



# RYLSTONE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2013

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, 1st October, 2013**

Working Bee to prepare for the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**12<sup>th</sup> October, 2013**

Our Birthday Celebration – details to follow

**2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2013**

RDHS Stall at Street Feast

**10<sup>th</sup> November, 2013**

Kandos Garden Fair.

**December, 2013**

Christmas Party (exact date to be decided)

Dear Members,  
Welcome to this month's newsletter.  
The following people were elected at the AGM last month...  
Helen Marsonet - President  
Virginia Hollister – Vice President  
Fiona MacDonald – Secretary  
Owain James – Treasurer  
Kevin James & Jeannette McCarthy – Committee Members  
The Society would like to thank Pat Spithill and Peter Monaghan for their many years of service to the Committee. The new Committee has had its first meeting and plans for the months ahead are underway.

### IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY!

All members, past and present, of RDHS are invited to help celebrate 50 years of the Rylstone and District Historical Society on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 at 2pm.

A special afternoon of events has been lined up for you including a short talk by the President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker, a review of the achievements of the past 50 years by Helen Marsonet, the cutting and eating of a very special anniversary cake, the launch of our booklet about the history of the Society, a celebration of the completion of conservation work on the Bridge View Inn and a presentation by Gordon Dowell on the mural artist Augustus Baker Peirce. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP by emailing the RDHS office on [rylstonehistory@westnet.com.au](mailto:rylstonehistory@westnet.com.au) to help us plan for catering.

### Working Bee

There will be a working bee on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct from 9am to 3pm to help prepare the RDHS grounds and buildings for the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration on 12<sup>th</sup> October. Jobs will include vacuuming and dusting, de-spidering walls and the security lights, window washing, BVI verandah railings washing, removing leaf litter from gutters, weeding garden beds, tidying up woodpile and compost bins, and, if there are no guests upstairs, oiling the upstairs verandah decking. If you can lend a hand for a couple of hours it would be most appreciated.

Please RSVP to Virginia at 6379 0909 or at [hollister@westnet.com.au](mailto:hollister@westnet.com.au)

Rylstone School Helps Us Celebrate  
Rylstone Public School children helped to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RDHS by having a day devoted to local and Australian history. Some of the children and most of the teachers were dressed in old-fashioned clothing. RDHS President, Helen Marsonet, greeted students in the school hall, and talked about "What is History?" before telling them a story from her days at Rylstone Public - having her front tooth yanked out on a string by a school mate and then having the tooth eaten by a chicken! Students then broke into groups and played games such as marbles and skipping. They also plaited rags for rug-making, made damper, tried calligraphy, learned barn dances and other old time activities. Some of the children visited the Cottage Museum where they tried mashing potatoes, beating eggs, hand cranking a sewing machine and squeezing lemons – the theme being 'No Electricity'.



*Some of the Society's volunteers at the Rylstone PS History Day*

Some farming tools, old saddles, and sewing items were there for the children to touch and ask questions about. After the morning's activities there was a sausage sizzle for everyone. Thanks go to Principal, Alex Cashman and all the teachers for organising the day and to volunteers Helen Marsonet, Carol Hayward, George McDonald, Warren Kidd, Owain James, Geoff Marr and Virginia Hollister who helped the children at the Cottage Museum.



*Students looking at a variety of tools*

Matters from the August General Meeting

BVI Management

Future management options were circulated via RDHS Newsletter. The following options, along with any others raised on the night, were discussed...

- keep it as it is but pay an agent for a higher level of service;
- keep it as it is and pay a housekeeper to handle daily business;
- lease it out to someone else to run it as a B&B;
- lease out the space and no longer run a B&B.

The meeting agreed to keep the BVI apartment under the control of the RDHS and operated it as Bed & Breakfast accommodation. It was resolved by the meeting that further investigation of how best to do this,

using either an agent or housekeeper, should be undertaken by the Committee and that the membership should be kept up to date on any developments by Newsletter.

Future of the Cottage Museum

The meeting supported the following motion... "That a sub-committee is established to review the scope and purpose of the Cottage Museum, survey the community and make a recommendation for the future role and management of the Cottage within the BVI precinct to the Membership with the year"

If you would like to be part of this sub-committee please contact Virginia Hollister or Fiona MacDonald by calling or emailing the RDHS office.

Committee Update

The Committee discussed the following at its last meeting ...

- welcome to new Committee member, Kevin James. Another Committee member is still being sought,
- the installation of recycling garbage bins or the use of all users of the precinct,
- BVI tenants and apartment,
- Maintenance schedule for buildings and grounds,
- A history of the Society's first 50 years has been written by Jeannette McCarthy and Pat Spithill and has been sent to the printer. The booklet is called 'Celebrating 50 Years'. Cost for the booklet will be \$7.50 and will be available for sale at the celebrations on 12<sup>th</sup> October.
- Roles & responsibilities of 2013/14 Committee members was decided.
- Devonshire tea will be provided by Society volunteers when Community Garden & Society precinct join the Kandos Garden Fair on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. between 10am & 3pm. Volunteers will be needed.

The Society is moving with the times!

Check out the Cottage Museum's Facebook page 'Rylstone Cottage Museum'

*are you interested in local or family history?*

*Join us on the last Sunday of every month at the Cottage Museum*

*10am – 3pm*

**Membership Fees are due!**

**If you haven't paid your membership – please do so as soon as possible.**

**Renewal forms are available from the Secretary.**