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PORT MACQUARIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.



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President's Report

Welcome to our first *Newsletter* for 2024. I hope members have had a restful and enjoyable break over the Christmas-New year period—but of course I am extremely grateful to all those who volunteered to keep the Museum open during the past month. Visitor numbers have been up and down—we've had days with hardly any, and days with lots. I think last Saturday was the busiest, with 30 adults and 9 families.

Members will have been pleased to hear that, in the last Australia Day Honours List, Janette Hyde was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community of Port Macquarie. Janette has been very active in the tourism industry for many years. She has been a member of the Historical Society for over 10 years and has served on the Management Committee. Congratulations, Janette—well deserved!

The twin principal functions of an historical society (preserving evidence of past history, and presenting past history to a present-day audience) came together nicely with our latest publication *Burrawan—The desecration and preservation of Lake Innes* by John Heath and Ashley Barnwell, who were able to use our archival collections in their research. You can read more about the book and its launching on the next page.

We have just been advised that our recent application to the Copland Foundation for a grant of \$25,000 to support the development of a Heritage Management Strategy for our front building has been approved. This is in addition to a grant of \$30,000 from Heritage NSW for the same purpose, and significantly reduces the cost we would otherwise have to bear. More about the Heritage Management Strategy in a future Newsletter once we know the work will begin.

Once again, I look forward to an interesting year, and as ever am grateful for the support of our members. Clive

In the News

We recently had a mention in an article on worldatlas.com. You can read the article at this link: <https://www.worldatlas.com/cities/7-most-welcoming-towns-in-new-south->



Janette Hyde at the launch of *Return to lake Innes* in 2021.



Welcome Dance led by Emily Heath at the Burrawan book launch

Burrawan Book Launched

Our latest publication *Burrawan - The desecration and resurrection of Lake Innes*, was launched on Friday 12 January, at the Innes Ruins, beside Lake Burrawan. The launch was attended by around 70 people, including Birpai elders and community members, the authors' extended family members and friends, community members from various organisations, staff from National Parks and Wildlife Service and members of the public.

The launch included: a Smoking Ceremony by Dr. Paul Collis, a Call to Our Old People by John Heath, a Welcome Dance led by Emily Heath together with mixed mob members, and addresses by the authors, John Heath and Ashley Barnwell; Dr. John Drinan, Agricultural Scientist and Environmentalist; and Kate Ashton from Revive Lake Cathie group. President Clive Smith was MC.

Congratulations to Ashley and John for researching and writing this much needed publication, highlighting important, little known, and forgotten aspects of our local environmental history and Birpai culture and traditions, together with truth telling.

A big thank you to Jesse James from National Parks and Wildlife Service, who together with other NPWS staff provided enormous support to stage the launch out at the Innes Ruins. Thanks also to the University of Melbourne who sponsored the launch, including the equipment hire. Finally, a very big thank you to Anne Oud, who liaised with National Parks, Port Hire, the authors, and everyone else involved to make the event a successful and enjoyable one for all involved. Thanks Anne!

Burrawan - The desecration and resurrection of Lake Innes has been supported by the Create NSW Cultural Grants Program, a devolved funding program administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Government.

The book is now available from the front desk at a cost of \$25 per copy or can be purchased at our online store <https://portmuseum.org.au/shop.html>. Book sales support our work of caring for our significant heritage collections and State Heritage building.



Mono Couture Exhibition

Our new exhibition Mono Couture opened on 18 December, just in time for our holiday visitors. The exhibition features black and white historic and contemporary clothing and accessories. It has received very positive comments from visitors and also some of our members!

The exhibition was supported by Arts Mid North Coast through the NSW Government's Country Arts Support Program. The grant funded branding and graphic design to promote and support the exhibition, including the production of exhibition information panels. Thanks to Mic Rees who was the graphic designer for this project. The information panels and postcards look fantastic.

Thanks to Anne Oud for painting the exhibition spaces and for assisting with the exhibition installation. Thanks also to Jenny Murray and Sue O'Rourke who took on the role of exhibition ambassadors, delivering the promotional postcards to local businesses including hairdressers, independent fashion retailers and accommodation providers.

The exhibition will continue for some months yet. We will continue to promote it to residents and visitors, as well as TAFE and secondary school students studying fashion and design.



Funded by the NSW Government through
Country Arts Support Program

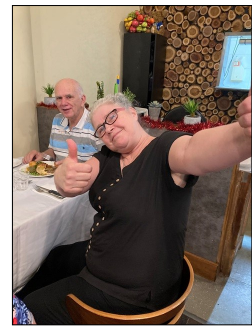
MNC Regional Digitisation Hub Update

We are edging closer to completing our MNC Regional Digitisation Hub project. With more than 1000 collection items digitised across the seven participating museums, we are now busily completing the process of entering accompanying collection records into eHive.

There are now more than 800 digitised items publicly accessible on the MNC Regional Digitisation Hub page on eHive: <https://ehive.com/communities/1220/mnc-regional-digitisation-hub>. The project target is 1000.

Members Christmas Dinner

The 2023 Christmas Dinner was held at Nostalgia Cafe Restaurant on Wednesday 13 December with almost 40 members and friends attending. The change to a dinner rather than lunch was successful, with everyone enjoying a delicious Christmas meal and judging by the conversations and noise, good company. The staff from Nostalgia did a great job of looking after us, including alerting us that two people were missing. After quick calls to Betty Cleary and Bronwyn O'Brien, they both arrived. It seems they had thought the dinner was the following evening. We were also surprised by a visit from long time members Doreen (Herself) and Norm (Himself) Oliver who now live on the Central Coast. It was wonderful to see them!



NSW Heritage Strategy

The NSW Government is developing a Heritage Strategy to set a new direction and vision for protecting heritage in our State. Heritage includes the places, objects and stories we have inherited from the past and want to protect for generations to come. Heritage also includes tens of thousands of years of Aboriginal culture and landscapes, natural heritage, historic buildings and structures, gardens, precincts, cultural landscapes, archaeological sites, shipwrecks and intangible heritage.

The NSW Heritage Strategy is intended to address key challenges faced by heritage in all its forms, now and into the future.

Heritage NSW is seeking feedback to inform and shape the direction of the NSW Heritage Strategy to ensure it responds to community aspirations.

You can provide feedback by completing the Heritage NSW survey before 31 March 2024, at this link: <https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/nsw-heritage-strategy>

Displays Update

During February we will be making changes to some displays. We will farewell the very popular Botanical exhibition to make way for a new exhibition 'Conflict and Creativity'. Whilst it will be sad to see Botanical go, it will free up space to show different items from our collection and tell different stories. More about Conflict and Creativity next month.

In the coming months we will be changing over Sovereign Souvenirs and School Days. This will also provide an opportunity to address lighting problems in some of the display windows.

We recently added a cabinet in the Historic Kitchen to display more of our Australian pottery collection, including pieces by Dorothy Hope created at Thrumster during the 1960s.

Diary Dates

Member event dates for 2024 have not yet been scheduled.

March 11-24

NSW Seniors Festival
Free Museum entry for all Seniors



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



Australian Government



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS

Supported by the



NSW GOVERNMENT



Museums & Galleries of NSW

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Forestry Corporation



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