

# Friends OF THE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER



## Welcome to the Friends of Tweed Regional Museum - Newsletter 25

July 2018

### Inside this issue:

- President's Report.
- Director's Report.
- New Opening hours, TRM Tweed Heads
- Boyd's shed, TRM Tweed Heads.
- What's on at the Museum.
- Vale - Dr Betty Marks OAM
- Friends' Courtyard
- 2019 Calendar
- Future Raffle
- Murwillumbah Agricultural Show
- Bunnings BBQ

### Dates for Diary

- 2-3 November - M'bah Show

## President's Report.

A new year for Friends of the Tweed Regional Museum has begun and I find myself elected President! I have been involved with the establishment of the TRM and Friends of the TRM for many years and it has been such a rewarding experience. I hope the committee will be able to continue the good work of Gary Fidler and Janet Swift.

We have a small committee this year so we will limit our activities to helping with the museum display at Murwillumbah Show, production of our calendars and a proposed movie event early next year.

Committee members are:

President: Sandra Flannery

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer/Newsletter: Jude Locke

Committee members: Brian and Fay O'Keefe and Colleen Smith

We hope to establish a group of people we can call upon to help with events. If this interests you, please contact the committee so that we can list your details as a willing volunteer - thank you in anticipation.

We would welcome new committee members, especially someone who would like to take the role of secretary.

Thanks to our retiring committee members for all their time and effort.

Sandra Flannery, President FTRM



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## Director's Report

The last 6-12 months have been extremely busy for Museum staff as we've continued to research and develop major new exhibitions at Murwillumbah – both temporary and permanent, and continued our building and refurbishment projects at Tweed Heads.

Our run of major temporary exhibitions over the past twelve months began in earnest last year with Tweed on Film and continued with Wish You Were Here: tokens of travel over summer, and our latest offering Chutney, Chooks and Champions: stories from the Murwillumbah Show which opened in May. These exhibitions have enabled us to explore the collection in depth, develop new content, establish new collaborative partnerships as well as offer a range of special events and public programs.

We also developed a major new permanent exhibition featuring the Adrian Smith Mineral Collection which opened in May.

Alongside these projects, the important 'behind the scenes' work of processing exciting new acquisitions (including a number of significant photographic collections), undertaking important contemporary oral and video recorded histories and exploring options for documenting major events such as the 2017 flood – to name just a couple - continues unabated.

The construction of a new office/research centre for the Tweed Heads Historical Society and the refurbishment of the original Tweed Heads Court House was completed last year and the new entry ramp and associated site works earlier this year. As mentioned elsewhere, we continue to work on Boyd's Shed, and this project will be ongoing for much of the rest of the year.

In case anyone thought that was it for major new projects – there's more!

We've recently received exciting news of major grant funding that will enable the Museum to pursue a project we've wanted to explore for some time: a new permanent display which provides an introduction/overview of Tweed geology, environment and landscape.

Further funding has also been received for development of an Arts and Heritage App.

## Director's Report cont..

Together with other major grant funded projects already on the drawing board, these will occupy the majority of Museum staff time and resources over the next 18 months. Oh – and we're also developing the Museum's new Strategic and Business Plan to guide our activities for the next four years 2018/19 - 2020/21!

Consequently, our major temporary exhibition program will go into a hiatus for the remainder of 2018 and the beginning of 2019 as we focus on these significant new projects.

Nonetheless there'll be much to see and do and we look forward to welcoming Friends to the Museum.

## Whats on @ the Museum, Tweed

New Opening Hours at TRM, Tweed Heads.

As of 5 August, TRM Tweed Heads will be open every Sunday from 10am – 4pm as well as our regular days of Tuesday and Wednesday.

The park-side setting means it's a wonderful spot for a Sunday visit, perhaps combined with a picnic by the beautiful Terranora Broadwater?

TRM Tweed Heads

Pioneer Park, 230 Kennedy Drive

Tweed Heads West

Tues, Wed, Sun 22 July 10am – 4pm

Tues, Wed, every Sun after 5 Aug

## Boyd's Shed at TRM Tweed Heads

One of the buildings that make up the Museum at Tweed Heads is the historic Boyd's fishing shed. Originally built in 1907, the shed was used by the Boyd family over generations, to house fishing equipment and plan for the next day's catch.

The shed was also a social hub of the community; all were welcomed to the shed to swap stories over a drink or two.

The shed was moved to the Museum in 1996 because of road widening on Kennedy Drive at Boyd's Bay, where it was originally situated.

It is an integral part of the Museum, telling the story of the fishing industry, the Boyd family and the Tweed Heads community in the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Museum is currently working on content to bring the history of this shed alive for visitors to the Museum. Video interviews with those connected to the shed have been filmed and will be presented along with photographs and information documenting its history.

This should all be ready in the next few months, when the shed will once again be open to the public.



Boyd's Shed at TRM Tweed Heads.  
TRM Collection



Boyd fishermen & friends at the shed enjoying a beer. 1950s. TRM Collection TH99-29

### Fermentation Fun.

Much fun was had at the first of the Museum's Fermentation Demonstrations, on 23 June. Further demos will be held on:

- ✦ 7 July,
- ✦ 18 August,
- ✦ 20 October.

Why is the Museum doing fermentation demonstrations, you might ask. As part of our Chutney, Chooks and Champions exhibition, celebrating the Murwillumbah Show, we are sponsoring a new category in the Pavilion: Fermentation.

So, to encourage people to enter their creations in the Show, we've booked local chef and fermentation enthusiast, Jean Martinez, to run a series of demonstrations at the Museum in Murwillumbah.

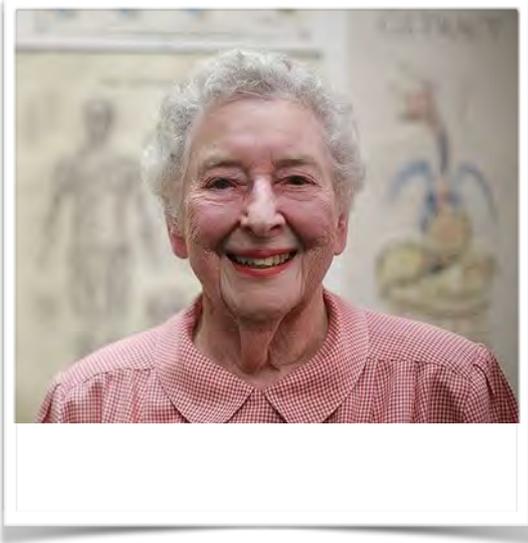
If you've ever wondered how to make your own sauerkraut or kimchi, come along to one of the sessions and find out all about it.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Call 02 6670 2493 or email [trm@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:trm@tweed.nsw.gov.au)



Jars of Fermented Vegetables

## Vale - Dr Betty Marks OAM



Betty Jean Harvard McEwen was born on 28 February 1924 at Oatley, Sydney. She is the second of three children born to Dr Bruce and Bessie McEwen. Betty was educated at Marsden Church of England Girls' School at Bathurst. After leaving school Betty took a job with the Commercial Bank of Sydney as a ledger keeper but after 15 months she decided she needed something more challenging and in 1943 entered The University of Sydney to study Medicine at the Women's College.

After graduating in 1948, Betty worked in Sydney for five years at Prince Alfred Hospital during which time she was promoted to head of Gloucester House, a 160-bed private section of the hospital and then to assistant medical superintendent of the whole hospital. Female doctors were few and far between at this time and Dr Marks said she had to "grow a thick skin to cope with old attitudes".#

In 1954 Betty married Dr James (Jim) Marks and they moved to Murwillumbah where they had two children, Susan and Peter. They both worked at the Murwillumbah Hospital and joined a general practice. Known affectionately as Dr Betty, she has been a pillar of the Murwillumbah community for over 60 years.

A true general practitioner and family doctor she treated local patients and families over four generations, delivered over 1,000 babies, gave countless anaesthetics, attended emergencies and performed house calls any time of day or night.

Dr Betty worked tirelessly until her retirement in 2014 at the age of 90, having given 66 years of her life to her medical career. Over those years she saw huge changes to the medical profession: including the introduction of Medicare and improvements to vaccines, drugs and cancer treatments to name a few. She kept up with all the latest drugs and drove herself to various GP education seminars and learned to use a computer in her 80s when general practice moved towards computer-based notes.

Dr Betty has also been involved in many aspects of community work including President and Secretary of the Murwillumbah Hospital Medical Board, President of the East Murwillumbah Primary School P&C Association, Vice-President of the Murwillumbah High School P&C Association, various sporting clubs, Tweed Valley General Practitioners Association, Friends of the Tweed Regional Art Gallery and the Murwillumbah Historical Society just to name a few.

In the 1990 Australia Day Awards she was honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to Medicine and the Community and received a Centenary Medal in 2001 for outstanding service to the community through health and wellbeing.

Upon retirement Dr Betty featured in television news and newspapers and was honoured with the NSW Premier's Award for service to the community. She received a congratulatory message from Prime Minister Tony Abbott and was formally acknowledged in Parliament the following day.

# Burin, Margaret, 90 yo doctor retires after 66 years in medicine, ABC local, <http://abc.net.au/local/photos/2014/06/25/4033042.htm>. (retrieved 15 January 2016)

**Christine Stratigos, TRM, Volunteer Researcher**

Friends of TRM condolence card to Dr Betty's family: "One Life Lived, Many Lives touched" .

## Friends of Tweed Regional Museum Courtyard - Naming Rights.



A huge achievement for our small volunteer group, \$25,000 raised and forwarded to the Museum Director as our commitment to owning the naming rights to the museum courtyard.

BRILLIANT EFFORT EVERYONE!

Commitment to raising funds for the naming rights to the courtyard began in 2014. After much hard work organising and running many fund raising events, final payment was made on 6 April 2018.

Fund raising events included:

- Yearly Calendars
- Historical Film Night @ Regent
- Golf competition day.
- Muriel's Wedding Movie Night @ Regent.
- Raffles and raffles and raffles.
- Markets selling calendars & raffles.
- M'bah Show selling calendars and raffles.
- Bush Poets Afternoon.
- Bunnings BBQs.



## Calendars, Raffle and Murwillumbah Show.

Calendar for 2019

Fay and Brian, with the help of Erika, have begun their meticulous research into choosing suitable photos for the calendar. The Museum has an extensive library of digital and paper historical photos and its these that will be painstakingly viewed to determine which 12 photos will represent various historical significant areas throughout the Tweed.

The aim is to have the calendars available for sale by late October or earlier if possible. Members will be notified by email when they are available and where they can be purchased. Those without access to email should watch local community newspapers under "Local Community News", contact Jude Locke (0427218520) or contact the Museum at Murwillumbah or Tweed Heads by mid October for availability.

Much thanks and appreciation goes to Brian and Fay O'Keefe who have been involved in the preparation of the calendar for many of the years since the publication of the first one in 2011.

The Raffle

A raffle will be available for the Murwillumbah Show where tickets can be purchased. The prize or prizes are yet to determined but be assured tickets will be worth purchasing! Stay Tuned!!

Murwillumbah Show: 2 - 3 November.

This year, the Museum will have a greater presence at the Show as it is sponsoring a new category in the Pavilion: Fermentation. Further details are yet to be determined but the Friends will have the opportunity to support and help with the Museum stall. The Friends calendars and raffle tickets will be available for sale.

We ask members to please save the dates and if possible be available to assist with the stall - a request will go out closer to the date.

## Fund Raising Event - Bunnings BBQ.

A very successful BBQ was held outside Bunnings on Sunday 1 April. The usual snags on bread were sold along with cool cans of soft drink. Considering it was Easter Sunday and that Bunnings was the only store open, it was still a very profitable day. A big thank you to all those members who gave up their time for the Friends from 7.30am through to 4.30pm - a very long day!



## Current Exhibitions at Museum.



'Chutney, Chooks and Champions'  
Celebrating 120 yrs - Murwillumbah Show.



Small selection of the Adrian Smith  
Mineral & Gem Collection .



Committee members  
including those retired as  
of June 2018.

Left to right: Gary Fidler,  
Jude Locke, Fay O'Keefe,  
Brian O'Keefe, Marion  
Roberts, Sandra Flannery,  
Janet Swift and Colleen  
Smith.

## Membership - we need more members, can you please help?

Enjoy exploring our local history? You can support the work of our Museum by becoming a member of the Friends group. Call, email or post - please see details below.