

"After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are what we need most in the world."
Phillip Pullman



TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

July 3rd to August 24th

See page 4

FUNDRAISING GARAGE SALE and BBQ

Baked Goodies

Old Tools

Bric-à-brac

Plants

BOOKS & DVDs



SAT JULY 29th

11am-3pm

**Please bring the family,
bring a friend, and BUY!**

(any unsold items passed to charities)

'ANCESTRY' Family History

WORKSHOPS

Join our **Family Historian**, Chris Bendle, for workshops on this popular app used by family researchers. Book with the library direct. **Hanging Rock Library**

15 Aug	Beginners workshop	4.30-5.30pm
22 Aug	Advanced workshop	4.30-5.30pm

PASTIMES

Newsletter of the Clyde River and
Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc

Issue No. 54 Winter 2023



What's Inside...

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TROVE historic newspapers
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Grants Programme
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Military History

On this day in July –AWM

From the Vault

Photos old and new

S.T.E.A.M.

PU and 'the very hungry
caterpillar'

Out and About

Lady Denman new Gallery
Nowra Air Fleet Museum
Museums Online—Furnishings
& Furniture Catalogues

Walawaani

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

Annual General Meeting



**The Society's AGM is at the Museum on Saturday 5th August, at 11am.
BBQ provided—please bring a plate to share.
You will need to be financial to vote.**

Our pivot from social history to focus on our coastal and Clyde stories started with the launch of the 'Crossing the Clyde' exhibit in our grounds. Our exciting plans will draw out some fresh ideas from Committee Members to guide active operations. All office-bearing positions will be declared vacant, except Curator which is an employed position. **Will you put your hand up?** Nomination forms available.

General membership—looking for a new interest/challenge this year?
A few hours per week/ per month.

Receive free coffee/tea. A genuine incentive at today's commercial prices!!

***AI around the Museum.** Have the skills to share? It's a specialist area. We are also returning from Linux to Microsoft 365. Help please??

***Assistants** to *Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer* and our *Bookstore Manager*, are meaningful contributions without fulltime commitment. Health and holiday help.

***Fundraising team** - smiley folk to give 2 hours every 6-8 weeks to help with our Bunnings BBQs. And the occasional catered group visit to the Museum.

***Research** is key to our operations. Work at the museum or work from home and meet once a month for an update on whichever project is of interest to you. Current projects include: Local fishing industry, Mogo history, CBD land use, and local marine environment. Training provided.

***Heritage Guides**—for round the town coach trips, guided walks for cruise visitors. Occasional. Training and scripts provided.

***Our maintenance** crew has construction skills but more strong bodies needed to tackle 'up the ladder' jobs. Once a week. Brand new workshop on its way.

Come to the AGM and talk to those who are actively involved.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Punching above our weight yet again—the following **grants** have been awarded thanks to Ewan, Fran and Myf, and some wonderful community partners.

Create NSW The position of **Curator** awarded earlier this year has been extended a further 12 months from end 2023 to end 2024. Go Emily!

Maritime Museum of Australia Funding a museum consultant, Ms Angela George, to produce a Site Plan for the pivot to a maritime focus, an essential document and we are delighted.

Bushfire Funding—SHASA's application on our behalf for new **Solar Panels** enabled MESA to install these on our roof in June. Hot water! Big savings on our electricity bill. Sustainability action. **Members are invited to the official launch August 4th 2pm to meet Fiona Phillips.**

Department of Industry, Science and Resources—installation of reverse cycle air-conditioning units throughout the courthouse. Toasty warm in winter, supported by new solar panels. Sustainability action.

FRRR Investing in Rural Community Futures. Social Media workshop training, open to community groups facilitated by the Museum. September 2023 (date tbc).

Eurobodalla Shire Council—Heritage Grants. Maintenance and professional painting of Courthouse roof gables. The pointy bits we can't get to.

Eurobodalla Shire Council—Annual historical society grants program. Electrical work in the Museum replacing old systems.

MOGO HISTORY GROUP



Under Team Leader Ray Mooney work continues apace with the group now spreading into its own permanent research space established in the Museum's meeting room. Its first booklet, *Churches of Mogo*, is selling well and next up is **Mogo Cemeteries** including Veteran's graves.

Research and writing continues on the families in the Pioneers Register. Three oral histories have been conducted.

Help always sought for recording and transcription assistance. Kit and Training provided.

Enquiries: contact Ray rmooney20@tpg.com.au or via museum.



Getting ready for the
GARAGE SALE & BBQ
Sat July 29th 11-3pm



OUR POP UP EXHIBITIONS



Showing July 3rd to Aug 24th

'Of Pigs and Whistles'.

A Travelling Exhibition touring the South Coast NSW.

How steam navigation linked our South Coast to the world, featuring the history of the Illawarra Steam Navigation Company which established agencies in the Bay and Nelligen.

The whistle signalled ship arrival and departure; folklore says the Line would wait an hour for a pig but not a minute for a passenger. *Courtesy of South East Arts*

NAIDOC WEEK

Our Museum's contribution

to this annual, week-long celebration of the history and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander peoples has been revealing the background to this event and a select series of NAIDOC posters showing the changing social messages from indigenous protest to cultural celebration.

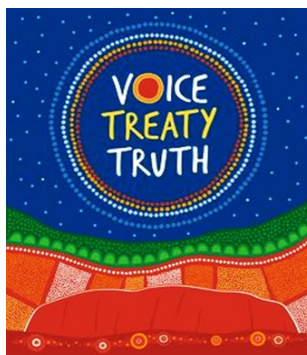
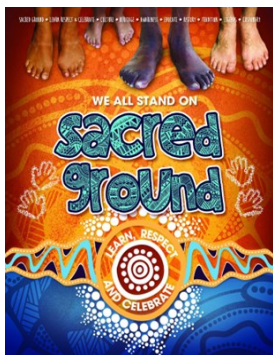
The first **Day of Mourning** was held on 25th January 1938 to mark 150 years of European invasion. Aboriginal protesters seeking *citizenship* and better treatment had originally intended to hold the Congress in the Sydney Town Hall, but they were refused access, and instead held it at the nearby Australian Hall in Elizabeth Street. They were told they could only enter through the rear door.



One of the events organised for the 1938 Sesquicentenary was a re-enactment of the landing of Captain Arthur Phillip.

Aboriginal people living in Sydney refused to take part so organisers brought in men from Menindee, in western New South Wales. Kept locked up at the Redfern Police Barracks stables until the re-enactment took place, they were not allowed visitors.

On the day itself, they were made to run up the beach away from the British – an inaccurate version of events. Film footage of the event clearly shows that the men were not willing participants.



Because of Her We Came!

NAIDOC WEEK 2018

ABORIGINAL SCHOOLS c.1876-1979

The establishment of separate Aboriginal schools in NSW led to the creation of records dealing almost exclusively with the primary education of indigenous children.

Governor Macquarie founded the first school for Aboriginal children, the Native Institution, in 1814. Located in Parramatta it closed in 1822 succeeded by the Native Institution at Blacktown, which closed c.1830. Pre-dating the Stolen Generations, children were taken to be 'civilized and Christianised' and Governor Macquarie's written orders show that no child was allowed to leave – even with their parents and relatives – until they had reached their mid-teen. Records relating to the Institutions can be found in the *Colonial Secretary's Papers* 1788-1825.

Education for all children in NSW became compulsory in 1880 with the proclamation of the Public Instruction Act. Initially the Act supported one public school system. Over time, however, social attitudes, supported by the policies of the Department of Public Instruction, led to the establishment of separate Aboriginal schools such as those at **Wallaga Lake** (1876-1979).

Early policies supporting segregation permitted Aboriginal children to attend the local school only if they were adequately dressed and well fed, or 'clean, clad and courteous'. The then Minister for Education gave instructions for schools in NSW to remove Aboriginal children upon the request of white parents, which created a need for separate schools.

***In 2015** Rosemary Norman-Hill visited the site of the Parramatta school where 200 years ago her great-great-great grandmother Kitty was forced to abandon her Aboriginal way of life and integrate into white society. She said old records showed Kitty was one of the first Aboriginal children to be removed from their parents under forced assimilation orders. At least 37 Aboriginal children suffered the same trauma of separation before the school's closure in 1823.

In 2015 220 of their descendants gathered for the first time at Parramatta Town Hall to reflect on their shared histories and to begin work on preserving the students' legacy.

SEATED ON THE THRONE

Nothing perhaps better represents an advanced civilization than the flush toilet. Many credit 19th century British plumber Thomas Crapper with the invention of the loo as we know it today (his name just a happy coincidence).

But key innovations lie much further back. Some archaeologists claim that remains of flush toilets can be found in the ruins of ancient Crete and cities in the Indus Valley dating back thousands of years.

All that refinement was forgotten by Tudor times where a curtained off 'privie' was simply a bucket that had to be emptied, or the 'close stool' which was simply a padded seat with a bucket underneath which still had to be emptied.



Until Sir John Harrington devised a method for Queen Elizabeth the First. Rushing water from a cistern set above the unit washed body fluids into a trap beneath the bowl, then via a drain to some convenient repository, like the castle moat or nearby stream.

Across the centuries various designs for valves to separate the bowl from the trap and drain followed, but the key invention, patented by Englishman Alexander Cummings in 1775, was the '**S**' bend.

Brilliantly simple this curved tube kept an air and water seal between the bowl and the sewer so preventing any backflow or nasty smell. That's still what we use today.

RESEARCHING ON 'TROVE'

Historical newspapers are a world of wonderful surprises — anywhere you land within them. For example, in *Smith's Weekly*,

For every day that the restrictions are so stringently imposed, so the financial snowball grows. Debts are mounting up. Even the proposed Government relief will not appreciably lighten them. People do not want charity, they want the restrictions lifted at the earliest possible moment so that they may once more become producers.

2020? No, March 1919.

Brendan Somes State Library of NSW

In the Bay did we drop the Ball? Did dreams come true? Take a look.

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995), Monday 29 November 1971

Batemans Bay Rugby

A special general meeting of the Molonglo Shield Rugby League has voted in favour, *by the smallest of margins*, to accept Batemans Bay into the league next year.

The vote, which was 13:12 in favour of acceptance with one delegate ruled ineligible, was taken because the executive of the shield wanted *reaffirmation of its opposition to the coastal team's inclusion in the shield*.

The annual meeting of the shield, a week ago, voted against the Bay. but several clubs were not represented and the special meeting was called with warnings to clubs that it would be in their interests to attend. Delegates from all clubs attended.

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995), Saturday 3 January 1976

Batemans Bay **Arrests**

Six Canberra youths were arrested in Batemans Bay late on Thurs-day night for **smoking Indian hemp**, a Batemans Bay police spokesman said yesterday. Two of the youths had also been charged with possessing the drug and instruments with which to smoke it. All were released on bail and would appear in Batemans Bay Courthouse petty sessions on January 27.

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995), Monday 19 April 1976

Fiesta at Batemans Bay

Many Canberra people who travelled to the South Coast on Saturday must have been surprised when they entered Batemans Bay to find the **second annual Easter Fiesta in progress**.

An estimated **6,000 people watched the parade of 30 floats**.

At the Oyster Festival **Mr Tom Kaskoutas**, an oyster farmer and opener opened 100 oysters in five minutes and 20 seconds.

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995), Sunday 6 January 1980

Batemans Bay was bursting at the seams last week. The town - geared towards beaches and outdoor activities - could not cope with the 50,000-odd tourists looking for things to do in the rain.

The 'second Canberra' groaned under the influx of cars. As people staying in caravan parks and camping grounds poured into the town, a continuous traffic jam along the main street made it seem chaotic. The numerous fast-food shops selling fish and chips, hamburgers, pizzas and chicken, could not be seen behind the not very patient queues.

Brian Benfield's Pinball Parlour was crammed all day, with people who had waited outside for it to open. Its most popular machine, undoubtedly, '**Space Invaders**'.

The Batemans Bay Shell Museum proved to be popular for those tired of sitting inside looking out at the dreary scene. The Museum does not have many shells from the local area because its owner, Mrs Enid Ison, says the fishermen aren't interested in collecting them and the ones found have hermit crabs inside them.

Away from the Bay, two former Canberra residents have set up **Rosebud Farm Pottery**. Ted and Mary Watson moved to the farm five years ago from Canberra, to make a hobby pottery -into a fulltime living.

Apart from the clubs in the area, one of the only entertainments at night during the summer are two plays at the Batemans Bay Primary School Hall, performed in alternate weeks at 8pm. Four professional actors from Sydney, who call themselves Summer Productions, and local people from the **Bay Theatre Players** make up the casts.

The president of the Players, Mr **Bob Wiles**, said it is the first time that professionals have come out of the city to work with amateurs. "I think we've got a good reputation up to date". BTP began about four years ago mainly as a need for "self-entertainment" for the locals. They are keeping busy also with a children's play, 'The Quest for the Buried Treasure' is on from Wednesday to Saturday at the **Batehaven Hall**.

A spokesman from the Bait and Tackle shop said that flathead were being caught in the Bay; salmon, kingfish and surface fish around Tollgates, and flathead near **Jimmy's Island**. So, rain or shine, it is all happening in Batemans Bay:

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995), Friday 20 May 1977

Nude bathing

The ACT Nudist Club has expressed its support for the establishment of "free" or nude-bathing beaches in the Batemans Bay area. The club has sent letters to the Batemans Bay Tourist Association and the Eurobodalla Shire Council expressing its support.

It has also written to the South Durras Progress Association offering to provide guest speakers for a public forum on the issue. [Editor's note: clothed?]

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995), Wednesday 24 May 1978

Satellite village plan for Batemans Bay

A proposal to create 700 home sites as well as some five- and 100acre blocks at **Long Beach** has been welcomed by Batemans Bay businessmen as a step toward reducing their dependence on tourism.

The development, on the northern shore of the Clyde River estuary, will establish a satellite village for Batemans Bay.

The announcement of the rezoning plans for the area follows four years of negotiations between Eurobodalla Shire Council and **Bienda** Pty Ltd, a member of the BMI Group. Rezoning plans have yet to be approved by the NSW Planning and Environment Commission.

In its agreement with council, Bienda is to contribute \$90,000 toward the cost of sealing the road from Princes Highway to Smiths Creek Bridge and \$30,000 toward reconstruction of the bridge. The company will contribute a further \$100,000 or so for other road works, as well as \$210,000 for water supply.

It is hoped work will begin before the end of this year on what the Shire President, Clr Lance Smith, says will be "a showplace of the South Coast".

Well-known Batemans Bay couple Cr and Mrs **Terry Smith** have bought the **Mariners Lodge** Hotel Motel in Batemans Bay. The Smiths say they have "great plans" for the Lodge.

Annett's Arcade in Batemans Bay is throwing open its cobbled walk-way to local crafts people and handcraft workers. It is planned to conduct a market there at weekends. The organisers say they have already had an encouraging response to the plan.

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995), Thursday 6 September, 1973



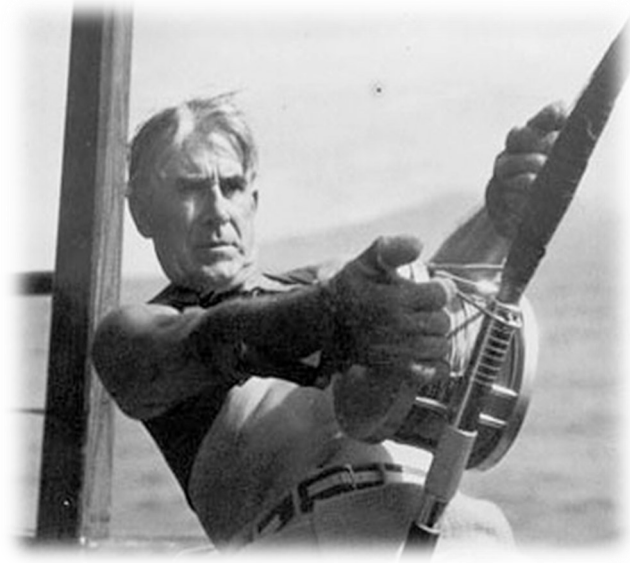
OK dinghy titles at Batemans Bay

The Canberra-Queanbeyan branch of the NSW **OK Dinghy Association** is making preparations for the State championships, in December, which it will run at Batemans Bay in conjunction with the **Batemans Bay Yacht Club**.

About 50 boats are expected to enter the series, which is regarded as an ideal warm-up for the **Australian** and **world championships**.

The White Death Shark

Zane Grey's Best Fishing Camp [Batemans Bay 1936]



CROSSING the [Clyde] River on the ferry at Bateman's Bay, from which the wonderful Toll Gates can be seen out at sea, I had conceived an idea that this place had marvellous potentialities for fishing.

Potential

As a matter of fact the place haunted me so that I went back, motored all around the Bay, walked out upon the many wooded capes that projected far out toward the sentinel Toll Gates, patrolled the curved sandy beaches, and finally interviewed the market fishermen.

The result was that I broke camp at Bermagui and chose a lovely site three miles out from

Bateman's Bay, where we pitched camp anew.

It turned out that the vision of my mind's eye had been right. This camp proved to be the most beautiful and satisfactory of all the hundreds of camps I have had in different countries. How it will turn out from a fishing standpoint remains to be seen, but I would like to gamble on my instinct.

I fished all the way up from Bermagui, and the distance must have been all of 50 miles. I trolled a good-sized bonito for eight hours without a rise. The north-east breeze had freshened all day, and at four o'clock the sea was ridged white and blue.

It was rough enough to make me hold on to my chair with one hand and my rod in the other. I wanted to take the first swordfish into Bateman's Bay!

Noble Toll Gates

THERE was a long cape to the north-west standing far out into the ocean. It appeared we would never reach it; But at last we did, and saw the grand opening at Bateman's Bay guarded by those noble Toll Gates, great bare rocks, standing aloof and august, facing the sea, and shadowed with the western sunset lights.

It was with most unusual excitement that I sighted the familiar and thrilling purple flashes of a sword-fish back of my bait. "There he is!" And he had the bait, to swerve and speed away. "Well, it's about time. Nine hours!" called Peter, as he threw out the clutch. "Be sure you hook him." I made sure of that, and for half an hour, in a rough sea, I had a hard fight with a game fish. He almost got away. We were proud to run into Crescent Bay, where my camp had been pitched, while I fished the day through.

Days of Storm

THERE was an enthusiastic crowd waiting, but nothing to the large and vociferous one that greeted us when we trucked the swordfish up to town. Most, in fact almost all, of the inhabitants had never seen a sword fish.

The reception the townspeople gave me was second only to that they gave the fish. So my start at Bateman's Bay was auspicious.

Extract from

The White Death Shark

CR&BBHS Publication ©

Stories from the Bay Series No.1



MORE TROVE It has a humungous **Magazine** Collection — what a resource.

From June 1943 every person in Australia was rationed to 1/2lb (226 grams) of butter per week. As we tighten our belts in 2023 here's some practical advice from the inimitable Australian Woman's Weekly, June, 1943. (Every edition digitised and searchable via TROVE).

To eke out your butter ration by OUR FOOD EXPERT

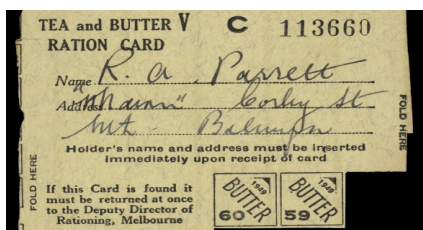
The main problem of housewives in eking out the butter ration is to ensure a fair share for each member of the family. ONE of the best ways to do this is to place each person's share in a separate jar.

Cut each half-pound of butter into eight equal pieces. Seven represent a daily portion per person, the eighth can be put aside for cooking purposes.

Label each jar, and then each member of the family can use his or hers as desired.

If the jar lids are painted or brightly coloured so much the better, as they should be brought to the table. It is better, anyway, to risk an untidy appearance to the table than waste butter by transferring from one dish to another.

Teach even the youngest member of the family to make the most of the quota by softening before spreading on bread or toast and creaming with a little warm water. Allow toast to cool before buttering.



For cooking use good clean clarified dripping.
Do not throw away scraps of fat cut from meat such as stewing steak and chops.

Shocked at paying \$5 or more for a cup of coffee?

We refer you to the following remedy which is not only practical but a touching reminder of the unfailing ingenuity of country women in providing for their families.

The Inland Watch (Leonora, WA : 1937 - 1943), Saturday 11 April 1942

We are indebted to Mrs. Mary Farrelly, the earnest honorary worker whose efforts on behalf of the people are so well known and appreciated.

WHEAT COFFEE. One teaspoon salt, 2 lbs. finest bran, 2 cups finest ground wholemeal flour, 1/2 cup thin treacle, 1/2 cup boiling water.

Put treacle in tin over the fire to thin it, add water (hot) to the treacle. Mix bran, wholemeal flour together, then add treacle and water, mix all well together, place in thin layers in baking dishes, bake a dark brown, stir well. Do not burn, otherwise coffee will be bitter. Well dry, then put in covered tins and keep.

MAKING COFFEE. Put one tablespoon for the pot (more if desired stronger), and one tablespoon for each cup—seven tablespoons for six cups. Pour six cups of boiling water on to the seven tablespoons of coffee, boil 1/2 of an hour, strain. Bottled, it will keep about three days.

Heat coffee and milk separately.



FROM THE VAULT



"mmm, crunch, aah!"

Polly Waffle is a 50 gram Australian chocolate bar. It is a waffle wafer tube filled with marshmallow and coated in compound chocolate.

The confection had been introduced in 1947 by the Hoadley's Chocolate Company, then taken over by Rowntree Mackintosh Confectionery in 1972. When Rowntree Mackintosh was acquired by Nestlé in 1988, the Swiss company continued producing Polly Waffles until it was discontinued in 2009.

In 2019, it was announced that Australian confectioner Robern Menz, of Menz Confectionery, had signed an agreement with rights holder Nestlé to produce the Polly Waffle bars and received government funding for his manufacturing business. After Covid delays, the launch of the product is due to occur in 2023. NO NEWS YET!

In a recent confectionary poll Polly Waffle won by a mile—even though it wasn't produced for 10 years *and* you still can't buy it!. ['Polywaffle' is also a vernacular term for 'political talk'.]



1936 opening of the Nuns of St Joseph residence Orient Street Batemans Bay. Methodist church on the hill and the two houses just above the Catholic school are still there. On the corner of Camp Street and Bent Street.

Image: Leah Burke, from Facebook *Batemans Bay Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow*

AWM MILITARY HISTORY on this Day

19th July 1916 Battle of Fromelles A total of 5,533 Australians were killed or wounded in this battle, most on the night of 19–20 July. Fromelles was the first battle for the Australians on the Western Front.

22nd July 1917 AANS Awards 4 members of the Australian Army Nursing Service win the Military Medal. Sisters Cawood, Deacon and Ross-King and Staff Nurse Derrer, won Military Medals for rescuing patients trapped in a burning Casualty Clearing Station at Trois Arbes, France. These were the first bravery awards won by Australian nurses in action.

27th July 1942 Formation of AWLA To produce food and other raw materials for the war effort, women's organisations responded by setting up "land armies" in each state and many of these women were later absorbed into the Australian Women's Land Army.

26th July 1950 Korea Acting Prime Minister Arthur Fadden announces commitment of Australian ground forces for service in Korea. Ceasefire announced July 1953.

31st July 1962 Vietnam AATTV Colonel Ted Serong, Commander of AATTV, flies into Saigon, ahead of the main body of the AATTV, which would arrive on 3 August. The arrival of "the Team" signalled the beginning of more than ten years of Australian involvement in the Vietnam War.

As someone unfamiliar with the electoral Riding* system that the Shire Council once used, I thought the informality and personal touch refreshing in this review.

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995), Sunday 28 May 1978

By BRUCE JUDDERY

A meeting of the **A Riding** Eurobodalla Shire Council does tend to be a trifle disconcerting. For starters, all three councillors, arrayed backs-to-the-wall in the meeting room downstairs at the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club, are surnamed Smith — Lance, Terry and Joe.

Disconcertingly, they have an offhand way of addressing one another indiscriminately as "Smithy", though Terry, the one who sold off most of an arcade of shops, flats, even his home, recently to raise part of the \$1.3 million he needed to buy the Mariner's Tavern, on both the main road and the waterfront, is referred to behind his back as "the big fellow".

Sometimes, as during the excellent Chinese lunch upstairs, after the morning's schedule is over, he is called Big Fellow to his face, or at any rate his chest. It is perfectly appropriate.

At 10 o'clock a deputation arrives, mostly elderly residents from Caseys Beach at Batehaven. They have heard that the council has bought a house near the southern end of the beach and are alarmed that it may be turned over to the Yacht Club. Lance Smith — he has been the shire president for a year, and had three years on the council before that — says he knows that rumours have been spreading and he hopes the Smiths can "put the lie to some of the stories you have heard".

The discussion gets long and involved. One resident recalls a plan, or intention, for the beach's development from as long ago as 1939. Most of the historical precedents are 20-odd years more recent.

Lance Smith takes most of the burden of setting the deputation straight. No, the site is not going to be turned over to the Yacht Club. What the council wants to do is swap some of its property for the club's unused land on Casey Beach, which can be turned over for use as a regional reserve — which is what it is being used for, in any case.

There is a lot more debate, and questioning, plaintive and aggressive. Caseys is the best family beach on the South Coast, one depute asserts, and "the prospect of having a club there with poker machines and parking would be a travesty". Why can't the Yacht Club go to Corrigans Beach; the council could have the sandbar — which prevents the launching of anything much larger than a dinghy — removed."

If the Yacht Club comes up with development proposals for its site, Lance Smith tells the deputation, it will have to meet the councillors and the residents' committee. In the end, it is quite an achievement when the visitors go off, fairly happy.

How do you feel your town and its identity have changed since 1978?

FROM THE VAULT



The Canberra Times, 27th April 1977.

Mrs Robyn Innes, of Batemans Bay, in the wetsuit and mask she wore to a recent meeting of Batemans Bay Primary School P&C Association as a protest against repeated flooding around the school. The State Member for the South Coast, Mr Hatton (Ind) has announced that the NSW Dept of Education plans a joint drainage scheme for the school with Eurobodalla Shire Council next financial year.

The Canberra Times, 15th Dec 1980.

Arthur Bush, of Batemans Bay, a member of the Batemans Bay Bushfire Brigade, fights a fire in **Veitch's Swamp**, Batemans Bay.

[Ed: Town Water Gardens today]



Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Friday 21 April 1865

Extract : THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY OF NEW SOUTH WALES. IV - **The Leather Trade**

Not more than five or six years ago the **bootmaking trade** was so utterly neglected in this Colony that almost every article sold in the retail shops in Sydney was imported. In fact there were very few who were real "makers" of boots, and these only made to order. So much was this the case, (and so great was the necessity), owing to the distance of the source of supply, for keeping up large stocks to meet the general demand, that the *New South Wales market was looked upon in England as the largest in the world for boots and shoes.*

But as the allurements of the gold fields became less and less captivating, men fell in by degrees to their old avocations, and the shoemaker returned to the last which he had deserted for the shovel and cradle.

Little by little the trade felt its way, seeking to recover its lost ground, and at last more boldly, when the introduction of pegged boots from America first showed a means of effecting a saving of labour from this time the trade made rapid strides. It soon secured the monopoly of the heavy goods, so that for the last two years hardly a pair of men's bluchers* has been imported, whereas only some four or five years back they were brought in by tens of thousands of pairs, not only England, but the United States also sending in large stocks to feed the demand.

Then followed the introduction of the **riveting machinery** by Mr. James Vickery, and its employment was so successful that the Messrs. Alderson at once adopted it. This gave a wonderful impetus to the trade, and women's and children's leather boots were soon added to the list of those kinds that needed no longer to be imported.

The **sewing machine** was very soon brought into operation for closing the uppers, and by habit the hands employed on it became so expert that work of the finest quality, comparing favourably with the neatest productions of English manufacturers, was brought out.

Cordwainer is the traditional term for a shoemaker who makes new shoes from new leather. The cobbler's trade, is repairs.

- ◆ ***Pegged**—the upper, insole, midsole and outsole is attached with wood or brass pegs
- ◆ ***Blucher** is a style with open lacing, its vamp made of a single piece of leather



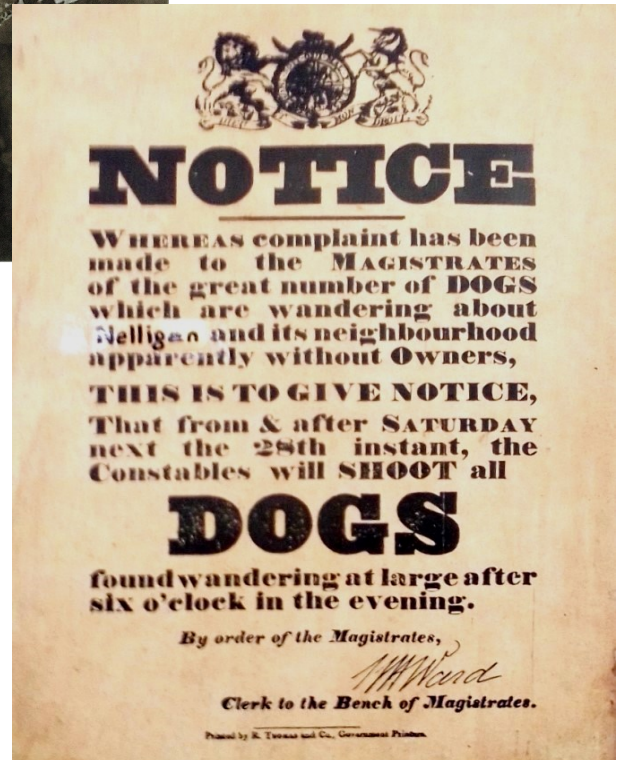
FROM THE VAULT



Some workers and their families at the **Runnyford Mill**. Can you name any?



Demonstrating a copper 'bath' to visiting students.



Fair warning, if a little harsh.

Can our knowledgeable members help Hazel?

"I am seeking information in regard to Cobb and Co. proprietors, agents and offices. Currently, I am tracking as many partners/proprietors as possible who ran their business under the 'Cobb and Co.' brand from 1853-1924.

Also, if members have any names of Cobb and Co. drivers, I am more than happy to do some research about that person. If you would like to peruse the current list of drivers (surnames only) you can visit www.cobbandcotracks.au. As it is an eBook, I am able to add more information as it is gathered. Thank you!" Hazel Johnson

Cobb & Co was the name used by many successful sometimes quite independent Australian coaching businesses. The first was established in Melbourne, 1853 by American Freeman Cobb and his partners.

The name Cobb & Co grew to great prominence in the late 19th century, when it was carried by many stagecoaches carrying passengers and mail to various Australian goldfields, and later to many regional and remote areas of the Australian outback.

The last Australian Cobb & Co stagecoach ran in Queensland in August 1924.



A lovely piece of memory writing — you'll enjoy it.

The Road to the Coast, Part 1. [1974] by Nancy Parker

It was on this old grey sock of a road, flung across the hills anyhow between Canberra and Batemans Bay, when I was a youth rising 17, that I learned to drive a car.

One could have no better apprenticeship even now. The yellow line, double in spots, hasn't upgraded all that much. It was added, according to Mum, merely to match the wattle.

Dad taught me to drive his old Holden station wagon. "For God's sake. Slow down at the corners, at least", he'd yell at me, clutching the handbrake. "And watch out for holes".

There are still plenty of holes. While I was waiting to have a new windscreen fitted at the NRMA garage in Batemans Bay only last weekend, I thought back on all the other times I'd made that trip through the years since childhood. Man. Did I cut minutes off our time when I got a 'V8'.

The trip's nothing. Used to be though, when the road wasn't even sealed. I hand it to my parents. Every weekend, summer and winter, flood and fire, we trundled off to the coast, three drivelling kids in the back seat, snivelling, giggling, we needed to go to the lavatory, be sick, have a drink. When you consider the number of trips it took to build our weekender, I don't know how my parents stood it.

It was a bit of an endurance test for us as well. In summer the car would become a moving capsule of heat, in which we tads sat limply, more dead than alive, wedged in among dad's fishing gear until we were spilled out gasping in the fresh sea air. In winter, behind fogged glass, we burrowed under all the junk and slept in a nest of rugs, and had to be dug for, pulled out like sandworms, when the raucous cry of seagulls broke over us.

We learned from experience over the years that nagging got us nowhere much before Braidwood. Bungendore didn't count. We only stopped there if we had to wade through a flood on the flat stretch approaching the town, or if the gates at the level crossing were closed. But in response to a crescendo of whining and wailing, our parents would buy some peace by promising to stop on the Sunday evening return journey where we would be comforted with hot pies from the 'hot' cafe nearest the Batemans Bay turnoff. Going, we would be similarly comforted with deep, cold milkshakes from the 'cold' cafe, which reminded us of the surf towards which we were heading. It never occurred to any of us to reverse this ritual, although I guess the pies and thick shakes were interchangeable.

For five glorious minutes at the 'cold' cafe, the whirr of electric fans and the buzzing of flies would replace the drone of the car engine, and I and my young brother and sister would marvel at the slow, slippered service, which turned even the buying of potato crisps into a sacred rite. As the five minutes turned inevitably into ten, Dad would go fuming back to the car to wait, which gave Mum the opportunity she'd been hoping for — a visit to the junk shop.

If the hot and cold cafes were our focal point in Braidwood, the junk shop further up the street was Mum's. She'd discovered that back in Queanbeyan, 'Antiques' in gothic script added dollars to articles which were known as junk in Braidwood. Under this fancy sign a wringer with perished rubber rollers, which would have been given away in Braidwood as part of a job lot, would bring three times the price of a new one.

[To be continued]

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995), Saturday 19 October 1974

STEAM = **S**cience **T**echnology **E**ngineering **A**rt **M**athematics

Wax-eating caterpillars may be the superhero we all need in the war on plastic waste.

Unless something changes, by 2050, it is estimated that plastic in the oceans will outweigh fish. Read that again and take it in.

Australians consume 1 million tonnes of single use plastic each year, with 90 per cent sent to landfill, and approximately 130,000 tonnes leaking into the marine environment.

Microbiologist and ARC Future Fellow Associate Professor Amy Cain is collaborating with Samsara Eco focussing on PU recycling. "PU is ubiquitous in our lives, from lacquer coatings and elastane clothing to durable foam padding in car seats, cushions and mattresses."

As our own ESC kerbside clean up draws near consider that a single mattress, for example, produces 15–20 kilograms of PU foam waste. "Currently, the only way of recycling the PU in mattresses, like the polyethylene in plastic bags, is to 'upcycle' them into limited products like benches. This can also *only* be done once as it downgrades the plastic integrity," she says.

"In recent years, **bacteria** have been identified in oil spills and other extreme environments, forced by evolution to develop the capacity to break down long carbon chains," she says. More recently, a few insects, including *wax moth caterpillars*, have been identified as **plastivores**.

"When we fed household foams to caterpillars in the lab they munched through 95 per cent in under three days. Once we fully understand how they are doing this, we will take out the active component and create a safe, synthetic microbe that can be scaled up to become industrially relevant."

Amy is working to understand plastic biodegradation and re-design and improve biologically active enzymes to break down the polymers in PU foams and sustainably recycle them into a variety of virgin plastics or biofuels.

This process, which translates nature's solutions into flexible and efficient synthetic enzyme technologies, will allow plastics to be infinitely recycled."

AMY SAYS "Australians are very passionate about recycling, but we need to get better at sorting – for example, separating plastic bottle tops and rings from bottles as these are different types of plastic.



"The great thing about these technologies is that they are more scalable than current industrial methods, she says. Recycling aluminium for example, requires a lot of energy and significant carbon input. The process uses large plants that can't be scaled down."

"Enzyme technologies don't need to melt anything – they will attack any plastic, as long as it's clean, meaning they can be used on an industrial scale or in a benchtop bucket at home."

Want to know more <https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2023/07/very-hungry-caterpillars-new->

ROUND AND ABOUT



Museums of History

You won't have to travel far for this one. It's online, entitled **Sydney's Home Furnishing Stores, 1890-1960**.

I once worked in a building opposite Mark Foy's, now repurposed as the District Court. It took up an entire city block, hence the term for over-confidence ... "He's got more front than Mark Foy's".

In our Museum's homage display to the original Annetts store in Orient Street, we have some catalogues from which orders were placed for delivery via steamship to the Bay. All such 'trade literature' is a rich source of social history, particularly for furniture design and furnishings.

In Sydney there were dozens of specialist furnishing stores and department stores with furnishing sections in the city centre.

Many were concentrated in 'furniture precincts', first along George Street and then from the 1920s around the city circle railway stations and the southern part of Pitt Street.

The decline of home furnishing shopping in central Sydney from the late 1950s was influenced by rising rents, lack of parking and a general population move to the suburbs. Shopping patterns also changed with the development of drive-in suburban shopping centres, the first opening at Top Ryde in November 1957.

Very few city stores sell furniture today and only two department stores remain in central Sydney: David Jones and Myer (on the old 'Farmers' site). Some of the original buildings still remain but with new uses while others have been demolished. Visit:

<https://mhns.wa.gov.au/stories/sydneys-home-furnishing-stores/sydney-home-furnishing-stores-1890-1960>

Jervis Bay Maritime Museum and Gallery

MUNGURRA-NGGUL: Our Place, Our Home

If you haven't yet visited the Lady Denman for its maritime stories you can now view its **new Gallery** which tells the story of Jervis Bay, from the pre-European period of Aboriginal occupation to colonial European settlement, through periods of social change and economic development up to modern times.

Open: 10am - 4pm Daily Woollamia Rd, Huskisson, NSW, 2540

Australian Fleet Air Arm Museum



Sometimes we can overlook the familiar because of its proximity. This Museum receives great feedback from visitors. Located at HMAS *Albatross*, home of the RAN Fleet Air Arm.

One of the largest regional aviation museums in NSW, containing over 30 aircraft and numerous aviation artefacts, it tells the story of Australian Naval Aviation.

489A Albatross Rd, Nowra Hill NSW
Entry FREE

BLUEY'S BOOKSHOP

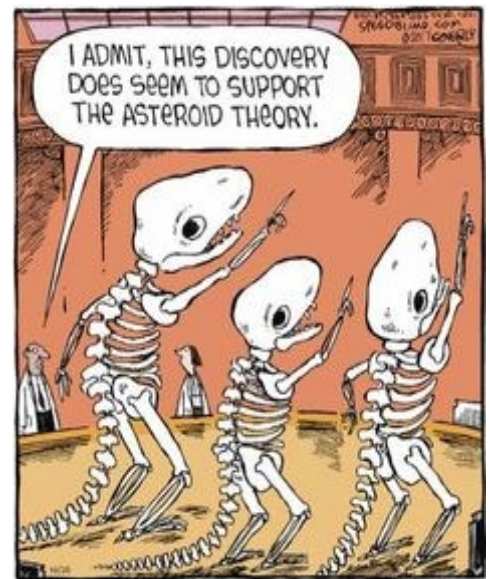
Debra Hope, manager of our bright blue bookshop at the rear of the Museum, has been revising the layout and stock control to better serve our readers. We have cut back on our range of categories. Books pre-2015 sit unloved and are not earning their keep. Deb's focus now is presenting comparatively recent publications to improve turnover.. Grateful as we are for donations, boxes of old books from clearing out the garage, etc **do not sell and, in fact, have cost us to recycle.**



If you or someone you know are buying *newish* books and are happy to pass them on, please contact Debra on Tuesday or Thursday at the Museum.

"Never trust anyone who has not brought a book with them."

New Grand Egyptian Museum, Cairo Egypt ; The largest museum in the world. I visited the original Cairo Museum some 15 year ago. Scale of the new build is stunning.



RESEARCH and QUIET SPACE

At the Museum, Chris is available one day per week. Please contact us with your enquiry *before* visiting so we can dig out what we have and can make the most of your time.

Chris's professional training in librarianship is kindly being applied to our **Reference Library**, which has moved and is being re-shelved and catalogued to be widely available in our Meeting Room.

It will also offer a '**Quiet Space**' for visitors, as needed.

Acknowledging with thanks our Agency and Community Partners



Create NSW
Arts, Screen & Culture

South Coast Health & Sustainability Alliance



Museums & Galleries of NSW



JOHN HOLLAND

