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PORT MACQUARIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.
Patron: Mr Keith Uptin OAM



President's Report

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Since our last *Newsletter* we have received and signed the agreement for the Grant from the Regional Cultural Fund for the development of an upgrade master plan for our site, and we have scheduled the first on-site meetings with our consultants. Over the next few months we will be seeking input and ideas from our supporters in the community and, of course, from you, our members.

We have now had the first floor joists inspected in the heritage building to ascertain the cause of the movement in the floor. It seems that at this location (adjacent to the upstairs doorway), there had once been an opening for stairs, and that the replacement joists had now ceased to be adequately attached to the wall or the main joists. Full remediation of this problem, and similar support for the floor of the room above the foyer, will require insertion of steel beams. This will be an expensive operation and we are seeking the necessary funding and approvals. In the meantime, we are seeking approval (and some funding) for a temporary support pillar, which fortunately can be in an unobtrusive position.

Speaking of funding, we have also received some more grants. The Department of Veterans Affairs has given us a grant for the purchase of a secure display case suitable for the display of small items and memorabilia, such as medals, in a manner where they can be more closely examined. Small items in our World War I at Home exhibit are not easy to see. This will enable us to refurbish this exhibit and switch the emphasis to coming home after the war.

Another grant, under Museums & Galleries NSW's Volunteer Museums Project Development Grant program, will enable us to develop both a physical and on-line exhibition. *Tourists Paradise* will showcase Port Macquarie's history (longer than many people think) as a tourist destination.

Early last month, we held an information session for new members in order to acquaint them with what we do here at the Museum. Topics included the benefits of membership and the various opportunities

for volunteering in aspects of the Museum's work. As a result, we are now training some of our newer members in aspects of collection management, such as cataloguing and researching the history of objects in the collection. If you are interested in attending the next information session, please let us know so that we can let you know when it is scheduled.

It was good to see a number of members at the opening of our temporary exhibition *Where we call home*. If you didn't come, you missed a good evening (even with a malfunctioning P.A. system), not to mention some great exhibits.

I'm looking forward to our Women's Week lecture (details on page 3), and hope to see many of you there—men are welcome, too, you know.

Watch out for more events, as the year progresses, and we celebrate Archaeology Week, Archives Day, History Week.....

Clive



Member for Port Macquarie, Leslie Williams with President Clive Smith at the launch of, 'Where we call home'

2019 Seniors Festival Wrap Up

We have had another great response to our Seniors Festival activities for 2019. So far, our Open House with free entry for Seniors has attracted 210 seniors to the museum over the period from 11 to 21 February. Our stall at the Sensational Seniors Expo held on 18 February was kept busy all day and we handed out 427 free entry vouchers valid through to 28 February. Our free history book hamper draw also turned out to be a great drawcard with over 200 entries. Thanks to Chris Hart, Judith Hansen, Anne Oud, Margaret Piltz and Debbie Sommers for manning the stall across the day and to Margaret Piltz for also preparing all the vouchers.

Our key event for the Seniors Festival was a new exhibition, 'Where we call home', in collaboration with Lisa Hort, Creative Ageing Facilitator, Omnicare Alliance Creative Connections Program, Port Macquarie U3A textile and fibre artists and Port Macquarie U3A photography group. The temporary exhibition was officially opened on the evening of 11 February by Leslie Williams, Member for Port Macquarie and amongst the 60 people who attended, were the participating artists and their families, carers and friends; Omnicare representatives, Port Macquarie Hastings U3A President Lorraine Beukers, and Port Macquarie Hastings Council Mayor Peta Pinson. We also had Chris Speedy from Swift Video Media Australia along filming the opening event. If you didn't attend, you might like to view the opening video on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xNpGa7m9CY>

The exhibition is supported by a NSW Seniors Festival Grant from the NSW Government. The exhibition runs until 31 March 2019.

Thank you to our team of helpers for the exhibition and opening including:

Display team – Anne Oud and Debbie Sommers

Bar Boys – Gerald Billing and Peter Williams

Kitchen Girls – Lil Andrews and Heather Williams

Caterer – Debbie Sommers

Photographer/s – Debbie Sommers and Tony Dawson



Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Mayor Peta Pinson, Doug Lee, artist Tina Lee and Leslie Williams, Member for Port Macquarie at the exhibition launch



Photographer Barry Byrne and textile and fibre artist Shirley Capon with their works



Judith Hansen and Chris Hart at our Sensational Seniors Expo stall



Port Macquarie – Hastings Mayor, Peta Pinson with President Clive

'Her Stories' – NSW Women's Week Lecture



Kylie Winkworth

To celebrate Women's Week we will be hosting a public lecture titled 'Her Stories' by Heritage and Museums consultant Kylie Winkworth on Wednesday 6 March commencing at 11.00am at Port City Bowling Club. Kylie will share women's stories from numerous history, cultural and collection projects across the State and locally. 'Her Stories' will be delivered as an interactive lecture to share women's stories and how they have shaped or been overlooked in the historical record of our State. Attendees are encouraged to bring along a women's object to talk about. There will be an opportunity to talk informally with Kylie after the lecture over a coffee or lunch. The lecture is free to attend. Lunch or coffee will be at attendee's own expense. The lecture is open to everyone. Bookings are essential, as places are limited. (See list on noticeboard or email us.)

The 'Her Stories' lecture is being supported by the NSW Government with a 2019 Women's Week Grant through the Department of Family and Community Services and an in-kind grant from Port City Bowling Club.



Five Star Reviews

We regularly receive great comments in our visitors book and reviews on social media such as Trip Advisor. Here are three five star reviews received over the past week through Trip Advisor.

From newyork64, Carlisle, United Kingdom - *This building is full of really interesting things that cover such a huge variety of subjects. A more interesting display of Aboriginal artefacts and pictures that was relevant. Loved the historical equipment. The storyboards relating to the convicts and rations. I was met by two really lovely ladies. The older lady took a great deal of time to explain things and answer my questions. They are a Fabulous asset.*

From Nigel B, Brisbane - *Excellent visit to this museum. Carolyn was really interesting with her family history and local information. And it was free for us pensioners up until the end of February. But still worth the entry fees. Really well laid out exhibits. The two ladies in our party had great fun in the dressing up section. You need some trousers for the blokes. Our overseas visitors were impressed by the comprehensive history. Thank you to the staff and volunteers for giving their time to this worthwhile museum. [We have told Nigel we will get some trousers.]*

From sydneygirl2015, Sydney - *Very well set out, interesting material - from the first indigenous people through to the penal colony and the history of Port Macquarie. Staffed by friendly volunteers and reasonably priced. Our visit here exceeded our expectations.*

Congratulations to all our front desk volunteers. We couldn't operate without you and the comments from our visitors show how much you are appreciated by them. **Our annual Volunteer Thank You lunch is scheduled for Tuesday 21 May. More details in next month's newsletter**

Carolyn Bittar and Enid Dawson



Unusual Visitor

As some of you are aware we occasionally find that visitors wander into our upstairs meeting area by accident. This was the case on 28 January when we noticed an unusual calling card on the floor of the upstairs kitchen. Shortly afterwards we discovered the culprit, a blue tongue lizard, in the meeting room. Armed with a box and board, Clive Smith assisted the visitor back to the garden area.

Note: We'd have had a clearer picture of the culprit had the photographer not chosen to operate from a seriously safe distance



Vale Win Buckle

The ever smiling Win [Winifred Grace] Buckle passed away in late January, aged 87 years. Win joined us in September 1995 and served as a desk volunteer for many years. She remained a regular at meetings and social events up until recently. Win loved a chat and was a great story teller. One of the most memorable stories Win told was at a coffee morning when the guest speaker didn't arrive and she recounted the story of the time her hair caught fire. Win was a little deaf and sometimes forgetful, but always cheerful. Her funeral service was held at Woronora on 4 February 2019.



Mid Summer Picnic

The mid summer picnic was held on Wednesday 30 January on a very pleasant evening. Almost 40 members gathered for the social picnic and enjoyed delicious food and beverages provided by the Social Sub Committee and members. 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, Margaret Blight, Helen Gibson, Anne Oud, Margaret Piltz, Debbie Sommers and Heather Williams.



Picnickers – Lil Andrews, Dennis Piltz and Margaret Piltz



Members gathered in the museum garden for the annual summer picnic

Society Diary Dates

2019

March

Sunday 3 March

11.00am to 3.00pm

First Sunday Free

Wednesday 6 March

11.00am

'Her Stories' Talk by Kylie Winkworth

Port City Bowling Club

NSW Women's Week

April

Sunday 7 April

11.00am to 3.00pm

First Sunday Free

Tuesday 23 April

6.00pm to 9.00pm

'Sixties in the Spotlight' SHINE Festival

May

Friday 3 May

10.00am

Members Meeting

Sunday 5 May

11.00am to 3.00pm

First Sunday Free

Tuesday 21 May

12 Noon

Volunteer's Thank You Lunch
Finnian's Tavern

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

Supported by the



Forestry Corporation



Museums & Galleries of NSW

arts MID NORTH COAST



HELLO KOALAS



Contributors this Month:

Tony Dawson
Clive Smith
Debbie Sommers

Compiled by: Anne Oud



Australian Government

Our Achievements

WORKING TOWARDS



DEMENTIA FRIENDLY



NORTH COAST
HALL OF FAME 2018
cultural Tourism