

Port Macquarie Museum
22 Clarence Street,
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Phone: (02) 6583 1108

Web: portmuseum.org.au

Email: portmuseum@gmail.com

PORT MACQUARIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.



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President's Report

Here we are with the December newsletter already—the year seems to have gone so quickly.

Although visitor numbers have been down a little compared with last year, we nevertheless have been quite busy. The Regional Digitisation Hub project has been a major activity, as you will have noticed in the Newsletters over the last few months. Concurrently there has also been a lot of work in refreshing exhibits or replacing them with new ones—and we did most of the work in creating a new online exhibit, *Journeys Mid North Coast*, with other museums. When I say “we” of course I mean Debbie with help from a number of others. Thank you, Debbie!

I also want to say Thank You to Graham Strachan, who has decided to retire from the position of Treasurer after 8 years. Following the money hasn't gotten any easier with the transition from mostly cash (or cheques) to mostly electronic means over a variety of platforms—a trend we can't ignore. Again, thank you Graham!

You will see in the Diary Dates on the last page that we are hoping to launch a new publication, *Burrawan: The desecration and resurrection of Lake Innes*, by John Heath and Ashley Barnwell. This is a new history of the lake, from both Indigenous environmental perspectives, and the effects of interactions by settlers and their successors. As there won't be a Newsletter until February, keep your eyes on your email inbox for more information.

In the meantime, I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Clive



2023 International Volunteer Day



International Volunteer Day (IVD) is held on 5 December each year to raise awareness of the important role volunteers play in society and within communities.

IVD is a day to celebrate and promote volunteering. There are millions of volunteers in Australia and IVD is an opportunity to acknowledge, thank and celebrate the work of our volunteers.

This year's IVD theme is: "If Everyone Did". If everyone volunteered, the world would be a better place. If everyone volunteered just a few hours a month with our organisation then we would be more resilient and more sustainable.

On Tuesday 5 December, please pause, reflect and celebrate the work of our volunteers, past and present. Without them we would not be the organisation we are today.

To all our wonderful volunteers - **thank you!**



Christmas Dinner Final Call

Bookings and payments for our Christmas Dinner close at 4pm on Monday 4 December. Please also note that refunds cannot be given after that time.

Displays Update

You may have noticed changes in the costume gallery recently as we prepare for our new exhibition *Mono Couture*. *The Colours Green* exhibition has been removed, and Anne Oud has been busy (and hot) painting some of the gallery walls white. The Carnival Queens display will also be removed and the showcase painted before we install a new backdrop and the exhibition items.

Mono Couture will feature black and white historic and contemporary clothing, accessories and art-works from our collection. The exhibition is supported by Arts Mid North Coast through the NSW Government's Country Arts Support Program. The grant will fund branding and graphic design to promote and support the exhibition.



Clive Smith gets into the spirit of *Mono Couture* modelling his black tricorne hat - a souvenir from his recent overseas opera tour



MNC Regional Digitisation Hub Update

The MNC Regional Digitisation Hub project is nearing completion. The project has now digitised more than 1000 collection items across the seven participating museums, however a large number of these are still being processed or need to have their collection records entered into eHive before we can acquit the Creative Capital Minor Works Grant we received to establish the Hub. The processing of the digital files and collection cataloguing work will be the focus of the project for the month ahead.

You can view some of the digitised items on the newly created MNC Regional Digitisation Hub page on eHive: <https://ehive.com/communities/1220/mnc-regional-digitisation-hub>. Only a small number of items have been posted here to date, this too is a work in progress.



New member and volunteer Lynda Walters processing digitized collection items



Member Milestones

This year we recognise four members who have achieved 20 years of membership. Judith and John Hansen, and Lynne and Pat Frances, joined us in 2003. In addition to being members, all four have volunteered in various capacities over the past two decades. Both Judith Hansen and Pat Frances also served as management committee members and Pat served as President.

John Hansen has assisted with numerous project works, including setting up some of our early audio visual display initiatives. Lynne Frances volunteered on the front desk and assisted with office duties, including bookkeeping. Pat Frances was our serving President in 2006 when we celebrated 50 Years of Heritage In The Hastings, which included welcoming and hosting our then Patron and Governor of New South Wales, Marie Bashir, to the celebration events.

They join a small number of current members who have achieved 20 years or more of membership and service including: Lynda Turner, Lance Barrett, Heather Aynsley, Gwen and Richard Grimmond, John Johnson, David Allen and Debbie Sommers.

Judith Hansen is the longest serving volunteer amongst the group. She continues to volunteer regularly on the front desk (currently Thursday afternoons) and was also our volunteer Librarian for many years. Congratulations and Thank You Judith!



John and Judith Hansen, 2004



Judith Hansen receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Debbie Sommers, recognising her 10 years of membership. 2013



Lynne and Pat Frances, with Noel from the Jugged Hare Bush Band during the Governor's visit, 2006



Wise Volunteers - Anne Fuller and Judith Hansen, 2013

Vale Alice Walker



Alice at the front desk, 2013

For many years Alice Walker was one of the first members you met when you joined the Port Macquarie Historical Society. She eagerly sought out new members and wanted to know all about them! Alice had a passion for life and people's stories. Alice joined our Society on 2 September 1988.

Alice Elizabeth Walker passed away peacefully at Port Macquarie on 29 October 2023, aged 101 years.

Alice was certainly an enthusiastic member of our Historical Society. She worked on many projects, including researching and writing the publication *Barefeet and Blackboards*, about the history of education in the Hastings Valley, launched in 2006. Towards the end of her time as a front desk volunteer you would find Alice on a Saturday afternoon wandering around the museum talking to our visitors.

Alice was awarded our Volunteer of the Year award in 2012. In addition to the above, Alice served as a Vice President from 1995 to 2001. She attended schools to present history prizes to students, coordinated History Lectures, gave coffee morning talks and was social secretary, organising many member outings. Even after Alice ceased volunteering she liked to pop in for a bit of chat.

Our condolences have been extended to Alice's family. A Memorial Service for Alice will be held on Friday 1 December 2023 at St Thomas' Church commencing at 10.00am, followed by refreshments. Members are invited to attend.

Left: Alice Walker receiving her Volunteer of the Year Certificate from Leonie Laws, 2012

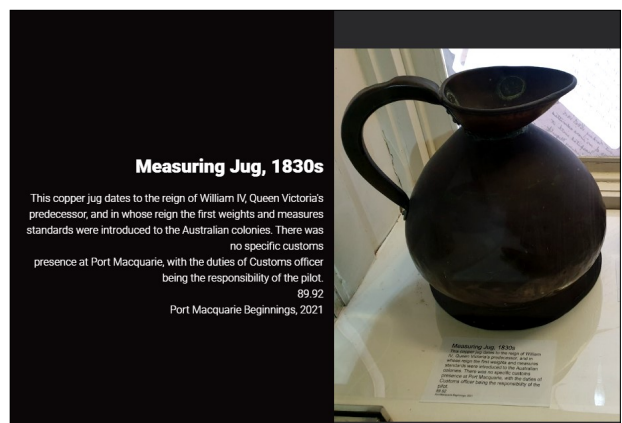
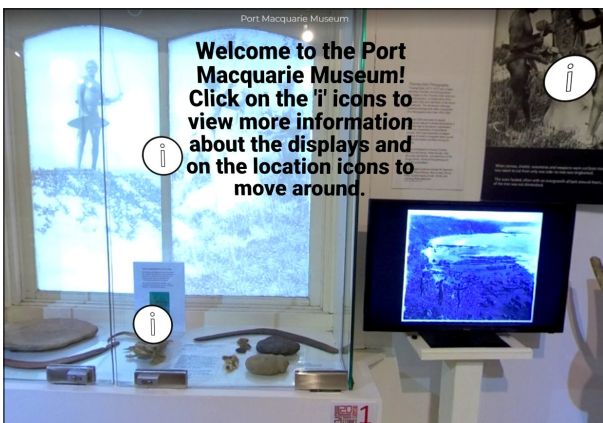


360 Tour

Back in our September newsletter we mentioned that Atticus Star, a student from Hastings Secondary College, Westport Campus was working on a 360 degree tour of our Museum for a school project.

Atticus has now finished the tour and you can view it on our website or here: <https://app.situ360.com/5c1913/10533/68759/public>

We are very impressed with the tour and think Atticus has done a great job. We hope you like it too!



You Might Like...

You might like to look at this beautiful watercolour painting titled 'A ball at Lake Innes House', c1847 by Anna Sarah Rachel Collard, nee Wauch [1828-1904] from the Hamon Massie collection, State Library NSW. <https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/nQRmVzZ1>

Member, Rob Tickle, recently came across the artwork whilst continuing his research into the Wauch family of Wauchope. Thanks for sharing Rob!



Diary Dates

December 2023

Wednesday 13 Dec—5.30pm

Members Christmas Dinner

Noshtalgia Cafe Restaurant
Shop 13, Colonial Arcade.

Bookings and payment by 4 December.

January 2024

Friday 12 January—10.00am
(To be confirmed)

Book Launch - *Burrawan*
Lake Innes Ruins

Watch noticeboard and email for further details.

Acknowledgement of Country

Port Macquarie Museum acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we live and work, the Birpai people, and recognises their continuing connection to Country. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all First Australians.

Our Achievements



2021 National Trust Heritage Awards - Highly Commended (Tourists Paradise)



2022 IMAGInE Awards – Highly Commended (New Journeys Broad Horizons)

Our Supporters



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Contributors this Month:

Clive Smith
Debbie Sommers

Compiled by:
Anne Oud