



RYLSTONE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs, 12th December, 2013

General meeting and Christmas Party 6pm in the Museum grounds

Dear Members,
Welcome to this month's newsletter.

StreetFeast Success

This was a successful and enjoyable day. Our street stall sold \$153 worth of merchandise, raised \$130 in raffle money and attracted one new member to the Society. Thank you to all those who manned the stall and helped set up and pack away.

Kandos Open Garden Fair

Despite the changeable weather over the weekend, the Society had a number of people visiting the Thyme Out Community Garden over the weekend of the Fair. Helen Marsonet set up the Cottage verandah for tea and scones and there were many positive comments on the delicious scones. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time to man the gate, prepare the tea and scones and especially Belinda Webster who does a marvellous job in the garden. Our thanks also to the Mudgee Benevolent Society

whose members twice visited and assisted Belinda in preparing the garden for the Fair.

Australian Caravan Club Visit

On 17th October, the Museum hosted a visit from members of the Australian Caravan Club. We had about 100 visitors go through the Museum which was opened specially for these visitors.

The visit was part of the Club's National Muster and as well as having their AGM, members also attended educational sessions, concerts, trade & supplier displays and recreational activities.

Owain James, Bob Christmas, Margaret Malone and Helen Marsonet conducted visitors through the Museum. The visitors came prepared with a Quiz sheet with a variety of questions about the Museum, BVI and the town.

The volunteers enjoyed helping the visitors answer their quiz questions and everyone seemed to have lots of fun. Two couples even dressed up in mock bridal regalia with top hats, bow ties, veils and bouquets!

Our funds were boosted by taking \$93 at the door.

Helen felt it was a good interactive event and benefitted both the Society and the town.

Cottage Museum Sub-Committee

The sub-committee to review the scope and purpose of the Museum has had its first meeting. Members of the sub-committee are Hugh and

Margaret Malone, Fiona Nevell, Daniel Hatton, George McDonald, Fiona MacDonald, Virginia Hollister and Jeannette McCarthy.

Some of the areas discussed were...

- ensuring the review process is open to all - members of the Society and the community at large,
- revisiting the Museum's mission statement,
- to begin significance assessment by drawing up a short list of important items,
- consideration of the Family History component of the Museum, and
- the importance of story lines to tell the history of the area using museum items and family history information.

The sub-committee plans to visit both the Gulgong and Mudgee Family History rooms before the end of the year.

Committee Update

As well as the above, the Committee discussed the following at its last meeting ...

- BVI tenants and apartment,
- setting up a new website,
- the possibility of reprinting "A History of Settlement",
- Garden water,
- archiving items relating to our 50th celebrations - speeches, attendance book, *Celebrating 50 Years*, etc.,
- Virginia invited to make a joint presentation about the mural at ADFAS in December,
- donation to and attendance at Rylstone PS Presentation Night.

The Committee thought members might like to see a poster produced by Adam Godjin from International Conservation Services. The poster was used at the AICCM conference at which Virginia Hollister was 'Highly Commended' for her work on the Mural project.

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...



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!**



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**.



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.**



**General Meeting &
Christmas Party**

Thursday, 12th December, 2013 at 6pm

in the grounds of the Museum

Bring a plate of food to share, a picnic table and chair.

A BBQ will be available for cooking.

*Please join us for the last meeting of the year (just a short one)
and to celebrate a very successful year.*