

Port Macquarie Museum ...
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PORT MACQUARIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

Patron: Mr Keith Uptin OAM



President's Report

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The Christmas season seems to be arriving in a rush and it's hard to believe that our Christmas Lunch is almost upon us. Having it on a Tuesday might have made it a bit earlier than usual, and so I'm not surprised that I had almost forgotten it. If you want to come but have not booked and paid by the time you read this, please give the Museum a call and have your name put on the list.

I've just arrived back from a very nice function—the Mayor handing out cheques to the recipients in the latest round of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Community Grants. Our cheque was for \$10,000, and is the Council's way of supporting our application to the NSW Government's Regional Cultural Fund for a substantially larger amount to enable us to employ professional support (from architects, museum experts, quantity surveyors, etc.) to develop a master plan and business case for the further development of our site and provide exhibition, storage, and function facilities that are essential if we are to continue to thrive. At right is a photo of our Mayor, Peta Pinson, handing our cheque to me—it was banked within the hour!

Debbie and I had a meeting on site with Council's Heritage Adviser, Stephen Booker, a fortnight ago to discuss a couple of ongoing issues with our heritage building. One was rising damp in the chimney in the old kitchen. The damp is causing problems in the lime mortar in the fireplace and in the chimney above the mantel. It seems the problem is caused by the acrylic paint which does not allow the mortar to breathe and the damp to evaporate. The solution is to remove the paint (there is a product to do this relatively easily), so the Committee will be scheduling this work in the near future. After the paint has been removed, the chimney will probably be left unpainted to avoid the problem recurring.

The other issue we discussed was issue of the front door and front step, and making ingress and egress a bit easier for many of us. Unfortunately, installing a

hand rail, either inside or outside, is not possible as the old bricks are too weak to support expansion bolts or other fasteners strong enough to support a hand rail and the related pressures. For the time being, until we can afford to build a functional and comfortable new entrance, people (including members and volunteers) who find the front door difficult to manage should be given access via the garden gates.

All the best for the Christmas Season!

Clive



Last Chance—Members Christmas Lunch

**Tuesday 4 December 2018
12 Noon for 12.30pm
Port Macquarie Golf Club**



Menu

Ham, Turkey, Roast Vegetables and Seasonal Greens

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Custard and Chantilly Cream

**Cost \$30 per person Please book and pay by:
Friday 30 November 2018**

Email bookings and direct deposit payments are welcome to:
Port Macquarie Historical Society **BSB 032-586 Ac. No. 460077**

2018 RAHS Conference

The conference was held at Port Macquarie on 20th and 21st October with the theme ***Surveying the Past, Mapping the Present***. A workshop on Friday afternoon at the local library by The State Library of NSW to publicise their project *Amplify*, a platform for delivering audio material on line was the first item on the program. The evening reception at the museum was a great success giving attendees a chance to see our museum and to sample delicious food and wine.

On Saturday morning, Minister Don Harwin presented the 2018 Create NSW Cultural Grants. President Clive accepted \$3,500 for our project *Historic Port Macquarie Walking Tour Brochure*.

The Lesley Muir Address was given by Dr Matthew Trinca, Director of the National Museum. His topic was *History from the ground up* and he spoke of the difficulties of deciding on the things that comprise Australia's "national" history. The answer may be to focus on stories and objects at a local level, linking them through common themes and ideas of national relevance.

The next session was ***Port Macquarie History and Heritage*** and Clive Smith spoke on *Port Macquarie's Last Convicts*, Tony Dawson on *Early Estates of the Hastings-Fences, Feuds and Friendships* and John Heath spoke about his recent book *Birrapi-Beyond the lens of Thomas Dick*.

The afternoon session was titled ***Mind your Business: Historical Insights through Researching Business Records***. Professor Robert Crawford spoke on *Historical Market Research and the Australian Consumer Mind*, dealing with a market research company begun in 1936 and choosing their varied campaigns until the 50s/60s to market the Sao Biscuit. Dr Cath Bishop challenged the potential for error in *Don't Assume it's a Man: Finding Women in Colonial Business Records*.

There were two short presentations, one by Lynne Allen, Chair of the Affiliated Societies and President of Shoalhaven Historical Society, dealing with local businesses and the evolution of Nowra CBD and local tradespeople such as blacksmiths, coachmen and saddlers. Samantha Friend, President of the Bathurst Historical Society, gave a short talk about the early photographers in Bathurst.

Delegates then departed for a *Walking Tour: Stories behind the Graves, Port Macquarie's Second Burial Ground* led by Lyn Crosscombe or a *Bus Tour: Links, Chains and Milestones* led by Tony Dawson.

Sunday began with a Business Session. The 2018 Heritage Grant Awards and the 2018 Certificate of Achievement Awards were presented by RAHS President, Christine Yates. It was fascinating to see the variety of projects and the dedicated work of the recipients. There was then discussion of action that could be taken if a heritage item is threatened. The importance of the role of Treasurer in an organisation was highlighted, there was a topic *Children as Volunteers* and news on changes to the Marriage Act.

Sunday mornings talks on ***Resurveying the Surveyors*** was led by Dr James Drown, *Accuracy and Credibility: how reliable are the early land records of the government surveyors?* Dr Terry Kass spoke on *Colonial Surveyors on the North Coast of New South Wales* and Emeritus Professor David Carmen AM talked of his work in questioning *John McDouall Stuart's Triumph? Raising the flag at Chambers Bay in 1862*.

Sunday afternoon's sessions dealt with ***The Legacies of World War 1***. Dr Daniel Noonan spoke on *Those we forget, surveying the human cost of Australia's Great War*. Angela Phippen presented *Mapping the war's impact on towns and suburbs: house names as war memorials*. Dr Peter Hobbins at this talk *Pursuing a pandemic: local history in medical records* and in his workshop on Monday morning at the library *Researching and commemorating the Spanish Flu* outlined ways local communities may contribute to the RAHS Centenary Project 2019: *Pneumonic Influenza 1919 An Intimate Pandemic*.

The Conference was well organised, the speakers interesting. Many local societies were represented and the trade tables well patronised. Our trade table was staffed by Lillian Andrews and Judith Hansen.

The 2019 Conference will take place in Tamworth on Saturday 14- Sunday 15 September 2019.

Judith Hansen

Grandparents Day

On Sunday 28 October we took the Museum out of the building and down to Town Green for our 'Museum on the Green' as part of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Bicentenary '200 Together' community event. The day was also NSW Grandparents Day and with the assistance of a grant from the Department of Family and Community Services, our stall provided an opportunity for grandparents, children and families to have some fun together and make a photograph souvenir of the day at our photo booth. We also offered lots of 'hands on' things for grandparents, children and families to do together, including dress ups, guess the object and a digital photo exhibition. We gave away almost 400 free family passes to our museum.

A special thank you to everyone who helped out. The photo booth was a big hit! It was non stop and many of us spent the whole day on our feet. The overcast weather did impact attendances with Council estimating around 3000 people attended the event. It would have been much higher if it had been a bright sunny day.



President Clive Smith, former 'Pelican' owner Geoffrey Dick and Patron Keith Uptin



Danielle, Xavier and Hannah Kenny of Wauchope enjoyed our dress ups



Strip Souvenir - Committee members and volunteers with John Oxley (aka Cameron Marshall ABC MNC Radio) from left: Lil Andrews, Clive Smith, Anne Oud, Cameron Marshall, Judith Hansen & Debbie Sommers



At the Front Desk

Over the past few months we have welcomed a number of new members and front desk volunteers including Sue Bulmer, Frank King and Annie Smith. The role of our front desk volunteers is vital to our operation and our volunteers receive high praise from our many visitors. Thank you!



Sue Bulmer with Chris Rowe



Frank King with Betty Cleary



Annie Smith with Joe Davis

Arts and Health Conference

The 10th Annual International Arts and Health Conference organised by Margret Meagher from the Australian Centre for Arts and Health was held at Sails Resort, Port Macquarie from 12 to 15 November 2018. We were an in-kind supporter of the conference and hosted the welcome reception for delegates at the Museum on the evening of Monday 12 November. Special guests at the reception included Professor the Hon Dame Marie Bashier AD, CVO; Leslie Williams MP Member for Port Macquarie and Peta Pinson Mayor, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. Around 40 people attended and it provided an opportunity to show off our museum to both national and overseas delegates.

Also, Debbie Sommers teamed up with local artist and Creative Ageing Practitioner Lisa Hort and Associate Professor Rylee Dionigi from Charles Sturt University to present their paper 'Creative Ageing: Evaluating Dementia-friendly, Arts-based Programs in Port Macquarie, NSW Using an Authentic Partnership Approach' at the conference. The paper was well received and attracted a great deal of interest.



Left: Leslie Williams talks about the importance of Dementia-friendly communities at the welcome reception



Right: Lisa Hort, Rylee Dionigi and Debbie Sommers teamed up to present a paper about local dementia-friendly creative ageing programs at the conference

November Wander to Douglas Vale

On Wednesday 7 November, 22 members headed off to Douglas Vale for morning tea and a guided wander (tour) of the homestead, grounds and for some, a wine tasting. The morning tea was delicious, and the tours interesting, informative and enjoyable. The rain also held off! Many thanks to our colleagues at Douglas Vale for giving us a warm and friendly welcome.



Guess Who? – Answer

The person we wanted you to identify is wearing the white skirt. That person is Richard Grimmond. Ask him about it next time you see him.



Mid Summer Picnic

Once again, the Social Sub Committee has arranged a members' social get-together during January. It will be a picnic in the museum garden on **Wednesday 30 January** commencing at 5.30pm with cold meats (chicken, ham, beef), salads and desserts provided. Wine and soft drinks will also be provided. BYO Beer. It's a chance to catch up informally and to meet new people. To assist with catering please place your name on the booking sheet on the notice-board or send us an email to let us know you are coming along. We will send an email reminder out closer to the date.



Summer Picnic (We will be using chairs and tables at our picnic!)

Society Diary Dates

December
Sunday 2 December
11.00am to 3.00pm
 First Sunday Free

Tuesday 4 December
12 Noon for 12.30pm
 Christmas Lunch
 Port Macquarie Golf Club
(See details on front page)

2019

January
Sunday 6 January
11.00am to 3.00pm
 First Sunday Free

Wednesday 16 January
 Museum Selfie Day

Wednesday 30 January
5.30pm for 6.00pm
 Mid Summer Picnic

February
Friday 1 February
 10.00am General Meeting

Monday 11 February
5.00pm Exhibition Opening
 'Where we call home'
 NSW Seniors Festival

Reminder: General meetings are held quarterly. The next meeting is in **February**. Note, meeting time is now **10.00am**.

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Australian Government

Our Achievements

WORKING TOWARDS



NORTH COAST
HALL OF FAME 2018
 cultural Tourism

Contributors this Month:

Judith Hansen

Clive Smith

Debbie Sommers

Graham Strachan

Compiled by: Anne Oud