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



## *President's Report*

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Firstly, I would like to apologise for the size of the print in my report in the last Newsletter—when I saw it in print I could envisage some of you scrambling for a magnifying glass. Sorry about that, I'll try to be more careful in the future.

The highlight of the last month, for me, was the Royal Australian Historical Society's conference, which was held here partly in recognition of the bicentenary of the visit to the area by John Oxley (variously described as a "discoverer" or a "trespasser"). This was the first RAHS conference I have attended, and I found it a very friendly and educational event. All the talks were interesting and well presented. I especially enjoyed the keynote address given by the Director of the National Museum of Australia, and was fascinated to discover that they now have on display the telescope imported and used by William Macdonnell, manager of the Bank of New South Wales, in his backyard observatory in Port in the 1880s.

We were very pleased to host the Welcome Reception on the Friday evening—many thanks to our volunteers who helped set up and served the food and drinks. We received many compliments about the quality of our displays, and our hospitality. Included among the guests were Don Harwin, NSW Minister for the Arts, Lisa Intemann, our Deputy Mayor, and Christine Yeats, President of the RAHS.

I had the pleasure of shaking the Minister's hand again the following morning at the conference, during the presentations of the 2018 NSW Cultural Grant Awards, when we received an award of \$3,500 towards the cost of producing a new *Historic Port Macquarie Walking Tour* brochure to accompany a new Izi-Travel app we are developing.

During the conference we had a trade table selling some of our publications (thanks Judith and Lil). We ended up taking almost \$700 in sales, so it was well worth it. Next year's conference will be held on 14-15 September at Tamworth, and at this stage I am definitely planning to go. We took the opportunity at the conference to present John Vickery of the Tamworth Historical Society with a scroll originally meant to have been presented to the citizens of

Tamworth from the people of Gunnedah during the Oxley sesqui-centenary events of 1968, and that had ended up in our collection (we have a similar scroll presented to Port Macquarie now on display).

Over the last school holidays and the past fortnight our visitor numbers have been very encouraging. Let's hope the trend continues. And thank you again to our volunteers who keep the front door open.

It seems impossible to realise that it's that time of year when our thoughts turn to Christmas! By the time you get the next newsletter, it will probably be too late to book for the Christmas lunch, so I encourage you to do it now!

I look forward to seeing you at our next general meeting, 10am Friday 2 November, when I have asked Rob Tickle to say a few words about his new book on John Oxley.

*Clive*



### 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**

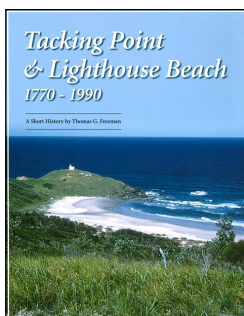
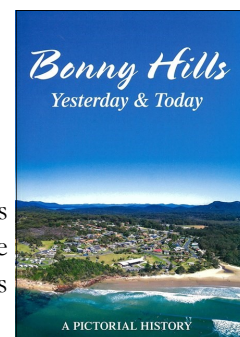
**Cost \$30 per person** Please book and pay by:  
**Friday 30 November 2018**

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

## On the Shelf

We have several recent additions to our library.

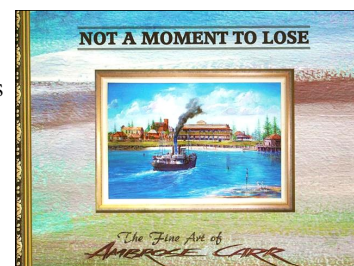
**Bonny Hills: Yesterday & Today: A Pictorial History.** Congratulations to the Bonny Hills Progress Association for producing this delightful photographic record of their community. The layout of the photographs is reminiscent of early souvenir booklets and the inclusion of photos from The Thomas Dick collection adds an extra dimension.



### **Tacking Point & Lighthouse Beach 1770-1990 a short history by Thomas G Freeman**

Thomas writes in his foreword that he has approached this work “as a story telling exercise rather than a reference document,” and the result is a highly readable book. With photographs and diagrams, the work is divided into sections; *The Wilderness 1770s -1830s*, *The Frontier 1840s -1920s*, *The Land 1930s -1950s* and *The Development 1960s -1990*. The final section is *Where to from here?* Answers to this question should certainly provide material for a sequel.

**Not a moment to lose. The Fine Art of Ambrose Carr** by David Martin explores the works of a local artist. The book deals with the various styles of the artist and the locations he worked in. David also firmly outlines his views of Art and the reasons he has for commemorating this artist. Many of Carr’s historical paintings are in the homes of local Port people who have generously allowed their reproduction in this book. Our museum owns three of his works and “Shall we make camp, Mr Oxley?” is a prominent feature of our current display for the Oxley Bicentenary.

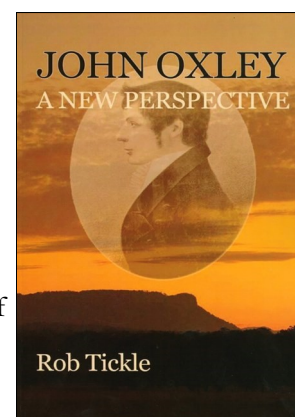


**Wild Honey and other stories of My Australian Family** by Judith Slyney was written to give relatives and readers an insight into the lives of her parents and to share her memories of growing up on a farm at Moorland on the mid North Coast.

**John Oxley A New Perspective** by Rob Tickle, a talented historian and researcher, could well be subtitled “everything there is to know about John Oxley.” Oxley died at the age of 42 after a varied life as a seaman, surveyor, adventurer, land holder and farmer as well as being part of the social scene in early Sydney. Rob has also covered the personal history of the lives of Oxley’s family from his family in England to his descendants.

Rob has also researched the lives and fortunes of the fifteen men who accompanied Oxley on the famous expedition of 1818. This fleshes out the human side of the freemen and convicts and gives them overdue recognition for their part in a difficult journey. The inclusion of a list of the provisions, horses, clothing and firearms also brings to life the further hardships the whole party suffered.

The book is also meticulously indexed, referenced and illustrated and most certainly does give a new perspective on John Oxley.



*Judith Hansen*

## Museum Name Badges



If you would like to order a magnetic name badge, as modelled by Lil Andrews, please write your details on the list on the noticeboard. The cost is \$10 each. We will be placing the next order in early November.



## *Around the Museum*



Left: Blackboard Message – It has been a busy school holiday period with lots of complimentary comments from our visitors. We especially liked this one, written on the Hookey scoreboard.

Right: Tour Guide Lil Andrews (4th from left) with a group from the Probus Club of Port Macquarie on 17 October 2018.



Left: Wise Men – Clive Smith, Structural Engineer Dale Carr and Heritage Advisor, Stephen Booker, discuss repair options for our Heritage building's second storey floor where a joist seems to have failed. We are currently waiting on permission from the Heritage Office to undertake an examination of the problem which will involve removing a small number of ground floor ceiling boards. In the meantime, we ask that groups of no more than 10 people at any given time view the upstairs exhibits in the Heritage building.

Right: Warm Welcome – Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Deputy Mayor Lisa Intemann and Clive Smith at the Royal Australian Historical Society's Annual Conference reception held at the Museum on the evening of Friday 19 October. Around 70 people came along and received a warm welcome from Councillor Intemann, Clive Smith and Royal Australian Historical Society President Christine Yeats at the Pre-conference reception. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to assist including: Bar – Gerald Billing and Peter Williams, Food – Debbie Sommers, Kitchen Hands – Lil Andrews and Lorraine Lyne, Waitresses – Anne Oud and Heather Williams. Comments from all those who attended were very positive and the pleasant evening set the scene for a very informative and enjoyable conference. More about the RAHS conference next month.



Right: Photo Shoot - John and Lorraine Lyne with their grandchildren Grace and Luke Arnold at the Museum on 23 October for a photo shoot to promote our NSW Grandparents Day event on Town Green on Sunday 28 October. This has been supported by a NSW Government Grandparents Day grant.



## November Wander to Douglas Vale

Join us for a guided tour of Douglas Vale Historic Homestead and Vineyard together with morning tea on Wednesday 7 November at 10.30am. The cost is \$10 per person all inclusive. If anyone needs transport please advise when booking. A booking sheet is on the museum noticeboard. Please book and pay by Friday 2 November.



## Guess Who?

Recently discovered whilst working on our photographs catalogue was this photograph featuring one of our members. The photograph was taken at the Apex Convention held at Taree in 1963. The person we would like you to identify is wearing the white skirt.



## Society Diary Dates

### November

#### Friday 2 November

10.00am General Meeting

#### Sunday 4 November

First Sunday Free

11.00am to 3.00pm

#### Wednesday 7 November

10.30am Morning tea and tour at Douglas Vale

### December

#### Sunday 2 December

First Sunday Free

#### Tuesday 4 December

Members Christmas Lunch  
Port Macquarie Golf Club  
12 Noon for 12.30pm

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

Supported by the



Australian Government

## Our Supporters

## Our Achievements



**NORTH COAST**  
**HALL OF FAME 2018**  
Cultural Tourism

### Contributors this Month:

Judith Hansen

Clive Smith

Debbie Sommers

Yvonne Toomey

Compiled by: Anne Oud