



JOHN JOSEPH WILLIAM MOLESWORTH OXLEY,

'NO, PLAIN JOHN OXLEY IS GOOD ENOUGH'.

NEWSLETTER

April, 2017

JOHN OXLEY BICENTENARY
MT SEAVIEW TO PORT MACQUARIE 2018

Next year it will be 200 years since John Oxley and his team passed through here during his 1818 expedition of exploration in NSW. The Wauchope District Historical Society feels that this tremendous effort should not pass unnoticed.

It is an opportunity to honour the men involved and invoke pride in our history. This will also be an occasion to reflect on the impact of the expedition on the original inhabitants of this area; the Ngamba, Birpai and Dungatti.

The aim of the Newsletter is to keep all interested parties informed of what is planned and the progress made.

At present six events are planned, more may be added.

Mt Seaview Weekend: Participants will spend part of/a weekend at Mount Seaview resort, with guided bushwalks, 4WD trips and talks on Oxley, the history of Mount Seaview to the present, flora and fauna of the area. Dr Ian Telford, UNE, will give talks on 'The botany of the Oxley expedition' and 'Botanical Exploration in early Australia'. Official opening of Oxley Bicentenary commemoration.

School Visits: Travelling presentation of Oxley, Evans, Fraser and a couple of convicts; walk into assembly, time travel with pupils back 200 years. Leave classes with creative response to complete and submit for display at conclusion of Bicentenary. Schools at Long Flat and Huntingdon along the route plus Beechwood, Wauchope, Tacking Point and Port Macquarie will be invited to participate.

Play: Based on a novel written by local, Richard Grimmond, about Oxley's interactions with local Aboriginals, the play could be performed by a local group and taken to schools if requested as well as being staged at an evening venue for wider consumption.

Ball: A ball at the showground hall with all the customary trimmings for country balls. An after-dinner speaker and a display.

Book: WDHS member, archaeologist and historian, Rob Tickle, is researching a book, which will deal not only with the Oxley story as detailed in Oxley's journal, but also with surveyor Evans, botanist Fraser, surgeon Harris and James Blake, Barnaby Butler, Patrick Byrne, John Dwyer, Thomas Ellis, Francis Lloyd, Henry Shippy, George Simpson, William Warner, Richard Watts, James Williams and John Williams. The hard labour of all enabled the whole journey to proceed and end satisfactorily (except for the several horses and dogs for which it all proved too much). The launch will be held at a venue yet to be decided.

Brochure: A trifold colour brochure on glossy paper with maps, photos and a detailed program of events, to be printed locally and distributed widely to tourist information centres, travel agents, local shops, pubs in villages and towns and anywhere else we can think of.

If there is something you would like included in the Newsletter, please contact Rob Tickle, rtickle@bigpond.net.au