

**EXCITED!**

**Our new permanent exhibition  
'Crossing the Clyde'  
opens on November 21st 2022  
(same date as the 1956 bridge)**

With the financial and in kind support of the **John Holland Group, Transport for NSW and Museums & Galleries NSW**, a re-purposed site shed from the second Bay bridge construction has been transformed into a story telling site around the community impact of the construction of two Bay bridges and the punts which pre-dated them.

For over 20,000 years the Clyde (Bhundoo) has been a source of food and an economic boon to our community. Whilst also setting an early barrier to development, it created an 'are we there yet?' holiday experience for hundreds of thousands of visitors waiting on the pre-bridge punt crossings.

Second bridge completion in 2021 proved the impetus to create a space where loss of the old iconic bridge and the community impact on a simpler life pre both bridges, could be documented.

Generous financial and asset assistance aside, it is the work of our own volunteers that has made this community and tourist resource available to the public. We initiated the original concept, turned commercial contacts into partnerships, undertook what physical work we could, and with our Museum Advisor interpreted the stories and selected key artefacts.

"Crossing the Clyde" is the first new build in our pivot toward a specific focus on coastal and riverine stories unique to our location.



**What's Inside**

**\*CROSSING THE CLYDE OPENS!**

**Articles**

- \* To our dear Beth' - Inscriptions
- \* Discovering the Clyde 1929
- \* Vale Colin 'Chicka' Pearson
- \* Ephemera

**Mogo History Group**

- \* Mogo Mails & Conveyancing

**Behind the Scenes**

- \* Ted Richards—Catalogue #2000

**STEM**

- \*Taddies to Froglets—in the BAY

**Military History**

- \* ABC Radio Voices from Overseas

**From the Vault**

- \* Archival photos

**Community Engagement**

- \* History Week in the Library
- \* Schools Outreach
- \* Morning Tea with the Queen

**Out and About**

- \* Local and big boy Exhibitions for your pleasure.

**YOUR INVITATION TO THE CLYDE LAUNCH**

**See Page 2.**

**Walawaani** to our readers. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, the Walbunja people of the Yuin nation, and show our respect to Elders past and present.

# 'Crossing the Clyde' Permanent EXHIBIT

## MEMBER INVITATION

Launch of 'Crossing the Clyde'

Monday 21st November

10.30am

Light refreshments will be served

RSVP to secretary

@batemansbayheritagemuseum.com

by November 14th please



"Stories have to be told or they die, and when they die, we can't remember who we are or why we're here."

## CROSSING THE CLYDE

The project Crossing the Clyde started when we learned our iconic lifting span bridge in the Bay was to be demolished. It had been part of community life for over 65 years – and before that to cross the Clyde took a mix of punts and ferries from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The lifting bridge was an unusual design and it was memorable—people felt an emotional link to it. As part of our remit as an historical society we had to find a way to capture the impact of its replacement by a 4 lane highway, and set it within the story of multiple ways used to cross the Bhundoo.

We were very fortunate that the construction company John Holland and Transport NSW understood that this was an historic event and they were very helpful in allowing us access to select some representative artefacts from the old bridge. But we had to select items before we really had a venue.

We had decided to go with the construction theme by using a former site shed for the display– but they aren't large, so that also affected what we chose to take.- also dictated by primarily how the item could help reflect stories of changing technologies from pre-bridge crossings by punt, to these two very different bridges.

We now have the original operating mechanism before they went electric. We have a chunk of the linked chain and one of the large wheels that hoisted the counterweights to lift the bridge. We have sections of the security fencing that ran down the side of the pedestrian walkway, with the original love-locks that people left on it, and we have numerous metal signs.

Then we had to decide from a conservation perspective what needed to be housed indoors, or just under shelter, or could hack it outside regardless of the weather.

And what platform the items would need – concrete base or free standing.

Then security – not just for the objects themselves, but children are notorious for climbing over anything more than a foot off the ground, and we have this big arch of chain which is quite inviting.

That reminds me of one of the stories on the wall – how jumping off the bridge was prohibited but it was a rite of passage for local kids and thus completely ignored.

Anyway, because the site shed was in use until the last moments of demolition, we worked out everything on paper with photos of the artefacts. The shed arrived in June. The heavy items were craned in last and placed around the site shed. It was quite nerve wracking watching them be swung in, over our buildings. Because crew were hired and not volunteers used to coping with my vagaries, I couldn't say to the crane operators – *“Oh, on second thoughts, it might look better over the other side.”* What was dropped, stayed. With the large pieces in place, we could focus on the interior photos and display smaller items, like a couple of the truly huge spanners which were used by workers on the iron framework of the old bridge.

I think what people will find interesting is the leap in technology between the construction of the two bridges. From foreman Bob Davis in his hard hat diving suit, and carrying loads on his shoulders, to today's operation where John Holland Group inducted over 1300 people during the course of the build, spread over two locations. Also the sense of community ownership around its former bridge cannot be emulated with the new. Much appreciated—but no birthday cards.



**SHOUT OUT: TO OUR PRESIDENT EWAN FOR THE CONCEPT—  
TO LES, BILL, ROSS, JACK, KIM & JOE FOR THEIR CONSTRUCTION  
SKILLS & LABOUR. TO ALICK FOR USE OF TRACTOR. TO ANDY POND  
FOR HIS CREATIVE AUDIO. TO LENSVISION FOR VIDEO FOOTAGE. TO  
MUSEUM ADVISOR LYNN COLLINS FOR HIS ENCOURAGEMENT  
TO ALL MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.**

“I'm not the smartest fellow in the world, but I sure can pick smart colleagues.”

## MILITARY HISTORY

### Dust in the Grooves

Jennifer Selby 'Wartime Magazine' AWM [extract]

*'Making recordings for broadcasting is a fairly simple matter if you're working with recording gear set up on a bench in a well-lit studio, but it's quite another matter when you try to make a recording in a dug out, in the back of a truck, or the floor of a tent with a sandstorm raging outside and the dust filling the grooves of the discs as soon as they have been cut.'*

*Lawrence H Cecil, ABC Field Unit.*

Throughout the Second World War the **Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC)** sent out mobile field units to record audio for radio broadcast. The first unit arrived in the Middle East in October 1940, equipped with a large studio truck and a utility vehicle with portable recording equipment, to be operated by technicians of the Postmaster-General's Department. The unit recorded actualities, reports, and descriptions of the situation at the front, as well as interviews with members of the forces and hundreds of messages home for the ***Voices from Overseas*** program.

Recordings were cut into lacquer discs (also known as acetate discs) using a portable disc-cutting lathe that was both cumbersome and delicate. Lacquer discs have rigid cores of metal (or occasionally glass or cardboard, due to wartime metal shortages) with a surface coating of nitrate cellulose lacquer. A sapphire cutting head on the lathe moved in sync with the electrical current coming from the microphone, through the amplifier, cutting a groove into the record's lacquer surface.



In a snowy region near Salonika in Greece, ABC correspondent Chester Wilmot recollected, *"The cold made the acetate discs so hard that the recordings couldn't be cut, until [sound engineer] Bill MacFarlane warmed them up by holding them close to his chest under his great coat."*

Whereas the heat in Australia and the Pacific region softened the lacquer discs, so a clean cut of broadcast quality could not be achieved. The solution was to record only in the relative cool of early morning or evening.

*ABC war correspondents Fred Simpson and Bill MacFarlane recording in New Guinea, assisted by Marea, December 1943. Photographer Gordon Herbert Short*

### **Patrick Kelly was recorded by the ABC on the deck of HMAS Perth.**

*"We're all hale and hearty and in the pink, so everything's right. So au revoir 'til we see you. Goodbye."*

Patrick was one of 357 Australians who died when *Perth* was sunk by the Japanese on March 1942 during the battle of Sunda Strait.

In 1942 the ABC lent the original **Voices from Overseas** discs for copying and subsequent sale to aid the Red Cross in their fundraising efforts. Relatives and friends were invited to the Myer Emporium, where they could order their copy of a loved one's recording.

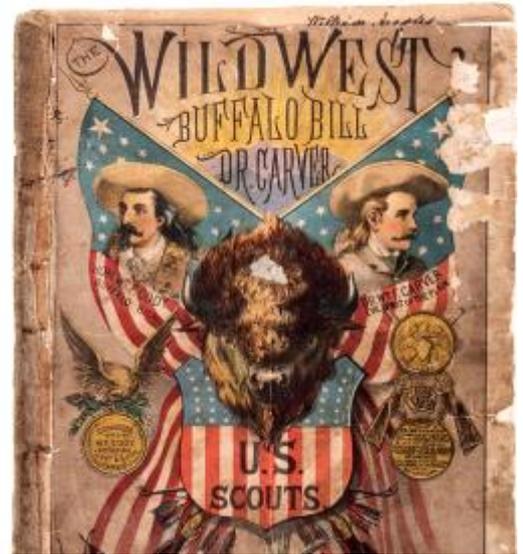
For many families, like Patrick's, this short recorded message would become their most tangible reminder of someone they lost, a way of ensuring their voice lived on.

"Once referred to simply as 'radio' it may now be better referred to as 'audio' with podcasts, blogs etc."

## EPHEMERA

Late 16th century: plural of ephemeron, from Greek, neuter of ephēmeros 'lasting only a day'. Applied (late 18th century) to a person or thing of short-lived interest.

Going to the Theatre? Hang on to that Playbill!  
The first performance program from the famed entertainer's Wild West show in 1883, the first Buffalo Bill performance ever, that's American history. The program is up for sale expected to fetch US\$5,000 to \$7,000.  
[www.weirdhistorian.com](http://www.weirdhistorian.com)



An example of ephemera from our own Collection— an A3 pictorial magazine homage on the 1953 coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Much like Royalists—and certainly museums like ours - we have collected several current magazine editions on the occasion of her passing in September 2022, to add to the Archives. Coverage of the coronation of Charles III in May 2023 will be archived in terms of its Australian impact.

## STEM ScienceTechnologyEnvironmentArtsMathematics

### More Canberrans on the Coast

For 4 years the Museum has had the pleasure of hosting a dozen brown swamp frog tadpoles during the first 3 months of their growth. Organised for Canberra schools, we 'snuck' in as an educational resource and with many members up and down the Highway manage both the collection of tiny taddies and the return of froglets (hopefully the same number).

**We do this believing that when you know about a species you are likelier to be invested in its safety.**

The amphibian chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) causes a skin disease and breached Australian borders in the 1970s. Since then, the disease has caused populations of species to severely decline and has driven seven to extinction, including the gastric brooding frogs and southern day frogs.

However, current research shows that some species are fighting back by developing immunity — including Australia's Fleay's Barred frog. A promising avenue of conservation research is to use the genetic information of some species to help others survive threats in the wild, such as disease or climate change. Fleay's Barred frogs may carry just the genes they are looking for.



We now hope to use these resistant frogs for a reintroduction program in nearby Wollumbin (Mount Warning) in NSW, where the species disappeared from in the 1990s. This approach may help the ecosystem of this iconic World Heritage site to thrive.

(Australian Geographic Oct 22.)2022)

KEEEP CALM and kiss a frog.

## MOGO HISTORY GROUP

### Mogo Mails and Conveyancing

Researcher Leah Burke



In 1857, when gold was discovered, Mogo as a township began to emerge. Evolving from slab huts and miner's camps to having a more stable population of storekeepers, hotels, blacksmiths, churches and residents. With this stabilisation came the demand for a regular mail delivery.

The earlier Postal Lines were Ulladulla to Mullenderree and Moruya, or Braidwood, Mullenderree and Moruya (1854 to 1858). It was in 1859 a Postal Line to and from Batemans Bay, Mullenderree and Moruya was operating. This coincided with the **opening of the Batemans Bay Post Office.**

In 1861 Mary Coffee, who resided in Mogo, was the winning tender for the Batemans Bay to Moruya Postal Line. The contract was for £68 per annum, twice a week on horseback.

Rain, Hail or Shine the mail went through. Except of course in floods when the local creeks and rivers broke their banks. It was in 1868 that a petition was presented to the Postal Inspector as he passed through Mogo on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. The petition signed by storekeepers, miners, residents and the school-teacher requesting a **Post Office be opened in Mogo.**

The Postal Inspector wrote that Mogo consisted of a few slab and bark huts, two small stores and two Accommodation houses. He did not consider a Post Office was warranted. Despite his objections, the Post Master General approved a Post Office for Mogo be established on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1869, **with George Veitch as Mogo's first Post Master with a salary of £12 per annum.**

Some of the early contractors, delivering mail between Batemans Bay and Moruya were, Mary Coffee (1860-61) James Donovan (1863 and 1868) Edward Corrigan (1864,66,67,68) and Daniel O'Hehir (1865).

The first official mail contractor to deliver to Mogo was Margaret Donovan. The contract was for £39 per annum, once a week by horseback and was for one year. The mail run was for Batemans Bay, Mullenderree and Moruya, by horseback once a week. Margaret was advised to stop at Mogo on the Postal Line.

For the next 12 years the contracts were contested by Edward/Edmond Corrigan and Edward Lynch. The 1872 contract mode of conveyancing was **for the first time by vehicle.** Though Corrigan and Lynch both had a coach-services operating prior to this. The 1873 contract was for a 3 horse coach.

From 1883 to 31 Dec 1886 the contract was held by Thomas Mooney of Moruya by horseback or coach and horses.

Edmond Corrigan once again had the contract for the next 3 years (1887 to 31 Dec 1889).

Martin Keating would hold the mail run for the next 11 years from Jan 1891 to Dec 1899. and, again in 1912. It was in 1898 that the Bimbimbe Receiving Office was added to the Postal Line. By 1900 the Postal line had extended from Ulladulla to Moruya.

The transition from horseback to coaches was not always smooth with the coaches encountering a few problems. *Driver Corrigan, of the Batemans Bay coach, while coming down the Big Hill yesterday afternoon let his foot slip off the brake. This threw him onto the horses, who took fright and tore down the hill at a hard Gallop. A buggy containing Mr Jeffrey and Mr Gillard was just ahead. The driver drew to one side, but the pole of the coach came into contact with the near wheel and threw the buggy right up the embankment. The occupants were severely shaken, but managed to pick up Corrigan who was lying partly conscious and badly cut about.*  
*The Star 19 July 1888.*



The Keating Stagecoach

Notice.  
**A Line of Coaches**  
WILL leave MORUYA EVERY MORNING at 8.30 o'clock, and arrive in MILTON at 6 p.m.  
FARES—Moruya to Milton 5s, and 7s 6d return. A reduction made to all other stages along the line.  
**M. KEATING,**  
Moruya.  
March 1st, 1906.

Milton Ulladulla advert 1907



A real Character from our town, Colin "Chicka" Pearson was born in Sydney to parents Charlie and Florence Pearson. At the age of four the family left Sydney and moved to Batemans Bay. His father, Charlie, like many men, found work at Mitchells Mill. Chicka can remember his father after work fishing off the sand bar and always getting a good feed. *They had 7 children, Florrie, Cath (Sebbens), Peggy (Connaughton) Merv and Billy, with Chicka the youngest.*

He attended public school on Beach Road, where Mr Jenkins was headmaster. School wasn't what Chicka was about. He was doing the odd jobs about the school, doing the shopping for Mrs Jenkins, cleaning the school and cleaning the toilets with Phenol and lighting the fires in winter.

Chicka was Captain of the school football team and *Ian Barclay* was Captain of the Convent team. He remembers these games being a real "grudge match". He played barefooted as did most of the boys. On sports day Chicka had a special sign on the front of his sports uniform saying he could only go in the running races as he always mucked up the team games.

**Local publican Percy Bills was training racehorses at this time and asked Chicka's Mum if he would like to become a jockey.** They said yes, and so a fabulous career and friendship began. Chicka would get up before daylight, see to the horses then go to school sometimes not getting there till after 11.00am and often falling asleep at his desk. Mr. Jenkins realised Chicka wasn't going to achieve anything by finishing school so **he was given a special exemption and he left school at 11 years old and was apprenticed to Percy Bill.**

*Chicka as a lad outside Percy Bill's feed stables.*



Percy would be Chicka's lifetime friend and Mentor. He would soon be riding for Percy at the races, travelling to Canberra, Wagga Nowra and Moruya. He would work for Percy until the age of 17 when he went to Sydney to the **Stan Lamond** stables. The work was hard and tedious. He confronted Mr. Lamond about getting a ride. Stan gave him a ride on a horse called **Tap Toe** at Rosehill and Chicka brought home his first metropolitan winner. The following Saturday at Randwick he had 7 rides.



*Chicka aboard Melroy.*

At the age of 21 Chicka finished his apprenticeship and became a fully fledged Jockey. Chicka's next move was to Brisbane where he raced for Fred Best, the No 1 trainer. One of his rides was for the Duke of Norfolk. He won the British Commonwealth Handicap at Eagle Farm in 1960 aboard **Melroy**.

A good rider can hear his horse speak to him. A great rider can hear his horse whisper.

## Vale—Colin ‘Chicka’ Pearson contd

Chicka then returned to Sydney where he continued to ride. He started to have trouble maintaining a racing weight and left Sydney to race in the country. Then a remarkable offer was made to Chicka to ride in **Milan, Italy**. This included free Pan Am flights, chauffeur, valet to assist with all his racing gear, a new car and 1000 pounds stg and 10% of the first five winners. Yes, he accepted.

One of the colours he raced for was Prince Ali Khan who was married to Rita Hayworth. He also rode in France where one of his races was riding in the Queen's colours.

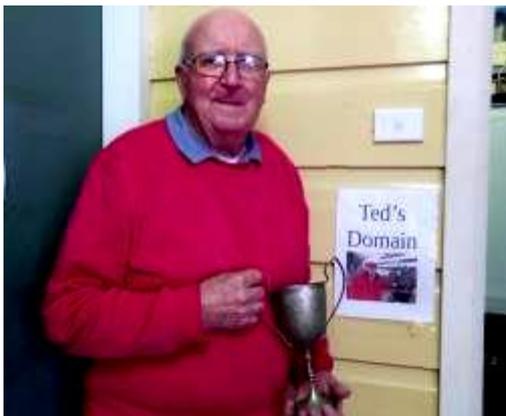
There are many stories about Chicka Pearson during his illustrious— and at times colourful - career. He was no stranger to the steward’s office! About 1980 Chicka retired from racing, but he continued in the racing industry as a trainer. He trained horses in Goulburn and Canberra before returning to Batemans Bay.

Ill health curtailed Chicka in his later years but never dampened his love of the sport. With his wife Shirley, they raised 4 children who have maintained a family link to the sport. His wake was held at the Moruya Jockey’s Club.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

**NEW WEBSITE DESIGN - due mid November.**

**Let us know what you think!**



**Ted Richards** has marked his **2000th** catalogue photograph for our archives with the *Clyde River Cricket Club cup*, awarded to Mogo in the season 1923-24.

Ted’s work for the Archives has enabled a professional— and artistic— record of diverse objects in the Collections. Ted treats every object with the same meticulous approach, from a 1940s box of candles to an Edwardian mourning cape or a spanner used in construction of the 1956 Bridge over the Bay.

Formerly a commercial photographer for national media in the notorious Canberra Press Gallery, Ted later ran his own business, and continues to share his skills in retirement. His work on the aftermath of 2020 bushfires was featured at the National Maritime Museum.



*Introduced in the mid 1800s, there were many jibes about the new fashion for portrait photographs. In particular the metal clamps used to keep the head still.*  
**CARTOON 1843.**

“It is an illusion that photos are made with the camera ... they are made with the eye, heart, and head.”

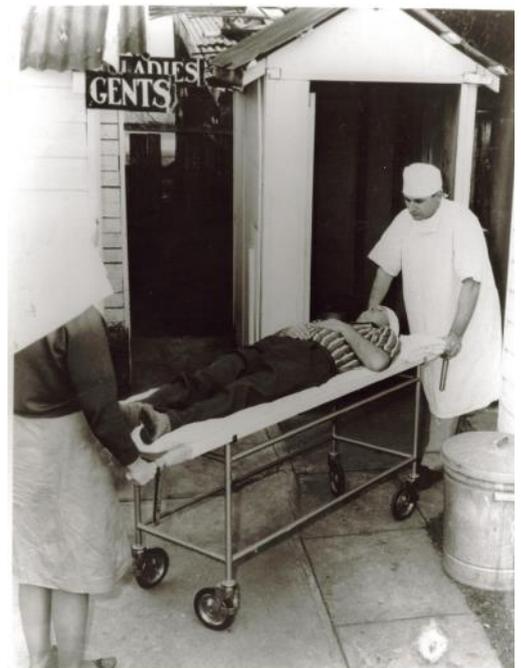
FROM THE VAULT



1962 Launch of the fishing boat 'Colleen Marie'. Were you there? Built in the Bay by C. Evans,



1940. Roy Fleischer and family, Nelligen Creek. Roy was the last police officer to be stationed at Nelligen.



Off to surgery past the toilets, Dr Ian Ferguson and Nurse Gail Christenson. North Street Cottage Hospital. Were you born there?

Appreciate the Aunt who holds the family album—and has a long, long memory.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Always a pleasure to partner with the staff at Hanging Rock Library. This time it was for a **HISTORY WEEK DISPLAY**. The theme was 'hands on history', and we provided a floor talk session with a trio of members covering some of the skills we apply. Chris Bendle illustrated Family History, Ray Mooney our go-to cemeteries man and team leader on Mogo History, and Myf Thompson spruiked the need for everyone to undertake oral history!



Ray Mooney and Chris Bendle setting up the session.



*Browsing the royal memorabilia, sipping from a Coronation cup and saucer.*

**MORNING TEA WITH THE QUEEN** Federal government announced a national holiday on Thursday, September 22nd 2022 to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. We hold a number of ephemeral artefacts related to the Royal family, particularly the Queen, and this was a natural opportunity to provide them for public viewing. Members Andy Pond, Debra Hope and Myf Thompson organised a morning tea and issued invitations to anyone who would like to share anecdotes relating to Her passing, or visits to Australia.

## SCHOOLS OUTREACH

It's the season for Years 1 and 2 to enjoy some hands-on time at the Museum. **Hundreds of them!** Tiring but we love'em! Schools—we can also come to you! View our website.



The Queen is dead. Long live the King. Charles III will be crowned on May 6th 2023.

## OUT AND ABOUT



**MEROOGAL HOUSE MUSEUM**, Corner West and Worrigee streets, Nowra NSW

**Meroogal Women's Art Prize'** Sydney Living Museums is proud to present the biennial *prize* now in its 19th year. The winning and short-listed works are displayed in the house among the furniture, paintings, ceramics, costume, textiles and other household ephemera – making for a unique and intimate exhibition experience. **17 Sept 2022-22 April 2023.** Meroogal House Museum <https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/meroogal>

### MORUYA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**It's About Time** On display are clocks and other timepieces from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. They range in size from small trench watches worn by soldiers in World War I to the tall English grandfather clock dating to around the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. **From October 15th.**

Moruya and District Historical Society | Facebook



### NATIONAL MUSEUM CANBERRA

**'Great Southern Land'** Discover the story of the vast, vibrant Australian continent in the new Great Southern Land gallery at the National Museum of Australia. Explore stunning objects and rich multi-sensory experiences as you walk through majestic bunya pine sculptures and interact with 3D animated platypus. **FREE Daily.**



### EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

<https://killerwhalemuseum.com.au>

Everything you ever wanted to know about **Orcas** and their history with the local community—without getting your feet wet. The Museum has recently undergone extensive renovations.

Recommended : view these incredible animals ...

[ORCA LIVE | COMMUNITY . \(orca-live.net\)](https://orca-live.net) Be patient—it's live cam!

### BATEMANS BAY HERITAGE MUSEUM

Yes, we wave farewell to the photographic essay of William Corkhill's Tilba Tilba collection. Opening in the Courtroom display area in mid November is our foray into *traditions, costume, photographs, tributes, literary references, humour and changing fashions* relating to that special event. We'll be revealing some of our wedding artefacts that are safely tucked away in our Collection. These include

*Was yours a service wedding?*



1948. Wedding of Patricia Shephard and Reginald (Tom) Dunne.



*Something Old*  
*Something New*  
*Something Borrowed*  
*Something ... Blue*

**Tue to Thurs 10am-3pm**  
Batemans Bay Heritage Museum  
Museum Place Batemans Bay 2536  
[www.batemansbayheritagemuseum.com](http://www.batemansbayheritagemuseum.com)

donated local

"Hollywood brides keep the bouquets and throw away the husbands."

Groucho Marx

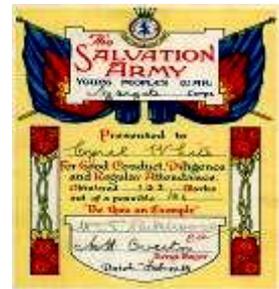
Do children still get book prizes? They were supposed to recognise role model behaviour or reward notable achievement.



I was flicking a duster over hard cover books in our Museum schoolroom, when I found the familiar red jacket of Richmal Crompton’s “Just William” series, bookplate inscribed to **Batemans Bay local Ken Ryan** for **general attendance** and **good work** at the **Batemans Bay C of E Sunday School in 1952**. As a literary figure William is a rough headed boy with permanently scraped knees and socks round his ankles. He was the English equivalent of Ginger Meggs.

Ken and I are of an age and I owned the same book, but purchased mine. William experimented with a disgusting drink called liquorice water, which my brother and I made up with penny liquorice and pretended to vastly enjoy. I also recall William’s bete noire, a small girl called Violet Elizabeth who lisped. I rather admired her. If she didn’t get her own way she threatened to “*thcweam and thcweam ‘til I’m thick*”. We all have days like that.

As I started looking inside the books, a surprising number of them had decorative presentation bookplates for school and Sunday school. Good attendance, good classwork, awarded second place in a non specified competition. And the rather sad, “5<sup>th</sup> grade runner up”, no name, no further details.



Publishers like Collins Seagull Library, and Blackies & Son, issued titles that were specifically promoted on the jacket as “suitable” for prizes. Then they arbitrarily divided them into girls books, and boys books. Like many girls I broke the rules and had the temerity to read Moby Dick and Treasure Island - but to my knowledge my brother never read Little Women.

**Ken won more prizes!** choosing titles like “Under Sealed Orders”, and “Frogman VC” which showed how close we still were to War years. Whereas I started with Victorian classics like “Trilby” because I thought the bindings were beautiful—mock leather with gilt edges. Yes, I know, *shallow as!*

Generally, *girls* in the 1950s were encouraged with prize titles that bore very little resemblance to the school life of anyone I knew. Wholesome and nerdy seemed to be the key words, with titles like “Katherine, Head of the House (as in boarding school) and “Cherry, Student Nurse”.

Beyond the prize bookplates, you have a world of stories in those with personal inscriptions - “To our dear Beth, Xmas 1954”. Was Beth thrilled with ‘Over the Sea to School’? What else would she have been given—probably the Girls’ Crystal annual and maybe a pink sugar mouse.

If you’re a collector, inscriptions can reduce the market value of a book—they tend to like volumes ‘pristine’; exceptions are if it’s someone famous or in other ways uniquely saleable.

Kenny’s book prize took me right back to my own early schooldays when a child was awarded either a boring certificate of merit, sometimes a specific book of an improving nature, or best of all a **book voucher** to spend in the local bookshop. I totally relived the physical excitement of pushing open heavy glass doors and seeing row upon row of books mine for the taking (up to a 5/- limit).

Next time you’re browsing through older books check the bookplates for the stories they tell. Not all prizes had a bookplate; many have an affectionate hand-written message on the fly leaf, maybe the original gifter enjoyed the book and passed it on—or simply “*Merry Xmas, my darling*”.

*‘Classic’ – a book which people praise and don’t read.*

Mark Twain

## CAMPING OUT 'Discovering' the Clyde WHEN THE MOSQUITOES WON

(By I.W.T.)

OVER 200 miles from Sydney by motor is the mouth of the Clyde River, Bateman's Bay, where we rested for a few days waiting until the launch arrived from Sydney. Then we packed up our fishing gear and camp requisites and set out for the upper reaches of the Clyde.

The soft swish of the water as the launch travelled about 12 miles an hour, the purring of the engine, the luxury of a perfectly equipped launch, soon soothed tired nerves and weary bodies. First a quaint old mill surrounded by wattle-trees of every description came into view; then the home of the "Oyster King," the garden a glorious blaze of colour, all seemed to cheer us on our way. A farm nestling amongst the trees, with long, sloping paddocks of lucerne and corn to the water's edge, gave us good material for our cameras.

We landed and found fish ready to bite anything with which we liked to bait our hooks. Soon the larder was full, and we re-embarked on the launch, with some of the party to lounge on the cabin roof, others on the comfortable cushions in the "stern". Silence settled on us all.

**Excitement was abroad at Nelligen when we arrived — the installation of a new punt.** We lingered awhile to participate in the cock-a-doodle-does. Then on, on we went, mile after mile, passing the **old rowing course where years ago international sculling matches were fought\*\***, the scenery becoming more and more rugged and the banks of the river steeper. The trees suggested that the telegraph-poles in the metropolis were obtained from these forests.

To at last our destination: a flat piece of ground for our camp, a pool for bathing; and a nice, sandy beach from which to fish. And the camp! A whole house under canvas. Bedroom and beds for the women, petrol hanging lamps, and every comfort a camp can provide. Did we sigh for our beds at home? Oh, dear, no! No telephones, no sound of motor horns, no screeching trains — just, peace.

After dinner we sat around the log fire in the cool of the evening, each content to be miles away from "the madding crowd." The men smoked cigarettes and pipes, the women sang softly. The sun slipped completely behind the tall trees, and the jackasses laughed joyfully, as if to tell us it was a good joke. The Irishman of the party experienced his first camp and meals in the bush. Billy tea with lemon— "Shure, it was good!" The friendly arguments between "Ireland" and "Aussie" were witty, and a delightful recreation; and when the former was about to win an argument an Aussie would save our side by a counter-attack. However, the mosquitoes won all arguments, and eventually we were forced to break camp and move nearer to civilisation. Luckily we struck a delightful old farm, and we enjoyed every minute of the holiday under ideal conditions.

Reluctantly we returned to the city where piles of correspondence had accumulated. With energy supplied from contact with the 'spirit of the bush' — the Australian's own bush that fascinates, cheers and restores one to health and good mental balance, as few other things can do.



\*\*Would you help us research the tourist holiday launch from Sydney and the water sporting activity?

**FREE BOOKS, FOLKS NEEDED & FUNDRAISING**



Good with people? Happy to use a script? We need Volunteer GUIDES for upcoming events, including coach tours at museum, guided walks around town. Training provided. In the first instance, please speak to Myf at the Museum

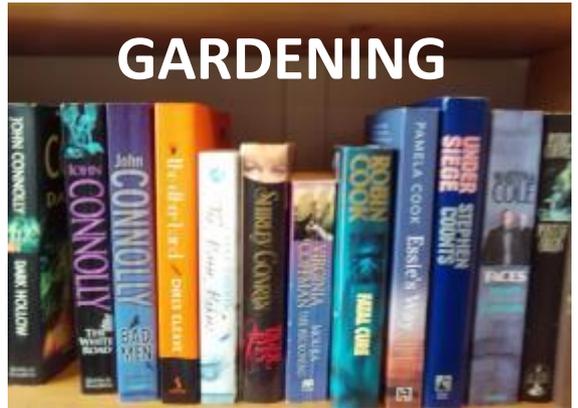
**Your Book Emporium**

As the grass grows—and GROWS—In October/November we have a special offer on a broad collection of Gardening related Books.

**HALF PRICE! MAGNIFICENT OFFER!**

Lovingly displayed by Deb for you to browse on any Tue/Wed/Thur 10am-3pm.

Book Donations always welcome and we want you to have the best.—clean and no ratty paperbacks, please! Pass CDS and Videos to Vinnies who have the space to display.



Our Sunday fundraising Bunnings BBQ is back. We would particularly appreciate a RELIEF person with UTE or big 4WD to transport goodies. Only a couple of hours per occasional monthly BBQ. Please contact Lesley or Ewan.

**BATEMANS BAY LAPIDARY CLUB**

Our friends who have permanent display space at the Museum also meet weekly. Follow their adventures on Facebook for updates.

Or contact at [batemansbaylapidaryclub@gmail.com](mailto:batemansbaylapidaryclub@gmail.com)



Acknowledging with thanks our Government Agency and Community Partners



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