

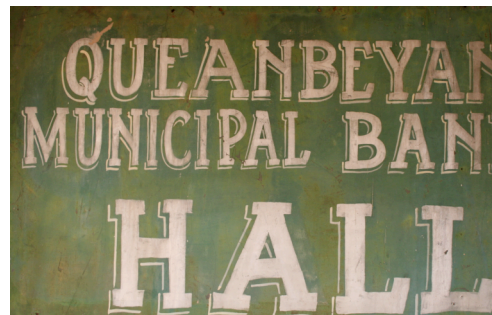
Queanbeyan & District Historical Museum Society Inc.

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Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society

Newsletter September 2012

To contact us: send us an e-mail to

gbnmuseum@yahoo.com.au to the attention of who you want to contact and your message will be passed on to the appropriate person.

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From the editors

We hope you like our second newsletter in the new format; we have received positive feedback on the new look.

Editors: Kerrie Ruth and Nancy Monk.

From the President

Next year is Queanbeyan's 175th Birthday. The Society is planning some great events, including a celebration of our Oral History Project *Queanbeyan's Living History* at the Museum and a Costume and photographic exhibition *The Wore Story* at The Q for Heritage Week 2013. Watch this space for more events throughout the year!

We are extremely pleased that the QCC has allocated a sum of \$7,000 for drainage works in front of the Museum store and a ramp linking the Printing and History Museums.

Thank you to the hard working Committee and members who keep the Museum going and at the top of its field. There are too many to mention, but we could always do with more to share the load.

John McGlynn

NOTICE

QDHMS Inc. AGM

Monday November 19 @Museum @6.00 pm

Contact the Secretary for nomination forms
Nominations to the Secretary by COB 12 Nov 2012

Important Dates for Your Diary!

Members History Excursion – 21st October – 10am

Oral History Workshop – 3 November – 1 – 3pm

End of Year Celebration – 8 December – 12 noon

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Flyer included – Queanbeyan Honour Walk Launch (sent to those on e-mail)



Volunteers Needed

Every Month, just to keep the Museum open at the scheduled hours of 1-4 each Saturday and Sunday, we need 16 volunteers. As well as that we have volunteers busy cataloguing the collection so that it can be accessed rather than hidden away from view. We have others preparing the exhibitions, managing the finances of the Society, sweeping away the constant supply of leaves which love to invade the Museum, writing submissions to the funding bodies, contributing to *Quinbean* and the Newsletter, building show cases, painting, planting trees etc etc. Anything that anyone can do to spread the load would be welcome and, I predict, will give enormous satisfaction to the volunteer.

A group meets regularly every Thursday from about 9.30 in the morning to lunchtime and are a great crowd to join. Or on the weekends you can join an experienced member who will show you the ropes.

E-mail us on gbnmuseum@yahoo.com.au if you are interested in finding out more; and attend our End of Year Celebration on December 8th and we can show you around!

Conservation of QDHMS Objects by University of Canberra Students

Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum will be supplying six objects for University of Canberra students to learn basic conservation techniques on museum objects. The students will be supervised by Alison Wain who is a lecturer in Materials Conservation at the University of Canberra (UC). They will learn how to document objects, identify conservation needs, carry out basic treatments, such as brush vacuuming and build a protective container such as a box or folder. The students will be required to follow the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM) Code of Ethics and Code of Practice when dealing with our objects. The objects will not be large, rare or fragile. There is the possibility in the future that the UC students may take on the conservation of more complex and challenging objects as they progress through their course. One of Alison's areas of expertise is the treatment of 'big objects'. Suitable objects will be identified in consultation with QDHMS curator, Gillian Kelly.

Elle McFadyen

Cataloguing Update

Cataloguing at the museum is an on-going process. Thanks to the committed group who volunteer on a Thursday I am able to get through the cataloguing at a much quicker rate than if I was doing it all by myself. One of the most interesting aspects of the cataloguing is when we receive an object that is greatly significant to the Queanbeyan story. Recently we received a copper kettle, which has come from the late estate of William Farrer and his wife Nina. Even though Farrer was an important figure in Queanbeyan and Australia, we have not been able to collect many items that belonged to them, so it is exciting to know that pieces are still in existence and may continue to make their way to our museum.

Elise Bernard

Queanbeyan Museum is supported by
Queanbeyan City Council

Regional Museums - Far North Qld and Isle of Skye

Being passionate about our own Museum, we like to say hello to our colleagues and check out what others are up to. In Far North Queensland we visited Halifax. The Museum was closed for Christmas, but the Deputy Mayor owned the garage across the way and we were trusted with a key to open the Museum and look for ourselves. This is an important sugar growing area and has an interesting and fascinating history with a very diverse range of settlers. This volunteer run Museum has support from the local council like we do and also had got some grants and support from the local Sugar refinery at Lucinda for some professional displays. An interesting example of less than six degrees of separation was the harmonium, which had travelled from Canberra to the local area with the Minister. Funds had been acquired to have this restored

The **Herberton Historic Village** on the Atherton tablelands has a wonderfully diverse range of buildings and accompanying collections on the one site. We took my Mum around in a wheel chair – it wasn't that wheel chair friendly despite much work being done on improving access – old reconstructed shops and lock ups have steps and the site, although picturesque – it abutted Savage River – is steep and was muddy in parts. There are plans for the owners to reconstruct a sawmill and displays from the timber getting days across the river with a bridge for access. Happily, the village now has



wealthy owners (*Just Jeans*), but also has volunteers. They have used copious amounts of 44-gallon drums of wax to treat metal objects. We liked their artistic displays of metal items of which they had 100s.

While overseas we visited the locally run **Museum of Island Life** on the Isle of Skye, off the West coast of Scotland. In Skye not that many of the old crofters' dwellings still exist, as there was de-population on a large scale caused by mass evictions and emigrations over the last 200 years. The Museum is a series of well-preserved thatch-roofed buildings on a high exposed area with magnificent views to the sea. There is a Museum shop, a byre, a weavers cottage with a loom which had been in use locally for many years, a Ceilidh house which would have been the meeting place for the village - this was used for the historical displays, mostly written by locals in their own voice – very illuminating and engaging, including the story of Flora McDonald. There was also a blacksmiths shop, and one cottage was set up as a family would have lived. With peat fires at each end and box beds for the children at one end and parents in the middle and kitchen and living at the other this looked very comfortable and cosy.

Keirrie Ruth and John McGlynn



Oral History Keeps Our Story Alive - Queanbeyan's Living History

Do you have stories to tell about Queanbeyan or do you know some who should not allow their life story to go unrecorded? If so, the QDHMS has the perfect opportunity for you to help keep our city's history alive. Our Committee had the brilliant idea to commemorate our 175th by recording some of the stories of our citizens from all walks of life to leave a living testament of the way Queanbeyan has grown to be what it is to day. Thanks to a grant from the Federal Government, the Society has the money to buy good recording equipment and gain professional help in organising and guiding participants.

If you can participate in the oral history project either as an interviewer or an interviewee we would love to hear from you. We already have a small and enthusiastic core group and can accept more.

Our first Workshop is at the Museum 1-3pm on Saturday 3 November where we will introduce participants to the finer points of the exercise and share ideas. Soon after we will have a technical workshop to learn about the recording equipment. If you are interested contact the Project Manager John McGlynn on mcglynn_john@hotmail.com or ring John on 6297 2730h.

History Excursion – October 21st

On Sunday 21 October 2012 we plan to have a few relaxing hours looking at three 19thC sites in Gungahlin. First to Palmerville/Ginninderra dating from the late 1820s (now a Heritage Park) then the heritage listed ruin of John & Maria Crinigan's cottage in Amaroo, Gungahlin (John was an Irish convict who was sentenced to life for "assaulting habitation" in 1836) then lunch at Café Injoy at Gold Creek, then on to Henry Hall's old Charnwood homestead site. If there is time we'll finish with the Weetangera Cemetery near "Lands End" Belconnen. We will meet at the Museum at 10am with each person responsible for his or her own transport arrangements and then we'll drive off as a group. This is not a formal tour but should be fun and informative. Contact: Marilyn Folger 6281 2018 or folger@netspeed.com.au

Thank you for your donations

A big thank you to the following people:

Denis Connor and friends
North Belconnen Uniting Church Group
Melba Men's Shed
Fran Mallon
J & D Madew
R Curry
A & M Burgess
T Carter
Mrs Clements
N Donoghoe
P Johnston
C Lewis
D McIntyre
H Prindable
D Quane
H Quince
M & D Robertson
J Rosewarne
K Willis

Acquisitions

Three gorgeous new additions to the collection include Norma Roach's Great Grandmother's doll's cradle, handmade in England, handed down through the family 1860-1870, below, a rare whale oil lamp, which tells time elapsed, top right, and the Farrer spirit copper kettle bottom right.



It's all happening at the Queanbeyan Museum! - Photo Gallery

Heritage Week QCC Heritage Awards Museum Building & Garden Launch



John Barilaro MP, Steve Whan MLC and QCC Mayor Tim Overall open our new extension.



Canberra & District Historic Engine Club



Fred Monk accepting a Heritage Award for the Garden Redevelopment at the Museum.

History Week – Threads Members & Friends Gathering and Devonshire Tea



Photographs from History Week 2012 – Threads

Top left: Museum Curator Gillian Kelly explaining some of our new acquisitions. Top right: New Threads display. Middle left: Society President John McGlynn welcoming everyone. Other Photographs: members and friends enjoying their Devonshire tea.