

Port Macquarie Museum  
22 Clarence Street,  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Phone: (02) 6583 1108

Web: [www.pmhm.org.au](http://www.pmhm.org.au)

Email: [portmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:portmuseum@gmail.com)

**PORT MACQUARIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.**

Patron: Mr Keith Uptin OAM



## *President's Report*

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A belated Happy New Year to you all! A new year and a new masthead for our Newsletter. As this year will see the bicentenary of the visit of John Oxley and Phillip Parker King to survey the river (especially the entrance), it seemed appropriate to select one of King's watercolours from his sketchbook for our masthead. Although much has changed since 1819, the view is still clearly identifiable. (You can view the sketchbook online at the website of the NSW State Library.)

And a happy new year it is indeed, with two nice big announcements. One you will have read about in the local newspapers—a grant of \$113,965 from the State Government's Regional Cultural Fund. Added to the \$10,000 granted by the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (plus some of our own money), this will enable us to employ leading museum and architectural specialists to assist us develop a master plan for the improvement of our heritage-listed site, with a significant expansion of our exhibition and storage spaces, as well as bringing our facilities up to date in terms of accessibility and efficiency. Although we are still waiting to receive and sign the official grant documents (and the first instalment), we have already scheduled the first visit by consultants for the last week of March, with a view to finalising the plan well before the end of the year. Then we can begin the work of seeking the necessary approvals, getting detailed architectural plans drawn up, and finding the mega-funds we will ultimately need.

The number of visitors over the holiday period has been very encouraging, especially during the first two weeks. Equally, if not more, encouraging, has been the very positive, and, indeed, enthusiastic comments many have left in the Visitors Book (you should read some of them on your next visit to the museum). Added to our knowledge of what we don't have on display (and how cramped some of our storage is—see the picture to the right), this supports our determination to keep on moving ahead and get these improvements.

The second big announcement was that Annabella Boswell's papers have been approved for inscription in the UNESCO Australian Memory of

the World Register, joining such other important documentary collections as the First Fleet journals, the Australian Agricultural Company papers, etc. This recognises the importance of Annabella's papers (the letters she collected and her paintings and drawings, as well as her journals) in documenting aspects of Australian history and life. It is also another recognition of the national significance of some of the materials in our collections. The formal announcement will be made at a date yet to be fixed, so we are delaying a local press release until then (we haven't done badly for press coverage so far this year, anyway).

If you visit the museum you might notice that a small part of the ceiling boards in the Foundation Room (above the door from the foyer) have been removed to allow inspection of the joist, as we are concerned about some movement in the floor above. We are now awaiting an engineer's inspection and report, but anticipate it will be necessary to install some further support. We will keep you informed as we know more.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing many of you at our Summer Picnic in the garden (at this time of the year, more pleasant in the evening), and at our General Meeting on Friday (I won't be able to stay afterwards, as I have to take my house-guest back to Leura).

*Clive*



Leslie Williams with Debbie Sommers and Clive Smith, visited on 18 January to announce our Regional Cultural Fund Grant

## 2019 Seniors Festival

The NSW Seniors Festival will be held earlier than usual this year, from 13 to 24 February. This year's theme is **'Love your life'**.



We are offering our usual Open House with free entry for seniors from Monday 11 to Saturday 23 February, and with the support of a \$860 NSW Seniors Festival Grant, through the Department of Family and Community Services, we are hosting another creative collaborative exhibition. The specially curated exhibition **'Where we call home'** will feature creative artworks and photographs by Omicare Alliance Creative Connection Program clients facilitated by Lisa Hort, Creative Ageing Practitioner, Port Macquarie U3A textile and fibre artists, and Port Macquarie U3A photography group. **'Where we call home'** explores the concept of place, identity and belonging and how home connects us to physical spaces, environment, people and things that are important to us. We encourage you to come along and view the exhibition which will be on display until 30 March.

The exhibition will be officially opened by Leslie Williams, Member for Port Macquarie on Monday 11 February 2019 at 5.00pm. Members are invited to come along and meet the artists and/or their families and carers. Please RSVP by Thursday 7 February by writing your name on the noticeboard booking sheet, by phone to 02 6583 1108 or by email to [pmmuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:pmmuseum@bigpond.com). Refreshments will be served.

## 2019 NSW Women's Week

The inaugural NSW Women's Week will be held this year from 3 to 9 March to coincide with **International Women's Day** on 8 March. To celebrate Women's Week we will be hosting a public lecture titled **'Her Stories'** by Heritage and Museums consultant **Kylie Winkworth** on **Wednesday 6 March commencing at 11.00am at Port City Bowling Club**. Kylie will share women's stories from numerous history, cultural and collection projects across the State and locally. **'Her Stories'** will reflect on the changing role of women in Australia over the past 200 years, on the advances made in women's participation in the broader community and workforce, and the under representation of women in our history pages.

**'Her Stories'** will be delivered as an interactive lecture to share women's stories and how they have shaped or been overlooked in the historical record of our State. Attendees are encouraged to bring along a women's object to talk about. There will be an opportunity to talk informally with Kylie after the lecture over a coffee or lunch. The lecture is free to attend. Lunch or coffee will be at attendee's own expense. The lecture is open to everyone. Bookings are essential, as places are limited. (See list on noticeboard or email us.)

The **'Her Stories'** lecture is being supported by the NSW Government with a 2019 Women's Week Grant through the Department of Family and Community Services. Our event was one of only 36 events funded from 361 applications.



Kylie Winkworth

## 2018 Christmas Lunch

Our Members' Christmas Lunch was held at Port Macquarie Golf Club on Tuesday 4 December 2018. The occasion was well attended, although a few regular faces were unable to attend due to illness. It was an enjoyable afternoon with a hotly contested trivia competition after the meal and lots of chocolates. Thanks to Gerald Billing and the social committee for another well organised social event.



A rose between two thorns: Peter Gibbs, Heather Williams & Peter Williams



My name is Sue: Sue Bulmer, Sue Trotter & Sue McQuaid



Good Friends: Lynda Turner, Lorraine Lyne & Margaret Blight



History Interests: Gerald Billing, Richard Grimmond & David Allen



Quiet Achievers: Bill and Enid Dawson



Coordination: Carolyn Bittar, Lil Andrews & Joe Davis



Daytime Diners: Camilla Rayner, Clive Smith & Louise Rakowski



Look Right: Marilyn Liddell, Jenny Delroy & Chris Hart



Festive Bling: Shirley Gamack, Lyn Rowland & Carolyn Bittar



Seachangers: Tony Dawson & Fred Hyne



Influencers: Chris Hart & Judith Hansen



Tuesday Trio: Jim Forbes, Graham Strachan & Gerald Billing



Claus Couple:  
Yvonne & Rex Toomey



Close Catch Up:  
Margaret Blight & Debbie Sommers



Santa & Friend: Anne & Frans Oud



Guns & Roses: Dennis & Margaret Piltz

## Ten Year Service Award

Jo Mills couldn't make the Christmas Lunch but she didn't miss out on her ten year service award. President Clive Smith presented Jo with her certificate on 5 December 2018 whilst she was working at the front desk.

Congratulations and thanks Jo.



## Society Diary Dates

### January

**Wednesday 30 January**  
5.30pm for 6.00pm  
Mid Summer Picnic

### February

**Friday 1 February**  
10.00am General Meeting

### Sunday 3 February

11.00am to 3.00pm  
First Sunday Free

### Monday 11 February

5.00pm Exhibition Opening  
'Where we call home'  
NSW Seniors Festival

### Monday 11 to Saturday 23 February

Open House for Seniors  
NSW Seniors Festival

### March

#### Sunday 3 March

11.00am to 3.00pm  
First Sunday Free

#### Wednesday 6 March

11.00am  
'Her Stories' Talk by Kylie Winkworth  
Port City Bowling Club

**Reminder:** General meetings are held quarterly. The next meeting is in February. Note, meeting time is now 10.00am.

## Our Supporters



Supported by the



### Contributors this Month:

Clive Smith  
Terry Sara  
Debbie Sommers  
Compiled by: Anne Oud



Australian Government

## Our Achievements

WORKING TOWARDS



NORTH COAST  
**HALL OF FAME 2018**  
cultural Tourism