

## National Trust Australian Heritage Festival

For this annual event, the Museum has curated a special Exhibition featuring the families, technologies and achievements of the Clyde River Oyster Industry.



### The Clyde Oyster "A Tale of Two Valves"

**Exhibition 18<sup>th</sup> April – 18<sup>th</sup> May**

The Exhibition was launched in tandem with 'Regeneration Ocean', a Travelling Exhibition from the **National Maritime Museum**. Joining members were our guest speaker Cay-Leigh Bartnicke, Curator from the NMA, ESC representatives Deputy Mayor Alison Worthington and Viv Straw, Acting Divisional Mgr Strategy and Sustainability.

Special thanks to **Oysters Australia** who provided extra display content, and delicious oysters.

Congratulations to Members Ken Gray, Leah Burke, Chris Bendle and Sue Wray, key team members who curated The Clyde Oyster exhibit.

Display content will form the basis of a **permanent Oyster Shed** exhibit, construction early 2025.



Editor: Myf Thompson

## What's Inside ...

### The Clyde Oyster: Festival Feature Extracts from the display

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- \*A Rum Deal
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- \*Out and About  
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**Society News**  
New Curator  
Appointed

- \*Vale Cynthia Hill
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- \*Latest Donation

#### Walawaani

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

## THE GREAT MANURE CRISIS OF 1848

Bytesdaily.co.au d/l 8/04/24

As we know, until the advent of motor vehicles the main form of transportation, whether of people or goods, was by horse. However, anyone who has ever mucked out a stable knows what a single horse can produce. Spare a thought for the equine ramifications of daily life prior to motor cars, particularly in larger towns and cities.

**Waste:** unpleasant consequences: urine, flies, congestion, carcasses, and traffic accidents. The main problem, however, was **manure**. A horse produces between 7 and 15 kilos of manure daily. In addition, each horse produces nearly a litre of urine per day, which also ended up on the streets. Good for the roses, but manure spread disease. It attracted large numbers of flies. In the summer, it dried and turned to dust, being blown by the wind onto people and buildings. In wet weather it turned into mire.

The manure smelled offensive. In Sydney, for example, manure was so thick on the ground that **professional manure removers** at intersections – “**sparrow starvers**” in Sydney – provided a paid service of clearing paths for women in long dresses to cross the street. Horse accidents were common. *Fatality rates according to population were higher for horse drawn vehicles than in today's motor vehicle society.*

Horseshoes on stone were noisy. Congestion was commonplace. Dead horses were difficult to move and were sometimes allowed to lie in the street to putrefy so as to make sawing up and disposal easier. Cruelty to horses was common, beatings and whippings. It was considered better economics to work a small number of horses intensively than to have a larger number and work them humanely, even if it meant that the harder-worked horses expired quicker. Horses were also at risk of falling on unmade or slippery roads, especially when wet or icy, with the consequent risk of a broken leg and destruction.

**Plus**, horses had to be stabled, fed and shod. This took land which could have been used for development and agricultural products other than hay.

**In 1898 the first international urban planning conference convened in New York. One topic dominated discussion: manure.** Cities all over the world, including Sydney, were experiencing the same problem. Unable to see any solution to the manure crisis, the delegates abandoned the conference after three days instead of the scheduled ten days. We're all doomed!

Then, quite quickly, the crisis passed as millions of horses were replaced by millions of motor vehicles and electric trams. The change did not happen immediately, rather it happened function by function, with freight haulage being the last.

Often used as a case study, more broadly, The Great Manure Crisis became an analogy for supposedly insuperable extrapolated problems being rendered moot by the introduction of new technologies.





**“REGENERATION OCEAN”** A Travelling Exhibition from the National Maritime Museum, now showing in our community space at the Museum. Kids welcome.

## MARY BRYANT’S TEA LEAVES

On her escape from the colony in 1791 the remarkable Mary Bryant took a quantity of sweet tea leaves, perhaps thinking it would ward off scurvy. Of course, we now understand that this wasn't the case, but the sweet tea may have helped Mary and her party of escapees (husband William, two small children and seven other convicts) survive the 5237 km journey to Timor, even as a small comfort on the open seas.

Extraordinarily, a few of Mary’s tea-leaves ended up in the possession of renowned author and lawyer, James Boswell, who had taken a benevolent interest in Mary’s courageous attempt at freedom and her consequent criminal case.

By 1788 the taking of tea, that very British ritual, was enjoyed universally, even in the poorest households. Although tea was available for sale in Sydney from at least 1792, unlike rum it was not yet considered a ‘necessary’ and therefore not included in convict rations for another 30 years. But rather than going without, the early colonists found their own alternative in a native sarsaparilla – testament to their resourcefulness.

*“It has much the taste of Liquorish & serves both for Tea & Sugar & is recommended as a very wholesome drink.”*  
Lieutenant Bradley October 1788.



*Smilax glycyphylla* the sweet sarsaparilla

*Mary’s Leaves c1791.*  
State Library of NSW:  
R807



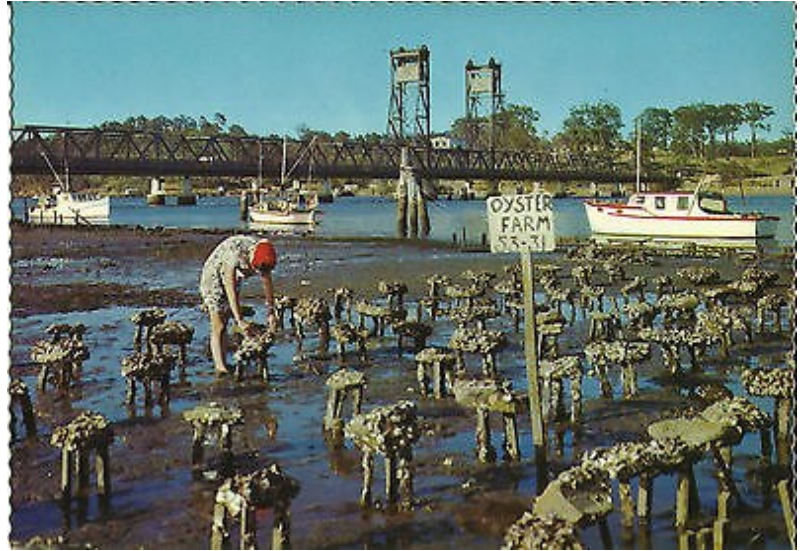
## Visit our little Bookshop located at Reception

Quality secondhand books by author and subject. Open on Museum days, 10-3 & Sat 10-2.  
We also stock a range of historical publications.

**Donated modern books** in very good condition help us raise funds for local heritage.

# THE CLYDE OYSTER—EXTRACT FROM DISPLAY

Alf Innes on his lease



1950s souvenir postcard



Ann & Allan Paxman and John Templeman



Looking up river from Latta's Point



Ron Ison and Paul Bell

Bagging oysters 100 dozen per bag.



Awaiting collection wharf end Clyde St



## THE CLYDE OYSTER - EXTRACT FROM DISPLAY

My family came to Batemans Bay and settled, back in the early 1950s. At the time my dad had the intention of buying a caravan park owned by Cec Dowling, where the current RSL stands today,

We were camping out at Hanging Rock. This particular evening, dad, who was always partial to a drop, joined the locals at the Bayview Hotel, and by the time he came home, he said to my mother "Eileen", he said, "I'm going to forget about the caravan park, I think I'll buy an oyster farm." My mum was flabbergasted, of course. "Noel", she said, "You don't know a damn thing about oysters." And dad said, "Well, I'm gonna learn." And that's where it all started.



**ROD TERRY**

As an adult] I'd been away for a while and I came back when my dad got very sick, and I thought I'd better step up. Dad passed away in his 80s so I've virtually been in it, full time, since 1973. At that time, in NSW, more than 90 percent of oyster leases were family-run businesses.

I think the major change in the past recent years has been the introduction of Pacific Oysters. I was very against introducing the species. Comparing Sydney Rock oysters to Pacific Oysters, to me, is like comparing blackberries to strawberries. I believe the river has been under a lot of stress and strain from the stocking densities being increased to a stage where it's detrimental to the Sydney Rock oysters. Comparing the Clyde to areas like the Hawkesbury, we're only a small industry and most of the ground in the Clyde has been utilised.

I understand some [growers] are very disillusioned with the Pacifics, because they are very temperamental. We've only just had another rain event and they certainly don't like fresh water. So I imagine some of these fellows who grow Pacifics in the upper reaches of the Clyde, where water'd be quite fresh at the moment, will be trying to transport them down this way to try and get a bit of salt into them. So there's a lot of extra work there involved in it. *Whereas the old Sydney Rock oyster he can stand anything. He can stand fresh (water), he can stand heat, he can stand a lot of things.*

*It's still a labour-intensive industry. When you consider, an oyster, in some respects, can be handled a half dozen, even ten times, by the time you actually get it onto the plate. From the time it's a juvenile to maturity, at least half a dozen times. Whether that's by hand or by machinery, like grading machines, things of that nature. There's a lot more goes on behind the scenes.*

New technologies? Personally, I'm looking at upgrading, but some of the tech savvy younger growers today, they virtually run their business off their mobile phone. I haven't got to that stage yet! But the thing is they are still growing oysters, still producing them. What technology can't do is fatten them.

Flip baskets, is another innovative way of growing oysters. *You can do the same amount with flip baskets in a couple of hours, that might take me a fortnight.* There are great advances but in saying that, there's a lot of added expense to embrace this technology. And with leases you don't have tenure. If you want to borrow from banks it's very hard because you haven't got anything solid there, you've got a leasehold [15 years] not a freehold on those grounds.

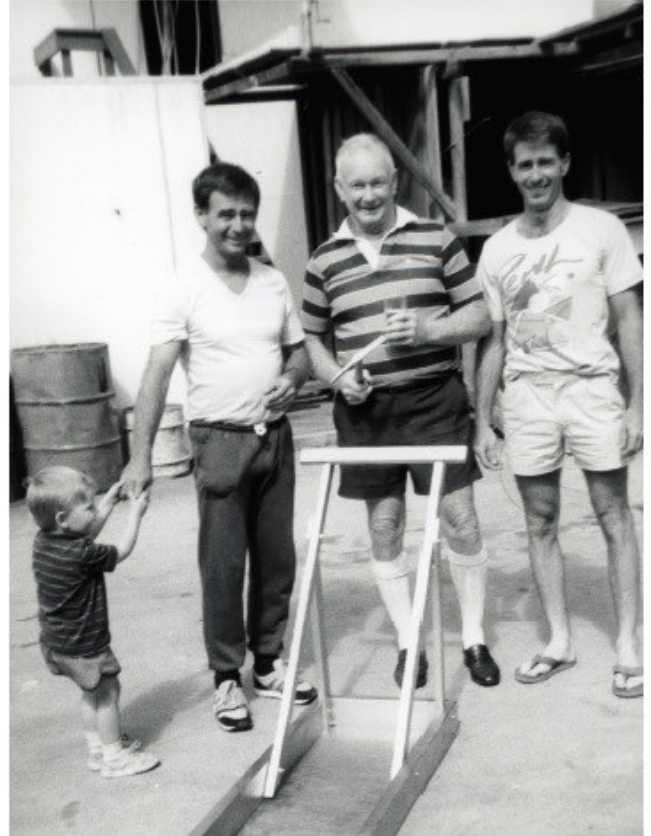
*Where I am, at Chinaman's Pt, 300 year old mangroves were lost in the 2020 bushfires. There's a strong connection. I don't think you'd be able to grow oysters in the Clyde if you didn't have mangroves.*

## THE CLYDE OYSTER - EXTRACT FROM DISPLAY



Eric Wray and Henry Bannister on the Wray's punt.

The Ralston Family



Rod Terry hard at work on Chinaman's Pt.

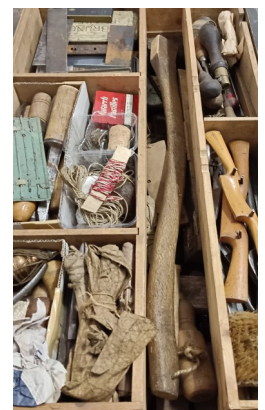


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### Latest Donation—Tooled Up!

A full carpenter's tool box from the RMS *Strathmore*. 1963.

**RMS *Strathmore*** was an ocean liner and Royal Mail Ship of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O), the third of five sister ships built for P&O in the "Strath" class. Launched in 1935, she served on the company's route from London to India until 1940, when she was requisitioned for war service as a troop ship, and redesignated as **SS *Strathmore***, until being returned to her owners in 1948. After a long re-fit, she resumed service with P&O as a migrant carrier, from 1949 until 1963 when she was sold.



## THE CLYDE OYSTER EXTRACT FROM DISPLAY

Advert 1858

**OYSTERS** — The only place in Sydney at which the celebrated **CLYDE RIVER OYSTERS** are to be obtained is at **G. CLARK'S**, King-street. A splendid sample received this day, ex Hunter, from the **Clyde**, also, from the Manning, ex Sampson.

Advert 1860

**REAL NATIVES**, Real Natives, Real Natives. — Just arrived, ex Samson, from the Manning River and Hunter, from the **Clyde**, another new bed just opened of the most splendid Oysters seen in Sydney, at **G. CLARK'S**, wholesale and retail oyster merchant, King-street. P.S. — The only place in Sydney where the celebrated **Clyde River oysters** are to be obtained wholesale. —



### OYSTER TRIVIA

- \* A single oyster can filter up to 189 litres of water a day. The oyster sucks in water and filters out tiny particles and algae to eat. In the process, it removes pollutants and excess nutrients from the water.
- \* Ostreophobia is the fear of oysters.
- \* Oysters are classified as a mollusc and are considered animals, so they're off the Vegetarian menu.
- \* Gamilaroi man Gerard 'Doody' Dennis, was Australia's 2023 champion oyster shucker, and he's from the Bay!
- \* Oysters have three-chambered hearts that pump colourless blood.
- \* In its undisturbed natural habitat, an oyster can live up to twenty years.
- \* It is estimated that **90%** of the Earth's original oyster reefs have been lost. Without this valuable habitat, marine life declines, shorelines erode, and marshes are no longer protected.

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**While Powerhouse Sydney is under refurbishment, an extensive program of public activities continues at Castle Hill.** This includes a free series of events hosted on the third Friday of every month, led by volunteers who will be on hand to share their enthusiasm and expertise. Focus is on a specific aspect of the museum's collecting practices. All events in the Collection Conversations series include a presentation incorporating objects from the collection, a light afternoon tea, and a tour of one of its open storage areas.

FREE but must book. **21 June** – Engineering Marvels **19 July** – Timeless Design  
**16 August** – Mathematics and Astronomy. [Powerhouse Museum - Collection Conversations](#)

## THE CLYDE OYSTER - EXTRACT FROM DISPLAY

**The Wray family name is synonymous with the growth of the Clyde River's oyster farming industry.**

My great grandfather, Timothy Eric Wray, arrived in Sydney from Ireland in 1878. He worked on Sydney Harbour wharf construction in a hard hat diving suit. He became interested in oysters, which were then being used to make building mortar and collected by diving.



**SUE WRAY**

Timothy took up leases at Brisbane Waters, near Gosford, then appeared on the Eden police district roll in 1888 as an oyster farmer in Eurobodalla, along with his father who had come from Ireland in 1884.

Timothy bought and leased land at Runnyford on the junction of the Clyde [Bhundoo] and Buckenbours Rivers. Oyster shell was shipped to Sydney by steamship, and the Wrays built a wharf at Runnyford, used until the steamship service stopped.

Steamships coming down from Sydney would carry ballast of Sydney sandstone. This was dumped at Cullendulla (Creek) or other places along the riverbank. When leases were issued on the river, the sandstone ballast that had been dumped was used in an early method of oyster cultivation called keystone.

The family bought a hard hat diving suit in 1914. A crew of three manned the diving punt – the diver, a man to operate the air pump, and a third to look after the diver and cull the oysters on the boat. The diver walked along the bottom of the river and tugged on the rope connected to those above if he wanted to resurface.

Timothy's sons **Eric, Stan, Bill and Alan**, and later my dad (also **Timothy**), continued working the leases until 1965 when the leases and the family home 'Wrayville' at Runnyford, were sold at public auction. My dad bid for enough leases for he and his grandfather, but Eric died shortly after. Dad would buy tarred sticks from the Georges and Hawkesbury Rivers. These tarred, one inch wide sticks were held together with cross beams and they had baby oysters, 'spat', on them.

It was very hard, very physical work. An oyster farmer must work with the tide – when there's low tide, no matter what time of the day it is.

So, dad's oystering day might start with going up- river to pick up some trays and unload and cull them, different jobs according to which lease it was and what stage the oysters were at. Dad only sold to the market in hessian bags of a hundred dozen, he didn't sell any opened oysters. As I remember, then, there was a set price for each 100 dozen. The price wasn't variable every time.



Dad belonged to the Oyster Farmers Association and attended Sydney annual conferences. They were very lively!

He was always interested in science and active ways to improve industry efficiency and production.

*Bill Wray diving.*



## A RUM DEAL

Words like 'addiction' or 'alcoholic' were not really considered in colonial Australia. Instead people just 'needed' rum to get through the day, or to forget the one they just had. Hence, ***"Rum. A distilled history of Colonial Australia"***, by **Matt Murphy**.

Could the Rum Rebellion have been averted if Major Johnston wasn't hungover?  
Would the Eureka Stockade have been different if the rebels weren't pissed?  
How were prisoners to get drunk if Macquarie closed the only pub in the goal?  
And why should sailors under fourteen be deprived of their sixteen shots of rum per day?

These are just some of the questions raised in Matt Murphy's account of Australia's colonial history. Brimming with detailed research and irreverent character sketches, 'Rum' looks at not just how much was drunk in colonial Australia (a lot!), but also the lengths people went to get their hands on it.

It was not long before there were two classes of people in the colony: those that sold rum and those that drank it. The marines that travelled on the First Fleet petitioned to ensure they had enough rum with them, insisting on, *'a moderate distribution of the above-mentioned article being indispensably requisite for the preservation of our lives.'*

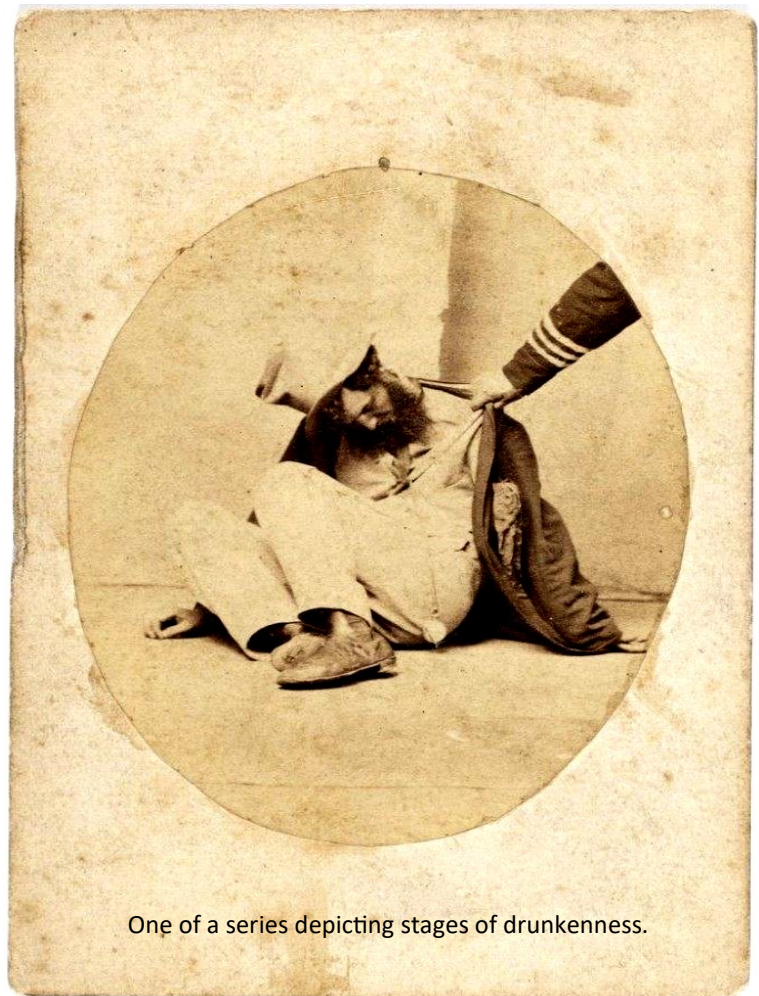
The marines nagging paid off and so while the meticulous Governor Phillip ensured the colony had enough food for two years, the marines ensured they had enough rum for four; almost 250 litres each. It didn't last close to four years.

Though Phillip kept a tight rein over rum's distribution, when he left in December 1792 rum, and the newly arrived NSW Corps took over the running of the colony. Rum became a prized commodity, and as there was no real alternative it also became a de-facto currency. The permanent regiment of the British Army, became known as the Rum Corps because they controlled the access to alcohol.

As the colony grew, rum was made locally and imported. But this wasn't the kind of rum we know today. "Rum [became] a generic term ... People were making 'rum' from potatoes and making 'rum' out of peaches. There was hooch, backyard rubbish. People died on the spot drinking some of this, they went blind. It was pretty nasty stuff". People would need rum to start their day, like people need their coffee today. There's lots of records of people buying and selling things for rum. For example, buying land in [the Sydney suburb of] Pyrmont for rum or selling your wife for rum."

Governor Lachlan Macquarie eventually introduced a licensing system and established a stable coin currency which curbed the trade.

***"Rum. A distilled history of Colonial Australia"***, M Murphy, HarperCollins, 2021. [Recommended: Editor]



One of a series depicting stages of drunkenness.

## MAY—IN MILITARY HISTORY

- 2nd May 1945 The fall of Berlin to the Soviets signalled the end of WW11 in Europe.
- 4th May 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea commences. First naval battle fought by aircraft alone.
- 7th May 1945 Germany's surrender, signed at the French city of Reims, ended WW11 in Europe.
- 8th May 1970 200,000 anti war demonstrators against the Vietnam War.
- 11th May 1945 Weewak captured—last major battle in main land New Guinea signalling end of campaign.
- 13th May 1943 AXIS forces surrender in Tunisia and ends the 3-year North African campaign.
- 14th May 1943 Hospital ship 'Centaur' sunk by Japanese Submarine. Only 64 of 332 aboard survived.
- 27th May 1965 HMAS Sydney departs on first voyage to Vietnam.
- 30th May 1943 RAAF participates in first 1,000-bomber raid, on Cologne, Germany.



Peter and Veronica Barnes, in their nineties our oldest members, at the Bay's ANZAC service.

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## UPDATE ON OUR BREAK INS

The month of April was marked by two major events for our membership...

**Firstly** two robberies and some vandalism, particularly items from our Lest We Forget Room. Non heritage items were also taken from our office, garden shed and kitchen, all of which indicated they were young people looking for something quick to sell who didn't care about breaking windows and cabinets or trampling over objects in which they saw no monetary value.

Distressed doesn't do justice to the feelings of the vollies who went to work and opened up to discover the theft and damage.

**Secondly** the kindness of strangers: just walking in to offer small amounts of money or replacement items. A physical offer to help clean up from **Great Southern Trike Tours**. Capped by **LIONS Batemans Bay** gifting a cheque for \$2,000.

Police were excellent. Yes, we had security cameras. Yes, we had an Alarm system. But neither stopped them as the area is isolated.



*Ewan, with Lions Leslie and Ann*

So more money must be made, not to acquire new artefacts, but spent upgrading security, replacing laptops, electric garden tools and glass (wow, glass and labour is expensive now!).

**WE HAVE CHARITABLE STATUS. PLEASE DONATE TO HELP RECOVERY.**

**For tax receipts, kindly ensure your name is on the deposit.**

**Details [www.batemansbayheritagemuseum.com](http://www.batemansbayheritagemuseum.com)**

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Visit our website for details.

### Group Visits in March/April

Always delightful, if super busy, when children visit us. This month 40 **Year 2 Broulee PS students** explored the Museum. Their excitement and the questions that floor you....

If you'd like to share that experience, please ring Lesley - always looking for smiling child wranglers.

### Combined PROBUS Groups from the Newcastle region

Lovely people, they enjoyed a Museum visit and our Town Talk vollen guided coach tour. The beautifully refurbished Observation Point lookout provided a perfect backdrop for the story of the Bay's exploration and naming by Cook and Robert Johnston. And who doesn't love a "cellfie".



## OUR SENIORS FESTIVAL EVENT 2024



For our fourth year offering a super Festival event, we particularly thank members of the Bay Theatre Players. Adding their vocal abilities and charm to make the 'Hello, Sailor' event a real happening were (l-r) Robert Wombey, Rod Terry and Steve Johnson. Rum balls and lemon slice for morning tea prevented scurvy—many thanks to our vollenies for catering and clearing up support. Tickets were sold out. See you 2025!

## DIP IN

Delighted to say that after visiting our schoolroom display many children leave with ink stained fingers, and just as many adults leave copperplate examples of how to use the nib pen.

**"Steel nib pens with handles" were sold here as early as 1831.**

In the late 19th C and into the 1940s, dip pens with steel nibs were the main writing instruments. For those of you too young to know, steel pen nibs are shaped to fit into a slot in the base of a wooden or Bakelite pen holder. The steel nibs have a hole in the middle that acts like a well for the ink. The hole at the front of the nib is for collecting ink from a well, which is then stored in a reservoir at the back of the nib. When the nib is dipped into the ink well the writer needs to ensure that it is dipped to only just past that well.

The nibs were stamped with their nib size and pedigree (what type of nib it is, eg italic, broad, artist drawing and mapping, etc) and maker's details.



After two centuries, **William Mitchell Calligraphy** still makes these nibs today with a slightly different finish.

Quills and ink were common writing tools until the early 19th century when the pen trade began mass producing steel nibs and pens.

**India Ink** was one of the most popular inks used with the nib pens, notable for its satin-like smooth flow. This ink is composed of a particularly fine carbon mixed with water; it can also be obtained as a dry stick that is then crushed and mixed with water as required.

The Jewellery Quarter of Birmingham had the largest concentration of independent jewellers in Europe. **Birmingham** became the centre of the world's pen trade for many years; during the 1800's over 100 factories, employing 1000s of skilled workers, manufactured the famous 'Birmingham Pen'.



The early 19th century invention and later mass production of pen nibs, such those in our collection, had a large impact on education and famous literacy because the nibs could be produced in great numbers and affordable prices.

By the time your Editor was in High school I was using '**radiant blue**' ink from a bottle, or filling my pen with ink cartridges.

**Were you an ink monitor? Try 'your hand' at nibs next time you're in.**



The title of the world's priciest pen is held by the **Tibaldi Fulgor Nocturnus**, fetching a cool \$8 million at auction.

Its name, derived from Latin, translates to "glow of the night" – an apt description considering the pen's lavish adornment with black diamonds. Crafted from an opulent array of 123 rubies, 945 black diamonds, and gold, the pen's structure and aesthetics are inspired by the golden ratio, often referred to as the Divine Proportion.

"A living shoreline creates a self-healing and self-adapting shoreline that moves with nature".

**Along the shoreline of low-lying Narooma, an award-winning initiative is creating a living, breathing barrier against erosion and rising sea levels.**

The **Wagonga Inlet Living shoreline** project uses native plants, saltmarsh habitats and oyster reefs to secure and stabilise 400 metres of the bank along the foreshore, and diffuse potentially eroding wave energy. Five years after the concept was first discussed in the area, conservation work at the site was completed in November 2023.

The living shoreline approach to managing erosion is gaining global momentum, but Wagonga is one of the first locations to incorporate many different habitat types, like shellfish reefs and saltmarshes, in one project.

The project saw the creation of the first **native angasi oyster reef** in New South Wales and the first adjacent intertidal and subtidal reefs in Australia.

The intertidal reef is home to Sydney rock oysters near the surface, which are exposed to sunlight during low tides. Growing six metres below the surface on the adjacent subtidal reef are angasi oysters — a species that occur very rarely naturally. Fisheries Manager for oyster reef restoration Jillian Keating said creating the two neighbouring reefs was "*quite a landmark achievement*".

*"In the late 1800s, we all but lost all of our oyster reefs across Australia — 99 per cent are considered functionally extinct," she said . "They're the forgotten ecosystem in Australia."*

Creating the reef required oyster farmers in the inlet to donate old shells, which were crushed and deposited along the bottom of the inlet. Thousands of oyster spat — the larval form of oyster — were planted on the reef by **NSW's first Indigenous, commercially qualified dive team**. The oysters then began to feed on and filter phytoplankton, moving nutrients around the reef and increasing the productivity of the entire food chain. "*They do this amazing job to boost biodiversity and water quality,*" Ms Keating said.

Already, **15 species of fish** have been seen in the subtidal reef, which Ms Keating said is similar to historic shellfish reef ecosystem populations.

More than 13,000 native plants have also been planted along the foreshore, transforming the patchy elements of a previous seawall into more than **3,000 square metres of saltmarsh**.

Eurobodalla Shire Council natural resources and sustainability manager Heidi Thomson said the saltmarsh population around the inlet had declined three-fold since the 1970s.

*"Reinstating some of that saltmarsh is going to help the entire estuary, not just to protect the foreshore, but by providing habitat," she said.*

Community infrastructure such as a wharf, artwork and kayak access are being installed, but Ms Thomson said the Council is already fielding requests from conservation groups around the country interested in the project. "*We hope it will take off in other parts of NSW and Australia,*"



The project is funded through DPI Fisheries through the Marine Estate Environment Strategy. Also The Nature Conservancy Australia (TNC) and the Australian Government

ABC South East: James Tugwell d/l Apr 2024

## OUT AND ABOUT



### Sculpture for Clyde

On our very own foreshore! **The Batemans Bay Sculpture Walk** on Batemans Bay foreshore is the legacy of this Batemans Bay Sculpture Event. The 10 day event will again transform the town centre foreshore with event sculptures and permanent sculptures. The main award is an acquisitive prize that will join the public Sculpture Walk along the foreshore. **FREE Open 25th May—2nd June.** Make sure you complete a form with your preference for the acquisitive prize!

### National Museum of Australia

**“Belonging”** Featuring works by emerging and established artists from across Cape York and the Torres Strait. Stories of daily life, cultural knowledge and the enduring connection to Country are captured in these dynamic works that explore identity and what it means to belong. Free entry. On show until 10 March **2025**



**Museums of History FREE WEBINAR:** This webinar will focus on the **Oyster Lease Cultures files**, which tell the stories of the people who held these leases between 1920 and 1978.

**Friday 21 June** 10.30am–11.30am. Register on <https://mhns.wa.gov.au/whats-on/events/oyster-leases>

**Radio 100 | NFSA National Film and Sound Archive of Australia** Video series celebrating 100 years of Australian radio. The story of radio is not what you might expect. Have you ever wondered how radio moved from furniture to fashion? Why video never actually killed the radio star? Those stories, and all five chapters are available to explore. Free to view.

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## Say, “Cheese” - and Order a Copy

**By the mid-1930s the street photography ‘craze’ saw increasing numbers of photographers in major cities.** Armed with small portable cameras and positioned in key places they photographed hundreds of pedestrians each day. **All were competing for promising “marks”.**



Not everyone welcomed this new industry and street photographers came to be seen as a nuisance: people complained about footpaths blocked by those posing for snaps, while others objected to being pestered on the street and having their photograph taken without permission. Commercial studios waged a campaign against the threat street photography posed to their ‘legitimate’ businesses.

A system of licensing had to be introduced, mainly because of the litter their ‘rejected’ cards caused when thrown down—rather like today’s free newspapers.

The number of licensed locations, known as ‘sites’ or ‘stands’, was limited to 50 within the city’s boundaries.

Permits cost 10s. Per year; unlicensed operators, known as ‘snipers’, took their chances against the fines.

After a gradual decline, the last licence, held by Charles Ramsay for No 33 in Sydney’s Martin Place, was cancelled in 1971.

*Were you ever the willing/irritated subject of a street photographer?*



**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

In 1999 the *Bay Post and Southern Star* produced a special edition entitled 'Our Century'. These are some of the people and adverts from 25 years ago.

**'Bush Dances'**

# Old Mogo Town

into a time warp and experience the "living museums" of the 1850s in Mogo of the gold rush from darkness in a Mine Tunnel to the bright and tempting Miner's Menu of the Tavern.

ry includes Stone Crushing, Gold Panning, Danger, Chinese Impact and Settlers' Motivations, all in a Natural Bush Setting

Burnt down 2019-such a loss.



Kirby Burgess and Emma Kate Bowman rehearse for the New Year 2000 party.

Did you go to the 2000 Party? Kirby is now a Musical Theatre Star!

**BANG BANG**  
CHINESE RESTAURANT

Confucius Said:  
"To Chinese People,  
Eating Comes First"

- \* Fully Licensed & Air Conditioned
- \* Exclusive Chinese & Australian Meals
- \* Quick Take Away Service
- \* Cater For All Functions

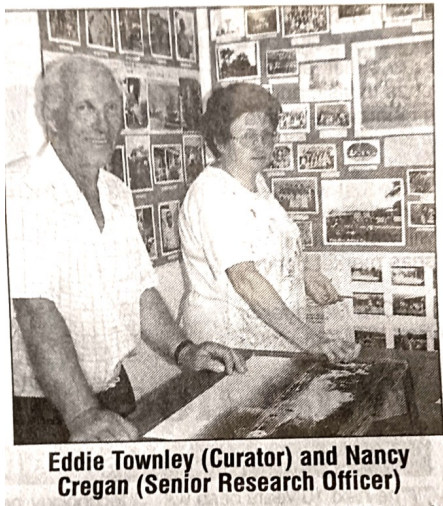
**HOURS: 6 Days**  
(Closed Mondays - Except Public Holidays)  
Lunch from Noon, Dinner from 5.30 pm

**Smorgasbord every Friday**  
5.30 - 6.45  
Adults \$8.00 - Children \$4.00

**Bang Bang Chinese Restaurant**  
Bateman's Bay Bowling Club  
Princes Highway, Bateman's Bay  
Reservations Ph: (044) 725 700

The names change but we've always loved Chinese

## & Batemans Historical Society



Eddie Townley (Curator) and Nancy Cregan (Senior Research Officer)

Your Historical Society and Museum; still here. sharing stories.

1999 Spruiking the several star Resort that replaced the Camping ground.



An aerial shot of Murramarang in the early 1980s, when it was a mere paddock for camping

NINTENDO<sup>64</sup>

**NN SOFTWARE** PlayStation

**NOW AVAILABLE**

Nintendo PlayStation which version?

The Store for You

It use to be difficult to find quality kitchenware, items of small furniture or just that special gift or ornament.

Now at the Newly remodeled INSTYLE store you can find all this plus the largest range of cards for that special occasion. Also we not only match the big city prices but we will better them.

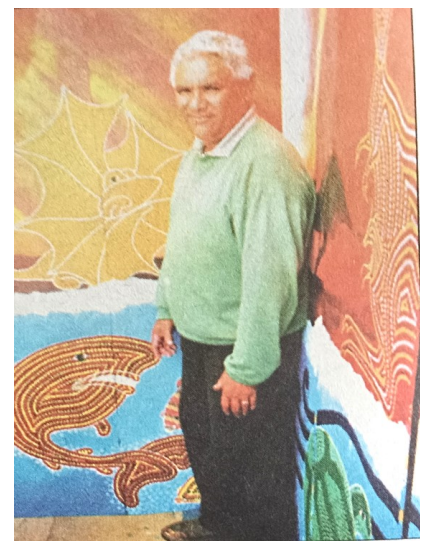
After all it is your store for you.

If its in style ..... its INSTYLE

**in|STYLE**

If it's in style it's inSTYLE. They don't write sales tags like *that* any more.

Colin still sells his message and his art, at the Village Centre.

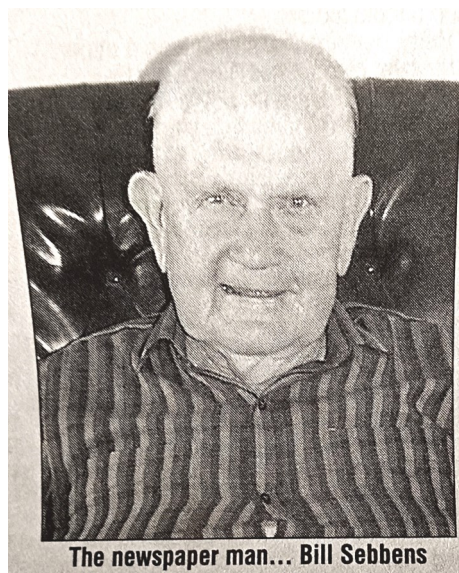


Local Aboriginal artist Colin Davis with work commissioned by a Californian businessman who visited the Eurobodalla in 1999.

# Club hosts State c'ships



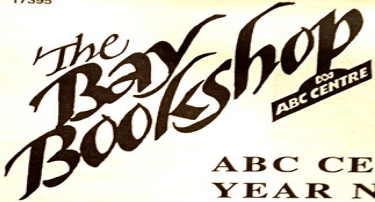

Golfers competing in the NSW State Junior Championships at the Catalina Club in



The newspaper man... Bill Sebbens

Bill Sebbens, short story writer. Original article says he published the Bay's first newspaper in 1931. Ran for 12 months, cost 6d. 100 subscribers. NOT online.

17395

ABC CENTRE OF THE YEAR NSW/ACT

**First bookshop in the Bay!**  
(Established 15 years as Howards Bookshop)

Long gone and sadly, missed. What town calls itself literate without a fulltime bookshop!

Anyone who has used public transport in the Bay would know the name 'Prior'. Today Prior's bus service still remains the only means of public transport in the area.



Ron Prior... the town's first fire officer continues to support the town he loves.

## M.V Merinda



**Luncheon Cruises**  
Everyday 11.30am (3 hours)

Cruise the beautiful Clyde River while you enjoy a seafood basket lunch, and there is also a 15 min stopover at historic Nelligen.

**Cruise: Adults \$14 Child \$7 Lunch: \$12 Seafood Basket**  
(Special Fish & chips meal \$6) Lunch includes tea or coffee!  
\*Ask about our special cruises

1999 Crew of the George Bass Marathon—heroes.





## FIRST LAND PURCHASERS on Batemans Bay

by Alastair Greig Edited Extract

**S** MALL portions of from Five to Ten Acres  
of 18 one hundred and forty acre grant.

d/l free annotated version [press.anu.edu.au](http://press.anu.edu.au)

In the 1830s, the County of St Vincent was at the southernmost reaches of the NSW Government's 'limits of location', the term used for the area within which the government surveyed and released land in the colony of NSW. Squatters did operate outside these limits, but land sales were restricted within the limits of location, which ended on the County of St Vincent's southern border at the Moruya River.

In 1838 and 1839, the government advertised its first releases of land on the shores of Batemans Bay in the southern part of the County of St Vincent. Two blocks were released on the northern side of the bay, running from Cullendulla Creek to the Pacific Ocean. These properties would become the township of St Vincent.

The merchant firm of **Hughes & Hosking**, was reputedly one of the largest landholders in NSW. Both men were related to the 'Botany Bay Rothschild', Samuel Terry, an ex-convict who became one of the richest men in the colony.

Hughes & Hosking had recently made substantial investment in land at Broulee and the new settlement at Port Phillip. **It purchased 320 acres at Long Beach, Batemans Bay, in 1840.** In accordance with the land regulations, the surveyor James Larmer then surveyed the property, submitting his report and Crown plan on 17 June 1839. The lot was then advertised by the government and Hughes & Hosking successfully bid at £192 and received their land purchase title on 30 April 1840. They paid 12s. an acre, the minimum that government was instructed by the Colonial Office to sell Crown land. This suggests either that there was little competition for the property or that *there was collusion among 'land-jobbing' auction attendees to keep the price at its minimum.*

The property, on the northern shore of Batemans Bay in an 'unnamed parish' (later 'Benandra', now Benandarah), was flanked on the east by a village reserve that extended from Square Head north along Cullendulla Creek. The south-western corner of the 320-acre block commenced halfway along Long Beach at the modern boundary of Longbeach Estate. It then ran northward for 800 metres along the border of the village reserve to its north-western corner, then east for 1.6 kilometres to its north-eastern border, before running south for 1.25 k back to the shore of Batemans Bay at what today is Wrights or Maloneys Creek.

In 1812 Edward Lord was born at Rochdale, UK, into a family where generations of Lords had been engaged in wool cleaning and processing. Lord visited Sydney looking for business opportunities in which to invest his inheritance. He returned later with his wife and brother (James) to settle in Sydney.

Lord set up large squatter stations in the High Country beyond 'the limits of location' that were selected and managed by Edward Bayliss. The government, from 1836, attempted to control such squatting by imposing annual 'depasturing licenses' on squatters. By 1840, Lord possessed an extensive portfolio of land, including properties he had purchased in 1839 and 1840 along the upper reaches of the Clyde River at Burooman (Brooman) and land beside Cyne Mallowes Creek, the long eastern arm of the Clyde River immediately north of Nelligen Creek. After receiving another readvertised 1,030-acre grant promised to his brother James on the northern shore of the Clyde River, and an adjacent 1,010 acres to the west of Hughes & Hosking's property, he then owned all the land westward from Cullendulla Creek to the land due north of Budd Island. Lord was also grazing cattle at Batemans Bay.

**Lord, like Hughes & Hosking, had *never seen* the St Vincent properties and was operating inside a speculative bubble.** The buoyancy of the previous decade was ending. Soon, land prices would start dropping and the colony's economy would enter recessionary times. This would present a severe test to the business models of merchants and landowners such as Lord and Hughes & Hosking. It was under these conditions in early 1841—in which the market was beginning to soften, and in which surveyors were searching for a route from the southern interior to a seaport—that plans were initiated to transform the northern side of Batemans Bay into the '**Great Southern Township of St Vincent**'.



Edited Extract: **'The Road to Batemans Bay'** Alastair Greig

*"The natural means of acquiring competence by honest industry is now, alas! a hopeless case, by reason of land not being to be had, except through a gambling-shop, otherwise the auction rooms, the bane of Sydney".*

**Alastair Greig has thoroughly researched the times of Sydney's best known auctioneer in the land-grabbing sales of the early 1840s.**

Advertisements for the township of St Vincent appeared throughout the first half of 1841 in the Sydney press, including in the *Sydney Herald*, the *Australian*, the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*. The auctioneer was Thomas Stubbs.

Born in Sydney in 1802, **Thomas Stubbs** was the son of a Third Fleet convict. He joined the British Army at the age of 10 (later claiming to be the first 'native born' to do so) and spent part of his service in a regimental band before returning to Sydney aged 23.

Stubbs commenced his career as a general commission agent in 1832, working initially on his own account then as an assistant and auctioneer for James & Co. and then Isaac Simmons & Co. (in which Hughes & Hosking of Long Beach had an interest).

Stubbs announced that, henceforth, he would be practising 'upon his own account'. On 1st September 1840 he established his New Auction Mart in King Street and from this location he earned his reputation as Sydney's leading auctioneer.

The *Sydney Herald* later described Stubbs as 'compact, portly and well-balanced', with an uncanny facial resemblance to George IV: 'As an auctioneer of the ornate order, he had no rival.' The *Australasian* called his advertisements an 'exceptional kind of literature'. Writing for a British audience, **Alexander Marjoribanks** likened Stubbs to the famous London auctioneer George Robins, claiming he would 'eclipse his master altogether were his sentences a little more grammatical and a little more intelligible'. Indeed, the language used in his real estate advertisements often reads like a script from *Blackadder the Third*.

Marjoribanks's description of the typical atmosphere at a Sydney auction house in 1841 helps to set the scene for the campaign at St Vincent. What Marjoribanks found 'most extraordinary' about the colonial auction system was how people would bid sight unseen for everything from land to livestock. He had witnessed land auctions where hundreds of bidders based their knowledge of a town solely on a survey plan.

Mounting his rostrum, the auctioneer would then deliver a speech 'to his admiring audience, mustering ... all the eloquence which he happens to possess, and describes the locality of the place, and its numerous advantages, in the most glowing colours'. Bidders could also find themselves befuddled by the champagne lunch provided by the auctioneer 'to elevate the spirits of the company'. As a consequence, 'a few glasses of that exhilarating wine produces a wonderful effect, some of the bidders after that being apt to forget whether it is land or cattle they are purchasing', let alone the location of their purchase. Marjoribanks noted that, in some cases, the uninhibited mood of the auction house was followed by the more sober atmosphere of the Courtroom, when successful bidders 'brought actions of restitution against the auctioneers, after they had seen the place with their own eyes'.

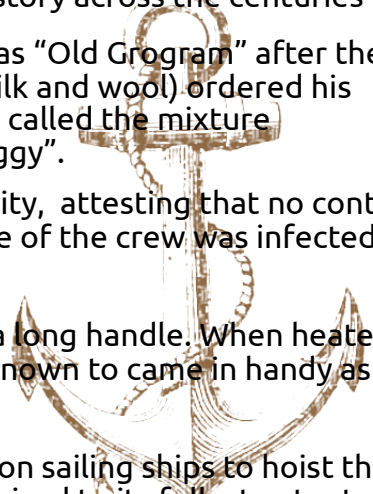
The *Sydney Herald* condemned 'the growing rage for manufacturing townships' and saw 'land quackery' as symptomatic of the colony's deepening economic malaise. 'Regardless of the quality of a property, estate owners hire a surveyor, parcel out allotments, draw up streets and public squares, borrow an evocative name from Britain, then offer their captivating vision to a public that was 'weak enough to risk their money upon these mere day-dreams of sordid vendors.'

While the editorial claimed that vendors and auctioneers 'gulled' buyers, it failed to mention that newspaper advertisements were the main conduit through which the public was made aware of these schemes.

## HISTORIC MARITIME PHRASES

Terms still in general use today reflect the importance of naval history across the centuries

- **Groggy:** In 1740, British Admiral Vernon (whose nickname was "Old Grogan" after the cloak he wore made out of grogram, a material containing silk and wool) ordered his sailors' daily ration of rum to be diluted with water. The men called the mixture "grog"...and a sailor who drank too much grog became "groggy".
  - **A Clean Bill of Health:** A certificate, signed by a port authority, attesting that no contagious diseases existed in the port of departure and that none of the crew was infected at the time of sailing. A likely story!!!
  - **At Loggerheads:** A "loggerhead" is an iron ball attached to a long handle. When heated, it was used to seal the pitch in deck seams...but it was also known to come in handy as a weapon for quarrelling crewmen.
  - **Chock-a-Block:** A "block and tackle" is a pulley system used on sailing ships to hoist the sails. The phrase describes what occurs when the system is raised to its fullest extent – when there's no more rope free and the blocks jam tightly together.
  - **Dressing Down:** Thin, worn sails were often treated with oil or wax to renew their effectiveness. This was called "dressing down". When a sailor was reprimanded or scolded it was known as receiving a "dressing down".
  - **Dutch Courage:** This phrase dates from the Anglo-Dutch wars in the 1600's and was likely British propaganda claiming that the Dutch troops were so cowardly that they wouldn't fight unless fortified with copious amounts of schnapps! The term has come to mean false courage induced by drink.
  - **Junk:** Sailors used the word "junk" when referring to old rope that was no longer able to take a load. These scraps were often cut into short lengths and used to make mops.
  - **Keel Hauling:** A severe naval punishment used during the 15th and 16th centuries. The delinquent sailor was dragged from one side of the boat to the other under the keel. Keel hauling lost favour at the beginning of the 18th century, to be replaced with the only slightly less brutal cat-o-nine-tails. The term still means a rough reprimand.
  - **Listless:** When a ship is "listless", it's sitting still and upright in the water, with no wind to make her lean over (list) and sail ahead. On land, we say someone is "listless" when they lack energy or enthusiasm.
- Loose Cannon:** A cannon that came loose on a pitching, rolling, yawing deck could cause severe injury or damage. The term has come to mean an unpredictable or uncontrolled person who is likely to cause unintentional damage.



"PIRATES?! AGAIN?! SOMEBODY PUT MY HAT ON AND HELP ME UP!!"

- **Three Sheets to the Wind:** In sailing terminology, a "sheet" is a rope that controls the tension on the downwind side of a square sail. If, on a three-masted, fully-rigged ship, the sheets of the three lower sails are loose, the sails will flap and flutter. A ship in this condition will stagger and wander aimlessly downwind... one too many rums!
- **Toe the Line:** When called to line up at attention, a ship's crew would stand with their toes touching a seam in the deck planking. We now use the phrase to describe someone who is bowing to authority.
- **Ship shape and Bristol Fashion:** Two terms that are run together—ship shape means tidy and secure, and Bristol Fashion means meeting the Port of Bristol's tough standards in terms of sturdy construction and security of cargo to weather the very variable tidal flows there.

Source: [Crewseekers.net](http://Crewseekers.net)

## SOCIETY NEWS



**NEW CURATOR** We were so thrilled to have five excellent candidates apply to our advertisement for a p/t paid Curator for the Museum. Most came from interstate. Grant funded, the position requires 23 hours on site working with our volunteers.

The successful applicant is outstanding, and we are delighted to welcome **SOFIA ERIKSSON** to join us on May 22nd. Sofia lives at Potato Point—almost a local! More about Sofia in our next edition!

**VALE Cynthia Hill** (nee Ryan). A founding member of the Historical Society, Cynthia served on committee, and as its President for 18 years.

We are indebted to 'her generation' of members for maintaining the Society and enthusing we who followed to continue developing its role as a key resource for our community. The Society will be represented at her memorial on May 4th at the Soldiers Club.

*Cynthia as President with committee members, greeting the press as discussions heat up for a new site for the Museum, 1984.*



Acknowledging with thanks our occasional Agency and Community Partners

