



The Old Courthouse Museum

PASTIMES

*Newsletter of the
Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc.
Issue 34 Mar-Apr 2018*

STOP PRESS !! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!!

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE 'SUBMERGED' EXHIBITION



The exhibition ran from 20th March to 30th April in the Courthouse. In the picture above, Museum President Ewan Morrison presents a gift to Commodore Ian Holmes AM RAN (rtd) at the official Opening of the exhibition.

A full report of the official Opening is contained on page four of this issue of Pastimes..

We also take a look at restoration and repair projects currently underway in the machinery section of the Museum:

- A boating outboard motor
- A corn shucker
- A dental 'Treadle; drill.

STOP PRESS !! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!!

LOCAL FUNDRAISER DONATES \$2000 TO MUSEUM INCLUSIVE ACCESS PROJECT

Museum President Ewan Morrison recently announced a financial donation by the coordinator of the 'Bay Push' organisation, Charles Stuart.

We are working with The Bay Push - which promotes inclusive activities and facilities for people with a disability - on projects to enhance access to our Museum for people with all types of disability. .

FEATURED ARTICLE IN THIS ISSUE

Poppy Seed from Villers-Bretonneux, France: We recount the story of a parcel from France, sent to the Botanic Gardens in Sydney, shortly after the end of WW1, The box contained poppy seed gathered in the Somme Valley by the school children of Villers Bretonneux and came with a request that the seed be distributed to the relatives of Australian and New Zealand soldiers who had fallen, fighting on the battlefields during WW1.

Why not grow your own poppies?: Here is your step-by-step guide to growing your own!!!!

Poppy Seed from Villers-Bretonneux, France

In January 1920, the director of the Botanic Gardens in Sydney, Joseph Henry Maiden, received a parcel from France, sent to him by Ettie Rout, Secretary of the New Zealand Volunteer Sisters. The box contained poppy seed gathered in the Somme Valley by the school children of Villers Bretonneux and came with a request that the seed be distributed to the relatives of Australian and New Zealand soldiers who had fallen fighting on the battlefields. The children wished to convey their deepest gratitude and loving sympathy to the families of those who had given their lives for France so far from their native land. Both the Melbourne and Christchurch Botanic Gardens also received seed from Miss Rout.

Joseph Maiden sent a letter to the Sydney Morning Herald writing “that I shall be very pleased indeed to send a tiny packet to the relatives of New South Wales soldiers in accordance with this lady’s wishes”. The letter was reprinted in a number of regional newspapers and written requests from all over the state began to flood in. The original supply of seed was soon exhausted, prompting Maiden to obtain a further shipment of seed gathered at the end of the following season, both from France and the area around Ypres in Belgium.

Joseph Maiden was a meticulous man, with a methodical mind and working habits. He kept registers of seeds and plants coming in and out of the Botanic Gardens, and it is from these registers that we have been able to extract the names of all those people who applied for and received poppy seeds to plant in their gardens in memory of their loved ones. There are no surviving records from either the Melbourne or Christchurch Botanic Gardens detailing how the seed they received was distributed. We are indeed fortunate that this touching tribute to the Anzacs has survived.

Volunteers at the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society have indexed all the names recorded in the Seed Registers and have begun the task of identifying the soldiers in whose name the families applied for poppy seed. The index is a word-searchable PDF document. Check this out at : <http://www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au/poppy-seed>



WHY NOT GROW YOUR OWN POPPIES?

Because it grew in such profusion on the Belgian and French battlegrounds, the red corn poppy, *Papaver rhoeas* (pictured), became forever associated with the First World War. It is said that the churning of the soil caused by horses’ hooves and soldiers’ boots encouraged never-before-seen displays of these wildflowers.

After the ‘war to end all wars’ ended, artificial poppies were made and sold by war veterans, to

raise money for disabled ex-soldiers. It became a tradition to proudly wear the poppy on Remembrance Day, 11 November. Ever since then the red Flanders Poppy, like rosemary and the Gallipoli Lone Pine, has been grown as a thoughtful memento of those soldiers who died in that Great War almost a century ago.

Flanders poppy grows easily from seed and this time of year, when we are commemorating Anzac Day, is the ideal time to sow. Poppies do not transplant happily so it is best to sow them straight into the garden bed where they are to grow. Before you start, dig over the bed, breaking the soil down into fine particles. Mix in some Thrive Complete Plant Food, and rake to level the surface. Spread a thin layer of Thrive Seed Raising Mix and scatter the seeds on top. Water carefully, and then sprinkle the barest amount of seed raising mix over the seeds. Press to gently firm the seeds into the mix and water again with a fine spray. Seedlings usually emerge within a couple of weeks and, of course, it is important not to let the bed dry out during this period.

Feed the young seedlings with Thrive Soluble Plant Food, half strength at first, then gradually increasing to full strength. Thin the plants to about 30cm spacing. A full, leafy base will always give the best results so, if the plants begin to develop precocious flower spikes, remove these as soon as they appear. Allow the plants to establish and mature and they will then produce an abundance of flower shoots. Dead flowers should be removed promptly, to encourage more blooms.

What else has been happening at the Museum?

PREPARING FOR OUR NEW MARKET VENTURE

Member Deb Hope has been coordinating our efforts at the new weekly Makers & Growers Market at the Community Centre. With ample help from members Lynda, Jude, Sandra, Joan, Judy, Frances, Brian, Bob and others, we have a Stall close to the front of the Market. Once the existing craft stocks have been cleared, Deb expects her team to begin creating some new items for sale. Good luck to all involved.



LAUNCH OF 'SUBMERGED' EXHIBITION

On Friday 23rd March, Commodore Ian Holmes, AM, RAN (rtd), officiated at the Eurobodalla launch of the national touring exhibition "Submerged: Stories of Australia's Shipwrecks", at the Old Courthouse Museum. "I was amazed,

SUBMERGED

– STORIES OF AUSTRALIA'S SHIPWRECKS



myself, to learn the history of wrecks around Australia's coastline equate to one every one and half kilometres", said Commander Holmes. "Exhibitions such as this, created from local stories and drawn together by the Australian National Maritime Museum, recognise the diversity of our maritime heritage, the impact on communities, as well as the heroic stories associated with loss of life and the vessels themselves."

In welcoming Commodore and Mrs Holmes, Historical Society president, Ewan Morrison, said, "Whilst the panels depict wrecks from around Australia, as it tours each contributor to the original 68 shipwreck stories, has space to include local content, and we share the stories of the *Dureenbee*, the *Rover*, and the *John Penn*." He expressed the Society's intent that it be the first of a series of touring displays hosted by the Museum, as part of its temporary exhibition programme.

In the picture above, Commodore Ian Holmes, AM, RAN (rtd) and Museum volunteer Peter Barnes, RAN (rtd). can be seen sharing a few naval stories!?!

FUNDRAISING THROUGHOUT MARCH AND APRIL 2018 – IT JUST GETS BETTER & BETTER!!



Book Emporium – March:	\$406
Book Emporium – April:	\$395
Makers & Growers Markets – April:	\$938 (Craft + BBQ)
Bunnings Easter Family BBQ:	\$340
Bunnings BBQ – 28 th April:	\$1037
Bingo:	\$50 (estimate)
General donations:	\$123

That's a total of **\$3289** (clear) for the two months. Once more, well done to all of our fundraisers! (**Note:** Entry Fees to the Museum are excluded from these figures).

MEMBER ROBERT HOPE DAZZLES WITH HIS RESTORATION SKILLS!!!!



A recent member, Robert Hope has made his mark since joining the Maintenance and Development Team. Along with his wife Debra, they have taken on their duties at the Museum with great enthusiasm and have now become extremely hands-on. In the pictures above, on the right is an unrestored 1962 British Seagull boat engine affectionately known as the 'Best Outdoor Motor for the World'. The middle photo shows the fully restored motor (actually works!), while the left photo shows the restored motor again, along with the man himself – Robert. He is currently restoring a Corn Shucker (Sheller).

Another rare artefact to be repaired and restored by members Robert Hope and Brian Nason was this foot-operated dental drill (pictured far right). Known as a 'Treadle Drill', it was invented in 1871 by James Beall Morrison (1829-1917), an American dentist, who also designed dental chairs. Before it could be used again, the broken balancing mechanism needed to be welded (pictured near right). It is now fully operational; however we have yet to find a volunteer who is willing to try it out!!!!



UPDATE ON GRANTS APPLICATIONS

- Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM): ‘And finally the Shipping News’ (\$11,600). We expect a decision by July 2018.
- Heritage Near Me Activation grant: ‘Windows to the past’ (\$129,027). This application is for replacement of the sash windows throughout the Museum.
- NSW Clubs Grants. We have received quotes for painting the buildings inside and outside (total approximately \$90K), carpeting the whole building and electrical work (probably a new power board). The Aboriginal Land Council has offered a letter of support, The Services Club is to be approached also, but need one other – possibly the Horticultural Society.
- Northcott Foundation. Grant application process is now open: We focused on concreting & awning (disability access). Received decision 15/5: **Unsuccessful**.

ALBERT RYAN PARK SUB-COMMITTEE

Leah Burke is co-chairing a Sub Committee (along with Steven Dunne) supporting the preservation of Albert Ryan Park. The main intentions are to provide a:

- facelift for the Milestone;
- general clean-up of weeds, creepers and trees on the rock-face; and
- general clean-up and temporary make-over of the toilet block.

The intention is to achieve this within a 12 month period; however, all of the associated tasks will require prior Council permission. Within the next 4-5 years, the Sub-Committee would like to see the toilet block updated to include disability facilities, update and add extra seating areas, and re-seal the parking areas.

Currently, we need to write to Council, regarding a general clean up around the ARP mile stone. Secondly, we must advise Council that ‘Camerons’ will pay for all supplies and the Historical Society will provide labour.

NEW TRACK COMPLETED FOR ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL IN WATER GARDENS

Under Museum project management, member Ray Mooney coordinated the construction of a weatherproof track across Aboriginal land in the Water Gardens, over the weekend of 5/6 May 2018. The work is part of a larger project to create a meeting and educational place for local Aboriginal groups in Batemans Bay. Subsequent phases will include plantings of ‘bush’ medicinal flora and related signage, plus permanent seating and tables. Plans are also in place to provide a land border of jute matting, to deter the spread of undesirable species from neighbouring Council-owned land.

Arts Festival – NSW South Coast

Art Trail open 17-26 May 2018



**The Old Courthouse Museum
is delighted to host
Ted Richards'
Macro Photography
Workshop
Saturday 19th May
10am-12noon**

Ted is using his professional experience and personal passion for extreme close-ups (macro photography) in a workshop that promises 'no techno bull'.

An ordinary camera plus individual attention means you'll take at least one good art photograph and gain the confidence to continue experimenting.

When booking, please indicate what subjects you want to get closer to. **Maximum 10 attendees.**

Email secretary@oldcourthousemuseum.com
or tel: **02 44 72 1635**

EUROBODALLA ACKNOWLEDGES ITS WORLD WAR ONE DIGGERS



The link below will take you to the Moruya Historical Society website, with a special page dedicated to the 'Heroes of the Eurobodalla'. Here, you will be able to scroll through a list of the WW1 veterans of the Eurobodalla region and a summary of their service records.

<https://mdhsociety.com/about/history/heroes-of-the-eurobodalla/>

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Local Craft/Home Produce Market, Community Centre: 24, 31st May, and weekly thereafter
Bunnings BBQ: Saturday, 28th July

VACANCIES: ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE FOR GARDENING, GOOGLING OR GUIDING ACTIVITIES



Do you have a general interest in our towns, our history and our cemeteries, with a few hours to commit per week/fortnight/month?

Maybe a specific interest in helping to:

- build things;
- grow things;
- mow things;
- sew things;
- restore things;
- display things;
- research things;
- train and mentor volunteers; and/or
- an ability to sell things (fund- raising).

Please contact us for a friendly chat on how we can get together.