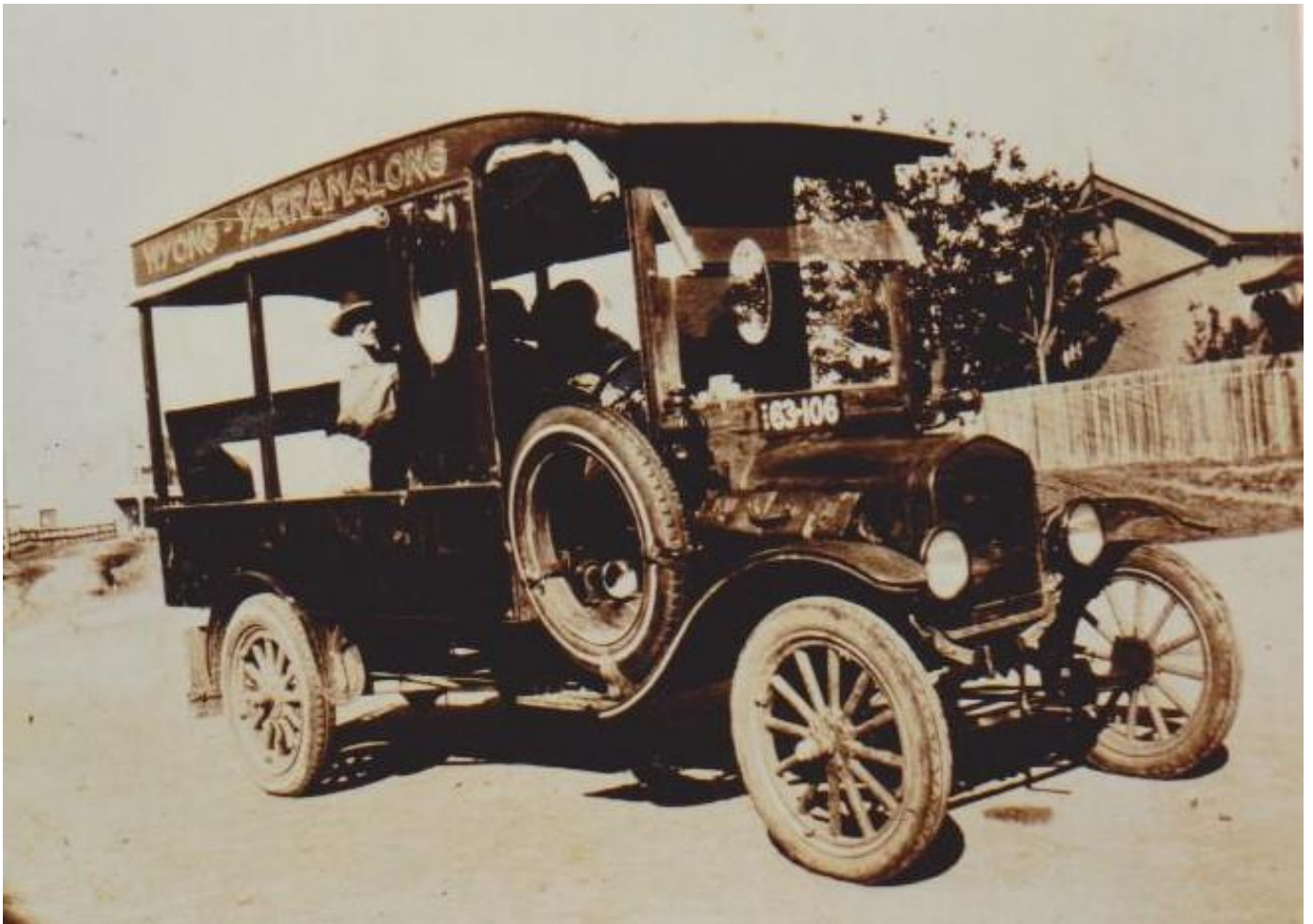


# Alison Homestead NEWSLETTER



# Contents

COVER STORY:.....	3
EDITORIAL:.....	3
WINNING SMILES.....	5
HISTORY NOTES.....	6
MEN'S SHED.....	7
VOLUNTEER IN PROFILE.....	9
CAN YOU HELP :.....	10
VISITORS:.....	10
RECIPE.....	11
XMAS GIFT IDEAS.....	12
READER CONTRIBUTION.....	13
ITEMS FO INTEREST:.....	10
VISITORS' BOOK.....	15
A DISAPPOINTMENT.....	18
HOLIDAY SEASON CLOSURE.....	18

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## COVER STORY

From a horse drawn cart plying the back roads of Wyong and Yarramalong, Palmer's coaches grew to a fleet of air conditioned buses traveling as far afield as Western Australia.

They were started by Ashley Palmer's grandfathers, George in 1912. They were known as Palmer's Valley Bus Service, and were the only form of public transport in the region for many years.

He carried mail, parcels, groceries, passengers and school children, a run into Wyong in the morning, and back out to Yarramalong in the afternoon. In those days, after school, children had to wait another hour for the train from Sydney to come in before the bus left, so they were always late home. The coaches were sprung, but with the old roads would not have been as comfortable as today's transport. . However when it rained they reverted to horses because the roads were so poor the bus could not get enough traction to climb the hills in the mud.

## EDITORIAL

Greetings once again. There has been a growing feeling of positivity at the Homestead in recent months as more and more people are coming for visits ...and bookings for lunches and other functions are on the increase.

As Spring progresses the gardens have come to life and are a blaze of diverse colours.

And as you will read shortly there have been a couple of good reasons to put smiles on the faces of the volunteers.

There are always new things on display both inside the museum and in the grounds. Two of them are particularly eye-catching. One is a huge set of **wagon wheels** painted bright red...the other is a restored **Rolandson-Tippett Crop Sprayer** which is located in the paddock on the right side of the driveway as you come in.



Another addition to the displays at the Museum is an **orange sorting machine**. Given the extensive citrus industry that thrived in the Wyong district in years gone by it serves as an excellent reminder of how tasks were performed. Volunteer **Barry Angel** undertook the restoration of this machine which is now on display in Barker's Barn.

Whilst I have said there has been a lift in spirits at the Homestead thanks to the excellent community response to what is happening here...I must also tell you there is a feeling of apprehension as the Council seems to be keeping us in the dark with regards our development application for our administration/resource building. We are feeling somewhat edgy too about our future here in view of the Council's treatment of the Kariong Progress Association which decided, based on legal advice, not to sign a new lease proposed by Council. The Association has been locked out of its hall for the past twelve months.

The Historical Society is refusing to pay Council rates dating back a few years....so we're wondering if we could be facing the same fate. We will keep you posted!

LATE NEWS !!!!! On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November as this newsletter was almost completed, the Society received notification that the development application (DA) for extensions to the Mens' Shed has been approved. All going well it's hoped the extension will be completed this year. Perhaps now we should feel more optimistic about the admin/resource building application

## WINNING SMILES

It's a wonderful thing to be able to share good news.

This year the Homestead once again entered the Scarecrow Competition conducted as part of the annual Yarramalong Valley Spring Festival and was named winner of the Traditional Category. The theme we adopted this year was the brainchild of volunteer **Pauline Mears**. Our winning display paid tribute to the Pearce family that ran a flower farm here for several decades. It depicted the Bucket (oops! Bouquet) family and was a labour of love and fun for those who took part in the construction and decoration. Pauline is already giving thought to our entry for next year.



## AND

That's not the end to our winning streak!

It's only two years since the rebuilt museum building was officially re-opened and in that time the grounds and gardens have gone through an amazing transformation spear-headed by our gardening guru **Dirk Heinemann**. The Homestead took out first place in the 2017 Wyong Garden Competition. It's good to see commitment, dedication and hard work rewarded in this way.

The publicity generated by these two wins has been invaluable to the Homestead.

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## HISTORY NOTES

Wyong.  
November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1893.

My Dear Friends,

There has been a great lot of rain <sup>here</sup> the last few days.

I went away last Friday week for a trip and I enjoyed myself much, I returned last Monday; and found no difference in Wyong. There <sup>if you like to come here</sup> is plenty of fish in the creek if you like to catch ~~them~~.

If you ~~want~~ <sup>don't</sup> like catching fish there is plenty of game about; and I <sup>am</sup> sure you could enjoy yourself some how.

I have no more to say about Wyong because it is not very large.

I remain yours truly  
~~Friend~~ F. Chapman.

## MENS' SHED

Alison Homestead is lucky to share its grounds with a Mens' Shed. Men come to the shed for friendship and to share their knowledge and expertise. They pursue their own projects, do invaluable work for Homestead and undertake work for the broader community. One project they took on recently has made an enormous difference to the life of one amazing and enterprising young woman here on the Central Coast.

Angela Flack is 29 years old and grew up on Lake Macquarie. She travelled and studied and later graduated from university with a degree in psychology. Having a long-standing food-intolerance condition, she published a book called 'Edible'. Passionate about local, sustainable farming and ecological nutrition, her book is about plant-based, dairy and gluten-free, naturally sweetened wholefoods.

When the book was published she set out on a tour around Australia doing talks and cooking demonstrations. But in 2015, in a cruel twist of fate, she became severely affected with ME (encephalomyelitis) and dysautonomia which causes malfunction of the autonomic nervous system. This causes her to become ill from simple everyday tasks like sitting, driving or walking. Her partner became her full-time carer and for a period of time she was unable to leave her house at all. She now has an electric wheelchair and thanks to the Mens' Shed is able to take it into the yard and hopes eventually to move around in the broader community.

The chaps from the mens' shed made a ramp for Angela's stairs up to her house to allow her independent access. (Her partner had up till then carried her up and down). The wonderful [\\*Eldersley Foundation](#), which has been so supportive of the Homestead, provided funding for the materials used to construct the ramp.

The first time Angela used the ramp she cried out "I'm free" causing those who were present to choke up.



If you google Edible or Angela Flack you can read more about this inspiring young woman.

P.S. Speaking of the [Eldersley Foundation](#) we are most grateful to it for a further donation which has enabled us to purchase a ride-on mower for the Homestead. This is much appreciated by the Historical Society.

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## **CAN YOU HELP?**

**Would you be prepared to sell tickets in a community raffle which is conducted each year by the Rotary Club of The Entrance ?**

**Proceeds from the sale of tickets sold by different community organisations are return to them after the draw and reconciliation of tickets sold etc. The last time the Homestead participated in this raffle we received back in excess of five hundred dollars...which was an excellent result for little effort. Tickets are available at the Museum during opening hours. You may like to take a book of tickets to sell to family, friends and neighbours. The first prize is a \$3000 open order (donated by Mingara) for travel. There are four prizes in all.**

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**The past year has seen Alison Homestead turn a positive corner as word spreads about what the place has to offer visitors.**

**Increasing numbers of people are coming to see the exhibits, view the extensive award-winning gardens and enjoy the catering offered for morning teas and lunches.**

**None of this would be possible without the combined sterling effort of all the volunteers and I would like them all to know how much I have appreciated what they have achieved. The encouraging feedback says it all and I thank everyone on the team for making the Homestead what it has become...a must see place on the Central Coast.**

**As such I look forward to 2018 with enthusiasm and optimism.**

**A merry Christmas to all of you.**

**Greg Denning**

**President**

## VOLUNTEER IN PROFILE

# Barry Angel



**Nostalgic memories this month from Barry...one of our greatest supporters and dedicated volunteers. I'm sure you will enjoy his reminiscences.**

“Memories of my neighbour Arthur Pearce and his Flower Nursery

Every spring when I see the bulbs flowering in the front paddock of Alison Homestead Museum they bring back memories of my childhood and the years when Mr Pearce lived on the property there next to my father's Dairy Farm.

Arthur had a flourishing farm and grew a large variety of blooms .Some I remember were the Statice ,Snapdragon ,Chrysanthemum, Roses , Stocks [a flower my Father hated as he suffered from hay fever when they flowered ] and more . Gladioli Bulbs were stored in the Cold Room at the Milk Factory for early planting out to be first on the market to supply.

Eventually Mr Pearce built a cold room on the property. This was attached to the Flower shed still standing today.

Flowers were sent to Sydney and Newcastle. They were packed in wooden boxes lined with newspaper. I earned pocket money by collecting newspaper from locals and Mr Pearce paid me 2-pence a pound... fortune to me at the time .

Mr Lindsay delivered the boxes of flowers on his ex Army truck to Wyong Station late Sunday afternoons in time for the markets first thing Monday morning.

The Wooden boxes would be returned by rail to Wyong Station

Although there was a well and windmill on the property, water for irrigation was also pumped from Wyong River

Some of the people I remember working there over the years, were , Ron Williams Bruce Piper, Joe Andrews ,Dick Wilkins ,Ken and Alan Bone ,Bill and Warren Lawrence and John Mackeson , Don Mavin , Brian Harris and Merv Daniels. Sorry all that I remember now .

Mrs Pearce , Arthurs Mother lived there as well at that time and sometimes would visit family in Melbourne .When she would be absent ,I earned more pocket money by cleaning the kitchen and dining room (I remember washing and having to polish the lino on the floor!) Also sweeping the verandas. Arthur would be' batching at this time and did not have the time for housework as well as the business.

Arthur supplied Wilsons Florists at Civic , Newcastle with flowers and Gladys Wilson occasionally came to stay for a weekend .To my recollection they married in the 1950,s . I still had a job tidying the house each week, prior to her arriving, each Saturday afternoon after finishing work at the Civic business.

He was always friendly towards me and occasionally gave me bulbs and plants to grow at our place.

I remember well the discussions with DMR when they wanted to resume portion of his property for an access road to our place as a result of construction of the freeway .He would not agree to them dividing the property in half and held out for a fair and reasonable settlement price for the lot .

We visited him when he moved to Buff Point and had an enjoyable time reminiscing over life in those years when he was our neighbour in what is now Cape Road Wyong and I am sure he would be delighted to see what is now Alison Homestead Museum and some of his bulbs still blooming".

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## RECIPE

If traditional is the hallmark by which you plan your Christmas lunch I hope you won't be put off by my recipe for this festive season. Living in Far North Queensland as I did for forty-odd years this cold Xmas Pudding was always a welcome offering on Xmas Day when the weather was usually hot, humid and steamy. I've added to it over the years and often made smaller ones as gifts for friends

1x 3 pint aluminium bowl

150g raisins

100g prunes

100g mixed glaze fruits (pineapple, pears, ginger, apricots)

150g sultanas

150g currants

50 g mixed peel (optional)

½ cup white rum or kirsch or brandy (or your own choice)

30g flaked almonds ( semi crushed and toasted)

50g nut toffee brittle (crushed)

1 violet crumble bar (grated)

50g dark chocolate (grated or crumbled Flake Choc bars)

50g maraschino cherries (not glaze)

3-3½ pints ice-cream (1 ½ litres)

Chop raisins, prunes, glaze fruits and mix with sultanas, currants and peel. Sprinkle with rum, cover with plastic wrap and allow to stand for several hours.

Lightly and quickly fold all ingredients into softened ice-cream to which the whipped cream has been added.

Pour into mould, cover with wrap and then foil and freeze.

For serving decorate with holly whipped cream, fruits and nuts.

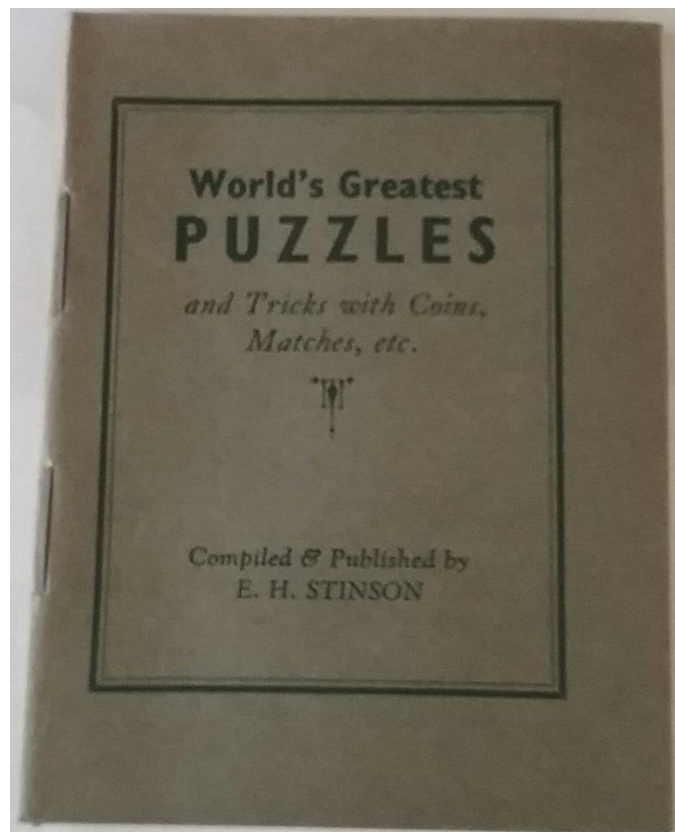
I have frozen the ingredients in 3-4 smaller containers\* and had dessert on hand at later dates.

e.g The round plastic containers that rice comes in from takeaway shops.

## XMAS GIFT IDEAS

Postage can be expensive when it comes to sending Xmas gifts...so if you are looking for something lightweight, interesting, challenging and good fun....the Museum may have just the gift you're looking for. The 'World's Greatest Puzzles' was compiled by prolific author and local historian, Edward Stinson. It's a compilation of puzzles, tricks, quizzes and trivia published for servicemen in the armed forces of WW11.

A copy of this pocket-sized booklet was given to every soldier who departed from Wyong and Gosford stations on their way to serve their country. It's available at the Homestead and is priced at \$5s. It's budget in price but rich in content. Just a note...it may be more suitable for folk raised during the pre-metric period.



Another gift idea! The Mens' Shed runs a **bicycle recycling project** for charities on the Central Coast to raise funds for tubes, cables, tools etc. The Shed has children's bikes for sale (12", 16" 20" and BMX) from \$20 to \$50.

For more information go to [rebikes101@gmail.com](mailto:rebikes101@gmail.com) or ring Alison Homestead Museum on 4352 1886 to arrange a viewing time.

## READER CONTRIBUTION

Went out for anyone who had a story or item of interest they would like to share with our newsletter readers. I was delighted to receive a response from Warwick Horner who researched and put together this touching story.

**1917**

### ***Was a Terrible Year for Wyong Soldiers in World War 1***

In 1915 when Australia went to war, Private Raymond Leslie GOLDSMITH from Hill Street Wyong (now Anzac Avenue) was there.

He landed at Gallipoli on April 25th 1915.

Goldsmith was wounded on May 19th, then further wounded by artillery shelling on July 25th and subsequently died on August 1st, 1915. He was 21 years old and was buried at Beach Cemetery, Gallipoli.

This was Wyong's first loss, but no means the last.

1917 was a bad year for Wyong.

Both sons of Wyong family, Philip and Eliza CRANE would be killed. Hector CRANE age 24 in the Somme Region of France, and Lance Corporal Robert CRANE months later age 23. His name is listed on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in the Somme.

Then John GIBSON of Kulnura was killed in Northern France (Pas de Calais) age 20.

More soldiers fell in France. Alexander O'ROURKE age 28, Albert BEAN age 20. William BOYD from Wyong Creek age 28 (grave unknown, but name listed on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial).

The main battle for the town of Villers-Bretonneux would begin in 1918.

Cecil HALL (Dooralong) died age 26 and is buried Pas de Calais Northern France.

1917 was the year of the Third Battle of Ypres.

Australian troops were to capture Passchendaele. There would be 38,000 Australian casualties and many of the Wyong fallen have no known grave, their names being listed on the memorial walls of the Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium.

They include: Richard BUCKTON (Wyong) age 25. **Sgt. Eric TATE** age 26. John ROYDE age 26 (Tacoma fisherman).

Aubrey SMITH age 28 farmer from Tuggerah buried in a British Military Cemetery near Ypres (Belgium).

Charles (Harry) BAYLE age 19 from Cedar Brush Creek was our last casualty for 1917. Buried in Northern France.

Their names, and many more, are listed on the Wyong town Cenotaph in the grounds of the old Public School in Alison Road.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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An Australian War Memorial photo of **Sergeant Eric Tate** who features in Warwick's story.

Thanks Warwick for such an interesting contribution.

P.S. If you would like to share a story that has historical links to the Wyong district you can email or post it. You will find the address at the bottom of the contents page in this newsletter.

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## ITEM of INTEREST

Recent donations to the Museum make it somewhat challenging to share just one item of interest with you in this newsletter. However I was intrigued by one piece of equipment now on display in the Stimson room. It's a **wax cylinder dictation machine** referred to commonly as a **Dictaphone** which came onto the market around 1910.

In contrast to current times when smartphones and digital cameras have built-in recording capabilities...the Dictaphone of this vintage was cumbersome to say the least. Huge, heavy and bulky I can't imagine anyone taking it to work on a train or bus in those early days of the C20th.

For its time it was expensive. When it first came on the market in the USA it cost \$US200. The average wage then was \$15...which translates to around 13 weeks full salary.

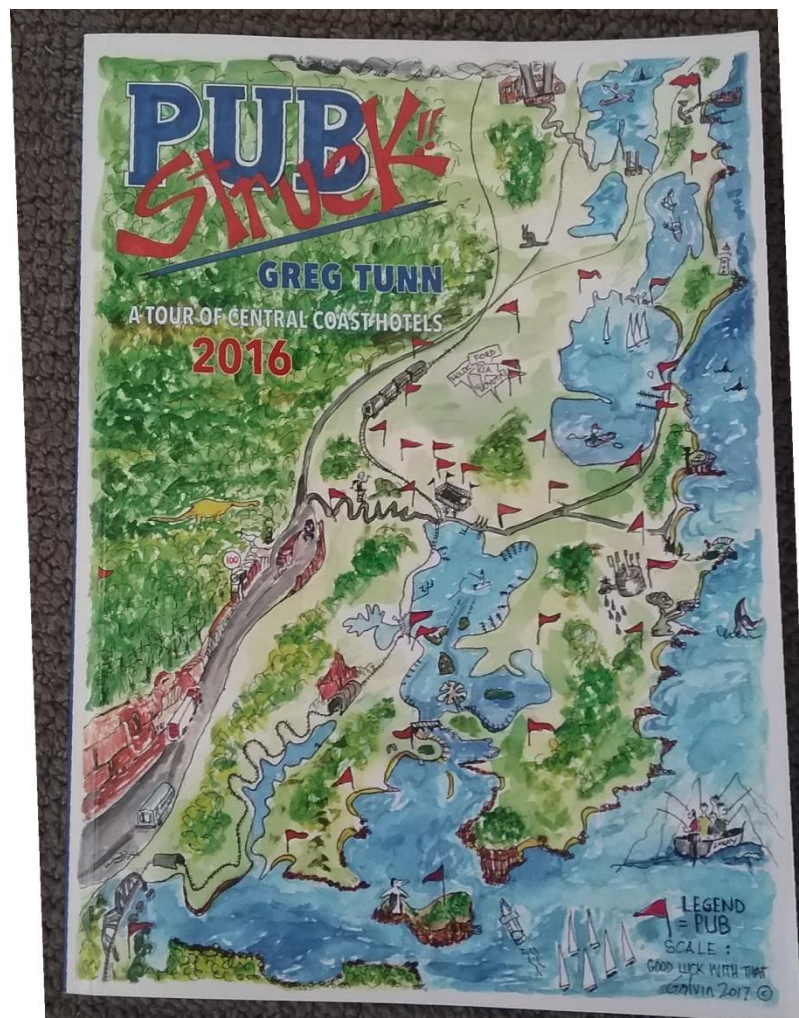


## RECOMMENDED READING

From time to time some very interesting publications are donated to the Museum that provide intriguing insights to different aspects of the history of the region in which we live.

As in so many parts of the nation, hotels here have played a big part in community development. There have been poems penned about pubs and songs written about them. More than just drinking holes they range from lavish to budget and have served multiple functions. It's not surprising they have been referred to as 'the soul of many a country town'.

Central Coast author Greg Tunn's latest book, '**PUB STRUCK 2016**'... **A Tour of Central Coast Hotels** is a fascinating read. Greg 'always felt the Aussie pub was an historic part of our national culture' and wanting to find out more about the history of the 34 hotels on the Coast, he set out on what he thought would be a two day pub crawl. Close to a year later he finished the task...and his book is a delightful tribute to the contribution these hotels have made to the development and on-going progress of our region.



## VISITORS' BOOK

The Visitors' Book continues to provide us with valuable feedback and let's us know from how far away people have come to visit the establishment. Since the last newsletter it has been gratifying to see just how many local folk are dropping in for a visit. We have also had visitors from Mexico\*, England and USA as well as a man from South Africa who was impressed at how 'well-maintained' the whole place was. Other comments were also favourable. e.g. 'an inspiration'... 'excellent historical display'... 'just wonderful' ... 'beautifully kept'... and... 'a tribute to the volunteers who have worked so hard to restore and preserve'.

Re:\* On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November the Homestead played host to a group of 20 visitors from Mexico. Members of the group were guests of the Friendship Force of the Central Coast. The F/F is an international organisation designed to enable people from around the world to explore new countries and culture from a live-in perspective. Through this home hospitality, local hosts welcome international visitors and share their culture through conversation and meals and by showing their guests the best sights and experiences of their individual regions. The group that visited us enjoyed a barbecue lunch in the Homestead grounds and the Mexican guests planted an Australian Native Tree in one of our gardens and marked the planting with a plaque.



Member for Wyong Dave Harris with two of the visitors from Mexico.



Society president Greg Denning with the visitors.

## A DISAPPOINTMENT

I'm not sure what went wrong but our planned car boot sale did not go ahead. A decision was made to cancel the event in view of the poor response to site bookings. By the deadline only ten sites were booked which was deemed an insufficient number for a successful event. Despite distributing around two thousand flyers, good coverage on radio stations and a large and excellent article in the widely-read iMag magazine...only eighteen cars of people turned up between 7am and noon on the day.

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## HOLIDAY SEASON CLOSURE

In previous years the Homestead has been closed for about 4 weeks over the Xmas/ New Year and Summer holiday period. This year will be a little different. The Museum will be closed from the 21st December until the 2nd January but plans are in place to have skeleton staff available for the following week. Should you have visiting family and friends who may like to come during that time... would you be good enough to phone first to ensure someone will be on duty. The Homestead number is 43521886.

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In closing I would like, on behalf of everyone at the Homestead, to wish you a very safe and happy festive season, and thank-you for your on-going support.

I'd like to leave you with this simple but relevant sentiment which a friend of mine saw printed somewhere in Europe earlier this year. Unfortunately I haven't been able to find out the name of the author.

**"History is a song that should be sung every day"**

Thank goodness for places like Alison Homestead!

Until next time...our best wishes

Patricia Perrett and Wal Billingham

Newsletter editors.