Passionist About Dunwich History

On Sunday May 26, 2013 Saint Paul’s of the Cross Church in Dunwich will be celebrating the 170th Anniversary of the first catholic mission to the Aborigines in Australia.

One Swiss and three Italian priests of the Congregation of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ (Passionists) established the Mission.

Raimondo Vaccari of Rome, Luigi Pesciaroli of Canepina, Mauizio Lencioni of Lucca and the Swiss Joseph Snell arrived in Dunwich in 1843.

For a variety of reasons the mission was not a success, and by 1847 each of the Passionists had left.

This year’s celebrations will include a commemorative mass in St Paul’s Church, and an unveiling of the refurbished plaque on the old Passionist mission site near the playground in Junner St.

Evelyn Parkin is compiling a community history of Catholic families on Stradbroke, and Sister Kay McFadden from the Murri Ministry and Michael Aird are putting together an exhibition of the Catholic community history.

The exhibition will be held at the Museum from May 26 to celebrate this community story, and will be installed for about a month.

In 2012, Museum worker Elisabeth Gondwe gained a professional exchange and mentorship scholarship from Museum and Gallery Services Qld, with Robyn Hofmeyr from the Ration Shed Museum in Cherbourg.

Over the past year, Elisabeth and Robyn have been visiting each other’s Museums, to learn about the professional practices of the organisations, and observe different approaches to their community engagement programs.

“We attended a Kabi Kabi Fibre Culture repatriation workshop over a weekend in February. This was the culmination of a year-long project undertaken by Mimburri Aboriginal Association, involving research and repatriation of traditional Sunshine Coast basket making techniques,” said Elisabeth.

“Robyn and I used this opportunity to sit and talk as we wove baskets. It was our first meeting this year. We have planned our next visits to each of our museums.”

Lisa Jackson and Elisabeth will be visiting the Ration Shed Museum in the coming months to learn about their educational programming.

Right: Elisabeth Gondwe and Robyn Hofmeyr at Mimburri Upper Mary Aboriginal Association.

Left: NSIHM staff Lisa Jackson and Elisabeth Gondwe being presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Acting Principal of Dunwich State School Murray Taylor, along with some of the Year 3 students who were involved in the Museums school programs last year.

The Museum website now has information about the different programs and activities we can offer visiting school groups, and we hope to continue expanding these options this year.

Check out www.stradbroke museum.com.au

Right: Elizabeth Englebrecht, a great-granddaughter of Oodgeroo Noonuccal, has started working at the Museum two days a week, assisting Oodgeroo Collection Custodian Petrina Walker.

Elizabeth is a tertiary student, and is very excited about the opportunity to work with the Collection.

In July 2012, we commenced a three year project to digitize and provide public access to the Oodgeroo Collection, made possible by a generous bequest from the Jani Hanke Charitable Trust.

Right: Elizabeth is pictured here in the Museum Reading Room with Oodgeroo’s portrait.
Our new Online Heritage Trail has been updated adopting Google mapping technology.

Museum members Kate and Jonathan Hodge volunteered many hours of their time and expertise to create the new Online Heritage Trail, with the help of a Google Earth Outreach Grant. Together with input from Museum staff, the new site now has information and historical photos of all the Heritage Trail sites across the Island.

“The back-end technology we used to create the Trail has only been recently launched by Google”, said Jonathan. “Using Google Maps, you can navigate around the Island and zoom into particular areas to see photos of that place from the Museum collection, and experience how it has changed through time.”

The website is based on the NSI Heritage Trail pamphlet that is widely distributed by the Redland City Council, with the easily recognisable green signs located all over the Island. The Online Heritage Trail will eventually be able to be accessed from mobile phones, making it a valuable tool for visitors to the Island.

You can find the new Heritage Trail from the link on the front page of our website at www.stradbrokemuseum.com.au

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

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**AMITY DAY**

Everyone is invited to a special morning tea at the Amity Community Hall, on **Wed May 1** at 10.30am. We will have some of the Museum’s collection from Amity on display, and we would love to have local Amity people come along and share any stories, photos, documents or artifacts.

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**CEMETERY TOURS**

To help celebrate Qld Heritage Week, the Museum will hold historical walks through the Dunwich Cemetery on **Wednesdays April 24, May 1, May 8, and May 15**.

Meet at the Flinders Avenue entrance at 10am. Come along and learn more about the long and interesting history buried beneath....

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**MUSEUMS ALIGHT!**

Held all over the world on the same night, Museums Alight is a chance to experience museums in a social setting. This year’s theme is “Museums (memory + creativity) = social change.” Come along from 6pm—8pm on **Friday May 18** for wine, cheese and something creative and fun!

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**Volunteers Morning Tea**

Ever wondered what being a Museum volunteer is all about? On **Friday March 22** on 9.30am, we are holding a morning tea for all our wonderful volunteers, and we would love to see some new faces.

Come and see how the Museum works from the inside out. Give Lisa a ring on 3409 9699 or drop the Museum an email if you would like to come, so we can make sure we have a piece of cake and some relevant information for you. **Everyone Welcome!**
Museum Musings

2013 got off to a flying start. The Museum was busy as usual over the holiday break both at Dunwich and at the Point Lookout Markets. There was a wider variety of market stalls than in previous years, and people seemed to linger longer. We are always glad to see browsers spending time at our table and we get into some interesting conversations. Quite a few then take the drive to Dunwich for our Sunday opening hours.

The Christmas raffle was most successful and the winners were:

- **1st Prize** - return barge ticket from Stradbroke Holidays: B Smith, Amity Point
- **2nd Prize** - Seafood voucher & wine from NSIHM & E Jarvis: B McKinnon, Pt Lookout
- **3rd Prize** – Crocheted rug & slippers from J Smith & C Millar: D Guy, Gympie

Thanks to all donors and supporters.

Museums have strict policies when it comes to the lending of artifacts, but we were only too happy to recently lend Thomas Welsby’s branding iron to the Museum of Brisbane for a display on Moreton Bay that opens at their new premises in the refurbished Brisbane City Hall in April. A prolific author, Thomas Welsby also had salvage rights over many shipwrecks and this iron, bearing the initials T.W. was thought to have been used in marking ownership on salvage items. We look forward to seeing the exhibition at the City Hall.

Barbara Smith

Best Dressed

The Museum has an active program of ‘contemporary collecting’, where we gather photographs, stories and artifacts of current events and issues. The story of the changing face of a local grass tree is just one example:

“The grass tree had stood with its family in the bush alongside the Beehive Rd into Amity for years. Nobody could have foreseen how that would change so dramatically when the verges were widened to create a fire-break. Somehow the grass tree survived to stand in complete isolation.

Then, as Christmas approached one year, a few decorations appeared on the lonely tree. People began to look twice as they passed and smile. It seemed such a nice touch for the festive season. As the years progressed, the decorations were either removed or blown away in the wind, until Christmas came around again. Then there was another setback. A burn-off nearby severely burned the grass tree and there even appeared to be slashes across the trunk. These plants regenerate after fire, but this seemed too much. However the rains eventually came and the little brown stubs on top gradually turned green and grew longer and longer. Survival once more.

As if in reward, the Christmas decorations for 2012 were a sight to behold – it was the best-dressed tree on the Island.

Barbara Smith

Bob and Bindi Bowl In!

The Museum was excited to host the Irwin family—Terri, Bindi and Bob, with a group of Australia Zoo Joey Ambassadors recently. The children spent a day on the Island learning about koalas and helping with a beach clean-up, and found time to pop into the Museum for a look around.

Barbara Smith

Right: Bob and Bindi are pictured with the Joey Ambassadors on the Big Red Cat.