

Bawdy Nymphs and a Grinning Satyr

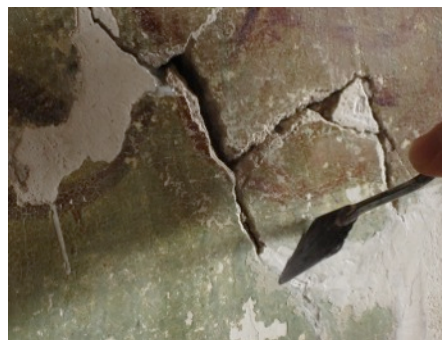
by Adam Godijn, Senior Paintings Conservator, International Conservation Services
and Virginia Hollister, Vice President of the Rylstone Historical Society

Rylstone's journey to saving their quirky mural 2011-2013



In the late 1990's, in the small town of Rylstone in country NSW, a mural hidden for 100 years was uncovered in the historic Bridge View Inn. The mural was in poor condition and on first impression, was not exactly beautiful.

The Rylstone Historic Society began a journey to research the mural – how old was it, was it worth conserving, who created it? **The community was divided in opinion about whether to save it...**



What happened?

Virginia Hollister, Vice President of the Historical Society undertook extensive research into the imagery of the mural and possible artists. She discovered the mural contained accurate **local historical information** and amusing references to **classical imagery**.



Conservation

The mural was unstable and the top third was covered by over paint. Painting Conservators **Adam Godijn, Matteo Volonte, Claire Heasman and William Sit** travelled to live and work in the historic Bridge View Inn in 2012 and 2013. Buoyed by community spirit and friendly, curious locals, the conservators worked through long hours of injecting glue, filling cracks and holes, and finally monotonous mechanical over-paint removal to reveal **the historic bridge, bawdy nymphs, a sweet cupid and a grinning satyr!**



Media coverage

To increase awareness of the mural and to help raise funds, Virginia and Adam told the story to anyone and everyone over a 2 year period. Coverage included **local and ABC radio, the Royal Australian Historical Society, NSW AICCM, newspapers and magazines, and community talks.**

