



The Old Courthouse Museum

# PASTIMES

*Newsletter of the  
Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc.  
Issue 28: Mar – Apr 2017*

**STOP PRESS !! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!!**

## **MUSEUM TO CATER AT 2017 RALLY OF THE BAY SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017**

After putting in a great performance at last year's event, the Museum has been invited to provide food and refreshments (and anything else we can sell) at the 2017 Rally of the Bay.



This year's event is expected to be bigger and we will be looking for as much help as possible on the day from our members (and friends?) See inside for more details.

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## **2017 AGM**

**SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017**

For your diaries, the Annual General Meeting of the Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc. will be held at the Community Centre on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July. Meet at 10.30am for 11.00am start.

**STOP PRESS !! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!!**

## **40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF CR&BBHS WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2017**

Yes, it is almost **forty years** since the founding of the Society in August 1978. Many members and volunteers have come and gone (for various reasons) during this time, but the Society and Museum remain strong – increased area and a much larger and targeted Collections.



So..... can you all please put your thinking caps on and help us to come up with some creative and fun-filled ideas about what we can do to celebrate this major milestone. All suggestions welcome!!

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## **FEATURED ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE OF PASTIMES**

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum:**

We examine the impact of this referendum on Australian Aboriginal people.

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## ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1967 REFERENDUM

**Fifty years on, we mark 27<sup>th</sup> May 1967**, when the key question in the Federal Referendum was to determine whether two references in the Australian Constitution, which discriminated against Aboriginal people, should be removed.

There are common misconceptions about what the 1967 Referendum actually changed. The 1967 Referendum proposed **to include Aboriginal people in the census** and to allow the Commonwealth **government to make laws for Aboriginal people**. An important point for referendum supporters was that if the Federal

government, and not the State governments,

make laws for Aboriginal people, the laws which varied very greatly from state to state would become uniform, and they hoped for the benefit of Aboriginal people.

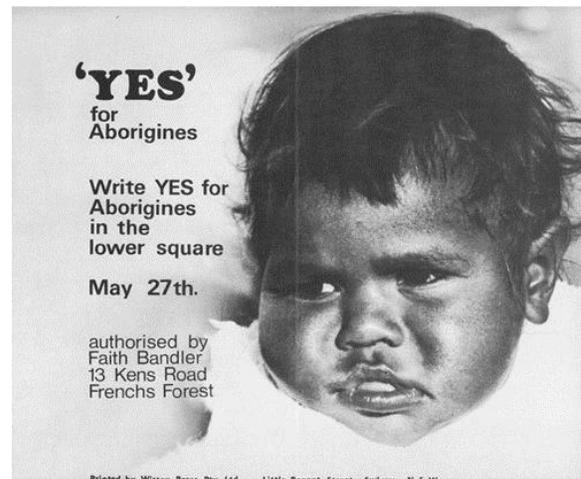
Contradictory legislation up to the early 1960s included:

- **Voting rights:** WA and QLD said *No*.
- **To marry freely** – WA QLD and NT said *No*.
- **Own property freely** - All other states bar NSW and SA, said *No*.
- **Receive Award wages** – all states bar NSW, said *No*.

### ***Exclusions from the 1967 Referendum included***

- did *not* give Aboriginal people the right to vote. This right was already legislated for Commonwealth elections in 1962, with the last State to provide Indigenous enfranchisement being Queensland in 1965.
- did *not* grant them citizenship. By the time of the referendum, most of the specific federal and state laws discriminating against Aboriginal people had been repealed.
- was *not* about equal rights for Aboriginal people. The Constitutional change would not impact at all on laws governing Aboriginal people. However, campaigners hoped that a 'yes' vote would require the Commonwealth government to enact reforms which would eventually achieve better rights for Aboriginal people.

Clever campaigners, nonetheless, understood the need to introduce these aspects into their campaigns and use them to favour a 'yes' vote. In early 1957, the Grayden Report revealed that malnutrition, blindness and disease were all commonplace among the Aboriginal people of the Warburton Ranges region, about 300km west of the border between Western Australia and South Australia. Australia's shocked white population learned for the first time about the appalling living conditions of Aboriginal people whom they had scarcely heard of before. Concerned individuals formed action groups, one of which was the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement (FCAA) founded in 1958. To achieve equal citizen rights for Aboriginal



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people the FCAA wanted the Australian Constitution to be changed to enable the Commonwealth government to legislate also for Aboriginal people.

Historical events that influenced the 1967 Referendum

- **1957 Test explosions of atomic bombs at Maralinga, South Australia**
- **1962** The Commonwealth Electoral Act is amended to give the right to vote to all Aboriginal people.
- **1966** Stockmen and women at Wave Hill walk off in protest against intolerable working conditions and inadequate wages.
- **1966** Charles Perkins leads Freedom Ride by Aboriginal people and students through NSW in support of Aboriginal rights.

### ***What the 1967 referendum meant to Aboriginal people***

In an article published shortly before the 1967 referendum, Charles Dixon, Manager of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs explained how he as an Aboriginal person felt about it:

- **Acceptance as a person.** Dixon felt that up until the referendum Aboriginal people had not been seen as “human beings”.
- **Fear of apathy,** ignorance, complicated ballot paper and racial hatred, which could cause a ‘no’ vote – leading to “bad blood” between black and white for “foreseeable future”.
- **It’s too late.** Dixon thought that it didn’t matter “if and when [sections 51 and 127] go” since “it’s too late to heal the scars of years of discrimination”.
- **Special laws** for the benefit of Aboriginal people which the government will make.
- **A unified law.** For too long an Aboriginal person would break the law somewhere purely by moving around as a citizen or to “exist on that very spot”, because each state had its own laws governing Aboriginal people.
- **More funding.** With the Commonwealth in charge of Aboriginal laws, Dixon hoped that funds or trained personnel would help policies work.
- **An Aborigines’ Bureau** staffed by Aboriginal people and looking after Aboriginal affairs

***“It took just on 10 years to get the Federal government to agree to hold a referendum and then only after 15 months of petitions being presented in the Parliament on every single sitting day.”***

*Jack Horner, secretary, Aboriginal-Australian Fellowship*

On March 2nd 1967 Prime Minister Holt introduced legislation for a referendum to be held on May 27, 1967. In April, FCAATSI organised a deputation to Canberra to seek support for a ‘Yes’ vote on the Aboriginal question [13]. FCAATSI feared that voters would not understand the



effect of a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ vote and wanted to check on what politicians had done in their electorates to support a ‘yes’ vote. FCAATSI was helped by the heads of churches who also supported a ‘yes’ vote, distributed how-to-vote cards and tried to explain to voters what it was all about. As a result of the political climate, this referendum saw the highest ‘Yes’ vote ever recorded in a Federal referendum, with 90.77 per cent voting for change.

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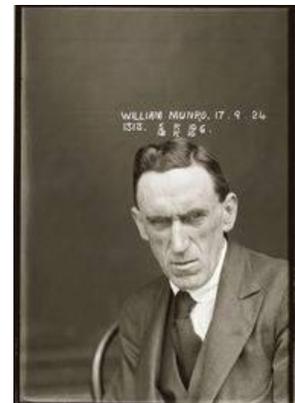
As Aboriginal people realised that the promises of the constitutional change were not going to be met, they started to organise and to protest; the Tent Embassy was established and the modern land rights movement was born. But these are other stories. Although the 1967 Referendum has failed politically, historically it was, and remains, a triumph of the human spirit that continues to inspire generations of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike. It is one of the glowing coals that keep the fires burning.

Source: EXTRACTS FROM <https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/australian-1967-referendum#ixzz4fmsbpNpn> Retrieved 1/5/2017.

## What's been happening at the Old Courthouse Museum?

### NEW COURTROOM DISPLAY – CRIME AND JUSTICE

A new display in the Courthouse features mug shots from the Justice Museum. These intimidating photos give the lowdown on what the individuals did to deserve their fates. Although the Crims looked unusually smart for their photo-shoots, at the time this was the accepted method for processing them, before being incarcerated.



The exhibition runs from 18<sup>th</sup> April - 19 May 2017.

### HISTORY WEEK: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September

This year's theme is **'Australian Popular culture and how it has changed over time'**.

We need suggestions from our members on what our contribution should be. Please make your views known to any member of the Executive.

### DEVELOPMENT OF NEW DISPLAY BASE FOR WINCH COLLECTION



Lead by Les Smith (centre) and supported by members Bill Keenan (left) and Brian Nason (right), the Building and Maintenance team have built a solid brick and cement-based plinth to support the museum's collection of boat winches. Situated at the rear of the Oyster Punt, the permanent structure is an ideal location for these heavy items of machinery. Before being placed, the winches were 'wire-brushed' and then coated with a special black enamel paint. Well done guys, for working so well in the recent hot weather!

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## BUNNINGS EASTER FAMILY EVENING - 6th April 2017

Members Chris Ruzala and Myf Thompson (photo on right) set up an 'Awareness Table' at the recent Bunnings Easter Family event. Bunnings put on a great free show, with about 500 visitors attending on the night. The Museum contributed with a display of photographs, a slide show on the lap-top, a mini Book Emporium and some games for the children. As a thankyou for our attendance, Bunnings donated \$30 (in gift cards) to the Museum.



## LADIES CRAFT WORKSHOP A GREAT SUCCESS



A call was put out to the ladies – 'Come to a workshop and create some new products for sale at the monthly Ladies Stall!'. And they came!!

In the photo (left), members Vicky, Gail, Jude, Myf, Linda and Judy are getting 'stuck in' to some serious crafting. Highlight of the ideas are the new 'Dammit Dolls'. So simple to use – if you get angry, frustrated or anxious, then simply hold the doll by the legs, whack it against something, while at the same time shouting out... DAMMIT!!!!!!

## MUSEUM TO CATER AT 2017 'RALLY OF THE BAY' – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August

As stated on Page 1, we will be catering again at this year's Rally of the Bay. Member Chris Ruzala will be coordinating our contribution to the event and planning has already started. The main difference this year is that we have agreed to maintain a presence at Mackay Park for the whole day – i.e. to include the evening session, when the drivers return from their final round of rallying. There will also be more officials around this year, as the rally controllers and Clerks will be located at the Park, rather than inside the 'Bay Waters Motel'.



We will need to have cover between 8.30am and 8.30pm. As such, I am breaking it up into 3 four-hour periods. I have left a proposed roster and list of responsibilities on the office desk (by the Calendar). **Please** have a look and add your name and available times, **if you can help**. FYI, I will also email the table to all members. I realise it is a few months away, but it will be a great help to know, well in advance, just how many members we can count on during the big day.

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## FUNDRAISING IN FEBRUARY THROUGH TO APRIL 2017 – MUSIC TO OUR EARS!!!



Bunnings BBQ – 17 <sup>TH</sup> February:	<b>\$320</b>
Bunnings BBQ – 18 <sup>th</sup> March:	<b>\$920</b>
Bunnings BBQ – 7 <sup>th</sup> April:	<b>\$336</b>
Ladies Stall - Feb/March:	<b>\$200</b>
Ladies Stall – April:	<b>\$230</b>
Book Emporium – Feb/March	<b>\$153</b>
Book Emporium – April:	<b>\$121</b>
+ General donations:	<b>\$60</b>

That makes for an impressive total of **\$2340** (clear) for the three months. Well done again to all of our fundraisers!

## KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FROM MAY TO SEPTEMBER 2017

- ‘Back to the Bay’ re-union dinner at Soldiers Club – 6.30pm for 7.30pm, Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> May (external event – contact Soldiers Club for more details).
- Mothers’ Day family event at Bunnings – 6-8pm, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May.
- ‘River of Art’ festival – Photo Essay: ‘Demolished Batemans Bay’, 19<sup>th</sup> May – 25<sup>th</sup> May.
- Ladies Stall, Bridge Plaza – Thursdays on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> July, 31<sup>st</sup> August and 28<sup>th</sup> September.
- Bunnings BBQ – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.
- Annual General Meeting, Community Centre – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July (details TBA).
- ‘Rally of the Bay’, Mackay Park, Batemans Bay – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>. August (details TBA).

## 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 or mow things; sew things; restore things; display things; research things; and/or an ability to talk under wet cement (guiding and fund-raising).

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