

MUSEUM CELEBRATIONS.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FORMATION.

On 20th June, 1975, a meeting was held to discuss the formation of a historical society steering committee. Those present were: J Penson, G Miller, Dr Joan Renshaw, N Avery, B Higgins B & C Kingcott, M Mayers, V Amata, G Johnston, N Roberts and L J Constable. On the 10th November, 1975 a motion by Mrs Godwin and seconded by Keith Dee that the steering committee attendee's be listed as Foundation Members. Keith Dee, Sister M Wright, Sister Patricia, Vivian Wright and Mrs Nicholas were added to the list.

President: Mr Mick Constable

Vice President: Mr G Godwin, Mr B Higgins and Mr Miller

Secretary: Mrs N Roberts

Treasurer: Mrs V Amata

Patrons: Mrs M Wright and Mrs A Piper

On the 1st March, 1976 the historical society was named The Wallamba and District Historical Society. A block of land became available in Capel Street Tuncurry from the Department of Lands and also acquired was the National Bank in Forster, which was to be replaced. The building was cut in half and transported across the bridge, put in place, given new foundations and rejoined to become the main museum to house their growing collection of artifacts and historical data, with the main themes of timber-getting, ship building and fishing, the 3 main industries of the pioneer families.

One of the founding members, Mick Constable and his many volunteers were instrumental in setting up the museum and he also designed the logo for the society and started the first newsletter.

The Aims and Objectives of the Society were:

- . To encourage the study of the history of the Great Lakes District
- . To promote the safe keeping of authentic records relating to the Great Lakes District
- . To publish journals, books and publications
- . To acquire and preserve artifacts and other such objects and materials having a bearing on the Great Lakes history
- . To establish and maintain a museum, library and picture gallery in honour of the pioneer families of the district.

During the 1980's considerable work was carried out by the members of the Historical Society to convert the bank building into a museum. On the 5th April, 1987 the museum was opened to the public during Heritage week.

Keith Dee donated the original Tuncurry School building, which was taken to Minimbah in 1924 and was moved in 1984, after all those years to the museum site. The next addition in 1986 was the Cheers' cottage, built in 1948 by Joe Cheers and moved from Peel Street Tuncurry to its new site adjacent to the renovated bank building. The two buildings were joined with a veranda and centre walkway. In 1990 the Sinclair family donated the lock-up which was attached to the Tuncurry Police Station (1949-1959) and used to hold offenders overnight who were waiting judgement. The Southern Cross

Windmill was donated by the Mead Family and was transported from their farm at Darawank. The flagpole was first used as a mast on the tugboat " John Gollan" built in Tinonee in 1889. It also has history in the fishing industry in Tuncurry which is another story to be told. With the later addition of the machinery shed, saddlery and landscaped grounds, the museum became an interesting and pleasant place for visitors.

On the 21st November, 1997 stage 2 of the museum was opened to the public. On the 29th November, 1997 the society name was changed to **The Great Lakes Historical Co-Operative Society LTD**. Over the years the Museum continues to grow, thanks to the efforts of the Society's small band of members dedicated to preserving the history of our great area.

