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PORT MACQUARIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

Patron: Mr Keith Uptin OAM



President's Report

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Welcome to 2018, the year in which we celebrate the bicentenary of John Oxley's first visit to our area, when he named (or, rather, re-named) a number of the local features and, on his way back to Sydney via Port Stephens and Newcastle, recommended the area to Governor Macquarie as suitable for a penal settlement. It is somewhat ironic that on the eve of this bicentenary, the local Council should see fit to remove (without consulting the community) a monument erected in 1929 to commemorate Oxley's visit. While the relevance of the nature of the removed monument (the compass stand from HMAS Sydney) to Oxley and/or his visit escapes me, and while its positioning to mark Oxley's camp site is doubtful, its unannounced removal is disappointing. As the compass stand has been given to the Maritime Museum, it clearly will not form part of the replacement monument that has been promised by Council. I understand that the design and positioning of a replacement monument are under consideration. If it is to mark Oxley's camp site, let us hope that the positioning is adequately researched.

Last year the State Government established the Regional Cultural Fund (\$100M over 4 years) to support bold and exciting infrastructure development by regional museums and galleries. Our application for a modest grant (to develop a Master Plan for the expansion and upgrading of our facilities), was unsuccessful, but we have been advised that they were sufficiently impressed that they will visit us this month to discuss how we might progress with an application in the next round. We have also had preliminary discussions with our local State and Federal MPs to inform them of our visions and to seek their support. We will also be talking with Council about possible support or collaboration.

Members visiting the Museum will have noticed an increase in our Hello Koalas population. Woody is having a holiday with us in the South Courtyard, and Guula has taken up residence in the North Courtyard. Both are sponsored by Forestry Corporation.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter is a plea for additional volunteers to help out at the front desk. Lil Andrews, who coordinates the roster, has been an absolute champion at filling in whenever there's an empty spot on the roster, but we do need a few more regulars. Just a couple of sessions a month would be a great help.

We are expecting to join the NBN this month. This means that we have had to upgrade the communication systems

for our security and fire alarms so that they can operate independently using wireless technology. Glad we installed the manhole in the ceiling of the upstairs kitchen, as this made the job much easier.

It was great to see a good number of you at our Midsummer Picnic last month. Pictures elsewhere in this issue. I hope to also see a number of you on the bus trip to Dorrig on the 22nd.

Clive



President, Clive Smith acknowledges 20 years of service to the Society by Richard and Gwen Grimmond



Wanted

We are urgently seeking new volunteers for the front desk. Staffing the front desk is vital to our operations and our volunteers play an important role in meeting and greeting our visitors, providing information and responding to enquiries. It is a great way to meet people and to learn new things too.

If you or someone you know is interested in helping out, please speak to Lil Andrews about how you or they can assist. There is no need to take on a regular shift if you would prefer just to help out from time to time. We also currently have some permanent roster vacancies if you would like a regular shift.

Celebrating Oxley

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Surveyor General John Oxley's journey of discovery and his arrival in the Hastings. To commemorate Oxley's journey and his naming of Port Macquarie, Richard Grimmond has compiled a comic book, 'A Bicentenary Comic Book for Kids (of all ages)'. The comic book tells the story of Oxley's journey in a simplistic and entertaining way and includes quotes from Oxley's published journal. It is now available for purchase at a cost of \$2 and has been selling well.



Richard Grimmond with his new comic book 'A Bicentenary Comic Book for Kids (of all ages)'.

For those interested in reading Oxley's journals (Journals of Two Expeditions into the Interior of New South Wales) in detail, they have been produced as an ebook by Project Gutenberg Australia and are available at this link:

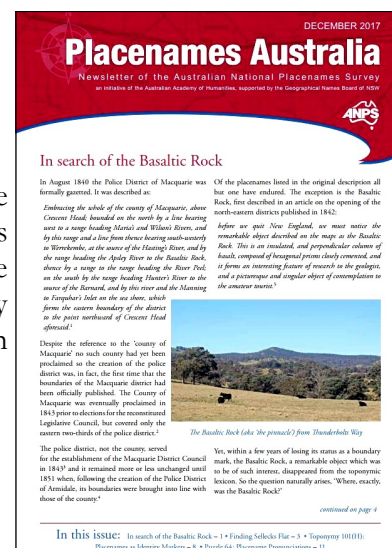
<http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks/e00037.txt> and for those wanting to know a little more about John Oxley you might like to read his entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography :
<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/oxley-john-joseph-2530>

An exhibition titled 'Celebrating Oxley' is planned for later in the year.

In Search of the Basaltic Rock

Congratulations to Tony Dawson who has had his paper 'In search of the Basaltic Rock' published in the December 2017 edition of the Placenames Australia, the newsletter of the Australian National Placenames Survey. The informative article is illustrated with some scenic photographs taken by Tony during his research expeditions. A copy of the newsletter can be borrowed from our library or you can read the newsletter online at:

http://www.anps.org.au/documents/Dec_2017.pdf.



Bus Trip to Dorrigo Museum



Don Dorrigo and Guy Fawkes Museum

Our second social event for 2018 is a bus trip to the Don Dorrigo and Guy Fawkes Museum at Dorrigo on Thursday 22 February 2018. Our bus trips are always very enjoyable, with plenty of laughs and an opportunity to get to know your fellow members. The bus will depart the Glasshouse at 8.30am with a morning tea stop at Nambucca Heads. After visiting the Dorrigo Museum we will lunch at the Dorrigo Heritage Hotel and return with a stop at Bellingen for browsing and shopping. Cost is \$50 per person which includes coach travel and museum entry. Morning tea and lunch at members' own expense. Bookings and payment by Monday 12 February 2018 please.

2017 Christmas Lunch

Our Members' Christmas Lunch was held at Port Macquarie Golf Club on Friday 8 December 2017. The occasion was well attended and once again proved extremely enjoyable. Clive Smith presented Richard and Gwen Grimmond with twenty-year service certificates and Jenny Asher with a certificate of appreciation for her ten years of service to the Port Macquarie Museum.



Rosemary Castleden and Win Buckle



Margaret and Dennis Piltz



Frans Oud, Judith Hansen and Carolyn Bittar



Lyn Rowland and Margaret Blight



Lillian Andrews



Helen Soles and Lynda Turner



Yvonne and Rex Toomey



Camilla Rayner and Des Joseph



Sandra Lyndon-James and Marilyn Liddell



Shirley Gamack and Jenny Asher



Lorraine Lyne



Graham Strachan, Gerald Billing and Jim Forbes

Mid Summer Picnic



Forty members gathered on the evening of 16 January for a pleasant and social picnic in the garden. The weather was perfect and the food delicious. Thanks to the Social Sub Committee comprising Lil Andrews, Gerald Billing, Margaret Piltz and Graham Strachan for the organising. Special thanks to our team of caterers Lil Andrews, Heather Aynsley, Gwen Grimmond, Anne Oud, Margaret Piltz, Debbie Sommers and Graham Strachan.

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Our Supporters



Australian Government

Society Diary Dates

Friday 2 February

10.00am General Meeting

Thursday 22 February

Bus Trip to Dorrig

Departs at 8.30am

Book and pay by 12 February

April

Wednesday 4 to Sunday 15 April

NSW Seniors Festival

Free museum entry for all seniors

Thursday 5 April

'Postcard Connections'

5.00pm Exhibition opening

Monday 9 April

Sensational Seniors Expo

Panthers Auditorium

9.00am to 2.00pm

Monday 9 April

Sensational Seniors Expo

Panthers Auditorium

9.00am to 2.00pm

Thursday 19 April

Artwalk

6.00pm to 9.00pm

May

Friday 4 May

10.00am General Meeting

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

Our Achievements



IMAGInE
awards winner

Contributors this Month:

Anne Oud

Frans Oud

Clive Smith

Debbie Sommers

Compiled by: Anne Oud