of the Red Phone Box at the front corner of the House, which is close-by.
- * A panel of roofing on the Stamper Shed has been replaced with sheeting, to allow more light inside.
- * The ruston engine project has been continuing.
- * The Bellis and Morecombe engine was delivered from Tozer park is quite large, and weighs 12 ton. It required 2 cranes to move it into place beside the cottage, and this required the removal of the garden bed, which has been reinstated.
- * On 18th September, Ray Schollick, a pupil from the lower wonga school visited the Museum. He advised that the verandah of the school was closed in before he started there in the late 50's. There were only 15 pupils then. The scouts added the corner shelves, and there were two blackboards inside on the verandah end either side of the door - one for junior, one for senior. Ray was up from Melbourne to visit his dad, and bought along some good class photos with names on a memory stick, which are worthy of framing them all with the names etc.
- * Kandanga State School celebrated their centenary on 19th September with a historical display including a meat safe, blackboard, five seater desk and a heavy wheelbarrow - Museum exhibits on loan.
- * There have been many volunteer hours and days for Len and Chris in particular to bring the Big Stamper Project in all-important operational performance for the Steam Festival, work included to complete sealing of sheeting on amalgamation trays, drainage for amalgamating table, commission electric drive to stampers. In preparation for the entertainment organised by the Rush Festival, the gold panning tubs have been temporarily repositioned to the tea garden area. Cementing of this gold panning area will commence about mid October. **Steam Fest programme is subject to change.**
- * **Thankyou** to:
 - . Gympie Fisherman's Warehouse for their generous discount when purchasing sieves.
 - . The member of Heritage Bank for the contribution to the Society's Community Grant Account.
 - . Allan Soanes for the donation of postage stamps under My Post Concession Account.
 - . All the volunteers that have been working hard with preparations for the Steam Festival.

Does anyone frequently use the postal service ?Ask at your local AUSTRALIA POST about MyPost Concession Account -You are entitled to purchase up to 50 concession stamps per year

Info. from the Gympie Times 29 August 2015

The State Government's Gympie mine shaft repair program started in 1990. The high-quality service and shaft repair team has provided the Gympie community for over 20 years.

Since the project's inception, an estimated \$13.4 million has been invested to make safe more than 2000 historic shafts in the Gympie area.

Of these, more than 900 shafts were capped with concrete caps and more than 1200 made safe by other means.

Tour Guides...

Tour Guide Bill Moore was most impressed to receive a card of thanks from the students of Sienna Catholic Primary School when they visited the Museum in August. A few comments the students wrote were:

“Thank you for taking your time of your work and teaching us about the olden day school and about the gold I had lots of fun.”

“I thank you for teaching us about gold mining it was very nice of you to do that.”

To receive feedback like this it makes the task of being a Tour Guide all worthwhile, and shows that the students appreciate the learning experience, also having fun at the same time.

Our regular Tour Guides are Allan B., Max and Bill, and on other occasions Frank, Bennett, Ralph, Luda and Bevan assist as necessary. These people all excel in conveying a wealth of knowledge to visitors to make their tour interesting and educational on Gympie’s history. A popular part of the tour is to try gold panning in the tubs, and some strike it lucky to take away the real gold.

The last few months have been fairly hectic with school tours: From August these are: Talara College, Rainbow Beach, Gympie South Schools, Chancellor College, St Marys Bundaberg, and Glasshouse Mountains School, Mcillwraith School Gin Gin, Unity College, and Buddina School.

If anyone has a spare few hours to help out as a **Tour Guide** from time to time, your presence would be most welcome. (If interested, contact Allan Blackman 54 82 8828).



Times have changed!

The mode of garment around the years 1912 and 1913 at the One Mile School was so different in comparison to to-day’s school uniforms. In this donated photo, the boys outnumber the girls in this class of pupils!

Gympie Steam Festival...

On Saturday there will be **FREE ENTRY** to the Museum.

Other activities on the day will include market stalls, entertainment, children’s activities.

The October Steam Festival Programme is below:

- Saturday 3rd** 9.00 a.m. Model steam engine demonstrations powered by Carmicheal boiler.
10.00 a.m. Medium engine demonstrations powered by Galion boiler.
11.00 a.m. Gold recovery tables demonstrations - powered by Paxman portable boiler.
12.00 noon Formal opening of Rush Festival, Entertainment.
1.00 p.m. Recommissioning of No.2 South Great Eastern stamper battery by the Mayor, Mick Curran. Operation and demonstrations in Stamper shed of all equipment.
1.10 p.m. Demonstrations of hot air engines. 4.00 p.m. Close
- Sunday 4th** 8.30 a.m. Promotional demonstration at markets, Miniature train rides
1.00 p.m. Winding shed operating and demonstrations. 3.30 p.m. Close
- Monday 5th** 9.00 a.m. Model steam engine demonstrations powered by Carmicheal boiler
10.00 a.m. Medium engine demonstrations powered by Galion boiler.
11.00 a.m. Stamper shed demonstrations - Paxman portable boiler
12.00 noon Hot air engine demonstrations
1.00 p.m. Winding shed demos.-Walker boiler 3.30p.m. Close

GYMPIE'S FESTIVAL – GOLD RUSH 2015 PROGRAM (Subject to Change)

Saturday 17 October 2015 – Nelson Reserve & Mary Street

- 11.00am-3.00pm Classic Car & Bike Show
11.00am-3.30pm Gold Rush Family Fun Day includes live local entertainment, food stalls,
market stalls, face painting, jumping castles, fun rides and much more
4.00pm-4.30pm Street Parade through Mary Street
4.30pm Gold Rush Family Party continues in Nelson Reserve.
4.30pm-7.00pm Live entertainment
7.00pm Laser Light Show brings 2015 Gold Rush Festival to a close.

For more information visit: www.goldrush.org.au

THE



The Gympie & District Historical Society Inc.
215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE QLD 4570
Postal Address: P O Box 626, GYMPIE QLD 4570

NEWSLETTER