

Moruya and District Historical Society Historical Events

Date	Events
1970	<p>First Meeting It began with a meeting in the Zanadvoroff house in Broulee to hear a noted ornithologist and historian Alec Chisholm lecture on local birdlife. It was he who suggested that a place so steeped in colonial history should have an Historical Society.</p> <p>Harry Louttit and Frank Finlayson (Frank was the editor of the Moruya Examiner) took up his idea. A public meeting in the CWA hall was sufficiently enthusiastic for Harry to have a leaflet printed:</p> <p><i>Dear Fellow Australian, I have been invited to convene a meeting at some central point for the purpose of considering the formation of an Historical Society for the region and I have found our High School most co-operative. In consequence, the meeting will take place at the High School in Albert Street on Sunday night - midway through the long weekend, a date likely, it is thought, to lead to a representative gathering. Time 7.30pm. As much depends on the quality and extent of such representation I am directing this letter to you personally believing that any development from the meeting should properly reflect your thoughts on the matter.</i></p> <p>Only sixteen people attended the inaugural meeting on 14 June 1970. Harry declined the Presidency because of poor health leaving Jim Berriman to be elected, with Jim Rogers as his Secretary. Mesdames May Koellner, Maree Mylott and Joan Le Marchand made up the Committee. Membership fees were \$2.00 for ordinary members and 50 cents for children and pensioners. It was intended that the Society, to be called the Eurobodalla Historical Society.....</p> <p><i>Source: Journal June 2000 p. 10</i></p>
1971	<p>Obtained 2 buildings from the Education Department – original weathersheds of the public school which had been converted to class rooms in excellent repair. Looked at purchasing land at the corner of Church & Ford Street.</p> <p><i>Source: Typescript report A brief History of the Eurobodalla Shire Historical Society Activities since inception.</i></p>
1972	<p>2 front rooms of 39 Queen Street leased for the start of the Museum. This was the home of the late Ilma Walters.</p> <p>6 weeks summer school holidays visitors 220 adults and 180 children. Cemetery taken over by the Council.</p> <p><i>Source. Newsletter 1.</i></p>
1973	<p>March the Queen St building was sold at auction.</p> <p>Society got a 3 months leave with an option to buy 85 Campbell Street.</p> <p><i>Source: Newsletter 2 September 1973.</i></p>
1975	<p>Merlyn came up for sale and they tried to purchase while 85 Campbell St purchase was held up as a search was made for the deeds.</p> <p><i>Source: Newsletter 3 August 1975.</i></p>
1976	<p>17 April 1976 (Newsletter says 6th April) purchased 85 Campbell St which Society had been renting.</p> <p>Partition removed in front upstairs bedroom.</p>

	<p>J. Gschwind – attended to cracks near the chimney. Gschwind also offered to replaster upstairs front bedroom, kitchen and hall. Note. There was only 1 tap and that was outside the house. Claim in 1977 1800 people visited the Museum.</p>
1978	<p>Kitchen floor and verandah repaired. Layers of old paint sandblasted off kitchen walls. House rewired. Painting and wall papers of hall. Received a heaving carved hall table well over 100 years old. Established a small lending library until public library was established. <i>Source: Newsletter 4 July 1978</i></p>
1979	<p>Society had 87 Financial members. Council offered old Council Chambers in exchange for 85 Campbell Street. Society agreed to this but after Community objections to the demolition of 85 Campbell Street the Heritage Council of NSW issued a preservation order. Front rooms - scraped off old paint & plaster & redecorated the front room. Weekly History Corner articles written for the paper. Received a grant of \$860 for showcases. Society agreed to Council annexing 6m of backyard in return for a double garage building. John Parbery painted and decorated the upstairs rooms prior to 10th birthday celebrations. <i>Source Newsletter no. 5 July 1979</i></p>
1980	<p>Work began on garage in February – 20 x 20 concrete floor, cedar weatherboards. Paid final installment on loan. <i>Source: 1980 Presidents Report</i></p>
1981	<p>Grant to have Architect's report on building. Visitors 1900. \$31,200 received from Heritage Council to restore exterior (Stage 1) – wrought iron lace work etc. Condition of grant Society accepted financial responsibility for construction of toilet block and renovation of laundry. They had a bank overdraft to pay for work. <i>Source: Newsletter no. 6</i></p>
1984	<p>Moruya Garden Club did brick paving and front garden. <i>Source Newsletter 1984</i></p>
1985	<p>Genealogy Group In December 1985 an approach was made by Mrs. Cecily Thomas to the President of the Society, suggesting an affiliation of genealogists with the society. Then President John Warry replied that the Society was "pleased to provide accommodation". If you think that the Society is cramped for space now, it was even more so then. <i>Source Journal June 200 p.17</i></p>

1986	<p>Building Failed to get a grant for a Machinery Shed so they erected the mezzanine floor instead.</p> <p>Genealogy Group Early in 1986 an application was made for a Bicentennial Grant. This application was endorsed by the Eurobodalla Shire Council and also by the local Federal and State members of Parliament. The success of this application meant that funds were available for the purchase of basic research aids in the form of books and also some indexes on microfiche.</p> <p>The Shire Council was moving into computer mode and very helpfully donated 4 surplus microfiche readers, which continue to be part of our present set of 6 in use, with another 2 readers in reserve. These and later donations from various sources, were gratefully received and put to good use. The Genealogy Group operated in very cramped conditions in a corner of the meeting room, but harmoniously in a friendly atmosphere. Family History interest and research was boosted throughout Australia by the 1988 Bicentennial celebrations. <i>Source Journal June 200 p.17</i></p> <p>Old Slab shed – reported they successfully demolished an old slab shed and transported the material to the Museum to be used as building material.</p>
1987	<p>Received permission from Council and approval of Heritage Commission to erect old slab shed. Rotary has offered to help erect shed.</p> <p>Attempted break in to deadlock on door and security on windows installed.</p> <p>Wooden bath donated.</p> <p>Sold T-shirts with photo of Vulcan Street on it.</p> <p>10 taped interviews had been done.</p> <p><i>Source Newsletter no. 13 July 1987.</i></p>
1988	<p>Genealogy Group Fortunately in Moruya, the Rotary Club as a Bicentennial project was instrumental in expanding the available space at the museum. Bert Thomas was an enthusiastic supporter of this work (or was it just Cecily twisting his arm?); with the result that the expansion included a dedicated Research Room, which was well furnished and provided Space Enthusiasm and support came from many pioneers; Jim Hanslow the first chairman, Norm & Enid Campbell, Joan Ransom and several others.</p> <p>The then President of the Society, Dr. Tom Grace, welcomed the formation of the Genealogy Group as "an exciting new development". The Research Room was open for use for 3 or 4 hours each session; on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday each week and was often quite crowded with people waiting to use the resources. This pattern of open hours has been maintained, largely unchanged, even to today. At the same time, meetings on the 2nd Thursday evening each month at the Presbyterian Hall, were popular venues for exchanging ideas and information. Some of the times each year the monthly meeting was held</p>

	<p>instead in the staff room of the Batemans Bay Public School. As well as local speakers, guest speakers came at times from the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra or from the Family History Centre at Kiama. <i>Source Journal June 200 p.17</i></p>
1989	<p>Genealogy Group An even bigger event was a seminar in 1989 with noted Genealogist Janet Reakes as speaker. This boost led to the start of a quarterly journal in December that year edited by Denise Colliss, which helped generate contact with other societies in various parts of Australia by exchanging Journals. <i>Source Journal June 200 p.17</i></p>
1990	<p>Genealogy Group Further public notice came through having a stand at the Eurobodalla Show each year in the early 1990's. Norm Campbell even recruited our Federal Member one year. Similarly the Genealogy Group provided an extensive display at the 20th Anniversary of the Society at Kiora House in 1990. <i>Source Journal June 200 p.18</i></p> <p>Building Tackled long standing problem of drainage along Western wall and the dampness and state of floors of ground floor rooms. <i>Source: Newsletter no. 16 1990</i></p>
1991	<p>Genealogy Group The Pioneer endeavours of Bert and Cecily were commemorated by naming the Research Room, the "Thomas Room" in early 1991; while they were further recognised by being named Life Members of the Society. Meanwhile membership and resources continued to grow with purchases and donations of microfiche and books relating to all parts of Australia, and also to the British Isles and some other parts of the world with migrant connections. Raffles and a trading table helped with this progress, along with the encouragement and support of many members. Some ideas took time to take root. Ray Newman became involved with the journal in 1991 and asked "Should you compute your Family History"? (We are now in 2000 moving into CD-ROMs and other computer aids). <i>Source Journal June 200 p.18</i></p> <p>Building March 1991 finished new floor in dining room. Hall floor reported sagging because of rotting joists. Skirting boards will be replaced and walls redecorated. Work still to be done on outside drainage. <i>Source Newsletter 1991</i></p>
1992	<p>Genealogy Group From April 1992, with meetings now at the museum, some monthly meeting were changed from evening to afternoon. Meanwhile some rearrangement of shelves etc. was needed in the Research Room in order to accommodate the ever expanding range of books, periodicals, maps and microfiche. <i>Source Journal June 2000 p.18</i></p>
1993	<p>Genealogy Group The list of resources ran to 8 closely printed pages in March 1993, while the number of members topped 100. The same year Kate Boyce and helpers started detailed work on a register of Pioneer families in the Moruya district; which it is planned to come to fruition in 2001 with the centenary of Federation. The data base now fills several computer discs.</p>

	In September 1993 the Genealogy Group was host to Mrs. Alison Morgan who spoke about the services available through the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. <i>Source Journal June 200 p. 18</i>
1994	Genealogy Group In June 1994 the small A5 format quarterly Genie's Journal was taken over by the Society as an A4 size Historical Journal in a more professional layout. The same year, a microfilm reader was purchased to allow the Group to start a collection of resources in this format. Meanwhile monthly meetings changed to Wednesdays, but these did not flourish. Such meetings of the Group ceased for 3 years from mid 1995. The same year, Denis Woodhams was persuaded to run a series of weekly courses in Family History, organised by Eurobodalla Adult Education, but held at the Museum and using the comprehensive resources of the Research Room. <i>Source Journal June 200 p.18</i>
1994	Storage Shed Reg Endall and his crew are finishing off a storage shed at the rear of the building. This will take surplus material from the Rotary Shed <i>Source September 1994 Journal p.2</i>
1994	Floors The back hall and kitchen sub floor was dug out and the bearers replaced. Font Cliff Evans has now started on the elaborate old font which has sadly deteriorated over recent years <i>Source December 1994 Journal p.2 & 3</i>
1995	Title Deed Saga of the Deed. Deeds are held with our solicitor Wayne Boom <i>Source June 1995 Journal p. 3</i>
1995	Machinery Shed Shed built by Graham Cowdrey completed <i>Source Journal December 1995 p. 2</i> Rotary Shed Shed opened with exhibits <i>Source Journal March 1966 p.2</i>
1996	Pillars Mirror exchanged for two Granite Pillars <i>Source Journal June 1996 p. 2</i>
1998	Clock The town clock from CBC Bank unveiled 6 th May. It now hangs under the balcony and was repaired by Cliff Evans <i>Source Journal June 1998 p. 2</i>
1998	Termites White ant attack on the building. <i>Source Journal September 1998 p. 2</i> By Laws 4 main office holders tenure limited to 2 consecutive years. <i>Source September 1998 p. 2</i>
2002	Research Room Extension to the Thomas Room completed. Final cost just under \$6,000. Shire Table has been restored along with two art deco theatre seats. They are all in use in the Research Room. <i>Source Journal December 2002 p. 16</i>

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