



CLARENCE RIVER ADVOCATE

March 2011

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This magazine (cover shown here) was printed and distributed to soldiers in France after the end of WW1- before demobilisation.

STONE COTTAGE and MUSEUM

Corner Wharf and Grafton Streets Maclean

Note: Location address only- for postal address see inside cover

Open 1-4 Wednesdays and Saturdays

10-4 Fridays

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MDHS- CLARENCE RIVER ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL

A busy time at our museum- and many visitors from afar who are attending Anzac day commemorations and our annual Highland gathering- hence the two themes in this newsletter. The recent flood also has a mention.

From the magazine depicted on the cover- but with a Northern NSW connection!



TANK POWER.

by Alf. G. Saville

Ex-Digger Cocky's experience in France has taught him how to overcome the difficulties of ploughing that steep little selection of his on the Richmond Range.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Research continues to be a major part of our work, with some lengthy reports finished. Group visits are always welcome. In 2010 we welcomed four school groups, Alstonville Probus Club, local Retirement Village residents, Lions Club and the Girl Guides. Our group, with visitors and two high school students, travelled to Yulgilbar Castle, and we were able to provide the Yulgilbar archives with information and photographs from our records.

Mr Harold Clancy has permission to use our records of maps and record cards for his cemetery book publications.

We have reordered copies of our publication "Maclean, and the Scottish Connection" which is selling well. Our Sugar book reprint is progressing, and we have been advised that the Law and Whalan books are still available.

There has been an update of computer equipment, with new towers, printers and TV and DVD player as a result of a grant application.

A submission was made to the ABC's Radio National by our museum, and although we were not successful, we congratulate our neighbour, Richmond River, on their great effort in winning a visit from the broadcaster.

History Week "Faces in the Street" was supported with a large framed painting of our main street with photographs of local identities' heads attached. The National Bank made old ledgers from Chatsworth, Harwood and Maclean available for perusal for a day, assisted by one of our members.

Information was provided to the ABC's "Message Stick" for a story on Lenore Parker. Also information for a book on Michael Rush was given, the book to be launched in Maclean later this year.

We had an interesting visit from ladies from a Lace Makers' group, who were looking at our current display. We have a piece of lace once worn by Queen Victoria. Another of our recent displays shows *Tramp Art*- artefacts made by itinerant men during the Depression. We also displayed samples of different styles of glassware, and a lovely display of dolls.

The major project for 2010 was conservation of our photographs. These have been placed in separate Mylar and polypropylene bags. Maps have also been placed in protective sleeves.

This has been a massive job and should provide protection as they are in constant use.

We express our gratitude to all outlets which take our publications, and my gratitude to all members for their untiring efforts for 2010. A small group doing great work!

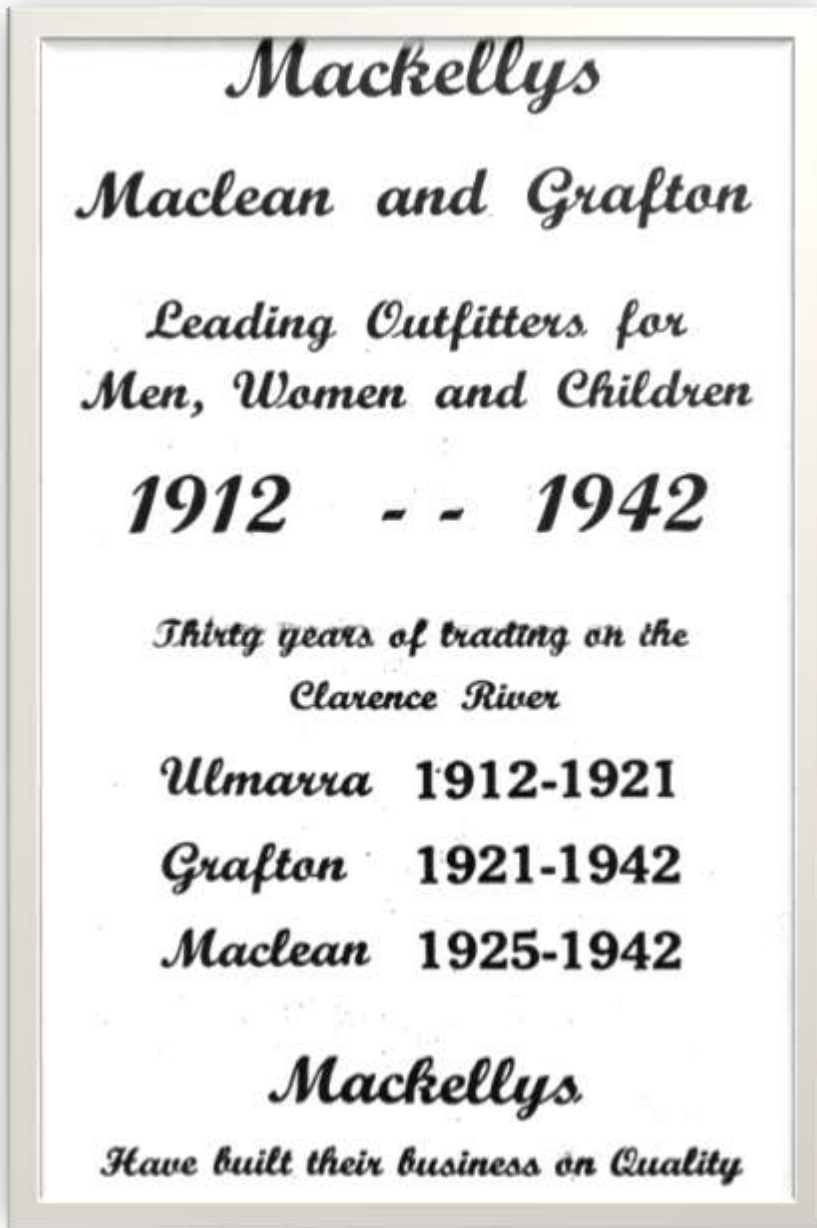
With the support of all, we are ready to take on another year.

Edith Dobbin

THE END OF AN ERA

Mackellys' store has been a part of Maclean's streetscape for many years. Their current sale slogan "End of an Era" is very apt.

After 98 years in business altogether- starting in 1911 in Ulmarra as a draper's and mercer's, the Maclean store was opened in 1925, by Jim Kelly, the brother of the original part owner, Jack Kelly. The business has been family owned for all that time and most Maclean people can tell a story or two of trips to the store, memories ranging from the pneumatic tubes that took money to and from the cashier to the counter staff, changes in layout, the helpful staff ,changes to staff and merchandise among them. We all have a story to tell. Thanks for the memories - and the service.



This advertisement from the Clarence and Richmond Examiner of 1942 says it all.



MACLEAN-THEN AND NOW



Some things change little in a town, and a War Memorial is just such a thing. The first photo taken in the 1930's is of the opening of the Memorial, the next a few years later and the last taken in 2010. The only change would be the addition of names after each new conflict.

The definition of a Scottish Gentleman is someone who knows how to play the bagpipes, but refrains from doing so. Anonymous



ROYAL VISIT FERRY JAM

(SOME THINGS ARE REPORTED FAR AWAY FROM THE AREA-)

The Canberra Times Thurs. 11th February 1954

1300 CARS BANKED- UP FOR SEVEN MILES IN JAM AFTER ROYAL VISIT
Grafton, Wednesday.

A bank-up of more than 1300 cars stretched for more than seven miles from the Harwood ferry over the Clarence River at 11 o'clock to-night.

The ferry was moving cars at a rate of only 70 an hour.

The bank-up was caused by the heavy stream of south-bound traffic returning from the Lismore and Casino Royal Visit.

Heavy rain during the day and the great volume of traffic this afternoon chopped up the alternate route via Grafton and Casino.

All returning traffic was diverted to the Pacific Highway. At one stage this afternoon the line of cars reached back seven miles from the ferry.

EMERGENCY MEALS

Farmers' wives are taking emergency meals to stranded motorists.

People are queuing up for telephones to let their relatives know of their plight.

Police are endeavouring to straighten out the jam, which is the worst in the history of the North Coast.

They are giving priority to vehicles travelling the furthest distance.

Hundreds of motorists have settled down on the roadside prepared for an indefinite wait.

MILITARY

Maclean Friday

Captain Cameron, of the Maclean Company of Scottish Rifles, has presented South African medals to troopers Fryer and Garven and Gunner Hattersley

The Sydney Morning Herald 13th February 1904

*How many Scotsmen does it take to change a light bulb?
Och! It's no that dark!*

THE RISING SUN INSIGNIA

In 1902 a badge was urgently sought for the Australian contingents raised after Federation for service in South Africa during the Boer War.

Probably the most widely-accepted version of the origin of this badge is that which attributes the selection of its design to a British officer, Major General Sir Edward Hutton, KCB, and KCMG, newly appointed Commander-in-chief of the Australian Forces.

He had earlier received as a gift from Brigadier General Joseph Gordon, a military acquaintance of long standing, a "Trophy of Arms" comprising mounted cut and thrust swords and triangular Martini Henri bayonets arranged in a semicircle around a brass crown. To Major General Hutton the shield was symbolic of the co-ordination of the Naval and Military Forces of the Commonwealth.

The original design, created and produced in haste for issue to the contingent departing to South Africa, was modified in 1904. This badge was worn through both World Wars.

(From the Australian Army



website)

LOWER CLARENCE CALEDONIANS

THE BULLETIN SAYS: The most Caledonian part of N.S.W. is on the Lower Clarence. They have every kind of Scot there, from the rollicking chiel after Burn's heart- one eye on the lassies and the other on the whisky- to the dour, rigid covenanter saint and the canny mon with whom "bang goes sixpence!" There are 40 year residents who still affect braid scawtch in their own Kirk, where the Gospel is preached to them in Gaelic undefiled; and pipers are as plentiful as pumpkins, no social gathering being considered complete without plenty of skirling and skipping. Holman M.P. had the bad luck to strike the annual gathering of the clans on the 24th May for his anti-Bill address, and between Federation and whisky, things got badly mixed.

Clarence River Advocate Wed July 18 1899.

We make war that we may live in peace: - Aristotle

More Information on Stanley C. Calderwood

(Former Harwood Shire Engineer at Maclean)

Sydney Morning Herald 22nd August 1929

MILITARY TRAINEES

INTERESTING WORK AT LIVERPOOL SOUND-RANGING SECTION

The first Artillery Survey Company, 150 strong, commanded by Captain S C Calderwood, is quartered for eight days in the engineers' section of Liverpool Camp. The survey section, composed mainly of surveyors' assistants, carries out ordinary land surveys, but the work of the sound-ranging and "Flash-spotting" sections is more interesting. By means of posts placed at intervals, and mathematical calculations, the trainees are able to plot the position of a gun battery several miles away from the flashes of the guns and the explosions of the shells.

The sound –ranging section has still more difficult work. A microphone conveys the sound of the battery fire through wires to a sound-ranging harp, which makes a variable resistance. This is photographed on a continuous film, and from this, the position of the enemy battery is calculated. The trainees have shown remarkable aptitude for the work, but as yet are handicapped because of lack of instruments. Also in camp for the eight days training is the Sydney University Regiment, which is commanded by Lieut-Colonel A B Lilley. Training consists of mainly tactical field practice. The regiment is considered one of the crack battalions of the State and the trainees, who are drawn from the Teachers' College and the University, are keenly interested in the work.

Note: by Roy Cameron: As I have mentioned before, "S.C." served in the First World War as a Major. In WWII he was in charge of the Volunteer Defence Corps units of the Lower Clarence. When I worked with him in the Old Shire Office at Maclean, he prepared at the request of the Military authorities a plan for a gun emplacement near the Yamba Lighthouse- the gun to protect the entrance to the Clarence River. The gun was never installed.

Jock was travelling by train seated next to a stern-faced clergyman. As Jock pulled out a bottle of whisky from his pocket the clergyman glared and said reprovingly, "Look here, I am sixty-five and I have never tasted whisky in my life!"

"Dinna worry, Minister," smiled Jock, pouring himself a dram. "There's no risk of you starting now!"



OUR CHATSWORTH LETTER

Clarence River Advocate 1st November 1898

Murrayville Band- Murrayville is far ahead of Chatsworth in many respects. It now has a School of Arts, also a Brass Band. The latter can be heard almost nightly practising, the sweet strains of music and the roll of the drum being borne along on the westerly breeze. I wish the band every success.



*Q. What's the difference between a lawnmower and a bagpipe?
A. You can tune the lawnmower.*

THE THISTLE EMBLEM OF SCOTLAND

(depicted on our cover this issue)

The prickly purple thistle was adopted as the Emblem of Scotland during the reign of Alexander III (1249 -1286). Legend has it that an Army of King Haakon of Norway, intent on conquering the Scots landed at the Coast of Largs at night to surprise the sleeping Scottish Clansmen. In order to move more stealthily under the cover of darkness, the Norsemen removed their footwear.

As they drew near to the Scots the cover of darkness. For one on one of these spiny little alerting the Clansmen of the say it was the Scots who won



it wasn't the only thing hiding under of Haakon's men unfortunately stood defenders and shrieked out in pain, advancing Norsemen. Needless to the day.

Why do pipers march when they play? To get as far away from the noise as possible.



HENRY (HARRY) AND ELIZABETH HAMMOND

Henry (Harry) Hammond was born in Suffolk, England, and in 1921 gained a special lease from the Lands Dept. for a parcel of land at Woody (then Wooded) Head.

He took his wife, Elizabeth (nee Alberts of Cowper) to Mororo to live until he could provide a cottage for them. He cut timber and built a slab hut for himself to live in, and developed a market garden to supply Iluka and Yamba, with surplus also sold to Chatsworth. His family, friends and campers helped clear the track from Iluka – previously only accessibly by horseback, so sulkies could be used.

With the advent of the motor car, his sons had to remove tree stumps to make it passable.

There were conditions to the lease and two of them required the fencing of the area, and the removal of prickly pear which had invaded the area.

Harry Hammond employed Harry Burchall (another English migrant who had settled in Iluka) and they worked long hours in the garden and removing and burying the prickly pear.

The lease had been upgraded to a Conditional Purchase and when he was approached in 1923 by the Lands Dept. to create a reserve and camping area, he withdrew his original claim over approximately 10 acres so the Recreation area could be established. This was done on a gentleman's handshake.

John Watts (who had settled at Kangaroo Creek and with whom Harry had worked in mining ventures), came to help in building the cottage. The timber was cut with axes and a crosscut saw, all from Harry's land. All floor joists were hand squared and adzed (all can still be seen today). The timber was snigged from the scrub by Dave McMillan and his horse team to be loaded on a barge at Saltwater Inlet (north of the old Iluka ferry site) and towed to Murrayville Mill on Mangrove Creek (often called McCormick's Creek) at Tullymorgan on the north end of Ashby Island. The timber was rough cut and could not be dressed at this mill.

Harry proudly took Elizabeth, Albert, Charles, Mary and William home to Woody Head in 1923, where the family grew up.

Many of them in turn built sturdy homes in Woody Head for their families.

Mary later became Mrs Searle and lived in Kingaroy, Queensland, but several generations had happy memories of camping holidays at Woody Head

Lilian J Payne

I cannot surrender. I am in command of Australians who would cut my throat if I did.

Colonel C. Hore, Elands River, South Africa 1899

OUR NEW BAGPIPES AND THEIR FORMER OWNER - PETER MUNRO

We have recently acquired a set of bagpipes for our Scottish section and the story of their previous owner needs recording as well. They belonged to Peter Munro.

Peter was born in Zwolle in the central region of Holland,. His surname was *Van Der Pol* meaning “from the Hill”. His parents wanted him to attend University and study Agriculture, and he attended an Agricultural College after he left school.

When some of his friends went on a working holiday, his parents were persuaded to let him go, but as he had to provide his own fares etc, he went to England to earn money. He came to Australia on a migrant ship, instead of Canada as his friends did, landing in Melbourne in 1967 as an 18year old with 90 dollars in his pocket.

He was intent on learning English, reading as much as he could and he came to Maclean 5 months later in the middle of a flood.

John Skinner of Ilarwill gave him his first job as a cane cutter. This he found very hard work, but he kept at it and cut for four seasons. He cut without a shirt or hat, and really stood out, as he was a very tall man with a shock of blond hair.

He met Jim

to teach him to play the chanter, with his large fingers.

In 1969 he returned Edinburgh, bought his bagpipes. months later and in Maclean Pipe Band. be a cane cutter and continued to cut hand with a glove. until 1980.

Peter was intent on sharing a beer after local solicitor, he changing his name.

either at the end or middle of the alphabet, and having met Ewen Munro of Woodford Island, decided that Munro would be the name. This took 12 months to happen.

In 1975, Peter married Pam McLachlan, a local girl who had three brothers in the Pipe Band.

The pipes were made by R G Hardie of Edinburgh, Scotland and will be treasured by the Society.



McKinnon, and asked Jim the bagpipes. He started on holes slightly larger to suit

to Holland, visiting Scotland as well, where he He returned to Australia six 1972 he joined the He was told he could not play the bagpipes, but he cane, covering his cutting He remained with the band

Scottish culture, and when work with Stan Conroy, casually asked about He did not want to be

JOHN EFFRI PETAJA

Jack the Russian, (or Russian Jack), squatted near where James Creek Road turns to go up towards Farlow property. Peter Farlow, Kath Carr's father, was very kind to Jack, and he gave him a small area of land to settle on.

“Jack came to James Creek in my early childhood,” said Kath Carr (nee Farlow). “He built a small slab and scrap iron hut, which had a corrugated iron fireplace chimney. He was very shy, and very poor. My father, Peter, befriended him, gave him sweet potatoes which he grew. Father often gave him a couple of hens and pork when a pig was killed .” (From Noel Farlow, grandson of Peter:- “Grandfather gave him the pig's head every year at Christmas time.”)

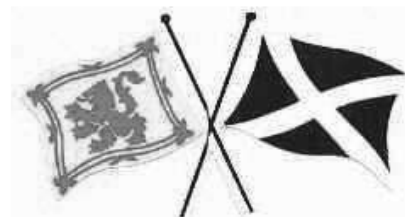
Jack used to catch eels in James Creek, and he managed to get a contract to cut firewood for the steam driven Harwood ferry (see article on Page 15) using a cross cut saw and an axe, he cut wood and delivered it to the ferry approach in a horse and cart that he managed to acquire. He also used to grow pineapples beside his hut, as well as watermelons in season.” His one sin was to drink. He did not worry anyone, he lived a very lonely life, but my father used to keep an eye on him. Through my father's influence, he obtained Australian citizenship.” (info from Kath Carr)

As a young child growing up with my two brothers, Allan and John, at James Creek, I can vividly remember Jack the Russian. Every Friday, Jack would walk to the Harwood Hotel, purchasing supplies on the way. He wore knee high leather boots, spotlessly clean and polished. In winter time, he wore a very long, heavy coat. I can remember being scared of him, although he never spoke a word to us as he walked along the creek road.

In a 1920 newspaper report, Jack was described as a middle aged foreigner. We were told he was a “white Russian”. Dad told us his horse was a close companion, and lived in the hut with him. We often took vegetables to his hut.

Marg Switzer (nee Cameron)

***How do you disperse an angry Scottish mob?
Nae bother - just take up a collection.***



DESCRIPTION OF ROCKY MOUTH (MACLEAN) 1868

There is a township at Rocky Mouth- a little struggling village scattered among the verdant cornfield, and as unlike a city as the most ardent admirer of rural simplicity could desire. There are a couple of wharfs- opposite establishments, I conjecture-- with a cable length of each other; and a couple of public-houses- also opposition establishments as I am certain; and a couple of store; and a couple of dozen residences for the general public...

There were no streets in the township, so far as I could make out...Tracts of ploughed land, narrow bridle paths overgrown with weeds were to be seen... on every side.... There were some brick buildings, which were rather above the common run of bush structures; and there was plenty of room for civic improvement, but the people seemed too busy to attend to such matters...There does not seem too much traffic in spirituous liquors at Rocky Mouth. The two public-houses of the place are not overwhelmed with bar business, and as a natural consequences, they are both very neat, orderly establishments, where the weary traveller may take his ease in inexpensive comfort.

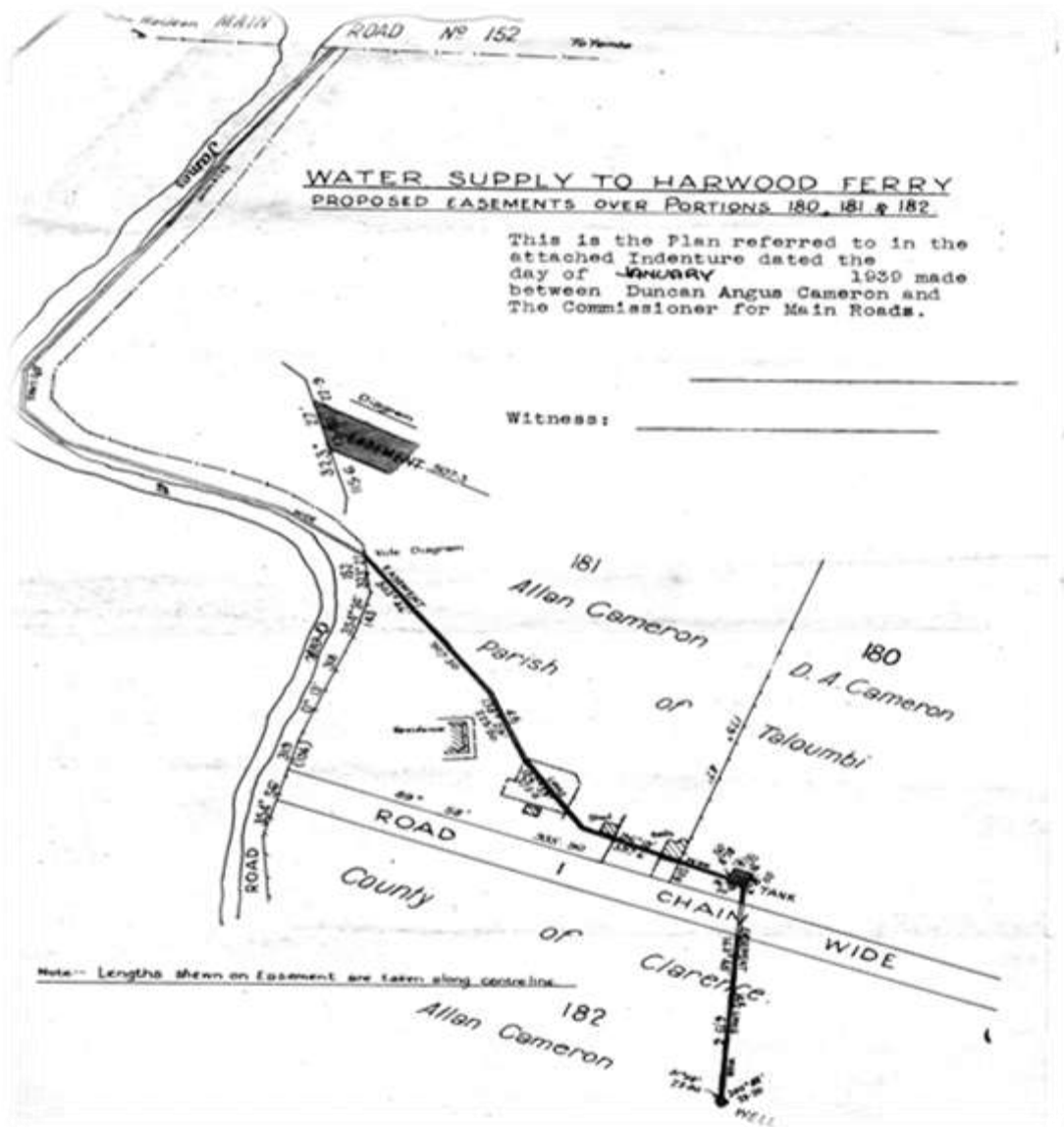
The steamers call regularly at the wharfs, and ...There were two steamers abreast of a pier, and loading with produce. The greater number of townspeople , and the settlers in the neighbourhood, are Scotch. The name of the town itself (Maclean) is Scotch- the signs of the public-houses are Scotch- and there are a great many Highlanders to be met with. Nay high cheekbones and red beards are so numerous that a stranger is apt to imagine that he has landed upon some unheard of shore which has been colonised entirely from Caledonia.

From "A reporter's Notes on the Clarence River District No 2 "
Sydney Morning Herald 3 December 1868

BUT in 1878;

Speaking of Rocky Mouth reminds me that this little place has made rapid strides during the past year or two, and now promises to become an important town. The Bank of New South Wales and the Australian Joint Stock have branches there, and the latter is about to erect new and commodious premises. There are three important stores in the town- Mr A Cameron's, Mr M Rush's and Mr J M Fitzpatrick's and many smaller places of business. There are three churches- the Roman Catholic, the Presbyterian and the Wesleyan Methodist, all of which have resident clergymen. There are three doctors, a court-house (at which periodical petty sessions are held) and five hotels. A local newspaper- which by the way, presents a very creditable appearance- was started at the beginning of the year: and altogether Rocky Mouth seems to be on the high road to prosperity.

"From our Correspondent" Sydney Morning Herald 15 June 1878



WATER FOR THE STEAM FERRY AT HARWOOD

My father, Duncan Angus Cameron and my grandfather, Allan Cameron (per “Aunty Dot”, M J Cameron), signed an agreement with the Commissioner for Main Roads (N.S.W.) in 1934 for the supply of water for the (then) steam driven vehicular ferry over the Clarence River.

In 1920, the D.M.R. negotiated an easement “over the said portion of land, including certain well, for the purpose of construction of pipes and pipelines and a concrete tank with necessary pumping equipment and apparatus for the drawing, taking and using water for use in connection with the ferry service over the Clarence River at Harwood.”

In lieu of rent payment, water could be drawn freely from the concrete tank for use at the Cameron house and adjacent dairy at “Highfield”.

Prior to 1940, the pipeline went around the creek as shown on the plan, past the new home (1935) “Greenlea” which had been built by Duncan Angus Cameron. He now

applied to have the water connected to his new home. “Until alterations are made to the pumping plant it is not possible to connect up to the Department's delivery main”, he was told, but when alterations were made “this request will be considered”.

As children, we grew up with a permanent water supply, something quite out of the ordinary for farm children. We often saw the ferry man ride his bike out to the two “Government “ wells (as we called them), to switch on the pumps to fill the tanks which then delivered water to two homes and a dairy, as well as for the ferry's requirements, all by gravity feed. This tank (in 2010) is still in use, by Allan Cameron, for water to use in his vegetable garden. Now, however, it comes from a dam left after the D.M.R. quarried a site on the property to build the highway when the new Harwood Bridge was built in the 1960's.

The 2 ½ inch pipe crossed James Creek on the River side of the James Creek Bridge over Yamba Road. It was an obstacle when we used to try to get our little wooden rowing boat “Seaweed” into the river; we had to scramble over the pipe and push “Seaweed” under the pipe.

Marg. Switzer (nee Cameron)

1899 HUMOUR- JUST AS AMUSING TODAY

Clarence River Advocate Friday January 20th 1899

“Another daughter off our hands”, says Mrs Grums.

“Another son-in-law to keep” said Mr Grums.

Little Ethel: “What does your Papa like for breakfast?”

Little Mabel: “He always likes anything he hasn't got.”

Senior Partner: “We must discharge that traveller of ours. He told one of our customers that I was a fool.”

Junior Partner: I will see him at once, and insist on him keeping the firm's secrets.”



A land without memories is a people without liberty: - General Robert E. Lee, the only man in history to be offered the command of BOTH sides of a war

100 YEARS AGO

January: Mr W A Zuill has been welcomed to the board of Maclean Land Court.

Mr Goddard of Maclean has been engaged by CSR Harwood to supervise and erect brickwork for the new boilers at their mill.

George Hayward broke 3 ribs when he fell between the river boats, *Kyogle* and *Woolwich*, at Maclean.

February: Maclean Municipal Council has decreed that it would be wise to prohibit driving of stock through River Street, between Howard Street and Wharf Street.

A herdsman has been appointed at a weekly wage to care for the Common.

Street Lights will now be lit and cared for by a council maintenance man. Council will supply the oil.

Mr Brown, a local baker, has secured the tender to supply bread for the North Coast Steam Navigation Company, for the ensuing 12 months. It is the first time Maclean has been successful.

Air gas lighting has been installed at the Commercial Hotel. This is supposed to be very economical and safe.

March: Final parade of the Scottish Rifles was held. The Company paraded in River Street in full dress uniform. They then retired to the barracks where Captain Cameron gave an address and the Company was dismissed. A concert followed at the Mechanics Institute.

A Fire Brigade is hoped for in Maclean. Mr McKinnon has suggested that the former members of the Scottish Rifles, become firemen.

The supply of electricity to Maclean has been decided against, because of the prohibitive costs. There are much more pressing needs, such as road repair.

A Scots pessimist is a man who feels badly when he feels good for fear he'll feel worse when he feels better.

MURRAYVILLE -A LUCKY ESCAPE.

Sydney Morning Herald Friday 21 Jan.....

A narrow escape from death is reported from Murrayville, where a man named Martin Wills and a companion were engaged in felling a huge tree. With the view of felling the tree in the desired direction the use of a rope was resorted to, but this failed to act as required, and the tree falling where Wills stood. His escape from death is most miraculous.

Wills then organised a cricket match with the other Murrayville residents, and while in the act of catching one of the first balls, the ball hit the back of his right hand, smashing the metacarpal bones. He was thereupon brought into Maclean for surgical treatment.

50 YEARS AGO- (100 YEARS OF MACLEAN'S FOUNDATION.)

MARCH 1961: Officers were elected at a public meeting last night for Maclean Centenary Celebrations and the recommendations of a sub-committee were adopted.

The proposal is to hold the main celebrations during the Eight Hour Day weekend in October. Deputy Shire President Mr F J Phillips was in the chair.

Elected were: - President: Mr S Bull, Vice-President: Mr T Grainger, Secretary: Mr L. Purcell and Treasurer: Mr O C Pettingell. The committee was: Messrs D Day, B C Bridger, J R Baxter, G. Bancroft, J Elliott, and the Rev. K C Pankhurst. Patron was Mr W.J.W. Thompson.

Suggestions for consideration were:- The culmination of the celebrations with a procession of floats on the Monday of the Eight Day weekend; The State Governor to be the Official visitor; all churches to be asked to co-operate; the brass band to organise a band contest; a ski carnival in March to open celebrations; CWA branches to be asked to organise dinner for pioneers; the PSAAA sports to be held that weekend; cane harvesting to be held up for one day; all service clubs to be asked to co-operate; all bodies to hold centenary functions; old photographs to be made available; the Daily Examiner to be asked for publication; an anglers day on lines similar to one held at The Entrance; a Venetian Carnival; a rodeo; youth clubs to stage a demonstration; Scottish dancing; football challenge match; pioneers to be invited to return. When the Official Opening of the new High School was mentioned, Mr J Elliott said it would not be possible before October. He wanted to develop gardens and lawns.

Battles are sometimes won by generals; wars are nearly always won by sergeants and privates

A SOLDIER'S LETTER HOME? -

Dear Mum & Dad,

I am well. Hope youse are too. Tell me big brothers Doug and Phil that the Army is better than workin' on the farm - tell them to get in quick smart before the jobs are all gone! I wuz a bit slow in settling down at first, because ya don't hafta get outta bed until 6am. But I like sleeping in now, cuz all ya gotta do before brekky is make ya bed and shine ya boots and clean ya uniform. No cows to milk, no calves to feed, no feed to stack - nothin'!! Ya haz gotta shower though, but its not so bad, coz there's lotsa hot water and even a light to see what ya doing!

At brekky, ya get cereal, fruit and eggs but there's no kangaroo steaks or possum stew like wot Mum makes.

You don't get fed again until noon and by that time all the city boys are tired because we've been on a 'route march' - geez its only just like walking to the windmill in the back paddock!!

This one will kill me brothers Doug and Phil with laughter. I keep getting medals for shootin' - dunno why. The bullseye is as big as a possum's backside and it don't move and it's not firing back at ya like the Johnsons did when our big scrubber bull got into their prize cows before the Ekka last year! All ya gotta do is make yourself comfortable and hit the target!! You don't even load your own cartridges they comes in little boxes and ya don't have to steady yourself against the rollbar of the roo shooting truck when you reload!

Sometimes ya gotta wrestle with the city boys and I gotta be real careful coz they break easy - it's not like fighting with Doug and Phil and Jack and Steve and Muzza all at once like we do at home after the muster.

Turns out I'm not a bad boxer either and it looks like I'm the best the platoon's got, and I've only been beaten by this one bloke from the Engineers - he's 6 foot 5 and 15 stone and three pick handles across the shoulders and as ya know I'm only 5 foot 7 and eight stone wringin' wet, but I fought him till the other blokes carried me off.

I can't complain about the Army - tell the boys to get in quick before word gets around how good it is.



*Your loving daughter,
Sheila*

WHY THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY WAS CLOSED AFTER RECENT FLOODS- an opinion.

A letter to the editor in the Daily Examiner after the flood of January 2011, stated that



James Creek was responsible for the blocking of traffic on the Pacific Highway for days after the flood waters had subsided. Perhaps this person was close to the truth.

James Creek was once quite a wide and deep creek. In the 1920's there was a wharf and a large clinker built boat was kept in the creek and rowed there often. (see photos) At this stage the creek was about 25 feet wide.



The creek was

flood gated in 1912- the wooden gates are still evident (see photo) and are possibly one of the oldest examples of their kind on the river. Another gate was put in further towards the river in the 1940's. During this time, it was under the control of the James Creek Drainage Trust (Maclean Heritage Inventory SHI

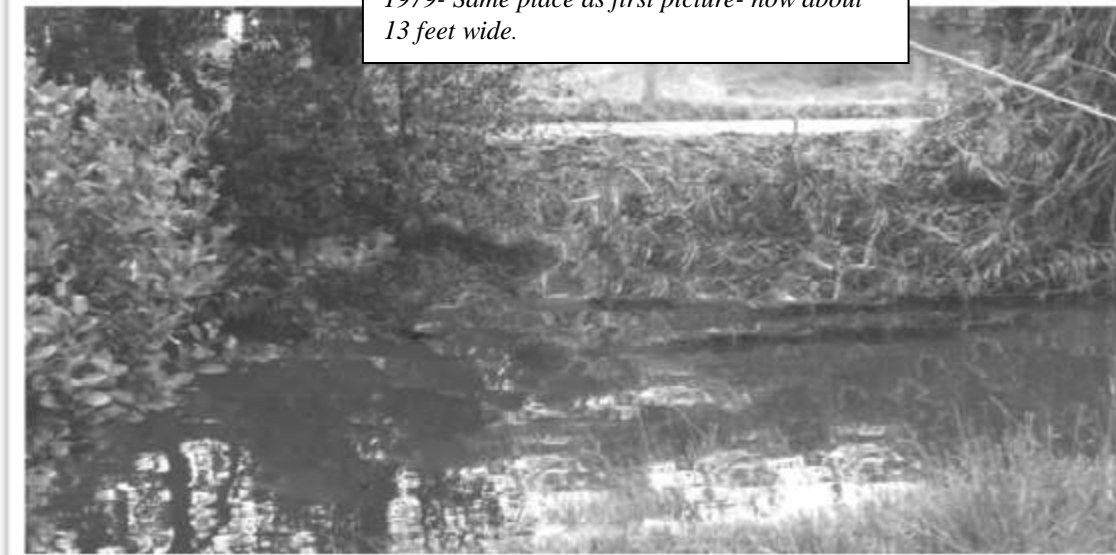
Number 1990159). These flood gates, while draining the James Creek swamps for use as agricultural land, soon helped in silting the creek. In the 1970's the lower end of the creek was cleared using a large excavator (a drag line), and the creek flowed well and fish and prawns were to be caught at any time. But the silting continued. The creek was also subject to drainage of water and runoff from the then Maclean rubbish dump at Townsend, as this was situated at the start of the water catchment of the creek.(Seepage from the old dump continues to this day.) The silting has now meant that cattle can cross onto James Creek Road at low tide, from the Highway side of the creek.

In 2001, after the flood in March of that year, a meeting was arranged with all stakeholders- Shire, Roads and Traffic, Fisheries, Water Conservation Authority and Wetland Care Authority and local land owners, among others, to see what could be

MDHS- CLARENCE RIVER ADVOCATE

done to “*minimise the flooding problems (agricultural and Pacific Highway) as well as to improve tidal exchange (water quality and habitat values)*” - James Creek News Bulletin #1 on 8th November 2001, put out by the Wetland Care Australia. A proposal of works was agreed to, and a 3 stage program was decided upon. Nothing more happened. (Bulletin #1 was the only one issued).

1979- Same place as first picture- now about 13 feet wide.



In 2009 flood the same problem occurred- and in 2011, the Highway traffic was even more disrupted.

The highway continues to be flooded after other waters have subsided because James Creek is no longer the wide and deep creek of past years, silting prevents the flow of escaping flood waters, James Creek swamps can't empty fast enough, normal tidal flows are minimal and fish are seldom sighted.

The decision to raise the Highway will help, but probably only make flood waters

close James Creek and Yamba Roads for much longer- but that will only inconvenience a minority- so what hope for the creek?
Allan Cameron



James Creek today (taken from the same place as the former wharf in the second picture)

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

- James and Margaret Chisholm (nee Mulligan) and family of Brushgrove 1880's-1906-7. Butcher and auctioneer
- William Henry Beale of Harwood, circa early 1890's
- McDonald/McLeod WW1 information
- Thank you letter re William Whitting history plus extra information.
- George and Emily Hooker obituaries- former boot maker of Brushgrove circa 1880/1900
- William Gilbert and Mary (nee Bathgate) Ashby Island, farmer circa 1880.
- W.G. and Sarah Everson of Iluka circa 1900.
- Pringle graves location, Presbyterian Cemetery, Maclean
- Morrison family- sugar cane farmers and mill owners, "Strathalbyn" Goodwood Island 1860's onward.
- Anton Kempnich and family of Palmers Channel, farmer, mid 1880's
- Nipperess family information received from Roy Cameron
- Enquiry re Schaefer bible and if donated to MDHS (no it wasn't)
- Received report of death of Regis Bede Kempnich, teacher, Tyndale d 1927 (thank you sent)
- John Hill Garven research/grave sites/property sites circa 1880's and later
- Port of Yamba enquiry re year first cottage built on Yamba Hill (1862) and also Francis Freeburn article (Daily.Exam. 1930)
- Request for photo of original Auswild Motors building (None found, only newspaper article 1961)
- Email request re early mining leases of Bancroft family at Upper Clarence (late 1880's- 1900's)
- Research of Lang and Farlow families of Lower Clarence- late 1800's
- Donation of Ryan family history of Southgate.

**MACLEAN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Publications for Sale**

| | |
|--|---------|
| <i>Maclean, The First Fifty Years 1862-1912</i> by E.H.McSwan..... | \$20.00 |
| <i>Maclean and the Scottish Connection</i> by E.H.McSwan..... | \$20.00 |
| <i>Discovery and Settlement of the Lower Clarence</i> by E.H.McSwan..... | \$6.00 |
| <i>Lower Clarence Cemetery List</i> | \$15.00 |
| <i>McFarlane Bridge Souvenir Booklet</i> (limited edition)..... | \$5.00 |
| <i>History of Education on the Lower Clarence</i> | |
| 1. <i>Maclean</i> by E.H.McSwan..... | \$15.00 |
| (This book is the history of Early Maclean - Primary, District Rural and Intermediate High School to 1961) | |
| 2. <i>Past Schools</i> by M. Switzer..... | \$15.00 |
| (Schools in the district that are now closed) | |
| 3. <i>High School</i> by E.H.McSwan..... | \$20.00 |
| (From 1961 onwards) | |
| <i>Clarence River Sugar Industry- A Tour among the Mills</i> compiled by Ruth McAulay..... | \$15.00 |
| <i>The Fishing Industry, Lower Clarence-The Early Years</i> by Yvonne Johnson..... | \$20.00 |
| <i>Ferries of the Lower Clarence</i> by D Towner and E.H.McSwan- | |
| book..... | \$10.00 |
| CD..... | \$10.00 |
| Book and CD..... | \$15.00 |
| | |
| <i>Clarence River (Grafton Bridge)</i> | \$5.00 |
| <i>Shark Creek tales</i> | \$7.00 |
| <i>Champions in Sport</i> | \$5.00 |
| <i>Davis Family and descendants 1848-1988</i> by A. Marsh..... | \$15.00 |
| <i>Ford Family History</i> | \$10.00 |
| <i>Amateur Dramatics- Maclean to 1962</i> | \$10.00 |
| <i>Brooms Head Revisited</i>book..... | \$15.00 |
| CD | \$10. |
| | |
| <i>Maclean to the Reef and Back</i> | \$8.00 |
| <i>Electoral Roll (1909) Maclean only</i> | \$5.00 |
| <i>1919 Electoral Roll Maclean only</i> | \$5.00 |

(POSTAGE EXTRA)

Any person who feels he or she might have an interesting story for inclusion in our journal, is invited to submit it for perusal. It will be acknowledged if it is included. Stories may be emailed (see address inside our front cover) or sent by post. Please type all copy, using Times New Roman (14).No article will be automatically included, we reserve the right to choose, or edit as we see fit.

MACLEAN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

BIG
RIVER
COUNTRY



Our Society meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 9.30 in the meeting rooms at the Museum.

