

CLARENCE RIVER ADVOCATE

June 2023

Volume 24 Number 2

CLARENCE RIVER ADVOCATE.
Published
—TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS—
1876—Established 47 Years—1923.
'PHONE No. 7. BOX 3.
RIVER STREET, MACLEAN.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1923

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Corner Wharf and Grafton Streets, Maclean

(Location address only- see inside for postal address)

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(Other times by appointment)

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Maclean District Historical Society

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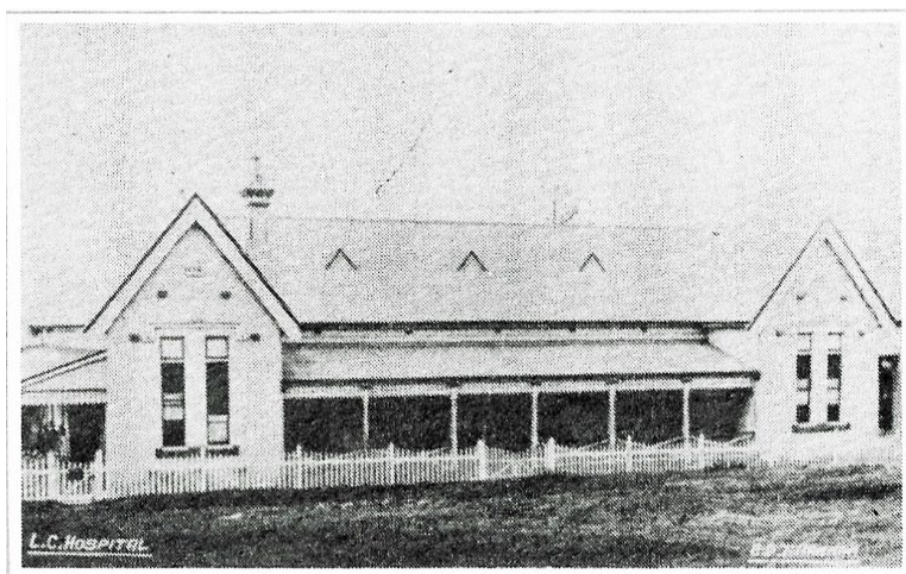
Email: museum@macleanhistory.org.au

EDITORS COMMENTS – For the readers who are still wondering what the picture on the front of the March edition was, it was Maclean’s first fire station which was located in Stanley Street.

After our March 2023 Annual General Meeting we have some new faces as Office Bearers for our Society (see previous page). This is a reminder that your annual Membership renewal is due on 1st July 2023. It would be greatly appreciated if at the same time as paying your dues, that you would also complete the membership renewal form, found in all editions of the Advocate.

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Lower Clarence Hospital

ARGYLE HOTEL.

(This article has been compiled by Sebastian Shannon.)

The Argyle Hotel has existed in the same place for at least 157 years, and while it has changed form and business type recently, for most of its time it remained the same business.

The original Argyle Hotel, the building that existed before the current one you see today, was built by John McLachlan, sometime before 1867, as a small single story, weatherboard building. McLachlan named the building after the region of Scotland he was born in, *Argyll*. The latest date for the construction of the building is 1867, as in July of this year Mr. McLachlan attained a publican's license from the Grafton Police Court (CRE, 25 Jun. 1867 p.2).

McLachlan kept his license until 1874, when he sold to Mrs M. McAuley (CRE, 8 Jun. 1875). McAuley kept the license for only a year until she sold it to Patrick Hinchley, who in 1877 announced he would be building a new hotel with William Kinnear—who built Woolitji House next door - as the builder. This plan didn't go any further, however, and Hinchley sold the license to Duncan Black in 1878.

In March of 1878, Duncan Black was tried in Maclean Police court for the crime of “keeping a disorderly house” in reference to a brawl of “4 or 5” people that occurred in the Argyle in the late night of 25th of January between Mr. John McDonald of Maclean, Mr. Thomas Watterman of Palmer's Island, which also included Edward Gard (of “Palmer's Creek”) and James Carr (CRE, 5 Mar. 1878). The charges against Mr. Black were dropped, and so were any charges against anyone else involved in the fight.

By the end of 1878, Duncan Black was dead, and his estate was found to be insolvent, and James Muir took control of the license in 1879 but sold it later that same year, likely due to the death of his wife. By 1880, the license was held by William Sylvester Gibson.

Gibson held the license for 7 years, before selling on 8 January 1887 to James and Anne “Annie” Cummins, who ran the hotel very successfully

unlike previous owners, and by 1894 had the means to construct a new stone and brick building on the same site, designed by prolific Grafton architect F. W. Schaeffer in collaboration with contractor Joseph Walsh, the same duo that designed the Maclean Catholic Church the previous year.

James Cummins died in 1894, but Annie Cummins continued the business into the next century. Mrs Cummins became a local entrepreneur, building and owning the two storey “Rocky Mouth Bakery” next door to the Argyle about 1910, and around the same time a set of three two-storey shops lower on River Street that stood until burning down in 2006, and which remain an empty lot today.

Mrs Cummins retained the hotel, finally retiring in 1905 and passing the license to Mr G.W. Austen. Despite this she remained a member of the Hotel’s management, and by the time of her death in 1938, she had been involved in the Argyle for nearly 44 years.

Bibliography

McSwan, Eleanor. H. (1992) *Maclean, The First Fifty Years*, Maclean NSW: Clarence Press.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner (Grafton, NSW: 1889 - 1915), Tuesday 4 November 1890, page 2

Roman Catholic Church at Maclean.

THE R. C. congregation at Maclean have decided to erect a church that will surpass anything of the kind on the Lower Clarence. It will be built on the hill near the present building, and will be an ornament to the town when completed. We are informed tenders for its erection will be called in a few days. The nave of the edifice will be 64 feet long by 30 feet broad, with tower at one end 10 x 10 in the clear and 52 ½ feet high; also sanctuary 18 x 15 feet, and two sacristy 9 x 7 ½ feet each. The walls of the structure will be built in freestone rubble work blended with brick. Sitting accommodation is provided for about 330 on three rows of seats, the church containing two aisles. The whole of the interior will be

plastered with adamant, a new plaster that is becoming extensively used in the metropolis. Over the main entrance will be a gallery 14 feet wide with four tiers, which will be set apart for the choral service. The gallery front will be of the best polished cedar. The roof will be of iron, and supported by seven handsome Oregon pine principals of neat design; the ceiling will be picked out in neat colours, and perforated for ventilation, provision for which is perfect. The tower will add much to the appearance of the building, possessing an embattled crown with bold cornice, the whole rendered in Portland cement. The tower floor will be tiled with encaustic patent tiles, and tiles will also be inserted in bands in the tower front. A large rose window six feet in diameter in the second storey sets off the tower front to advantage. The whole of the windows will be in quarry glass and in various colours. The plans for the structure, which is of Gothic design, were prepared by Mr. F. Schaeffer. We are informed that a considerable proportion of the cost is already subscribed or promised, several members of the body contributing liberally.

Daily Examiner (Grafton, NSW: 1915 - 1954), Thursday 27 June 1918, page 1

MACLEAN HOSPITAL.

A SKETCH OF ITS ACTIVITIES.

(By R. N. Carrington.)

If hospitals cannot be described as pleasant places, they may at least be classed as interesting. It is a duty more often observed the breach than in the observance for every citizen to take an extremely vital interest in the conduct and working of such an institution as the Lower Clarence Hospital, situated on the rise of a hill a little way outside the town of Maclean. Fortunately the Maclean Hospital has a very active and conscientious committee, comprised of energetic men, and men who are as keenly alive to the institution's interests as they are aware of the great amount of real good that is done for the sake of local humanity within its walls.

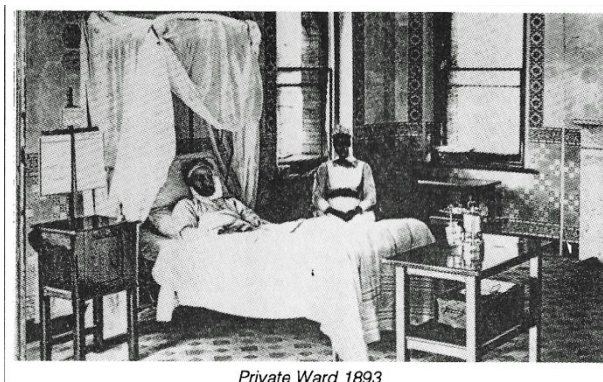
THE BUILDING.

The Minister for Health recently visited the hospital, and speedily noticed, its weak points. Built nearly a quarter of a century ago, the

building is an out-of-date model as regards architecture. The situation is too close to the street; the kitchen is below the level of the wards, necessitating the carrying of all meals up a flight of stairs, and also when operations are conducted the hand-carrying of perhaps from 12 to 20 jugs of hot water from the kitchen upstairs to the operating theatre. Of course, this places a severe strain on the nursing staff, outside their general work, which is heavy enough at all times; but the extra labour is carried out cheerfully.

The separation of the nurses' private residential quarters from the main hospital; each nurse now having her own private room, is a step forward which the Minister noted, with approval, but before it can claim anything like a decent place amongst other more modern buildings. Mr. Fitzgerald spoke encouragingly of the support which the Government would hope to lend all such hospitals when the war had terminated. It is therefore evident that the minister was seized of the importance of the Maclean Hospital as a haven of refuge for the sick and injured from the Lower and Mid-Clarence, and that he foresaw in his Ministerial capacity that its usefulness and size would warrant its becoming a permanent institution, and one that should therefore receive the financial and moral support of all residents who come within its sphere of influence, which is very wide and very welcome as some of the most callous have speedily found when stricken suddenly with an illness or accident that necessitated their immediate removal there.

A PATIENT'S LOT.



Immediately upon arrival a new patient is placed either in the big ward where he need pay nothing or 3/ a day, or in a smaller room where if he pays 6/ a day he can have more little comforts and privacy but certainly not better medical treatment or nursing, for it is characteristic of the hospital that

the poorest patient receives the same kindness and thorough scientific attention as the richest. It was the writer's privilege to have been in both the main ward with others and in a private ward during a relapse, and no

single incident ever occurred to differentiate between the nursing and medical treatment received in both.

At about five o'clock in the morning the night nurse will bring hot water, towels, etc., and thoroughly bathe each patient — face, arms, chest, back, and legs — and all this is done without the invalid ever rising from the horizontal, except when, with the aid of a large bed-ring, hanging from the top of the bed, he slightly lifts himself up, so that the nurse may pull off his pyjama coat. Subsequently the bed is also re-made, without the patient moving, as he merely rolls from one side to the other, while the sheets are being straightened, or new sheets put on. The night nurse then attends to the mats and bed-side carpets; dusts all the window-sills, puts back the flowers which have been cleared out as unhealthy for night inhalation, and goes on to the next case. By the time eleven or twelve are gone through, the reason for her starting at 4.30 a.m. or 5 a.m. may be well understood, as she must finish by 7 — when the day staff arrives.

THE NURSES.

Night nursing is a cheerless and thankless task. On cold, winter nights perambulating through the long wards with a lantern every two hours, taking a temperature here, giving a medicine there, and attending to numerous wants, make it very trying. The night nurse comes on at 9 p.m. and



works, therefore, ten hours. Early in the morning the matron gets busy with the day nurses, and there are heaps to do. First of all the patients must have breakfast, then each case must be treated separately — pulse and temperature taken, notes made for the doctor, and charts entered up for his inspection, as the temperature chart recording each four hours rise and fall is of vital importance. The day nurses have also an immense amount of cleaning to attend to, and the dispensing, medicines, preparations, lints and splints for wounds, which are always being treated, require immense care and patience.

AN OPERATION.

Operations are carried out at Maclean Hospital both by the local doctors and by Grafton men, who come down at a patient's request. It is a great mistake for the residents of the district to believe that the operating theatre is a white elephant. Far from it! It is very frequently used, despite the absence of some necessary features that render the work of the staff much harder viz., a hot water supply and basins with hot water laid on, and foot-taps that allow of water being turned on without soiling the taps with the hands. Naturally a major operation throws



extra heavy work on the staff. Great preparations are necessary. All the instruments - and sometimes 50 different hospital instruments are used - are got ready for the doctors. The theatre is thoroughly examined to see that not a speck of dust lies anywhere that might enter the open wound and large numbers of white enamel dishes make their appearance as if by magic. Dozens of sterilised woollen pads lie about for the doctor to use. After the patient has been thoroughly cleansed preparatory to undergoing his terrible ordeal, he is carried by Huckle, the wardsman and another on a stretcher to the theatre and anaesthetised. The nurses enter in white robes, the theatre doors are closed, and as half-hour passes half-hour, the anxious relatives wait, until eventually the doors are thrown open and the great business transacted, the still unconscious invalid is carried to a specially prepared bed, where a nurse is waiting to receive him. The scene of the theatre after an operation is appalling to the novice - blood, furs, swabs, woollens, lint, bucket, jugs, lint instruments lie everywhere. In a corner a brass urn, heated by a primus, contains instruments being boiled in soda. These are taken out when thoroughly sterilised, dried, and then put in methylated spirits for a second bath, then dried again, and then, the worst job of all, put together, for most of them are taken to pieces before being washed and each part must be found to fit. Indeed, if the matron and nurses leave the theatre at 10 o'clock at night after an operation is finished at 5.30 they are lucky.

Quite a number of operations have taken place lately at the Maclean Hospital, and though the patients have in some cases died, the reason may be ascribed to the hopelessness of the case from the outset, but never to the lack of surgical skill, as is proved by the length of time the deceased patients have lived after their emergence from the theatre. Operations are carried out at Maclean by surgeons with the biggest world degrees, in a theatre small but complete and with the aid of every possible surgical necessity. It is doubtful if those performed at London Hospital, the largest in the world, are done better.

The Maclean Hospital is fortunate in having as matron a thoroughly trained nurse, and also another nurse who has had 8 ½ years' experience in some of the biggest hospitals in the State, and still another nurse who has graduated through the operating theatre at Grafton.

Some die, but most of the patients live, and those who do will bear witness to the kindness of the nurses and the exhaustive patience and thoroughness of the medical staff.

The Maclean Hospital is a worthy institution one that never asks for support yet one which heals many wounds and changes the ill-health of hundreds of sufferers in the course of a year to strength and gladness. It deserves the voluntary and prompt financial support of every citizen.

LIFE AS A NURSE IN 1930.

(by Joyce Blanch.)

I was a trainee nurse from 1935 to 1938 at Maclean District Hospital, which was then a five year training school for nurses. After those three years I fell in love and decided that marriage would be a life of ease and happiness which it was.

Although I enjoyed being a nurse very much, it was not easy at that time compared to the modern facilities of today.

We had to work long hours and keep a fuel stove burning always in the nurse's day room for hot water, and special cooking for any patient when needed. Most important of all it, it was necessary for a large container of

surgical instruments for outdoor patients and casualty, to be kept sterilised in the hot water. As I was not a very good fire person, I was in constant dread of it going out, so I had to resort to a little kerosene sometimes when no one was looking - the matron I mean!

We had only chip wood heaters in the bathrooms so the patients were all given basins of warm water to wash each morning. Some we had to sponge where they were too ill.

As there would only be two nurses on night duty, a senior and a junior, we would have to start about 1.30am to be able to have all the hospital patients bathed and the beds changed for the day staff who came on at 6.30am.

There was trouble if we were not finished by then. When going off duty I would take a small quantity of kerosene to help light the nurses' bathroom chip-heater for a relaxing bath, because the wood would be green. I have dealt so much on the fire problems because it was a constant important chore.

In spite of all this, there was a sense of achievement against all odds, with a lot of discipline, which gave us much strength to cope, and a love of our work.

One late night pass each week was until 11:00 pm, any later was for a special reason only. Other nights we had to be in by 9:00 pm.

Kerosene was also important as we had to have a hurricane lantern to carry through the wards during our rounds, to check the patients.

One of our duties was to completely "lay out" as we described then, a patient after he or she had died. It was then that the undertakers would come to take the body away for burial. Everything done, I learned to "prepare a body" very early in my training. This is not a nurses' job today, from what I have heard.

I do not look back with regret at these times. They were hard, but we were happy. It would have helped my nervous system to have had modern day benefits.

NEW HOSPITAL AT MACLEAN

The new hospital now nearing completion at Maclean is situated on high ground to the east of the old hospital.

It has a spacious basement, ground floor and first and second floors. Access to the upper storeys is gained by both staircases and automatic lifts. The wards have a northerly aspect and a magnificent view of the Lower Clarence. Spacious verandahs built on the cantilever principle front each floor, and in addition to the balustrade will carry a guard rail.

Entering the grounds from Union street there are many rooms in single-storey wings on both sides of the main entrance, which faces the west. There is a casualty and outpatients ward, a dispensary, X-ray rooms, change rooms matron's office, secretary's office and board room, general office, nurses' dining room, servery, etc.

At the northern end of the second wing is a domestic section, with a kitchen which includes all modern appliances.

GROUND FLOOR

The ground floor section of the main building is bisected by a corridor. On the northern side there are wards which provide 12 beds, and one bed on the southern side. The intermediate wards have two beds, and the public wards four beds. At the end of the corridor is the autoclave room and annexe to the main theatre. This is air-conditioned and tiled in light blue.

Two flights of stairs lead to the first floor, in addition to the automatic lift. On this floor there are wards which provide for 26 beds. They consist of a single bed ward, a two-bed intermediate, two-bed isolation fully appointed, four-bed ward, two-bed ward, four-bed ward, two-bed ward, and a nine-bed public ward directly over the theatre. There are more beds in the hospital than was originally planned, the nine-bed public ward being an extra. A children's six-bed ward is also situated on this floor.

The second floor houses the maternity wards and nursery.

The tower is divided into two compartments. In one two huge copper water tanks are housed, and in the other motors and other heavy machinery for the lifts.

All guttering and piping is in copper.

MODERN LAUNDRY

The laundry, will have the latest appliances installed, including a 351b. dry weight washing machine, a spin drier and a tumble drier. An electric ironing machine may be added later.

In the basement there are two low pressure boilers, the coal being automatically fed to the furnaces.

Large coal bunkers are provided.

Work has been commenced on the foundations of the new nurses' quarters, the old isolation ward having been demolished to provide the necessary space. This two-storey building will eventually take in the area at present covered by the secretary's office and nurses' old quarters.

When the transfer has been made from the old hospital to the new building, and it is hoped this will take place by the end of the year - the old structure, which was erected in 1886, will be demolished.

*** 100 Yrs. Ago ***

April 1923

SMALL'S FOREST NEW SCHOOL.

The tender has been accepted by the Education Department for Small's Forest new school building from Messrs. Clark and Clark, Tyndale, via Maclean, at £497.

MACLEAN PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION.

The parents and citizens generally of Maclean and district are directed to an advertisement appearing in this issue announcing the fact that a grand school fete is to be held on Cameron 's Oval on Empire Day in aid of the Kindergarten School Fund. Parents and citizens are invited to attend a meeting to be held in the Literary Institute, Maclean, on Monday night next.

ANZAC DAY AT MACLEAN.

At the meeting of the Parents and Citizens' Association at Maclean last night it was decided that the citizens of Maclean be requested to attend a meeting at the public school this (Tuesday) afternoon for the purpose of celebrating Anzac Day. Speeches will be delivered by the local clergy and returned soldiers. Advantage will also be taken of the occasion to present Master Lindsay Goddard with the prize donated by the P. and C. Association for securing, the highest pass in the recent Intermediate examination.

May 1923

MACLEAN ANNUAL SHOW. The Opening Day.

A SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITION. Fine Pavilion Display.

ATTRACTIVE RING EVENTS.

Delightful weather favoured the Lower Clarence Agricultural Society for the first day of their annual show at Maclean yesterday. The ground seems to have all the natural advantages for the purposes of such a rural carnival, and it was seen at its best yesterday under the beneficent influence of bright sunshine after a fairly lengthy spell of inclement weather. In keeping with the fitness of things, the attendance constituted a first day's, record in the history of the society, the gate takings totalling £30/3/6. The general entries were more numerous than ever before, and in the poultry section they made a particularly attractive show. A good deal of attention was given to sugar cane, and although the competition was hardly so extensive as on previous occasions, the samples sent in were full of merit. They included stalks from the Upper River as well as from the Lower Clarence district.

The blood stock did not make much impression and as the judge (Mr. Ferguson) remarked it was evident that there are but few breeders of racing horses round about Maclean. Several of the entries that were shown, however, were up to a very fair standard. It was significant that there were no stallions or foal. A good number of draughts were entered, and those that were shown came for general commendation, a fine draught mare owned by Mr. P. Mitchell, a local exhibitor, standing out as a particularly attractive specimen of her class. The plough horses also represented a striking feature of the show of stock, and the other horses of the utility variety reflected credit upon the judgment and careful preparation of those responsible for their appearance in the ring. Amongst the ponies one could single out a fine pony mare shown by Mr. A. J. Kratz, of Ulmarra, which came in for a lot of attention. (...)

POULTRY SECTION.

Never before at Maclean has such interest been manifested in the poultry section of the show, and the industry is undoubtedly making great headway in popularity in the district. The local farmers are considering the advisability of forming a poultry club, similar to that of the Richmond River district, with the idea of making special efforts for display purposes by means of poultry shows at such a centre as Grafton. The show at Maclean this year was regarded as the best yet seen there. All of the sections filled well, and the judge spoke highly of the birds placed before him. He was particularly taken with Mr. W. J. Benson's white leghorn cockerel, which secured the championship in its class, and he was greatly interested in the black Orpington cockerel shown by Mr. J. Fitzpatrick, which gained the championship for Orpingtons. The show generally provided a good opportunity for the farmers to see the class of birds that thrive in the district and the best types of fowls that are likely to maintain the standard of the various breeds.

June 1923

MACLEAN SPORTS GROUND. WILL IT BE LOST?

For some years past the sporting clubs of Maclean have had the uninterrupted use of Cameron's Oval for their games, whilst the ground has been the venue of various carnivals. This was due to the generosity, of the late Mr. John Cameron, but with his demise the trustees of the Oval are proposing to subdivide the ground into building blocks, and the plans of this have already been submitted to the council.

The loss of so central a sports ground has caused a great deal of agitation amongst the sporting bodies, and the recently formed Maclean Bowling and Recreation Co., Ltd., was approached with a view to the company taking some action to acquire the ground for sporting purposes. The directors therefore met on Saturday, June 2, and discussed the matter and decided to call a public meeting to further consider the matter. (...)



RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Email us with details of what you already have plus what you would like, and we will endeavour to help. Research fees are \$25 per family, postage extra. If it is a large body of research, we may ask for a little more.

1. Information was given about Thomas & Margaret Flanagan and the farm at Gulmarrad.
2. A thank you email was received from Vikki Ravaga re John Schipp Snr. & Jnr. Research.
3. Information was sent on Patrick Duffy, clerk for Nipperess & Essex, butchers of Maclean, a returned soldier from WWI, who left Maclean c. 1928.
4. An enquiry regarding the 'Darkwater' paddle steamer was answered but no reply received.
5. UK enquiry re photo of a tractor locomotive said to be at CSR Mill Harwood with request to use photo but was not found in our collection.
6. Research completed re James Gallagher married to Mary Tier of Shark Creek and William Hisbert Gallagher married to Florence Higham, being a teacher at Eatonsville.
7. Information on the Masonic Hall for a heritage architect for the new owner.
8. Email re James Rowles of Palmers Channel and was James Creek named after him, as well as information requested on Thomas Webb married to Sarah Rowles but no information was found.
9. Enquiry re Brooms Head history, sold book, 'Brooms Head Revisited'.
10. Enquiry re John William Cavanough, particular court case not found.
11. Request for information re Charles and Sarah Munro - early farmer Woodford Dale,
12. Request for McFayden graves, currently no headstones.
13. Enquiries re Denis Sherry, Cowper farmer; Lewis Frances Teece, Woodford Dale, farmer.



Lake Cakora



MACLEAN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

ABN 73 033 923 282

The Bicentennial Museum and Stone Cottage

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PLEASE EMAIL THIS FORM TO museum@macleanhistory.org.au if making a direct deposit.



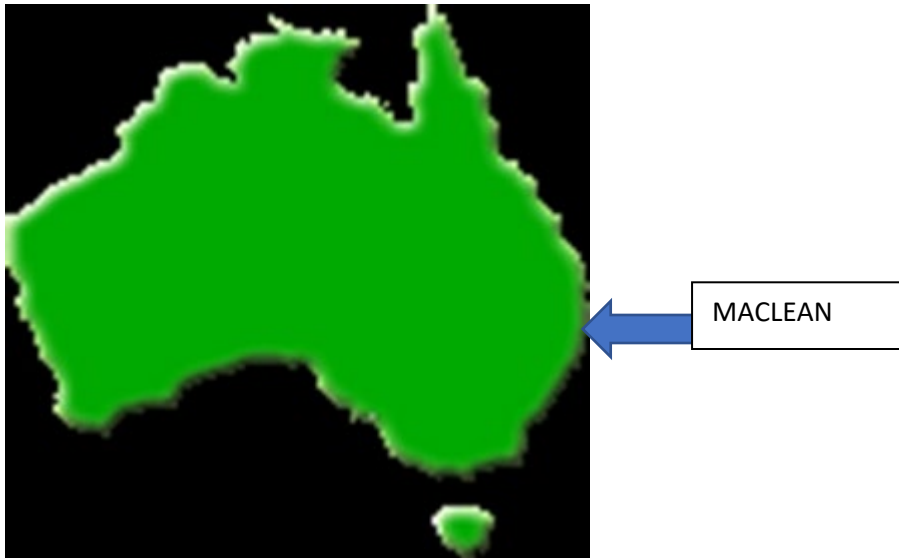
MACLEAN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PUBLICATION COSTS

Book Title	Total Cost Posted (\$)	Book Cost (\$)
A Tour Among the Mills (Sugar Industry)	25.95	15.00
Amateur Dramatics - Maclean to 1962	20.95	10.00
Brooms Head Revisited	25.95	15.00
Brooms Head Revisited - CD	20.75	10.00
Champions in Sport	15.95	5.00
Clarence Valley WW1 Volunteers	47.95	30.00
Discovery and Settlement of the Lower Clarence	16.75	6.00
Do You Remember Them?	52.95	35.00
Ferries of the Lower Clarence	20.95	10.00
Ferries of the Lower Clarence - CD	20.95	10.00
Ferries of the Lower Clarence - CD and Book	25.95	15.00
Fishing Industry Lower Clarence River	30.95	20.00
From Canefields to Battlefields	35.95	25.00
History of Education on the Lower Clarence - Maclean	25.95	15.00
History of Education on the Lower Clarence - Maclean High School	30.95	20.00
History of Education on the Lower Clarence - Past Schools	25.95	15.00
Lower Clarence Cemetery List	25.95	15.00
Maclean and the 'Great War'	21.35	10.00
Maclean Brass Band	25.95	15.00
Maclean Scottish Connection	30.95	20.00
Maclean To the Reef and Back	18.75	8.00
Maclean, The First Fifty Years	54.35	40.00
McFarland Bridge Centenary	17.20	5.00
Michael Rush - champion Australian sculler	55.95	38.00
Rivers, Rowing, Racing and Regattas	39.35	25.00
Shark Creek Tales	17.75	7.00
Twins of Townsend	20.75	10.00
Wings Over Calliope	25.95	15.00

The Museum has published a substantial list of publications on different aspects of the history of Maclean and the surrounding area. Including the areas, World War 1 history and the Schwonberg publications. This updated list of our publications shows the total cost of sending the publications to interested parties via the post. Total cost is a combination of the cost of the publication itself, plus the packaging costs and postal costs. These two costs are based on the size of the publication.

MACLEAN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



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Our Society meets on the third Tuesday of every month in our meeting room at the Museum at 9.30 am.