Clarence River Advocate

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Wreck of "Buster" revealed Photo by Brendan Ray

MACLEAN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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EDITORIAL...

Our year has started off already as being busier than ever. Our website has been updated, research enquiries are rolling in, new computers installed and a revised edition of "Maclean and the Scottish Connection" published.

Our museum is bursting at the seams and new displays have been planned – watch this space.

This issue has been compiled by the computer group, mainly through the skills of Nancy Weir.

Our Editor, Muriel Bowler, has relinquished her role. We would like to thank her for her dedication, hard work and apologise for the frustration we may have caused her in getting articles ready on time! Thank you, Muriel.

MACLEAN ON THE MOVE

Maclean can be readily termed a town that is beginning to move. The prosperity of the surrounding districts is now beginning to be reflected. There is a steady demand for town allotments, and already arrangements are being made for the erection of a number of buildings.

The business people have awakened to the necessity of catering for the large and important outlying districts, instead of allowing the trade to go into outside sources.

Daily Examiner 8 January 1910

CHAPTER MEETING AND WORKSHOP

Members recently attended a Chapter Meeting of the North Coast Chapter of Museum and Galleries Australia held at Port of Yamba Historical Society's Museum. After the meeting a very enjoyable workshop on Paper Conservation was presented by Margaret Juraszek from the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.

BUSTER

In May 2009, Ron and I visited the skeletal remains of "Buster", which was uncovered during the April heavy seas south of Woolgoolga Lake entrance.

Buster was a wooden barquentine (3 masts with square rigged on the foremast) built in Nova Scotia in 1844, and registered in Sydney in 1888.

Buster arrived in Woolgoolga Bay to pick up a load of timber. She intended to haul alongside the jetty the following morning, so both anchors were put down and 2 hawsers were attached to the Government buoy. During the night, heavy seas, came up. Her anchors and hawsers parted, and Buster was wrecked on Woolgoolga Beach, 17 February 1893. There were 10 crew and passengers on board but no one was lost or hurt.



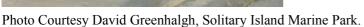




Photo Ron Switzer, Buster 2009.

For further details see Pg 72 "Woolgoolga – Past & Present" by Neil Yeates.

Page 8, "Heritage NSW" – Vol 17 No. 2 Summer 2009. Acknowledgement for front cover "Shipwreck Buster". Photo by Brendan Ray of Skyview Photography Woolgoolga, won Silver Award published in the Daily Examiner. Our thanks for your generosity, Brendan.

"THEY ALSO SERVED....."

Most Australians greeted the start of World War 1 with enthusiasm and there was wide support for the "Mother" country's position. Newspapers, churches, politicians and community leaders were equally supportive, and there was a rush to enlist. My grandfather was no exception. However, only the fittest and the healthiest were recruited. He tried to enlist at Berrigan in the Riverina (he was working there as a solicitor's clerk) only to be declared "unfit for Active service for the following reasons, Varicocele, teeth". From this we presume his teeth were bad and he had varicose veins in a delicate part of his anatomy!



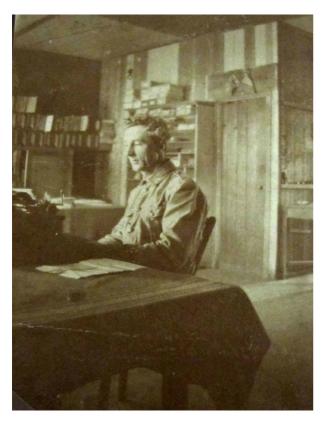
But there was always another role- that of "Home Guard"- or in this case, as a guard at an internment camp (he served, we believe, at Holsworthy, (Liverpool) where up to 7000 so-called enemy aliens were interned. How or when he applied and was trained, we do not know.

Viv Wand- Photo taken by Rupert Kaye, The Strand

There has been ample documentation of soldiers and their overseas service, also documentation of enemy aliens and camp procedures, but the only reference I can

find about guards is in the document "Standing Orders Liverpool Concentration Camp" on the website of the National Archives of Australia. Here it is stated that the staff of the camp consisted of "One Major, Commandant, one Lieut. Quartermaster, Four Lieuts, Officers of the Guard, one Staff Sergeant Major, one German Quartermaster, one German Quartermaster Sergeant, and 16 NCOs. of the Guard, 150 trainees of the 34th Infantry, 2 Sergeants, 1 Corporal and 6 men, Army Medical Corps." Since he was photographed in Sergeant's uniform, he must have been either an NCO at the time of writing that report or one of the 2 sergeants mentioned. Camps were run along military lines, although some were very lenient.

The term "Internment Camp" did not quite have the connotations that they attracted after World War 2 - on the whole it seems they were similar to low or medium security prisons, except at Holsworthy where the security and discipline was much more severe. Holsworthy had Italians, Slavs, Japanese as well as Germans and while at first was a collection of tents, it later became a collection of small huts complete with cafes and theatres, an orchestra and sporting fields, Physical conditions however were tough and living conditions were cramped and unsanitary. A strict timetable was adhered to at Holsworthy- roll call at 6.30 am and after bed at 9pm, at 9.30 pm the camp had to be quiet. Work details filled in the day. Work consisted of "grubbing, clearing, trench work." Correspondence was "censored, both inward and outward, by the Commandant, and newspapers are not allowed,"



Caption on reverse of photo reads:" Viv at Intelligence Office, Liverpool, 1915"

Perhaps this is where my grandfather worked, censoring mail and other "intelligence" work

Initially only those born in countries at war with Australia were interned, but this was later widened to encompass those who were naturalised British citizens. The 1911 census showed that there were nearly 34,000 German born residents, mainly in

Queensland and South Australia, and many of Italian extract as well. When you note that Holsworthy was the biggest camp in Australia, it seems that most German and Italian nationals living in Australia escaped public notice and persecution. However not all did.

It is interesting to note the fear that German residents provoked at the time and many prominent German–Australians were interned- e.g. Edmund Resch, the Sydney brewer, who had been in Australia for 50 years; and some were interned for the duration at the same time as their sons were serving and being injured or even killed while fighting

for Australia. Many place names were changed. Germantown, NSW became Holbrook and Germantown Vic became Grovedale. Many more place names in S. Australia were changed also (see* below) although Hahndorf (which became Ambleside) was later changed back to Hahndorf in the 1930's.

Here on the Clarence River where many German families settled, there seemed to have been a much more relaxed attitude towards the German members of the community. None of them were interned, and many young men enlisted using their German names, and serving overseas, some with distinction.

As a child, I was always under the impression that my grandfather had been gassed in the First World War (he had tremors among other symptoms) but after I found his application for enlistment had been rejected, and found the photo (see above) I decided to look further. No records exist that I can find so far, of the Home Guard, but for all that, I am proud of his service, even if it was not an illustrious one showing overseas duty and medals! I have found that his tremors were symptoms of Parkinson's Disease, and can only surmise that he was ashamed of not having been among those who served overseasperhaps the Government did not value his service either.

*www.ach.familyhistorysa.info/germanplacenames

Carolyn Cameron (nee Wan	id)

APPEARANCE OF METEOR

A meteor of great brilliance was witnessed at Yamba on Sunday, which travelled from an easterly to westerly point. Its flight, which occurred at about 9 o'clock, quite startled a number of people, for during the time of its appearance the sky was brilliantly illuminated.

Daily Examiner, January 6, 1910

MACLEAN PARK

MACLEAN PARK – The recreation reserve recently named the Maclean Park is, under the management of the Council, being rapidly converted into a favourite place of public resort, and one worthy of the designation of a park. The site has an area of 16½ acres, is admirably situated on the bank of the South Arm, and is easy of access from the centre of population. A natural brush borders the riverbank, through which circuitous paths or tracks have been cut, which meet and cross each other, forming an intricate maze.

A natural streamlet separates the brush from the open land, which is spanned in several places by rustic bridges. It is intended to place seats at the most picturesque places, and several have already been promised gratuitously. Considering the limited means at the Council's disposal (as the ratepayers money cannot be used for such purpose) it has during the past few weeks made this an attractive spot, and one that must prove a benefit to the townspeople for recreation purposes. It is the intention to formally open the park on Boxing Day, and the Mayors and ex-Mayors of Grafton and Ulmarra have been invited to take part in the ceremony for which a suitable programme is being prepared.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner Tuesday December 20, 1892.



LOWER CLARENCE

BUSINESS CHANGES – Mr J H Harris who has conducted a cabinet making and undertaking business in Maclean for the past 16 years, has just disposed of the same to Mr Dugald Macdonald, and it is this gentleman's intention to carry on the undertaking in conjunction with his already extensive furnishing business. Mr Macdonald has also been in business in Maclean for some years, and the reputation he has earned is a sufficient guarantee that this new branch of his business will be conducted in a proper manner.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner Saturday May 4, 1895

THOMAS COWPER

Thomas Cowper b.1802 at Yorkshire (son of William Cowper, Archdeacon at St Phillips Sydney and Hannah Horner), married 1852 to Eliza Small.

Thomas Cowper was the first teacher at Tyndale Provisional School, 1868 to 1882. He ceased teaching (aged 81) when Tyndale became a Public School.

From a chapter on Lynch the infamous bushranger:

The series of atrocious murders committed by Lynch, who was hanged at Berrima Gaol in 1844, form about the most blood-curdling chapter of horrors in our history. He confessed to having killed at least nine people

......On the road Lynch fell in with "Cobbawn Jack" (a man named Ireland) and a blackboy, who were in charge of a horse team belonging to the last Mr Thomas Cowper (brother of Sir Charles Cowper), which was bound for Sydney with a freight of cheese and bacon, etc., for sale. Lynch journeyed along in their company, and one night at their camp at Razorback near Picton, under the pretence of looking for the straying horses of the team, he took the blackboy with him, and at the first opportunity, killed the lad with a single blow of his deadly tomahawk. Returning to the camp, he induced "Cobbawn Jack" to also join in the "search" for the horses, and at a favourable moment gave the man his deathblow. He then burned the two bodies, and, yoking the team, the

miscreant made tracks for Sydney, intending to sell the property and pocket the proceeds. Near Liverpool, however, to Lynch's surprise, he was met by Mr Cowper, the owner of the team. To Cowper's inquiry, Lynch said that Ireland and the boy had gone into the bush after whiphandles, and he was only driving the team until they overtook him. Mr Cowper, strange to say, accepted this story, and on leaving, told Lynch that he would expect the team at a certain place in Sydney on an appointed day. Lynch, however, travelling day and night, to Sydney long before the date appointed, and having quickly disposed of the team and produce, he started up country again......

Gordon Thompson, Research Officer, Goulburn and District Historical Society

Information from Robyn Hosking.

IN BYGONE DAYS

ILLICIT LIQUOR TRADING STILLS ON THE CLARENCE (By D McFarlane)

Reference has been made in the articles on Clarence early history to the unlicensed vending of spirituous liquor, familiarly designed "sly grog selling". That this was practised freely in bygone days is undoubted, and in newly-settled country the dispensing of undutiable spirits is a common offence. But the Clarence was no more guilty of this transgression of the law than many other portions of the State, and this is still borne out by the penalties imposed weekly in Sydney itself for breaches of licensing enactments.

Some forty years ago, the resident excise officer at Grafton repeatedly declared that the grog consumption of the district exceeded what was represented in the genuine importation of revenue produced spirits. He could not however, account for the apparent leakage, nor was there any detection of the disposal of contraband liquor revealed by officers of the law. Reports were circulated that molasses, the by product of the sugarcane, were converted into rum by illicit distillation, and in one or two instances these received confirmation.

A primitive type of still was discovered in the direction of the Lake, on the Lower Clarence, leading to apprehension of the party on whose property the apparatus was found. In due course, the matter was investigated in the Grafton Police Court, and the appliance for spirit manufacture was an exhibit in the case. To the uninitiated the invention appeared quite of innocent looking construction, yet the intention of the builder was obvious.

Court officials scrutinised the mechanism of the home made still, wondering if such a simple looking machine could possibly convert mildflavoured molasses into over proof rum. It was explained that the full plant was not produced and it did not appear from evidence that it had been long in operation. Detection probably through the medium of an informer was prompt and effective, and penalty with confiscation wound up the distilling business in this secluded portion of the Lower Clarence. But in the vicinity of a fairly densely populated centre a more description of still conducted an pretentious active trade manufacturing liquid from the cane by product. The plant was situated in the midst of a cane field, the surrounding crop sufficing as a screen to conceal for a time, at least, the operation of rum making. The molasses were obtained from a mill in the near vicinity, but the fact of the manufacture being carried on in such close proximity to population and traffic, warranted that detection could not be long evaded.

It came in due course with the natural result, and another illegal still had its career closed by legal intervention.

It was reported that some engaged in the transformation of molasses into grog managed to evade the excise officers and police, scoring success financially by the sale of undutiable spirits.

A certain creek on the North Arm was freely mentioned as a locality where hot flavoured brew was turned out for years in quantity. It is even averred that topers at the bar showed a preference for this firey brand, by asking for a glass of ----'s Creek rum.

But whatever may be revealed by the books of traders in liquor, police courts contain no records of prosecutions for distillation breaches of the law by residents of the aforementioned North Arm tributary, the name of which was long associated with clandestine rum making. Broadwater was also credited with turning out liquor on the wrong side of the legal statute.

Then there was the illicit sale of liquor on which duty had been paid. Prior to the licensing of hotels in the district intoxicants could be obtained in plenty as evidenced by the amount of drunkenness to be

seen. Orgies were common amongst the cedar cutters when their rafts were converted into cash at the Settlement.

There was less excuse for shanty running when public-houses were opened; still the practice did not cease, and well known business men who need not be named added to their profits by retailing grog, chiefly rum, a spirit that was popular in the early days of settlement.

It was even asserted by the initiated that the superior brand of liquor was disposed of in unlicensed houses. Very seldom did a conviction occur, though it was an open secret that certain places vended liquor, mainly per bottle. Obtainable better in quality and cheaper in price, it was not likely that customers would assume the role of informers, an act that would entail on themselves the utmost contempt.

Gradually the shanty trade vanished to a minimum, and as licensed houses multiplied almost abnormally, even with the rapid increase of population.

Trafficking in spirits became restricted to legitimate sale at the bar.

The opening of the goldfields at Solferino and Nana Creek for a few years created a revival in sly grog selling and at the actual scene of operations as well as at certain stages enroute from Grafton forbidden refreshments could be purchased by the weary traveller or the lucky, as well as the luckless digger. The wayside shanties while not carrying signage of the trade that was conducted therein, such became familiar to patrons, a kind of bush telegraphy conveying reliable yet secret, information as to their situation.

Seldom did the night overtaken lodger make a mistake, if he asked for a liquor appetiser with his meal, or a "doch and dorish" ere retiring. Eventually the informer appeared on the scene tempted by the reward attached to conviction procured through his agency. At Nana Creek a 30 pound penalty was secured against a trader in illegal selling of liquor while on the routes named. A number of shanty keepers faced legal music at Grafton, with the result that their grog selling profits were reduced materially by fines.

The police acted promptly on the reports by the informer, whose identity beyond a suspicion was not disclosed, and who annexed the prescribed portion of the penalties as his reward. One of the shanty proprietors on

the Solferino highway had a narrow escape from conviction. His accommodation establishment was duly placed in the list of suspected sly grogeries supplied by informer to police. Two of the guardians of law and order arrived at the wayside domicile one evening and asked for lodgings which were provided.

As the constables were in plain clothes they were naturally taken for ordinary travellers to the goldfields. They made themselves most agreeable, and returned shouts with fellow lodgers, the evening proving entertaining to all concerned.

On proceeding to the stable to attend to the equines, the proprietor was joined by one of the boarders, who, viewing the animals at the stall, identified one as a horse he had disposed of to the police force at Grafton. He immediately informed the man of the house of the fact and his suspicion was confirmed by further discovery in the saddle bags. In the morning after breakfast, there was a general squaring up, each lodger loyally honouring his liability. When the police received their bill for man and horse maintenance, they noticed that grog items were eliminated from the score. On drawing the attention of Boniface to the omission, he replied with a significant shake of the head that he never charged the police for liquor. The information miscarried in this instance both Crown and informer missing their dues.

But sly grog selling on the Clarence is practically a back number. The facilities for its prosecution do not exist, supervision is too rigid to successfully conduct unlicensed spirit selling, penalties are severe on offenders, and further there is not nearly nowadays the craze for imbibing intoxicants that existed in the period above reviewed.

Daily Examiner Wednesday March 25, 1925

MARGARET CAMERON



Margaret Cameron, was aged 2, when she emigrated to Australia, with her parents on the "Brilliant". She was registered as "Peggy" in the official records.

Duncan Cameron, her father, and her mother Isabella McLaughlan, first settled as tenants at

"Castle Forbes" near Singleton. The family moved to the Clarence River, and settled at "The Brook", Southampton Creek near South Grafton, near Cameron relatives, at "Strone" and "Solitude".

Margaret Cameron was a teacher at the Provisional School at Brushgrove. While at Brushgrove she lived with Mrs Warrell and Mrs Foggo. She later moved to Grafton and taught at the school, run by Allan Cameron, a relative.

Margaret married in Maclean in 1873 to Donald Gillies, son of Angus Gillies and Marion McAskill, emigrant on "Ontario". They had 2 children, Marion Margaret Gillies b 1876 who married Matthew Henry Lowe, and Donald Duncan Gillies b 1878 married GraceMarg Switzer (nee Cameron)

CLARENCE RIVER TINNED FISH – The tinned fish works at Iluka have been for some time in operation, and the tins are retailed at a great reduction on the fish formerly treated at the Heads.

In fact, the current rates should ensure a ready sale. The preserving is well executed at the factory, and an exhibit of tins at the late show looked very attractive in the pavilion.

We trust the industry will prove remunerative to the enterprising speculators.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner Saturday June 4 1892.

LOWER CLARENCE

THE BOULEVARDE – This strip of land which intervenes between River-street and the waters of the Clarence, now commonly known as the Boulevarde, is becoming a favourite resort in the afternoons of these hot days, and when the stone embankment along the foreshores is completed, and the grass has had time to grow, it will be a most delightful spot; and I doubt very much if there is a town in the colony which will be able to boast of a better promenade.

What makes it popular at the present time is the existence of a number of coral trees which grow along the bank, the thick foliage of which throws a deep shade on the grassy bank beneath, so tempting that one feels inclined to spend a good part of the afternoon there. Some provision has been made for the comfort of those who frequent this spot, a seat having been constructed along the bank, which it is needless to say, is kept pretty well occupied. The idea of providing this seat was no doubt a good one but the execution leaves a good deal of room for improvement, as it is somewhat primitive both as regards design and workmanship.

Had the matter been brought before the Council and undertaken by it, I have no doubt that instead of having one continuous seat, over 50 feet in length, we would have had a number of smaller ones, capable of accommodating not more than four or five persons each, and somewhat of more ornamental design than the one under notice.

This may, however, be only a temporary arrangement, and probably when the whole of the foreshores have been reclaimed, something better will take its place.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner Saturday November 2, 1895

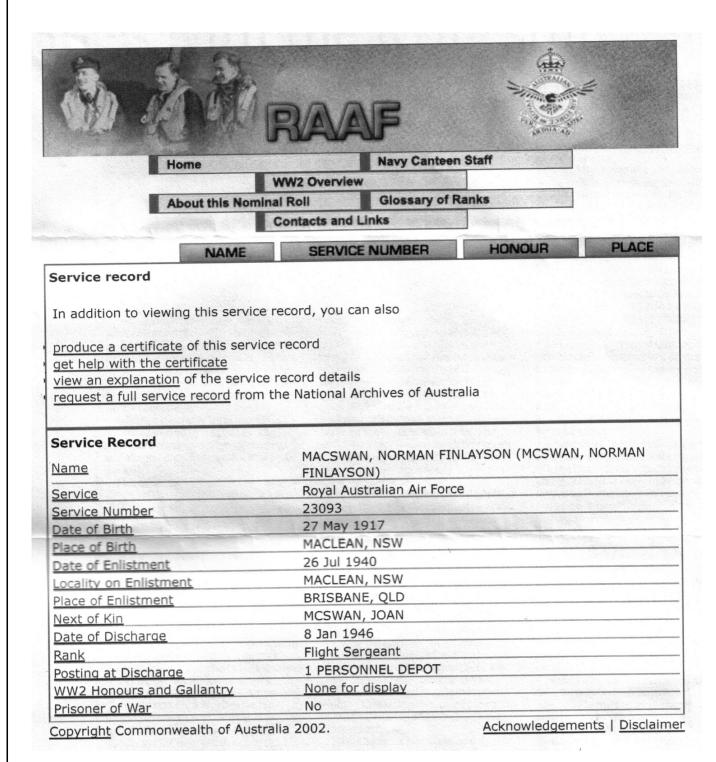
From time to time, we will document people and events from our file. Here we see one of our members admiring the display of



photographs of Servicemen seen during our recent visit to the Lawrence Museum.

NORMAN FINLAYSON MACSWAN

Born on 27 May 1917, in Maclean NSW where the family lived on an island in the Clarence River, Norman Finlayson MacSwan got his first pair of shoes at age 13. During the Depression of the 1930s,



he worked as a cane cutter, door-to-door salesman, a swimming instructor, and finally on a small NSW country paper, before enlisting in the air force in July 1940.

After war service in the Pacific, he returned to journalism in 1946. He later became a foreign correspondent in Singapore, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, London and New York and covered the Korean War. He retired as associate editor of Australian Associated Press in 1980. Two years later, MacSwan's biography of the internationally celebrated Australian journalist Dick Hughes, *The Man Who Read the East Wind*, was published ("Listen to the East Wind and keep your arse to the sunset" – advice from an old China hand).

This information came via Roy Cameron of Coolah, who wrote re an ABC program (18th Feb 2010) at 9.25 pm in which Norman MacSwan was mentioned several times. The information quoted appeared in an article in the Sydney Morning Herald written by Alan Ramsey (Dec 6 2008).

Why bother about diets?

Did you know that the word DESSERT is STRESSED spelt backwards?

Who needs to be stressed?

The Philogelos or Laughter - Lover is probably the oldest compilation of jokes in existence: it is said that the famous parrot sketch from Monty Python had its origins in the Philogelos

A Joke found there:

"Asked by the Court Barber how he would like his beard shaved and his hair cut, the king replied "In silence!"

RESEARCH INQUIRIES

Information/photo re Percy George Neave, early teacher at Lower Southgate

School

- David Rankin Swan circa 1870 who stayed with his aunt Mrs Kirk
- David See, Maclean's first Mayor, 1888
- John Cameron & his sister Mary Cameron m James Morrison (in Maclean circa 1890's early 1900's)
- Blair Henderson Husband & John K Andrews re Ashby meatworks circa 1870's
- William Smith & family, Palmers Channel, 1860's to early 1900's
- James Casey, Hotel Keeper, Chatsworth Island 1870's to early 1900's
- Early Rugby Union photos for a publication (pre 1915)
- David Gregor m Margaret McAulay family of Warregah Island late 1880's
- Charles Henry Mahabeer b 1890-91 (request from England)
- Ronica Florence Owen information & grave site, d 1970
- Bob Liddiard obituary, d 2009
- Jackman family, Palmers Island (late 1860's)
- James McDonald m Jessie McLachlan family of Lower Southgate 1860's & Chatsworth circa 1880
- Thomas William Wright m Harriet Webb (no information)
- Cavanough family of Lower Clarence
- Auburn Gilbert (no information)
- Sheather families on web site Richard 1870's, Henry 1870's, Henry Thomas 1870's
 Palmers Island and Wilfrid circa mid 1920's (request from California)
- Fischer families of Lower River
- Martin McMahon m Mary Ann Castle, Martin a storekeeper at Maclean 1880's.

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MACLEAN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Maclean. The First Fifty Years 1862-1912 by E H McSwan		
Maclean and the Scottish Connection	\$20.00	
Discovery and Settlement of the Lower Clarence by E H McSwan	\$20.00	
	\$6.00	
Lower Clarence Cemetery List	\$15.00	
McFarlane Bridge Souvenir Booklet (limited edition)	\$5.00	
History of Education on the Lower Clarence 1 Maclean by E H McSwan \$15.0 2 Past Schools by M Switzer \$15.0 3 High School by E H McSwan \$20.0	00	
Clarence River Sugar Industry. A Tour Among the Mills compiled by Ruth McAulay	\$15.00	
Fishing—Lower Clarence: The Early Years by Yvonne Johnson	\$20.00	
Ferries of the Lower Clarence by D Towner and E H McSwan—book and	book CD I CD	\$10.00 \$10.00 \$15.00
Clarence River (Grafton Bridge) Shark Creek Tales Champions in Sport		\$5.00 \$7.00 \$5.00
Davis Family and Descendants 1848-1988 by A Marsh Ford Family History Amateur Dramatics—Maclean to 1962		\$15.00 \$10.00 \$10.00
Brooms Head Revisited – Book - CD		\$15.00 \$10.00

(Postage extra)

\$8.00

Maclean to the Reef – And Back

Maclean District Historical Association Inc



The Society's meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the meeting room of our Museum corner Wharf and Grafton Streets, Maclean, commencing at 9.30am

THE HUB of the HOLIDAY COAST

BIG RIVER COUNTRY

Maclean