

# Edward Bytheway



*E. Bytheway*



# Edward Bytheway

FOUNDING FATHER OF GYMPIE

Business Man Mine Owner

Community Pioneer

**1840-1905**

LINDA ATKINSON



Mr. Edward Bytheway Officer for Gympie<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Gympie Times Christmas Supplement 1900

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### **Cover Images**

Front: Edward Bytheway

Back: School of Arts building c. 1920

Edward Bytheway standing in front of his first shop in Mary Street, circa 1871.

Back and Front: Plan of Mary Street Gympie Gold field drawn by the District Surveyor  
Wide Bay District 6 March 1869 Clarendon Stuart Licensed Surveyor.

Gympie  
Regional Gallery



<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>Foreword</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>Chapter One</b> The Edward Bytheway Meeting Room, Gympie Regional Gallery	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter Two</b> The Gympie of Edward Bytheway	<b>7</b>
<b>Chapter Three</b> The Bytheway Family	<b>31</b>
<b>Chapter Four</b> Edward Bytheway and The School of Arts and Mines	<b>61</b>
<b>Chapter Five</b> Edward Bytheway- Wise, Astute, Successful	<b>111</b>
<b>Chapter Six</b> The Gympie Hospital	<b>187</b>
<b>Chapter Seven</b> Mayor and Alderman of Gympie Municipal Council	<b>203</b>
<b>Chapter Eight</b> Death of Edward Bytheway	<b>237</b>
<b>Chapter Nine</b> Edward Bytheway Junior Continues the Work of His Father	<b>245</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>261</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>269</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>271</b>



## FOREWORD

This is a history on Edward Bytheway, a most prominent founding father of Gympie whose significant contributions to the development of Gympie between 1867 and 1905. Very little is known of him or his colleagues and certainly next to nothing has been written about them since they died. In 150 years, Gympie has not recognised Edward Bytheway as an important person in Gympie's history. It is time Gympie took pride in its significance to Queensland's history. All that live here should know and be proud of its history, and encourage people to visit here because of its history rather than its current urban regional outlook.

This history is an initiative of Ms Joolie Gibbs, Coordinator of the Gympie Regional Gallery. It is a tribute to her that she had the foresight to have this history researched and written for the Gympie Regional Council. A detailed history on Hugo Du Rietz, another prominent founding father of Gympie, will be undertaken by Linda Atkinson in the near future.

In 1900, Edward Bytheway was formally recognised as one of Queensland's leading men and a prominent citizen of Gympie. It was noted that 'let those men pass away unnoticed, and the pioneering work of the land goes with them ... [and] the excellent work which Mr. Bytheway has rendered to Gympie in connection with the municipality will cause him to be long remembered in that district ... Mr. Bytheway has been concerned in every undertaking having as its object the improved condition of Gympie. He is a shrewd man of business and has a large fund of common sense.'<sup>2</sup> Gympie was extremely fortunate to have the likes of Edward Bytheway who cared so much to make it a great place to live and work.

Gympie has forgotten Edward Bytheway for it has never looked back with pride and reverence on this worthy pioneer of the District. Gympie appears to have suppressed its history, other than to utter its origins attributed to the gold discovery by James Nash. He has now a high school named in his honour, but Edward Bytheway, who was 'determined to assist the farming community to make the pastoral industry to make it a more profitable one ... [and was] concerned in every undertaking having for its object the improved condition of the people of Gympie'<sup>3</sup> has only a public space in the Gympie Cemetery, and a small meeting room at the Gympie Regional Gallery.

In 2016, the Gympie Branch of the National Trust finalised a list of this region's most significant heritage treasures-people who 'made a significant contribution to our region and included people from all walks of life including politicians, professionals, workers, rogues and local identities.'<sup>4</sup> Edward Bytheway was second on this list with James Nash at the head of the list, Edward being described as 'early settler, shopkeeper and mayor who was instrumental in the establishment of the School of Arts movement in Gympie.'<sup>5</sup> Once you have taken some special time to read this history, you will discover just what a tremendous contribution Edward Bytheway made in his thirty-eight years of life in this

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<sup>2</sup> Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men. Compiled by the Alcazar Press Brisbane W.H. Wendt & Co Printers Edward Street Brisbane, 1900 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-36615454> Page 116

<sup>3</sup> Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men. Compiled by the Alcazar Press Brisbane W.H. Wendt & Co Printers Edward Street Brisbane, 1900 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-36615454> Page 116

<sup>4</sup> The Gympie Times 21 September 2016

<sup>5</sup> The Gympie Times 21 September 2016

town and hopefully be proud to have become to know him as a man and his achievements for the region.

This is the first major history of its kind for Gympie in terms of exposing the man who was a prominent father and founder of Gympie.

There are three other histories I have written for the Gympie Regional Council which are part of a series. The first two completed are on the first two doctors in Gympie, Drs T.E.D Byrne and Stephen Joseph Burke, and a short history on Hugo Du Rietz.

**Linda Atkinson**  
**Researched and written for the**  
**Gympie Regional Gallery between 2014 and 2017**





long before I was born. The Gwent Region was developed by strong and spirited community members such as Edward Williams.

Edward was one of Gwent's early settlers. He was a theologian, moral philosopher, poet, teacher, writer and held office on two occasions as Mayor and also as Clerk AM.

He was a prominent member of the community who used his talents tirelessly to continually improve and shape the infrastructure of the town. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the School of Architecture in Gwent, and in providing the building that now Regional Gallery is now housed. He contributed in many ways to the rich cultural heritage that our community continues to foster.

It gives me great pleasure to support this publication and my sincere thanks go to everyone involved in bringing this publication together. In particular author Grahm Williams. It is my hope that you share this story with your family and friends and celebrate the unique history of our region.

Iwan Rhys Iwan  
Gwent Regional Council  
1 March 2017





## Chapter One

### The Edward Bytheway Meeting Room, Gympie Regional Gallery

The Gympie Regional Gallery honours two of Gympie's founding fathers, Edward Bytheway and Hugo Du Rietz, with a meeting room named for Edward Bytheway and a Gallery space named for Hugo Du Rietz.

Gympie Regional Gallery provides the sole place where these men have some acknowledgement for their huge contribution to the establishment of the town of Gympie. How many citizens of Gympie and its surrounding district and visitors from other places have never heard of these two founding fathers or how untiring they were in their passion to build a good township with a well-functioning community, a great lifestyle and sound effective infrastructure? Their brief reference at the Regional Gallery is all that gives them any clue that they ever existed.

The School of Arts building, now housing the Gympie Regional Gallery, opened on 28 February 1905, unfurnished, free from debt, at a cost of £1,400. Although £1,400 is equivalent to \$2,800, in real terms, today such a building would cost \$201,090<sup>6</sup> to construct. Prominent Gympie architect Hugo Du Rietz designed it and supervised its construction at no cost to the project. Hugo Du Rietz had at one stage estimated it would cost £1,549 which included £20 for gas fittings and fencing; that total estimate was finalised at £1,600. Gympie finally had a new School of Arts after some thirty-five years largely the work of Edward Bytheway.

On that Tuesday of 28 February 1905, the opening was celebrated with a progressive Euchre party followed by a splendid supper. The next night a dance attended by about 100, was held for the youth.

From 1978, the building housed the Cooloola Shire Library Service until the Library was relocated to a building in Mellor Street in 1995 as the Gympie Regional Library. Within three years, the School of Arts building breathed life again after languishing, opening on 28 February 1998, as the Cooloola Shire Public Gallery, later renamed the Gympie Regional Gallery.

On 28 July 2000, the upstairs Hugo Du Rietz Gallery formally opened as a space dedicated for a range of exhibits, with its key purpose being to display work from artists and crafts' people work from Gympie and the surrounding areas.

By February 2005, the Gympie Regional Gallery had been housed in the School of Arts Building for seven years, and the building was 100 years old. The centenary year and the seventh birthday of the Gallery were celebrated with Bizzart Day on Sunday 27 February 2005. Exhibitions were extended through to Sunday 3 April<sup>7</sup>. The downstairs Meeting Room became formally known as *The Edward Bytheway Meeting Room*.

In the *Edward Bytheway Meeting Room* hangs a large restored framed print of the opening of the first Parliament of Australia in Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building. Although he died five years before, Edward Bytheway's name was included in the list of

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre-Decimal Inflation Calculator. Total change in cost is 7081.8 per cent, over 111 years, at an average annual inflation rate of 3.9 per cent.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.mysunshinecoast.com.au/events/events-display/bizzart-day,18534>

citizens who presented this Federation Print by Charles Nuttall to the School of Arts in June 1910. Mr. R.G. Sanday shown in the list was Edward Bytheway's son-in-law.

By way of background, the Historical Picture Association commissioned Charles Nuttall to paint the opening of the first Federal Parliament which occurred on 9 May 1901. He was asked to paint as many recognisable faces as possible on a canvas 12 feet by 8 feet. He began work on 19 August 1901 and the painting was unveiled on 19 June 1902. There are 344 identifiable 'heads'.<sup>8</sup> The painting bears some resemblance to the Tom Roberts painting on the occasion of the Duke of York, later King George V, officially opening the first Federal Parliament in Melbourne's Exhibition Building. Tom Roberts' painting is more than five metres across and took four years to complete, and features portraits of 269 people.



The restored print which hangs in the Edward Bytheway Room

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<sup>8</sup> <http://museumvictoria.com.au/collections/items/250568/painting-the-opening-commonwealth-parliament-charles-nuttall-oil-1901-1902> Painting - 'The Opening, Commonwealth Parliament', Charles Nuttall, Oil, 1901-1902 Reg. No: SH 961775

List of Citizens who presented Federation Print to Gympie School of Arts June 1910

W.E. Burbidge JP – Mayor	Fred B. Sykes – President School of Arts
Major D.E. Reid D.S.O. Ex- Mayor	J.M. Pack – Vice President
W.G. Ambrose – Ex-Mayor	R. Rankin – Vice President
G.F. Lister – Ex-Mayor	E.C. Park J.P. – Bank of NSW – Committee
A.G. Ramsay – Alderman	A. Chisholm – Committee
W.J. Nieman J.P. – Alderman	W.J. Gallway – Committee
R.H. Cox – Alderman	W. Hamilton – Committee
P. Green – Alderman	J. Hood – Committee
Dr. J.P. Ryan – Health Officer	W.E. Burbidge – Committee
A.R. Ranson J.P. – Town Clerk	Jno. Morris – Committee
Jas Bennett – City Inspector	Thomas Ross – Secretary
S. Glasgow. J.P. – Ex Alderman	Leo G. Downey – Auditor
Hon. F.I. Power M.L.C.	Rev. S. Baggaley B.A.
T.H. Boddington P.M.	Rev. M. Horan
L. Col. Geo Patterson	Rev. C.A. Plane, Chaplain of the Forces
Jacob Stumm J.P.	Barnes & Webb
Vivian H. Tozer	D. Menzies
Chas Patterson. J.P.	L.A. Wilkinson
J.S. Cullinane J.P.	A.G.D. Austin
Dr. John J. Ahern	Jas. Chalk
Dr. Luther Morris	H.B. Bushnell
E.E. Walker. J.P. – R. Bank	E. Baker
J.F. Hollis. J.P. – Qn Bank	Frank Wilkins
A.W. Hale J.P. – Union Bank	A.R. White
S.P. Croaker – U. Bank	E.J. Street
Capt. T.W. Glasgow – DSO	R. Gregg
Mrs. S.I. McFie	Jno. O'Brien
J.S. Aspinall	Miss Norah Horrigan
E. Farrow	T.J. Cox
R.S. Mackay	Jno. Foster
Thos. Pilkington	Jno. A. Minnis
E. Bytheway	F.C.S. Murray
F. Fleming	C. C. Caston
S. Holloway J.P.	S. Griffiths
O. Perret	Lawson & Reilly
Pring Bros	H. Sundstrup
John Cass	J. Carey
J.M. Gambling	W.F. Ferguson
W. McCormack	M. Newman
Geo G. Stuart	Sym & Jackson
Win. Coleborn	Geo Davey
A.J. Fisher J.P.	A. Harris
D.C. Moodie	Mackay & Watts
	R.G. Sanday

The restoration of the Federation print and large frame was generously supported by many of Cooloola’s businesses and concerned citizens in 2005, including:

R & J Lawrence	Nestle
Cooloola Management Services	R. A. Yule
Madill Motor Group	D.W. & D.J. Clarkson
Cr. M.J. & A. Venardos (Mayor)	Cr. J. & K.W. Watt
Qld Dept of Health	W. E. Truss MP
Elisa Roberts MP	Gympie District Show Society
R. & B. Spencer	I.T. & B.J. Petersen
M J Connolly, NSP	R. & A. L. Scargill
Cr. D. R. Neilson	W. F. Bishop
R. A. Fredman (Director Engineering)	Cr. P.E. & J.L. Cantrell
Cr. F.G. & T.J. Nissen	Cooloola Friends of the Gallery Inc.
G.C. & E.R. Brown (Historian)	F. De Vere
S. Spork	J. Walker
Lutheran Church	E. Power
Cooloola Art Society Inc.	Cr. Ss & L. Jocusen



Edward Bytheway Room prepared for a meeting

Before the naming of the *Edward Bytheway Meeting Room*, the *100 Years 100 Voices + Team* put forward a proposal that the Meeting Room in the Gallery be given a formal title. The Project under *Mission Australia* that identified the critical issues relating to Edward Bytheway was a ‘Work for the Dole Project of Oral History’. Some of the supporting information to name the room for Edward Bytheway included:

- ‘Mr. Edward Bytheway was an important personage in Gympie’s history, and in the story of the Gallery building in particular.
- There is no public commemoration of his name and image in Gympie. While numerous other notable personalities of local history are remembered in the naming of streets, buildings etc., Mr. Bytheway appears to have disappeared without a trace. We believe it is time to redress this oversight.

- It seems to us logical and fitting that the unnamed Meeting Room in the Gallery be honoured with the name of this influential, yet large contributor to Gympie's history.<sup>9</sup>

It was clearly fitting that the room be named for Edward Bytheway, because as Chairman of the School of Arts Committee, he was instrumental in raising funds to build the new School of Arts and Mines on land that had been set aside in Nash Street. He ensured that a building fund was established for the erection of a permanent School of Arts in Gympie. He saw such an institution as being for the cultural and career enrichment of the district's large mining and labouring workforce. This was achieved.

The building has sustained a significant role in the cultural life of the town including housing the Cooloolo Shire Public Gallery and Library Service.

Joolie Gibbs, the Gympie Regional Gallery Coordinator, felt it critical for the recording of Gympie's amazing history, to have a book written about the man to whom the Regional Gallery owes the genesis of its current building which is now a great cultural resource for the people of Gympie and the surrounding district. The Gympie Regional Gallery brochure titled 'The School of Arts Building, Nash Street Gympie, The History', provides a brief synopsis of this man who was a prominent resident of Gympie. As the brochure says, Edward Bytheway was 'one of the town's leading citizens ... he was elected alderman of the Municipal Council, served twice as Mayor, helped to establish the Town Hall (it was built during his time as Mayor), the gasworks and the butter factory.' He has been described as a prominent member of the School of Arts and Technical College, being its President and Chairman of Committee, an important contributor to the establishment of the hospital, and had a close association with the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society.'

Sourcing documentation such as the School of Arts Committee minutes, newspaper articles and other sources, the Gympie Family History Society, the Gympie Regional Library, and the Freemasons of Gympie, an image emerges of a man who was unassuming, a quiet achiever and initiator, who gave foresight and leadership through a broad spectrum of important community functions and infrastructure.

Mr. Bytheway was a driving member of the School of Arts and Technical College from its foundation in 1870, and for a great many years from 1890, he occupied the position of President of the School of Arts and Mines. He also devoted considerable effort toward the establishment of Gympie's hospital and held a seat on the Hospital Committee for several years.

From 1870, he turned his energies to the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society, later becoming its President and Patron. He was a trustee of the local cemetery. A successful businessman, his store, Edward Bytheway and Son in Mary Street manufactured and sold handmade boots and shoes and other domestic and hardware items tailored to suit the needs of the community. Among his other initiatives were a butter factory in Tozer Street, a gas works on Mellor Street and a water works, and having Gympie gazetted a Municipality in 1880.

He had two terms as Mayor beginning in 1890 and in 1895 and served as an Alderman on the Municipal Council from 1888 till 1904.

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<sup>9</sup> The 100 Years 100 Voices + Team: Work for the Dole Project of Oral History

Edward Bytheway was a shrewd business man involved in his retail store (with his son) and gold mining. It is his involvement in the community that has left a lasting and memorable legacy in Gympie, but few are aware of him or his achievements, or that he gave unstinted service to the community in a civic capacity. He also provided the community with strong religious leadership being through his many significant roles with the Wesleyan Methodist Surface Hill Church.

At the time of his death in 1905, he was highly recognised for his contribution to Gympie. It was well known that 'with almost every movement set on foot for the advancement of the town and district, Mr. Bytheway's name was associated [with it] for the last 30 years ... [he] never failed to give satisfaction to all sections of the community, and his name was a guarantee of faithfulness and impartiality'<sup>10</sup> and his legacy should live on.

During his lifetime, Edward Bytheway's name appeared in various articles and letters to the editor in Queensland newspapers, and even *the Sydney Morning Herald* reported his death. Today's Gympieites though, have either forgotten great men like Edward Bytheway and Hugo Du Rietz, or live in ignorance of their existence and their great contribution to the establishment of the township of Gympie.

It appears that the last Bytheway in Gympie may have been his son Edward's wife, Annie Bytheway, who lived here at 34 O'Connell Street until her death in September 1947. The Gympie telephone directory now carries no listings for 'Bytheway', although there is a Sanday listed in one of the district phone directories, Sanday being the surname of one of his sons-in-law.

So who was Edward Bytheway and why have a meeting room at the Gympie Regional Gallery named after him? Why is his name synonymous with the development of Gympie as a township? What were his key achievements and contribution to Gympie during thirty-eight years of his life here? It cannot be right that Gympie has all but forgotten him. The commemoration of Edward Bytheway by Gympie is long overdue.

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<sup>10</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

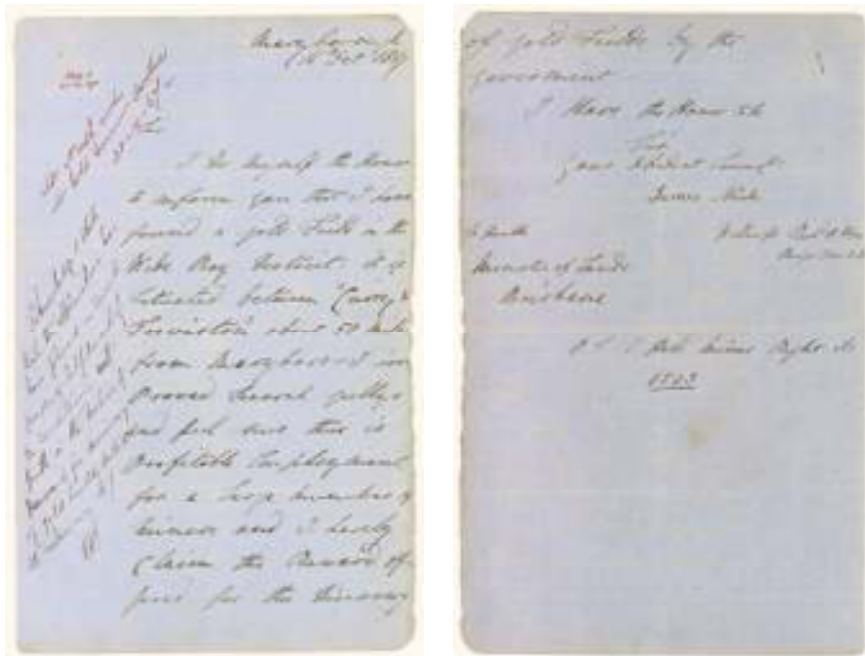


## Chapter Two

### The Gympie of Edward Bytheway

Gympie was officially declared a goldfield on 30 October 1867. The 'Queensland Government Gazette' dated 31 October 1867 proclaimed it the Upper Mary River Goldfield, 40 miles due south from Maryborough, the area being 25 square miles. Pugh's Almanac of 1869 named the diggings as Gympie Creek and it is described as being 54 miles from Maryborough. Large numbers came on foot. The distance from Brisbane was estimated to be 116 miles. The northern towns, Gladstone and Rockhampton, lost large numbers of their people. The magnet of gold also had its effect on the people of the South. It is on record that diggers walked from Melbourne not having the price of a steamer fare.<sup>11</sup>

The early miners named the settlement Nashville after James Nash who had discovered gold in a gully off the Mary River near Gympie Creek; Mary Street runs upwards from the site. It became known as Nash's Gully (close to Gympie's Town Hall). Nash was described as 'a somewhat small man, with a long beard, but by no means aged looking, with shrewd eyes and marked development of perceptive faculties over the eyebrows; locality strongly marked; the eyes still have, an eager look, as though they were searching for something.'<sup>12</sup> James Nash reported his find to the appropriate authorities in Maryborough, the original letter he wrote is included here.<sup>13</sup>



<sup>11</sup>Laurie, Arthur, Senior Vice President. The Drama and Romance of the Gympie Goldfield. Page 107

<sup>12</sup>The Australian Town and Country Journal 8 October 1902

<sup>13</sup>Letter from James Nash to the Minister of Lands regarding his discovery of a gold field in the Wide Bay District and stating his claim of the reward offered for the discovery of goldfields by the government, 16 October 1867 Queensland State Archives, Digital Image ID 2766

From the Victorian goldfields came the observation 'that a rush which is likely to assume considerable importance has set to in the gold fields of Queensland is very apparent.<sup>14</sup> Every steam vessel that leaves this port [Melbourne] for Sydney carries numerous bands of experienced miners bound for the nearest ports to the new diggings. Every vessel from the West Coast of New Zealand ... comes similarly freighted.' Australia had been dealing with a severe depression for some time, so the discovery of gold in Gympie with its rich finds saved Queensland from bankruptcy and severe financial crisis. The rush was on in Gympie for those who sought quick fortunes. The gold discovery by Nash transformed Queensland, increasing its population and restoring the dire financial crisis. There were 'bands of unemployed ... marching through the streets of Brisbane, and the Government hoping to restore the fortunes of the colony, perhaps as Ballarat and Bendigo had come to the assistance of Victoria ...'<sup>15</sup>

In 1868, the name Nashville was later changed to Gympie, a word coming from the local Kabi Kabi or Gubbi Gubbi indigenous Tribe, "gimpi-gimpi" which means stinging tree. This tree which bears attractive pink berries, grows in the rainforest and 'stinging hairs on its large green leaves cause severe pain when even lightly touched.'<sup>16</sup> According to Local Historian Dr Elaine Brown 'Stockmen from Widgee and Curra Stations had given the name 'Gimpi' to a creek that flowed into the Mary River not far north of the gully where the prospector James Nash discovered alluvial gold in 1867. The first reports from Maryborough described the discovery as 'on Gimpi adjoining Currie'.<sup>17</sup>

In early 1868, 'a robust band of newspapermen journeyed here to set up the first newspaper, the *Nashville Times and Mary River Mining Gazette*. A heavy press and type setting machine had to be brought by bullock wagon from Ipswich. The first edition of the paper was produced as floodwaters swirled through the makeshift premises.'<sup>18</sup>

Sixteen thousand people, mostly men, arrived on the Gympie Goldfields within a few months of October 1867, the hottest time of the year. By 1868, the number of people on the Gympie Goldfields was twenty-five thousand. The new miners had come to stay with 'few departures from the field, though a continuous stream is pouring in of people anxious to try their luck on the diggings ... the Colonial Secretary said that sixty-thousand people were on their way to the Gympie gold-field, which cannot support more than a twentieth of that number and advised that the merchants and others to be prepared for that influx of population ... this field cannot support more than its present population, unless new ground is discovered. It is possible that such ground may be discovered, but there is nothing to warrant this immense influx of population, and we fear, nay we are certain they will be grievously disappointed on arriving here ... the patch of auriferous ground is limited, and every inch of it is taken up'.<sup>19</sup>

In July 1868, 920 acres were proclaimed 'as a town reserve for the Gympie Goldfield.'<sup>20</sup> The boundaries were: 'Commencing on the right bank of the Mary River, and bounded on the south-east by a line bearing north fifty-five degrees east fifty-five chains [1107 metres] and fifty links [10 metres], passing through a spot bearing east fifty-five

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<sup>14</sup> The Argus (Melbourne Newspaper) 23 March 1868 in the Gympie Times 14 October 1868

<sup>15</sup> Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927. Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927, page 9

<sup>16</sup> Brown, Dr Elaine. Local Historian. <http://www.birdingcooloola.org.au/whats-in-a-name.html>

<sup>17</sup> Brown, Dr Elaine. Local Historian. <http://www.birdingcooloola.org.au/whats-in-a-name.html>

<sup>18</sup> The Gympie Times <http://www.gympiechamber.com.au/members/andrew.smith@gympietimes.com/>

<sup>19</sup> The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 3 March 1868

<sup>20</sup> The Queensland Government Gazette 11 July 1868

degrees south, and distant thirteen chains [262 metres] from the southernmost corner of section No. 69; on the north-east by a line bearing north thirty-five degrees west one hundred and sixteen chains [322 metres] and fifty links [10 metres]; on the north-west by a line bearing west thirty-five degrees south eighty-eight chains [1770 metres]; and on the south west by a line bearing south thirty-five degrees east to the Mary River, and thence by that river upwards to the point of commencement.<sup>21</sup> At the same time, the construction of an electric telegraph line from Maryborough to Brisbane via Gympie began by a Mr. J. W. Merfield who had won the tender for the project.

In 1891 Gympie had a direct connection to Brisbane with the railway, and together with the telegraph gave it a greatly improved mode of communications. Gympie had its own stock exchange, and this needed the telegraph for communications about the price of gold and the sales of gold.

Gympie became synonymous with the mining industry. Had gold not been discovered, the town may never have existed, or at best it may just have become a small agricultural township. Queensland Heritage Council (QHC) Chair, Professor Peter Coaldrake emphasised a number of times that "Without the town of Gympie, it is unlikely Queensland would exist as we know it today. The gold rush in Gympie in 1867 stimulated a struggling Queensland economy and helped cement Queensland as a State after annexure from New South Wales in 1859. As Gympie gold production evolved from alluvial to shallow reef mining to deep reef mining from 1875, the changes were reflected in the erection of more permanent and elaborate buildings in the town centre."<sup>22</sup>

Within two months of the discovery of gold in October 1867, the Commercial Bank of



Sydney had a branch on the Gympie goldfield on 9 December 1867. It took another fifteen years before the Australian Joint Stock Bank, Gympie Stock Exchange Offices and Club at 236 Mary Street, was completed in 1882.<sup>23</sup>

Australian Joint Stock Bank Gympie Stock Exchange Offices and Club

<sup>21</sup> The Queenslander 18 July 1868

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.qldheritage.org.au/state-heritage-listing-for-four-gympie-buildings.html>

<sup>23</sup> Cooloolo Shire-a golden past. Cooloolo Shire Library Service. Published by Cooloolo Shire Council 2001. Page 4

The Bank became one of the biggest converters of gold into cash, but all the banks played a vital role during the gold mining era. The Queensland Heritage Council noted that “from 1893 to 1922, it served as the Gympie Stock Exchange Offices and Club and is a rare surviving remnant of one of the four stock exchanges that operated in Queensland during the 19th century while Queensland was a significant gold-producer. This building formed part of a gold-era precinct made up of a harmonious set of late Victorian commercial buildings dating from the 1880s and 1890s.”<sup>24</sup> The now popular coffee shop ‘Emilias’ stands beside it, with the building itself currently occupied by a company of solicitors.

Selected members of Queensland’s Legislative Council discussed and established the gold escort, a necessity to safely transport the gold to Brisbane:<sup>25</sup>

**BRISBANE AND GYMPIE CREEK GOLD  
FIELDS ESCORT.**

**T**HE following Gentlemen, forming a Deputation to wait on the Ministry in connection with the Establishment of a GOLD ESCORT to and from the Diggings and Brisbane, are requested to meet at the Town Hall **THIS DAY (Thursday), November 7,** at half-past 10 o'clock sharp, previous to waiting on the Ministers at 11 o'clock.

**JAMES R. DICKSON, Hon. Sec.**

His Worship the Mayor  
 The Hon. G. Harris, M.L.C.  
 T. P. Pugh, Esq., M.L.A.  
 K. I. O'Doherty, Esq., M.D., M.L.A.  
 A. B. Pritchard, Esq., M.L.A.  
 T. B. Stephens, Esq., M.L.A.  
 C. Lilley, Esq., M.L.A.  
 J. F. Garrick, Esq., M.L.A.  
 A. M. Francis, Esq., M.L.A.  
 E. Macdonnell, Esq.  
 George Raff, Esq.  
 S. Fraser, Esq.  
 Arthur Martin, Esq.  
 J. R. Dickson, Esq.  
 W. Brookes, Esq.  
 H. Box, Esq.  
 Wm. Wilson, Esq.  
 E. M'Donnell, Esq.  
 S. Fraser, Esq., and  
 The Honorary Secretary.

With power to add.

**A Full Meeting is particularly requested**

It was arranged for gold coaches to travel between Gympie, Brisbane and Maryborough. Noting that stage robberies between the Gympie Goldfields and Brisbane, and the Gympie Goldfields and Maryborough were frequent, the Queensland give approval to establish a gold escort between the Gympie Goldfields and Brisbane in November 1867. They also moved to commence work on ‘forming a good road between Maryborough and Nashville, starting on the swamp at the foot of the Seven Mile Range.’<sup>26</sup>

By 1868 Gympie had regular Cobb & Co services to and from Brisbane, and also onto Maryborough. At that time ‘the journey from Brisbane to Maryborough took three days. The dry weather route ran through Tuchekoi and Traveston, measuring 116 miles. The wet weather 134-mile alternative ran through Tewantin, along the Six Mile Creek, past Cooran and on to Gympie.’<sup>27</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Queensland Heritage Register <http://www.qldheritage.org.au/four-gympie-places-get-state-heritage-listing.html>

<sup>25</sup> The Brisbane Courier 7 November 1867

<sup>26</sup> The Gympie Times 14 February 1918

<sup>27</sup> Noosa Library Service <http://www.libraries.noosa.qld.gov.au/timeline-of-noosa>

**BRISBANE AND GYMPIE CREEK GOLD  
FIELDS ESCORT.**

**T**HE following Gentlemen, forming a Deputation to wait on the Ministry in connection with the Establishment of a GOLD ESCORT to and from the Diggings and Brisbane, are requested to meet at the Town Hall **THIS DAY (Thursday), November 7,** at half-past 10 o'clock sharp, previous to waiting on the Ministers at 11 o'clock.

**JAMES R. DICKSON, Hon. Sec.**

His Worship the Mayor  
The Hon. G. Harris, M.L.C.  
T. P. Pugh, Esq., M.L.A.  
K. I. O'Doherty, Esq., M.D., M.L.A.  
A. B. Pritchard, Esq., M.L.A.  
T. B. Stephens, Esq., M.L.A.  
C. Lilley, Esq., M.L.A.  
J. F. Garrick, Esq., M.L.A.  
A. M. Francis, Esq., M.L.A.  
E. Macdonnell, Esq.  
George Raff, Esq.  
S. Fraser, Esq.  
Arthur Martin, Esq.  
J. R. Dickson, Esq.  
W. Brookes, Esq.  
H. Box, Esq.

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Sensational sticking-up cases with well-armed men were undertaken by well organised gangs who were very good horsemen, often escaping with significant booty of gold and money. These events could occur just five miles out of Gympie, which meant it would be early morning, not long after the coach had left Gympie. The offenders would be charged with robbery under arms.

In May 1868, a rush occurred at Kilkivan, around forty-five miles from Gympie. Some 3,000 men left Gympie immediately to go there and many more after Commissioner King returned from a visit there reporting favourably on remunerative claims to be made there. So many went to Kilkivan that it gave Nashville a deserted appearance; so many that 'the town of Nashville, with its long, muddy, dreary streets, presents a deserted appearance and business men pull rather long faces. When the

population was here, business was far overdone and you can guess it is not flourishing now.'<sup>28</sup> The focus on gold was temporarily transferred to Kilkivan, so it would come as no surprise that on 11 June 1868, Gympie 'Gold Commissioner Clarke and [Gympie doctor] Dr. John Bridges Mason were robbed by armed men near Kilkivan.'<sup>29</sup>

Bushrangers were known to carry an Irish accent and would call out to the coachman 'bail up ... Get off or I'll blow your brains out ... Stop coachman or I'll fire.'<sup>30</sup> A lot of passengers in the coaches carried their own fire arms and when confronted by the bushrangers would fire from inside the coach, which would displease the bushrangers greatly, so often passengers were wounded.

After a robbery under arms in 1869 just outside Gympie, two bushrangers were described by 'Thomas King, a civil engineer by profession, and recently a storekeeper on Gympie ... a man with a double-barrelled gun [wearing] a dark tweed coat, a wide-awake hat, a piece of green table oil cloth covering his face, hanging loose with holes for the eyes, nose and mouth; he had a pair of grey tweed trousers, with a crackdown one side, through which I could see his skin; the other man had a long grey coat, very dirty and looking something like oil cloth; he had a slouched wide-awake hat and a mask the same as the other; but the white side was out.'<sup>31</sup> These bushrangers were caught! In September 1879 when flooding rains covered Mary Street, another bushranger with the

<sup>28</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 May 1868

<sup>29</sup> Sunday Mail Brisbane 11 June 1939 Guns and Gympie Gold by Clem Lack

<sup>30</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 January 1869

<sup>31</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 January 1869

surname Jensen was caught, having been identified by coachman Morecroft driving into Maryborough.<sup>32</sup>

So a picture emerges of what it must have been like in the 1870's to arrive at the Gympie Goldfields from Brisbane (around 170 kilometres away). An old hand who had worked the Victorian diggings was filled with enthusiasm that gold would be found in great quantities following the discovery of a nugget weighing eighty pounds. Troy, from the Lady Mary Reef 'I came overland from Brisbane on horseback ... I found hundreds of wooden edifices erected, and hundreds of others in the process of erection ... in the richest part of Victorian diggings, namely, Eaglehawk Gully, there was not one single house raised during the first year; while now, after seventeen years' experience of gold-searching, at once houses are being plentifully built here; in fact there are two separate towns on Gympie Creek, a mile asunder ... the means of living are moderate. Six shillings per head for good fat sheep is not exactly out of the way ... it is pleasing to contemplate a way out of Queensland's difficulties.'<sup>33</sup> This is a referral to the fact that Gympie became known as the town that saved Queensland from financial difficulties i.e. almost bankruptcy.

Regular, mostly summer floods always inflicted major damage on the mining industry as well as the businesses: 'The One-Mile has again suffered greatly, however, and several houses and stores in the main street of Gympie have anything but improved by the four or five feet of water which surrounded them. The water continued to rise on last Saturday until it swamped nearly all the stores in the low-lying portion of Mary Street, forcing the occupants to leave with their moveable property ... At the One-Mile the residents, with two exceptions were compelled to remove. Across the Deep Creek about 11 houses were submerged and the water at its highest came up to No. 1 North, New Monkland. The whole of the Columbia line is covered, and not a single claim on the Smithfield is able to work. At the Enterprise machine, the flood rose over the machinery, the fly-wheel being nearly covered. At the Victoria machine, which is several feet higher than the Enterprise, it covered the batteries.'<sup>34</sup> The 1870 flood became a catalyst for the reconstruction of much of Gympie.

Floods also affected those that had been cattle and sheep farmers – there was redwater fever that killed cattle and the pastures would not grow where such land had been covered with the tailings from the mines. Only some farmers ever recovered.

The 1893 flood in Gympie closed many mines until around June of that year. This caused a much lower yield of gold in 1893 and it is estimated that at that time only around 1,300 men were employed in the mines. The mines filled with water and a number of mine workings were 'blown up' by the pressure of air trapped in their drives and suppressed as the shafts filled with water and minehead equipment would be hurled hundreds of feet into the air. Edward Bytheway witnessed the richness of the gold mines, and destruction due to floods.

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<sup>32</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 6 September 1879

<sup>33</sup> The Brisbane Courier 13 February 1868

<sup>34</sup> The Gympie Times 20 July 1870



Flooded Mary Street in Gympie, 1870

In 1873, Gympie was seen 'as a marvellous place ... though at the same time very ugly. Its population was said to be 6,000 souls ... the men go and come so quickly that the changes cannot be computed. It consists of a long street stretching more than a mile-up and down hill-and without a single house in it that looked as though it had been built to last ten years ... the main street contains stores, banks, public houses, a place of worship or two, and a few eating houses. They are framed of wood, one storey high, generally built in the first place as sheds with a gable end to the street, onto which for the sake of importance, a rickety wooden façade has been attached. The houses of the miners, which are seldom more than huts, are scattered over the surrounding hills, here and there, as the convenience of men in regard to different mining places has prompted the builders. All around are to be seen the holes and shallow excavations made by the original diggers, and scattered among them bigger heaps which have been made by the sinking of deep shafts. When a mine is being worked there is a rough windlass over it and at a short distance the circular track of the unfortunate horse who, who by his rotary motion, pulls the buckets up with the quartz and lets them down with the miners. Throughout all there stands the stunted stumps of decapitated trees, giving the place an almost unearthly desolation. Some distance from the mine shafts are to be seen the great forests which stretch away on every side over almost unlimited distance. There is a hospital and there are schools which are well attended and ... various places of worship.<sup>35</sup>

Miners were less interested in alluvial gold because a large proportion of the gold produced from Gympie has come from reefs that do not outcrop at the surface and are totally concealed beneath the barren limestone. The miners of 100 years ago

<sup>35</sup> Trollope, Anthony. Australia and New Zealand 1873, Vol. II, page 191

understood this, and had such confidence that they would sink deep shafts through barren limestone to the Productive Beds to find rich reefs that had no surface indication. Over an area of 10 kilometres by 4 kilometres, over 1,500 shafts were sunk to a maximum depth of one kilometre, from which 150 kilometres of workings were developed. During the years 1892 and 1893, Gympie produced 1,291,270 oz. of gold. By 1898, Gympie had enriched the world's circulation of gold to about eight million sterling, and it would produce more than 99 million grams of gold until the mines closed. The largest mine was the Scottish Gympie which worked at levels from 650 to over 800 metres deep, and had underground roadways exceeding 50 kilometres in length. In 1909 fifty-one mining companies were operating. A huge nugget of pure gold, called the Curtis nugget was found in the Gympie district. It weighed about 18 kilograms. Although the gold had all but petered out in the 1920's<sup>36</sup> the mines had produced 4 million ounces from 1867 and the surrounding region until around 2002 when some of the old gold reefs were mined from around 1995 under joint venture with Gympie Eldorado Gold Mines (GEGM).

The Gympie population of the 1880s expected a lot of the Queensland Government, and 'when they felt that they were being neglected there was an intensification of dislike for the central government'<sup>37</sup>... demonstrated by oppositional incidents relating to the construction and opening of the Maryborough to Gympie Railway Line and the land allocated for the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society; and the provision of a new school.

To support the population came doctors, lawyers, gold commissioners, shop keepers, hoteliers and owners of public houses and sly grog shops. Gympie had about 23 hotels during the gold rush days. George Grater Smith was Gympie's main architect until 1871 when he left Gympie, depressed at the damage caused by the floods. Hugo Du Rietz took his place as the town's main architect. Hugo Du Rietz had the foresight to build a soap factory to provide soap for the miners and general townspeople to improve cleanliness. As well as assessing the building infrastructure needs after the 1870 flood and into the future, he designed around 115 buildings and usually undertook the supervision of construction. Some fine architecturally designed buildings still stand now, thanks to Hugo Du Rietz.

The first doctors were Dr. Theodore Edgar Dickson Byrne (known as the jumping doctor because he was always jumping other people's gold mining claims), Dr. Stephen John Burke, Dr. John Bridges Mason, Dr. John R. Benson and Dr. John P. Ryan. Edward Bytheway and Hugo Du Rietz would encounter both Drs. Byrne and Burke during the establishment of the first Gympie Hospital and the School of Arts. Dr. Byrne would create an unpleasant public nuisance when the moves were being made to form a School of Arts Committee. Hugo Du Rietz would join Edward on the School of Arts Committee.

Francis Isidor Power and Horace Tozer were among the first solicitors in Gympie in the 1870's, both of whom became Members of Queensland's Legislative Council, as well as being knighted. These men were close colleagues of Edward Bytheway.

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<sup>36</sup> The Australian Encyclopaedia and Explore Australia, 2003, Sydney Australia, Penguin Australia

<sup>37</sup> Carnell, Ian, A History of Gympie 1867-1900 submitted as partial requirement for the Degree of B.A. with Honours in History, University of Queensland, 1976



Gympie was proclaimed a municipality in 1880, declared a town in 1903 and a city in 1905. The railway from Maryborough reached Gympie in 1881 and by 1882 the town had its own stock exchange. Within fourteen years, Gympie went from complete scrub, bush and vine-shrubbed gullies to a myriad of prospecting claims and mines, a rag tag collection of tents and shanty dwellings, houses, schools and 'shopping centres' (mainly at the One-Mile run by Messrs. Lonney and Butler). The broad coverage of the mines in Gympie is shown in the map included in the publication *One-Mile State School, 125 Years of Education in Gympie 1869-1994*.<sup>38</sup>



<sup>38</sup> One-Mile State School, 125 Years of Education in Gympie 1869-1994, page 6



REFERENCE	
205 R A Pollock & Party	328 Smith & Pope
213 Thos Willis & Party	329 No. 1 Phoenix G M Co. Ltd
223 M Noonan & Party	331No. 3 & 4 N. Glanmire G M Co. Ltd
238 Californian United GM Co.	332 No. 9 S. Lady Mary G M Co. Ltd
228 North Lady Mary G M Co. Ltd	335 No.1S. Perverserance Extended G M Co.
232 South New Zealand G M Co.	337 Veteran Prospect Claim
233 Aurelia G M Co. Ltd	338 W.H. Couldery
261 D Love & Party	339 Hercules G M Co
262 F.O. O'Donnell & Party	341 N. Glanmire G M Co Ltd
269 South Louisa G M Co.	349 W. Hall
270 T&B S. Monkland G M Co.	351 Dawn Extended G M Co.
271 No. 5 Lady Mary G M Co.	352 No. 2 S. Louisa G M Co.
277 R A Pollock	353 No.1 Phoenix G M Co. Ltd
279 J Bonthorn	356 J. Johns
288 No. 1 S. New Zealand G M Co.	357 Nil Desperandum G M Co.
301 Golden Crown G M Co.	358 No. 2 & 3 N. Hilton G M Co Ltd
303 S. New Zealand Junction Co.	359 No.2 N. Columbia Reef
309 New Zealand Prospectors G M Co. Ltd	360 Nicholls G M Co. Ltd Cancelled
312 Caledonian United G M Co.	361 Crown & Phoenix Extended G M Co. Ltd
315 No. 2 N. Californian G M Co Ltd	362 Smithfield & Columbia G M Co.
316 W H Couldery & Others	368 Ryan and Joseph
323 No. 7 Lady Mary G M Co. Ltd	375 Columbia Extended G M Co Ltd
324 Smithfield Extended G M Co. Ltd	378 Phoenix Console G M Co. Limited
326 London Extended G M Co Ltd	388 Phoenix Golden Pile G M Co. Ltd
327 Nichols Lease G M Co. Ltd	

The map's reference box retyped to show names and companies bearing leases

Mines which made Gympie Queensland's prominent gold town are:

MINE	MINE	MINE
Australasian	London Prospect Claim	South O'Donahue and New Zealand Tribute
Black's New Zealand Tribute	Black Snake Reef	No. 2 North New Zealand
Canadian Prospect Claim	No. 1 North Great New Zealand	Columbia Smithfield Gold Mining Co Ltd
No. 1 South Sadowa	O'Connell Reef	Columbia Consolidated
Victoria Prospect Claim	Columbia Extended	South Glanmire and Monkland
No. 2 South Great Eastern	No. 3 South Great Eastern	Home Rule and Hilton Extended
New Home Rule and Hilton United Mine	No. 1 North Home Rule	No. 7 South Lady Mary
No. 7 and No. 8 Monkland Tribute	No. 2 North Oriental and Glanmire	No. 1 South Oriental and Glanmire
East Oriental and Glanmire	Great Oriental	Oriental and Glanmire
Oriental Extended	Oriental Consols	Oriental Surprise
South Glanmire and Monkland Tribute	Great Northern	Great Hibernia
New Dawn	No. 2 North Great Eastern	No. 1 South Great Eastern
No. 1 South Gympie Gold Mines	Homeward Bound and Hibernia	North Phoenix Tribute
No. 5 North Phoenix	No. 6 North Phoenix	No. 1 North Phoenix

No. 4 North Phoenix	Phoenix Eastern Tribute	Phoenix Golden Pile
Smithfield and Phoenix Golden Pile	West of Scotland	Scottish Mine Gympie
No. 2 North Victory	No. 1 North Smithfield	No. 1 North Victory
St Kilda and Harkins	South Smithfield and Glanmire	Eastern No. 3 and No. 3 Smithfield Tribute
North Smithfield		

Other mining operations in Gympie were<sup>41</sup>:

Louisa	Lucknow	Curtis & Co. Pyrites Works at the One-Mile
Gold Mining on Caledonian Hill	Enterprise	The Dunn-Killans Mine
No.1 North Glanmire	Seven and Eight Claims South Monkland	No. 2 and No. 3 South New Zealand Mine
Wilmot Mine	Ellen Harkin's Mine	Caledonian and New Zealand Shaft
Nicholl's Lease	No. 1 North Great Eastern	No. 2 Great Eastern
No. 7 Lady Mary	Great New Zealand Shaft	Smithfield and Phoenix Golden Pile
No. 2 North Columbia, Southfield	Sadowa Mine on Jim Frazer's property, Two Mile	Peter and Paul Mine, Two Mile
Oriental Consols	Western Oriental Consols	Ray Street Mine




The map of the Gympie Goldfield leases as at 1904 shows the extensiveness of the mines all over the township of Gympie<sup>42</sup>.

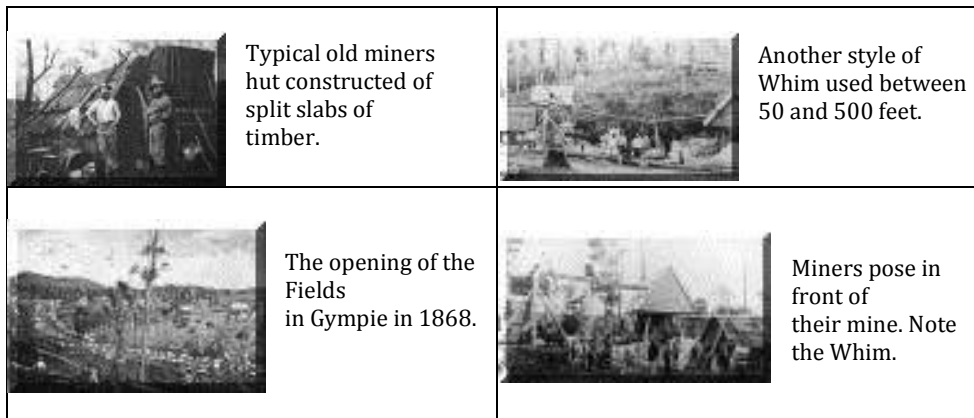


<sup>41</sup> Information from Gympie Regional Library Photo Album on the Gympie Gold Field

<sup>42</sup> The Gympie Times 8 July 1905

More on the gold mines of the Gympie of Edward Bytheway:

 <p>Battery of stampers in Scottish mine in 1902 used to break up rock to extract gold.</p>	 <p>Main Scottish No. 1 shaft.</p>
 <p>Scottish No. 1 gold mine.</p>	 <p>A Mining parabola cantina.</p>
 <p>A photo taken looking towards Fairview Hill Monkland, Gympie.</p>	 <p>The Oriental Glanmire gold mine at Monkland Gympie.</p>
 <p>A horse powered Whim used to wind the cables on to work the mine between the depths of 50 feet to 500 feet.</p>	 <p>A two man powered Windlass used to lower and raise a large bucket. Used between zero feet to 50 feet.</p>
 <p>A horse pulling a trolley of rock to be dumped. Large loads can be pulled along the steel tracks by only one horse.</p>	 <p>A horse drawn rock cart. It takes four horses to move the heavy load of rock.</p>
 <p>Miners starting a relatively new mine with a covered Windlass to give shade and keep the rain out.</p>	 <p>Another mining Whim used between 50 and 500 feet.</p>



From 1868 until his death in 1905, Edward Bytheway actively participated in and led many ventures and interests in Gympie which were critical to the establishment of the new township. During this time, he was integral to the evolution of Gympie into a thriving township with necessary infrastructure and organisations. He witnessed the impact of the discovery of gold on Gympie and the State of Queensland; the floods which inundated Gympie; the arrival of the railway in Gympie; and the celebrations of Federation (which Gympie celebrated with great gusto). Queensland became an independent State in 1859, eight years before gold was discovered.

A man 'of genial disposition was he and one who, if he had any prejudices of his own was quite willing to make large allowances for prejudices of others. His invariable courtesy made him liked and respected, and his integrity of character was recognised by all who came in contact with him.'<sup>43</sup> He had great skill in finance, investments and planning for what Gympie needed to flourish and make it a decent town worth living in.

He developed a number of successful relationships with certain 'town and shire makers', including the architect Hugo Du Rietz. Like Du Rietz, Bytheway was instrumental in the many innovative business enterprises and joined community committees including those of the School of Arts; the Gympie Hospital; Mutual Improvement Association; Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society; and the Gympie Primary School. Bytheway was Gympie's Mayor from 1890 to 1891 and then again from 1895 to 1896. Bytheway often called upon Du Rietz to undertake design and supervise construction of the significant buildings in Gympie, some of which remain and some of which have now disappeared and been replaced by other buildings, such as the original Gympie Showgrounds' buildings.

Edward Bytheway invested heavily in a number of allotments of land in Gympie, Traveston, Noosa and Brisbane, and had a financial interest in a number of mines. He moved almost immediately on his arrival in Gympie to take up gold prospecting claims, choosing rich producing mines. He leased land on the 'Goldfields Town Land-Gympie Gold Fields Town Allotments between 1 March 1869 and 7 February 1872 (Gympie 65). His business acumen gave him great success in all of his mining ventures; he always participated in all of the public institutions on the Goldfields. His own store, Bytheway

<sup>43</sup> The Gympie Times 14 October 1905

and Son, was extremely successful in servicing at least fifty-five Gympie Mines<sup>44</sup> and later over 100 mines. By the 1880s, there was a second generation of Gympie miners. It only took a few months for Mary Street to evolve into a 'business centre' as the historic image shows. Nash's Gully was at that end of Mary Street where is located the current Fiveways.



Mary Street in 1868<sup>45</sup>

Historic photos show Bytheway's store in Mary Street in 1868. One shows at right the Adelphi Hotel; Red White and Blue store owned by Henry Markwell; the sign in centre is for Booths Sale Yards and on left of the sale yards is Bytheway's Store.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> The Gympie Times 14 January 1905

<sup>45</sup> Photo courtesy of the Local History Section, Gympie Regional Library

<sup>46</sup> Photo courtesy of the Local History Section Keith Waser Collection



Bytheway's Store next to Booth's Sales Yard

Bytheway's early Store in Mary Street shown with red arrow<sup>47</sup>



Bytheway's Store in Mary Street after the flood and 1877 fire<sup>48</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Photos provided by Local History Section Gympie Regional Library

<sup>48</sup> A Photo from the Gympie Times 15 December 1929





The man standing second from the right is Edward Bytheway junior

On 10 July 1868, Edward Bytheway with his brother Benjamin Bytheway, Thomas Harris, and Patrick Mullen, applied for a 240 feet prospecting claim at the Napier Reef.<sup>49</sup>

Then later on 12 November 1868, he took up Claim No. 2366 of the Caledonian Reef No. 8 South with other men in Gympie: John Martin, Arthur Mann, John Hanner, F.H. Hunt, William Scott, and Horace Tozer. The Caledonian mine produced splendid specimens of gold and was one of richest producing mines in Gympie. The Caledonian Reef was west of the Lady Mary Reef running parallel with it. Edward Bytheway's Caledonian Reef No. 8 South shared its place and good returns with the likes of Caledonian Prospecting Claim of Frederick Goodchap, Robert Kift and Edwin Morgan; Caledonian Reef No. 1 South with Nugent Brown, W. H. Couldery and H. Brown; Caledonian Reef No. 2 South with F. Lord, S. Lord and W. Lord; and Caledonian Reef No. 1 North. The mining lease boundaries often overlapped as 'between Nos. 2 and 3 South, the Lady Mary passes through the Caledonian Prospectors Claim and about three men's ground is included in that claim'. The decisions are tersely stated but doubtless they meant the loss of dearly prized ground to some miners.<sup>50</sup> Edward Bytheway's Caledonian Prospecting Claim was working in a similar belt of country to the very successful Lady Mary Mine.

In 1877, the No. 7 Lady Mary South won first prize for the specimens it had displayed at the Gympie Show as 'crowds of admiring spectators were inspecting and praising them'.<sup>51</sup> Edward Bytheway would have been very pleased with his investment in the adjacent Caledonian Reef, as it and the Lady Mary Reef were 'getting very good stone' to

<sup>49</sup> Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927. Its Leading Institutions-Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture Gympie September 1927

<sup>50</sup> Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927. Its Leading Institutions-Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture Gympie September 1927, page 13

<sup>51</sup> The Brisbane Courier 6 October 1877

the extent that 'this distinguished block of wealth' was generating a highly fashionable neighbourhood, and 'enormous prices were demanded and freely given for lodgings in No. 8 next door'<sup>52</sup>(No. 8 Lady Mary South, known as the Tribute).

Edward Bytheway was the Director of No. 6 North Phoenix Mine, and No. 1 North Glanmire, the Gold Creek Gold Mining and Prospecting Company, and had a permanent financial share in No. 7 Lady Mary. He held a seat on the No.1 North Glanmire Mine's Board until his death, it being known that 'during his term on the directorate, this mine went through the most balmy days of its existence.'<sup>53</sup>

The Phoenix Reef Mine was not only exceptionally rich but where it rolled over on the side the crushing stuff was up to 30 feet in width ... [and] it employed an average of 120 men.<sup>54</sup> Andrew Fisher, later Member for Wide Bay between 1901 until 1915 and later Prime Minister of Australia between 1908-1909; 1910-1913; and 1914-1915, arrived in Gympie in 1888 and for three years worked in Edward Bytheway's No. 1 North Phoenix Mine.<sup>55</sup>

Edward Bytheway and other residents of Gympie with great foresight began to see that a School of Mines was needed for the young miners to obtain relevant training. Education then became a priority with One-Mile State School and Gympie Central State School opening in 1869, just two years after the discovery of gold. Gympie Central School opened originally as an all girl's school, then an Infant's School was amalgamated in 1911 and it became Co-Ed in 1943. The school yard of Gympie Central State School contains a very deep mine shaft which was concreted over in the 1970s.

In early 1881, there was a marked improvement in the mining share market in Gympie, with the trend showing more buyers than sellers. There had been a discovery of a new line of reef which gave miners great confidence for the future, and there was more prospecting going on than had been the case for some time. With such confidence being in the air in February 1881, Edward Bytheway purchased 400 shares at 10s 3d each of the Golden Crowns Mine from Thomas Power, and 250 shares at 4s 6d each of the New Zealand Junction Mine from Mr. A. Cowell. At the same time, he sold 500 shares to Mr. E. Pope from his No. 3 North Phoenix Mine.<sup>56</sup> Also in 1881, Edward Bytheway bought an allotment of land on Calton Hill for £50.<sup>57</sup> In 1887, 'the half-yearly meeting of the Gold Creek Gold Mining and Prospecting Company was held at the company's office on June 17, when Messrs. Bytheway, Brigden, Ferguson, Beresford, and Mensforth were re-elected Directors, and Messrs. Brown and W.T. Hurtle were elected new Directors for the ensuing six months. A special resolution was carried to amend the articles of the company.'<sup>58</sup>

For four years up until 1892, Mr. P.F. Sellheim was the Police Magistrate and Goldfields Warden for Gympie. He was there during one of its most productive times for the production of gold. Edward Bytheway was among thirty Justices of the Peace (JPs) who presented him with an illuminated address at the Court House, given with the respect he

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<sup>52</sup> The Brisbane Courier 6 October 1877

<sup>53</sup> The Gympie Times 12 November 1927

<sup>54</sup> Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927. Its Leading Institutions-Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture Gympie September 1927

<sup>55</sup> Carnell, Ian, A History of Gympie 1867-1900 submitted as partial requirement for the Degree with Honours in History University of Queensland, 1976

<sup>56</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 March 1881

<sup>57</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 March 1881

<sup>58</sup> Queensland Times Ipswich 19 June 1937 Links with the Past 50 Years

deserved for having been impartial at all times and never counting the cost. Mr. Sellheim was a good person to stay well connected with as he had been appointed the Under Secretary of Mines, the Department with which he had been so long connected as Warden. So the JPs felt reassured that in his new position they would still have access to his services.<sup>59</sup> Gympie's Horace Tozer was now the Colonial Secretary and Minister for Works and was present for the farewell to Mr. Sellheim. No doubt Edward Bytheway provided the lead with the other business men of Gympie who were JPs to make this gesture to Mr. Sellheim. Bytheway knew Sellheim would remain a critical contact for him in the development of the mining town as 'both as warden and under-secretary Sellheim continually advocated more orderly and systematic development of Queensland's mining resources and abandonment of the wasteful and cut-throat practices which were all too common. In 1890 he persuaded the Gympie mine-owners to form a co-operative for the drainage of mines, the first example in Queensland of any co-ordination among managements for the common good. Sellheim's great achievement was the 1898 Mining Act, framed from the findings of a royal commission of 1897. Besides reforming safety conditions, it improved the security of mining tenures and safeguarded the rights of both the big investor and the miner.'<sup>60</sup> Sellheim was Under Secretary of Mines until his death on 12 October 1899 with credit to himself and the complete satisfaction of the Government and mining community throughout the colony.<sup>61</sup>

By 1879, Gympie's official population was 4338. On 11 November 1879, the Gympie Division was created as one of 74 Divisions within Queensland under the Divisional Boards Act 1879.<sup>62</sup>

Armed with these statistics and a little later in 1880, Edward Bytheway became a key initiator with others in Gympie who felt that Gympie warranted being gazetted as a Municipality. The group sent a petition signed by fifty-eight inhabitant householders of the town for its formally being named a Municipality with nine representatives under the *Local Government Act*. The Division made in 1879 was abolished and Gympie became a Municipality on 25 June 1880. The Borough of Gympie held its first elections on 25 August 1880.<sup>63</sup> One of Bytheway's colleagues, Matthew Mellor was the first Mayor, between 1880 and 1882. In 1880, the town had 18 hotels, 28 grocers, 19 share brokers, 10 butchers, and 8 bakers, as well as other sundry businesses. The population was approximately 10,000.<sup>64</sup> The Town Hall was built in 1890. Hugo Du Rietz designed the Gympie Town Hall Clock Tower in 1891 [James Nash discovered alluvial gold near the present site of the Gympie Town Hall in October 1867]. Here are some images of the Municipality in 1895, 1899 and 2014:

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<sup>59</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 3 May 1892

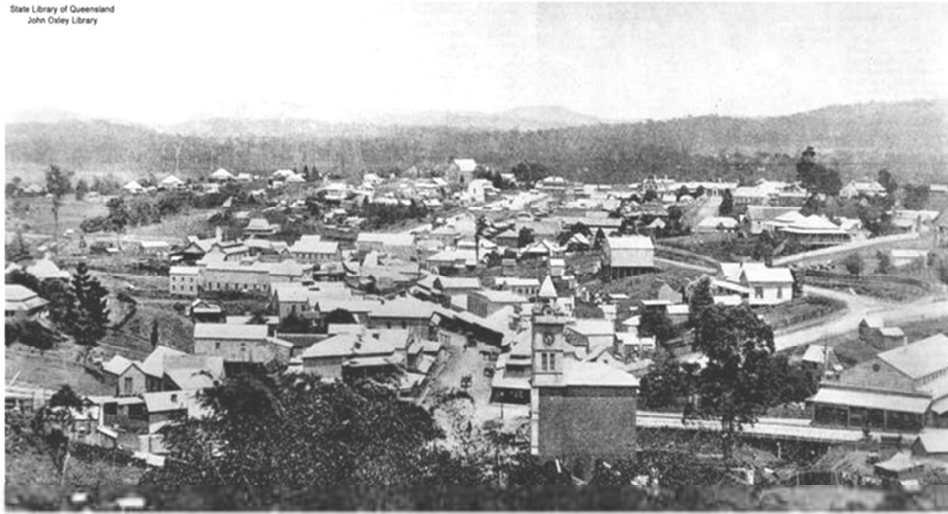
<sup>60</sup> G. C. Bolton, 'Sellheim, Philip Frederic (1832–1899)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/sellheim-philip-frederic-4555/text7471>, published first in hardcopy 1976

<sup>61</sup> Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men. Compiled by the Alcazar Press Brisbane W.H. Wendt & Co Printers Edward Street Brisbane, 1900 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-36615454> Page 92

<sup>62</sup> Proclamation [Gympie Division]. Queensland Government Gazette. 11 November 1879. p. 25:1001

<sup>63</sup> "Borough of Gympie — Order in Council". Queensland Government Gazette. 25 June 1880. p. 26:1511

<sup>64</sup> Laurie, Arthur, Senior Vice President. The Drama and Romance of the Gympie Goldfield (read a meeting of the Society on 30 August 1962, page 112



View of Gympie Township 1895-Building in centre foreground with clock tower is Gympie Town Hall



GYMPIE TOWN HALL.

The photo of the Town Hall from W. Lees 1899 publication 'The Goldfields of Queensland'

65

<sup>65</sup> Lees, W. The Goldfields of Gympie. Gympie Edition. Gympie Goldfield. A commemorative limited edition reproduction of the publication by W. Lees, 1899. Queensland Government Printer 1986



Now heritage-listed, Gympie's historic Town Hall is a legacy to the city's gold mining and agricultural past.<sup>66</sup>

Matthew Mellor is accredited with assisting in the formation of Gympie's various public institutions which owe their existence to his forethought and assistance and for many years he voiced in the Queensland Parliament the views and opinions of the Gympie electorate.<sup>67</sup>

In 1890, Gympie was Edward Bytheway's town. He was the Mayor. Gympie was described as a gold mining township on the Mary River, 61 miles by rail from Maryborough, and 107 miles N.W. from Brisbane, Population of Borough, 8,449; Population of District, 13,007 (census 1891).

The key people on his team and those people and organisations associated with managing the town were<sup>68</sup>:

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.** Mayor E. Bytheway; Councillors, H. Grennan, V. Henderson, G. Ryland, J. Burchill, R. D. Shanks, W. G. Ambrose, M. Mellor, W. Slithers. Town Clerk, J. G. Kidgell; Overseer of Works, Rate Collector and Inspector of Nuisances, James Bennett; Solicitors, Tozer & Conwell. Auditors, S. Shepherd, A. R. Ranson

**POLICE MAGISTRATE** (also Goldfields Warden, and Mineral Lands Commissioner) L. E. D. Towner

**RETURNING OFFICER** G. Patterson

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<sup>66</sup> <http://www.gympietimes.com.au/news/heritage-listing-for-art-deco-look-town-hall-toilet/1074331/>. Retrieved 14 April 2014  
Hienee Pilcher

<sup>67</sup> Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men. Compiled by the Alcazar Press Brisbane. W.H. Wendt & Co Printers Edward Street Brisbane, 1900 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-36615454> Page 114

<sup>68</sup> Slater's Queensland Almanac 1896. Slater's Queensland Directory and Gazette. Official Directory of Queensland. Published by Gordon and Gotch Queensland Street Brisbane (previously published by George Slater and Co). Thirty-first year of publication. 1896.  
[https://archive.org/stream/SlatersQueenslandAlmanac1896/Slater's%20Queensland%20Almanac%201896\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/SlatersQueenslandAlmanac1896/Slater's%20Queensland%20Almanac%201896_djvu.txt)  
(accessed 13 January 1896)

**CLERK OF PETTY SESSIONS**, Registrar, District Receiver in Insolvency and High Bailiff  
John Farrelly

**MINING REGISTRAR** J. C. Linedale

**LAND COMMISSIONER AND AGENT** L. G. Board

**POUNDKEEPER** J. Watson

**CROWN LANDS RANGER** W. P. Bond

**BAILIFF** A. Davies jnr

### **CHURCHES**

St. Peter's (Church of England), Reverend J. F. Leighton and Reverend T. Ashburner; St Patrick's (Roman Catholic), Father Matthew Horan; Congregational; Wesleyan, Reverend C. Stead; Primitive Methodist, Reverend T. Powell; Presbyterian, Reverend A. Chapman

### **SCHOOLS**

Central: Boys: Head Teacher, James C. Baylis; assistants, Edward B. Atkins, James Kemp, Thos. B. Ferguson, Donald Grant, and three pupil teachers; average attendance, 240 scholars

Girls and Infants: Head Teacher, Isabella Fleming; assistants, Catherine Shanks, Ernestine M. Booth, Victoria Booth, Annie W Cockburn, Margaret Johnstone, Julia E. Eaton, and two pupil teachers; average attendance, 270 scholars

State School, One-Mile: Boys: Teacher, J. A. McLeod; assistants, John J. Cockburn, John George, Jane L. Scott, Gertrude A. Tyrrell, Denis Spillane, Julia Moffatt, and one pupil teacher; average attendance, 274. Girls: Teacher, Margaret Hood; assistants, Amy Dodson, Edith M. Elfverson, Elizabeth J. Snell, Fanny J. Daniell, Margaret F. Simpson, and three pupil teachers; average attendance, 248. Infants: Teacher, Eleanor Broe; assistants, Jane McFie, Sophia M. Tyrrell, and one pupil teacher; average attendance, 156

Monkland: Head Teacher, C. W. H. Reinhold; assistants, Eliza Jane Gall, W. D. Murray, Ellen Neill, Annie E. McLaughlin, Caroline Gambling, and two pupil teachers; average attendance, 218

Two-Mile State School: Head Teacher, David Freeman, and one pupil teacher; average attendance, 51

Convent School, Calton Hill: Teachers, Sisters of Mercy. Catholic Boy's School

### **BANKS**

Australian Joint Stock Bank, Acting Manager,

F. Boldeman; Bank of New South Wales, Acting Manager, T. L. Park; Queensland National, Manager, T. H. Sym; Union Bank, Manager, H. W. Ferguson; Royal Bank, Manager, George Rankin

**PRINCIPAL HOTELS** Northumberland, R. A. Sim; Commercial, J. Duff; Freemasons', George Flay; Mining Exchange, J. J. E. Stewart; Royal, Mrs. Duckworth; Golden Age, Mrs. E. Jew; Royal Exchange, J. White

**MEDICAL MEN** Dr. J. P. Ryan, Dr. W.S. Geddie, Dr. J.L. Cuppaidge, Dr. T. H. Morgan, Dr. J. Hume

**GYMPIE HOSPITAL** Resident Surgeon, Dr. W.S. Geddie; Wardsman, John McKay; Matron, Miss A. Thomas; Secretary, C. C. Caston

**NEWSPAPER PROPRIETORS** Rogers and Co., Gympie Times, Tu., Th., and Sat. mornings; Gympie Miner, Mon., Wed. and Fri. mornings

**COACHES** Myles & Co.'s coach daily service from Cooroy to Tewantin. Coaches to the One-Mile and Monkland every hour, fare, 6d

**TELEGRAPH OPERATOR** J. M. Illidge

**POSTAL** Postmaster and Savings Bank Officer, Walter Woodyatt; mails to and from Brisbane by train twice daily; to and from Maryborough, twice daily (except Sunday); to and from Tewantin, daily; to and from Kilkivan, four times a week by rail; to and from One-Mile Creek, twice daily (except Sunday); to and from Imbil, Mon. and Thur; to and from Glastonbury and Widgee, Tu. and Fri.; to Tuckekoi and old Brisbane road, Wed., returning Wed

In 1898 two Orders-in-Council were implemented<sup>69</sup>: one abolishing the Division of Widgee, and the other constituting a new Division of Widgee to include a part of the late Division of Glastonbury.' This meant that under the new arrangements the Divisions had been split between the Widgee Division and the Borough of Gympie.<sup>70</sup> The Borough of Gympie became the Town of Gympie on 13 March 1903, under the *Local Authorities Act 1902* and on 7 January 1905 was proclaimed City of Gympie by the Governor of Queensland.<sup>71</sup>

By 1899 the population of Gympie was 11,650 and had 'all social and commercial advantages-churches, public schools, theatres, School of Arts, School of Mines, and Turf Club with an excellent racecourse upon the south side of the river. On the same ground, which has an area of 100 acres, is held the annual exhibition of the Gympie Agricultural and Pastoral Society. Masonic Lodges and Friendly Societies are strongly represented here. A well-appointed hospital is situated near the town. The interests of the mining men are watched over by different bodies; the Mine Managers' Association; the Gympie Brokers' Association now numbers 33 members, who are bound by stringent rules in their transactions with each other, and also with their clients. All disputes are dealt with by a committee of five members. Private calls are held in the Stock Exchange daily; the Chairman is Mr. D. Mulcahy; the Secretary, Mr. F. Vaughan. The Stock Exchange is a well-appointed building capable of holding upwards of 200 people, in which calls are held daily, and which is at all times a centre and meeting place of mining men.'<sup>72</sup>

Edward Bytheway lived to see the town have its name changed from Nashville to Gympie, and to see Gympie proclaimed a city with a population of 13,500 in 1905. Over the twenty-six years since 1879 when the Gympie Division was created, Bytheway had

<sup>69</sup> The Brisbane Courier 5 January 1898 –Supplement to the Government Gazette

<sup>70</sup> TO-DAY.—JANUARY 5.". The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933) (Qld.: National Library of Australia). 5 January 1895. p. 4" GOLDEN BUTTER WORTH.". The Queenslander (Brisbane, Qld. : 1866 - 1939) (Brisbane, Qld.: National Library of Australia). 7 December 1938. p. 34.

<sup>71</sup> Queensland Government Gazette, 7 January 1905, p.1905:31. "Agency ID10381, Gympie Town Council". Queensland State Archives

<sup>72</sup> Lees, W. The Goldfields of Gympie. Gympie Edition. Gympie Goldfield. A commemorative limited edition reproduction of the publication by W. Lees, 1899. Queensland Government Printer 1986. Page 5

seen the population of Gympie more than treble, and much of the infrastructure was in some small way, a credit to him and the team of colleagues he led and marshalled around him.

A share broker named Mr. R. Kellett with offices in George Street Brisbane had visited Gympie in 1896. He published a list for intending purchasers of some of the most valuable properties in Gympie, upon which gold had been struck, some of them yielding rich returns. The list is significant because the mines in which the shrewd Edward Bytheway held business interests are there<sup>73</sup>.

**R. KELLETT,  
SHAREBROKER.**

**LIST OF SHARES FOR SALE.**

**CALEDONIAN.**

**N**O. 5 and 6, Caledonian North—amalgamated.  
 No. 3 A, Caledonia North.  
 No. 5, Caledonia South.  
 No. 6, Caledonia South.

**MOUNT PLEASANT.**

No. 4, Mount Pleasant South.

**LADY MARY.**

No. 1, Lady Mary North.  
 No. 2, Lady Mary South.

**INGLEWOOD.**

No. 9, Inglewood West.  
 No. 9, Inglewood West.

**RUSSELL REEF.**

Prospector's Claim.  
 No. 1 Russell North.

**BRITANIA.**

Prospector's Claim.

**SMITHFIELD.**

No. 1, South.  
 No. 2, South.  
 No. 3, Ditto.  
 No. 3, Ditto.

**NIL DESPERANDUM.**

No. 3, South.

**DODD REEF.**

No. 1, South.  
 No. 2, South.

**SYDNEY REEF.**

Prospector's Claim.

**NORTH HAMBURG REEF.**

No. 1, North.

**CANADIAN.**

No. 2, North.

**SERPENTINE REEF.**

Prospector's Claim.

**EUREKA.**

No. 1 North.

**PERSEVERANCE.**

No. 3 South.

**GREAT NORTHERN MINING COMPANY  
(LIMITED.)**  
 10 Shares paid up.  
**NORTH CALEDONIAN MINING COMPANY  
(LIMITED.)**  
 40 Paid up Shares.

<sup>73</sup> The Brisbane Courier 22 July 1868.



## Chapter Three

### The Bytheway Family

The Bytheway surname has its source in the surname *Bideawhile*. Edward Bytheway's ancestors, at least since the 1600s, were people of the County of Shropshire in England.<sup>74</sup> A woodland county, Shropshire was an agricultural area with farmers working on pasture, grain production as well as livestock. The Domesday Book provides such description as 'On the north Shropshire plain early enclosure was often associated with dairy farming and in villages like Adderley little open-field arable survived into the 17th century ... Notable legal families investing in land were the Bromleys, the Brookes of Madeley, and the Foxes.'<sup>75</sup>

Shropshire was subjected to changes in landownership and tenant farming arrangements many times, but overall Shropshire farmers tended to concentrate on producing those commodities which were suited to the area, such as corn, wheat and barley, orchard produce, poultry, and cattle (including dairy cattle), and which could be sold commercially. In the nineteenth century many migrated from rural Shropshire to industrialised Staffordshire and its coalfield. This trend continued throughout the nineteenth century.

The genealogy has been traced back to 1639:

#### 1639

William Bideawhile born in 1639 (died 1709), married Martha Edwards in 1681 in Culmington, Shropshire. They had a son, John Bideawhile. John Bideawhile married Elizabeth Hodgkins on 24 November 1703 in Bitterly, Shropshire. John Bideawhile, who was also known as John Bydawell. The evolution of the name from Bideawhile to Bidewell to Bytheway appears to occur during John Bideawhile's time.

#### 1689

'There is one early notable case of the spelling "Bythewell" being used by choice some distance from Bromfield in the Parish of Cleobury North, Shropshire. In 1689, Joseph "Bythewell", of the Parish of Cleobury North, married Bridget Jones in the Parish of Stoke St Milborough. Their children were baptised in the name Bythewell in Cleobury North. In one instance, the recorder wrote the surname as Bytheway (having heard the name from neighbouring parishes) but crossed out "way" and wrote "well" over it, maybe indicating a clear preference on the part of that family. Joseph, having been a Churchwarden of the parish during these years, may have been cognisant of the difference in the spellings, regardless of how they might be pronounced. It is very likely that Joseph was the son of William and Mary Bideawhile of Bromfield Parish, and that he, and possibly his brothers, were some of the earliest members of that family to move into the northeastern mining region of the county. Joseph, however, seems to have been the only member of the family to have preferred the Bromfield version of the name.'<sup>76</sup>

<sup>74</sup> The information on Edward Bytheway's forebears was sourced from [http://www.bythewaygenealogy.info/Births/bytheway\\_birth\\_extracts\\_male.htm](http://www.bythewaygenealogy.info/Births/bytheway_birth_extracts_male.htm) and <http://www.k7tty.com/familytree/bythewaytrace.htm>

<sup>75</sup> 'Domesday Book: 1540-1750'. A History of the County of Shropshire: Volume 4: Agriculture (1989), pp. 119-168. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22843>

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.k7tty.com/familytree/bythewaytrace.htm> Bytheway Family Genealogy Trace

### 1732

An Edward Bytheway, the son of John and Elizabeth Bideawhile, was born around 1732 to 1736 in Bromfield, Shropshire and also died there. This Edward Bytheway married Mary Overton (born about 1738) on 10 February 1755 in Leintwardine, Herefordshire, England, in the Parish of Culmington, Shropshire, England. Edward and Mary had a son, Benjamin, born in 1764 in Bromfield, Shropshire.

The change in the names Bideawhile and Bidewell to Bytheway occurred around 1732, in as much as 'appearing almost exclusively in Bromfield, and neighbouring parishes in Shropshire until about the 1680s. Bideawhile (also Bydewhayle, Bydawhile, etc.) gave way gradually to Bydawell and Bythewell, Bidewell, and Bedell, and then emerged as Bytheway by the 1780s. The better known spelling of "Bytheway" was co-existent with the Bideawhile variation in earlier years in nearby parishes on both the north and south sides of the River Teme, particularly in Richard's Castle, in Shropshire, and Leintwardine, in Herefordshire. It can be reasonably theorised that Bideawhile was a dialectic (pronunciation) difference which gradually gave way to the better known and earlier form as printing became more common and spelling standardised, leaving only a few of the more isolated families to carry the name as Bydawell or Bythewell into the nineteenth century and our present day.'<sup>77</sup>

### 1791

A Benjamin Bytheway married Mary Brian on 4 July 1791 and had a son Edward, who was christened on 6 February 1803 in Clee Hill, Coreley, Shropshire, England.

### 1826

An Edward Bytheway from Clee Hill, Coreley, Shropshire, England married Sarah Owen (born 1807 at Paynes Hill, Shropshire) on 15 May 1826 at Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. He was originally a shoemaker but later went to work in the Staffordshire coalfield. Sarah and Edward had six children: Sarah, William, George, Edward, Elizabeth and Joseph. The 1851 Census showed Sarah working as a domestic servant, while William, George, and Edward aged 16, 12 and 10 respectively were working as stone miners on the Staffordshire coalfield.<sup>78</sup> People from agricultural Shropshire continued to move to industrialised Staffordshire throughout the nineteenth century.

**In the 1800s** many Bytheway's migrated from England to the United States of America making it difficult to identify which family lines relate to the Gympie Bytheway family. An Edward Bytheway and his wife Jane migrated from Shropshire to America, as did another Edward Bytheway who had been a mine superintendent.

Use of the Christian names Edward, Benjamin and Thomas go back to the 1700s. These and Emma and Mary, and even the name Fannie occur in the family Bytheway, even in Australia. The brief time line of the genealogy of the Gympie Bytheway's forebears puts some of the Bytheway bloodline into perspective:

**Birth 1639:** William Bideawhile in Culmington, Shropshire, England

**Birth 1681:** John Bideawhile in Bitterly, Shropshire, England

**Birth 1732:** Edward Bytheway in Bromfield, Shropshire, England

**Birth 1764:** Benjamin Bytheway Son of Edward Bytheway, in Bromfield, Shropshire, England

**Birth 1803:** Edward Bytheway, in Clee Hill, Coreley, Shropshire, England

<sup>77</sup> <http://www.k7tty.com/familytree/bythewaytrace.htm> Bytheway Family Genealogy Trace

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.k7tty.com/familytree/bythewaytrace.htm> Bytheway Family Genealogy Trace

**Birth 1836:** Thomas Bytheway, son of Sarah and Thomas Bytheway, at the White Cross, Bobbington, Shropshire. Brother to Edward born 1840

**Birth 1840:** Edward Bytheway, The White Cross, Bobbington, Shropshire. He migrates to Australia

**Birth 1842:** Edward Bytheway in Ettinshall, Shropshire, England

**Birth 1843:** Benjamin, son of Sarah and Thomas Bytheway, at The White Cross, Bobbington, Shropshire. Brother to Edward born 1840 and Thomas born 1836. Both Benjamin and his brother to Edward migrate to Australia

**Birth 1850:** Mary Bytheway, daughter of Sarah and Thomas Bytheway, at the White Cross, Bobbington, Shropshire, and sister to Edward and Benjamin.

This time line is clearly incomplete, and would only be complete with all information through into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but this could be a book all on its own. The name Bytheway may not seem a common name, but many families Bytheway live down the eastern coast of Australia, and many male Bytheways bear the Christian name *Edward*.

Our "Gympie" Edward Bytheway was born on 1 October 1840 into the Shropshire farming county, to Thomas Bytheway, a cordwainer<sup>79</sup> (shoemaker), and Sarah Gorton (a dress maker). They lived in Bobbington (a small village about 5 miles [8.0 km] west of Wombourne in Shropshire, South Staffordshire district of Staffordshire, West Midlands, England). Sarah and Thomas Bytheway lived in Bobbington from 1835 and had least four children, Thomas born in 1836, Benjamin born between 1837 and 1844, Edward born in 1840 and Mary A. born about 1850. So Edward's siblings were Thomas (born in 1836 at Six Ashes, Shropshire); Benjamin (born 23 February 1843 at The White Cross, Bobbington, Staffordshire), and a sister Mary (believed to be born 1850). Mary is not listed in the 1851 Census. Bobbington is also near Wolverhampton.

The records show that in 1851 Edward lived in Bobbington in Shropshire and also in Bitton, Gloucestershire in England. The 1851 England Census for the Parish of Bobbington records the family of Sarah Bytheway, and her three sons Thomas (shoemaker), Edward and Benjamin (both scholars). Also living with them Mary Hartley (home servant), and George Hodginson (shoemaker)<sup>80</sup>.

By 1851, Edward's mother was a widow and Thomas and Edward were still living with her, together with two lodgers and a servant girl. In 1858, when Edward was 18 years old and Benjamin 15 years old, their mother died in Staffordshire. In 1861, Benjamin was living with his grand-mother and aunt at Six Ashes, Shropshire, England and so was his sister, Mary A.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> The term "cordwainer" is an Anglicization of the French word *cordonnier*, which means shoemaker, introduced into the English language after the Norman invasion in 1066. The word was derived from the city of Cordoba in the south of Spain, a stronghold of the mighty Omeyyad Kalifs until its fall in the 12th century. <http://www.thehcc.org/backgrnd.htm> The cordwainer makes fine soft leather shoes and other luxury footwear articles.

<sup>80</sup> Ancestry.com 1851 England Census The National Archives

<sup>81</sup> Gympie Family History Inc.



1864 (having departed Liverpool on 12 April 1864).<sup>86</sup> Benjamin and Sophia went to Brisbane from Maryborough.

**REGISTER OF RE-ARRANGEMENTS.**  
*1864*  
**LIGHT OF THE AGE Brisbane 27 January 64**

NAME OF PASSENGER	RESIDENCE	AGE	NEW PASSENGER	GENERAL REMARKS, SUCH AS PROPOSED DEPARTURE, TRANSIT, ETC., WITH CLASS OF TICKET AND BRISK FARETABLE.
Adams	Thomas	27	Stakford	John A. 19
Adams	William	27	Boyle	Ann 20
Amos	James	23	"	James 24
"	Mary	20	Bennan	James 27
"	July	Inf	"	Maggie 24
Allen	Daniel	26	"	Inf
"	John	39	Brewer	Michael 25
Allen	Alexander	25	"	Bone Ann 23
Allyn	S. Foster	21	Bridget	Charles B. 22
Amos	Cecil	19	Brown	Edward R. 22
Anderson	William	21	"	John 27
"	Ann J.	26	Brownlie	Mel 20
Asker	John L.	33	Buckley	Timothy 29
Bathurst	Isaac	34	"	Mary 33
Bell	Joseph	45	"	Mary Kate 7
"	Ann	44	"	Margaret Inf
"	Maria	18	"	Alexander
"	Emily	17	Bunday	Frances W. 23
"	John	11	"	George 4
"	Alfred	13	"	Henry 2
"	Edwin	9	Burke	Francis 27
"	Bartha	7	"	Olga 25
"	Lucy	2	"	Olga 3
Barr	Ellen	40	Burridge	James 20
"	Bridget	19	Burrhead	John 22
"	Patric	15	Byrne	Lawrence 27
"	Ellen	14	Bytheway	Edward 22
"	Honora	11	"	Emma 22
"	Michael	9	Campbell	Edward 24
"	Mary	6	Cameron	Duncan 21
"	Ann	5	Carroll	Mary A. 24
"	Thomas	Inf	Champion	William 31
Black	Joseph	23	"	Louisa 25
Blair	Thomas	26	"	William 10
"	"	"	"	Olga 14
"	"	"	"	Eva 2 ft

The record of Edward and Emma Bytheway on the 'Light of Age'

<sup>86</sup> Queensland Archives Passenger Lists

The image shows a handwritten passenger list for the ship 'SULTANA'. The list is organized into columns, with names and ages written in cursive. The title 'SULTANA' is written across the top. The list includes names such as Adams, Abbott, Adams, and many others, with their respective ages and other information recorded.

The record of Benjamin and Sophia Bytheway on the 'Sultana'

Edward arrived in Gympie at the end of 1867, and Benjamin in 1868. Together their families began a new life in business and gold mining. A brief chronology of Edward's life was thus<sup>87</sup>:

- Birth 1 October 1840 Wolverhampton, Staffordshire
- Baptism 25 October 1840 Bobbington, Stafford, England
- Age 2 — Birth of Brother Benjamin Bytheway(1843–1897)  
March 1843 Bobbington, Staffordshire, England
- Age 9 — Death of Father Thomas Bytheway(1804–1850)  
October 1850 Wolverhampton, Staffordshire
- Age 10 Residence 1851 Bobbington, Shropshire, England
- Age 21 Death of Mother Sarah Gorton(1813–1862)1862
- Age 23 Arrival 27 January 1864 Brisbane
- Age 27 Takes up residence in Gympie and establishes Bytheway and Son
- Age 37 Marriage 1878 Queensland to Mary McCormack
- Age 56 Death of Brother Benjamin Bytheway(1843–1897)  
1897 Gympie, Queensland, Australia
- Age 64 Death 12 October 1905 Gympie, Queensland, Australia

To add context to this history of those first to Gympie, one other interesting character arrived in Gympie on 5 November 1867 about the same time as the Bytheways, a Mr.

<sup>87</sup> Ancestry.com Family Tree Bytheway

Hugh Hughes, the first blacksmith. He established the first blacksmith's shop in this gold town, and later had a shop at the One-Mile. He also bought 100 acres and called his property 'Greenridge'. By 1905 the year Edward died, Hughes had been living at 'Greenridge' for twenty-two years. The Bytheways probably got to know Mr. Hughes quite well, as Hughes would provide a necessary service to all those who owned horses or needed iron work done.

As soon as Edward arrived on the goldfield, he began in a humble way to set about establishing a general store in Mary Street, which he named first E. Bytheway and then later E. Bytheway and Son. He set up the store to cater for the needs of the miners and the domestic population. His skills in this kind of business were already well established having two grocery stores of his own in Brisbane. He went to Gympie stirred on by the opportunities that the gold mining town presented. In 1900 it was recorded that Edward Bytheway was 'one of those men, a small though sturdy hand, who settled upon Gympie in its infancy, determined to grow with the district.'<sup>88</sup> In the three years before he arrived in Gympie he worked at the Botanical Gardens in Brisbane for a little while before he established himself 'in unpretentious premises in Edward Street as a grocer.'<sup>89</sup> Success in this venture was enough for him to move into larger premises in the Valley. The Valley formally known as Fortitude Valley, is not far from the Brisbane's main commercial centre. The Valley had its own commercial area and it still does. He soon found though that maintaining his business in Brisbane did not allow him to dedicate his whole attention to this growing town and his growing business, so 'he gave up his business in Brisbane and determined to settle permanently on the new goldfield.'<sup>90</sup> This was the "peculiar" place to which Edward had come, all of the people needing supplies to sustain them in their search for gold. *The Gympie Times* also recorded this fact at the time of his death in 1905 'finding the prospects at Gympie such as would require his whole attention to make the best use of them he gave up his Brisbane establishment and decided to make his home on the goldfield.'<sup>91</sup> He found that it was not practical to try to manage both his stores, so all of the stock he had in Brisbane was sold.

He also disposed of his property investment in Indooroopilly in Brisbane of '17 acres 1 rood 27 perches rich agricultural land known as Portion 106, Parish of Indooroopilly ... within convenient distance of the Metropolis and especially adapted for Farming or Planting pursuits.'<sup>92</sup> The capital released from these sales enabled him to handsomely set

THURSDAY, JULY 30.

By Order of the Trustees in the Estate of  
E. BYTHEWAY.

**UNRESERVED AND ABSOLUTE SALE  
OF  
17 ACRES 1 ROOD 27 PERCHES  
RICH AGRICULTURAL LAND,  
KNOWN AS  
PORTION 106, PARISH OF INDOOROO-  
PILLY.**

**D**ICKSON & DUNCAN have received instructions to sell by auction, at their Auction Mart, Queen-street, on THURSDAY, July 30, at 11 o'clock,  
PORTION 106, PARISH of INDOOROO-PILLY, comprising 17 Acres 1 Rood, and 27 Perches Rich Agricultural Land, within convenient distance of the Metropolis, and specially adapted for Farming or Planting Pursuits.  
Public attention is directed to the above, as this exceedingly valuable block of land must be sold  
**WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST RESERVE.**  
To Close Accounts in the above Estate.  
Title under the Real Property Act.  
Terms at Sale. 948

<sup>88</sup> Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men. Compiled by the Alcazar Press Brisbane . W.H. Wendt & Co Printers Edward Street Brisbane, 1900 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-36615454> Page 116

<sup>89</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

<sup>90</sup> Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men. Compiled by the Alcazar Press Brisbane . W.H. Wendt & Co Printers Edward Street Brisbane, 1900 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-36615454> Page 116

<sup>91</sup> The Gympie Times 14 October 1905

<sup>92</sup> The Brisbane Courier 27 July 1868 (and 28 July 1868 and 30 July 1868)

himself up in business in Gympie. Here he had a ready market in the needs of the miners.

Steady industry was characteristic of Edward Bytheway, and his business grew well and grew quickly, well enough for him to turn his interests to owning gold mines within a relatively short time.

From the time he was a storekeeper in Brisbane, Edward Bytheway demonstrated a passion for involvement in civic and community affairs. Edward Bytheway (who listed himself as Edward Bytheway of Edward Street in Brisbane) was one of a group of fifty men (ratepayers) who wrote to Mr. William Pettigrew Esq. of William Street Brisbane on 27 January 1866, respectfully requesting him to 'allow himself to be placed in nomination for the East Ward [of Brisbane]. From your known honesty of intention, strict integrity and ability, we believe that, should the Ratepayers elect you, you will be one of the most valuable members of the Municipal Council.'<sup>93</sup>[Brisbane Municipal Council]

Both Edward Bytheway and Hugo Du Rietz must have known each other in Brisbane before going to Gympie as both were involved with Brisbane Municipal Council activities around the same time. Hugo Du Rietz was a nominee for the Kangaroo Point Ward in February 1866 and was successful in being elected to the Council. The notice, which Edward Bytheway signed with other fifty men to William Pettigrew, was in the same column underneath Hugo Du Rietz's nomination.<sup>94</sup>

Edward Bytheway and Messrs. A.J. Barker, D. Daniels, W. Chancellor, and T. Gregg, formally nominated Mr. Guericke for the Fortitude Valley Ward. The poll for all of the Wards was to be taken on Tuesday 17 March 1868 commencing at 9am and terminating at 4pm in the Valley at Dickins Hotel Ann Street and at Kangaroo Point at Darragh's Hotel in Main Street.<sup>95</sup>

Of course news of the great gold discovery some 105 miles (169 kilometres) north of Brisbane stirred the loins of many a man seeking to do well from the gold. Edward was no exception. At the end of 1867 in Gympie, 'only eight business licences had been taken out, the usual thing

**TO MR. J. W. GUERICKE.**

**D**EAR SIR,—We, the undersigned, Ratepayers in Fortitude Valley Ward, request you will allow yourself to be placed in nomination to serve as Alderman in the Municipal Council, pledging you our votes and support.

We remain, dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully,

Signed—

A. J. Barker	L. P. Warren
Alfred R. Jones	Charles Denson
Edward Bytheway	John Bell
William G. Chancellor	William Smith
David Daniels	William Stokes
James Barton	William Rose
Richard Wm. Comley	Robert Sinclair
Thomas Grigg	F. T. Smith
Thomas Finney	H. S. Grenfell
J. W. Coles	

Ann-street, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, March 6, 1868.

96

being to select 66ft (20.12 metres) of ground, for which £4 (\$574 in today's currency<sup>97</sup>) had to be paid per annum. Under these conditions Mr. Bytheway took up the site upon

<sup>93</sup> The Brisbane Courier 12 February 1866

<sup>94</sup> The Brisbane Courier 12 February 1866

<sup>95</sup> The Queenslander 14 March 1868

<sup>96</sup> The Brisbane Courier 9 and 10 March 1868

<sup>97</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>



which the premises of Bytheway and Son [stood], and opened up business for the sale of general merchandise ... he established himself as a manufacturer and importer on a large scale.<sup>98</sup> In 1900, it was reported that 'the land which he purchased so cheaply at that time is now worth at the lowest estimate £10 per foot.'<sup>99</sup> Edward Bytheway became reknowned as a man of 'steady industry, which is markedly characteristic of the man ... when he had secured a firm footing he directed his attention towards mining and speculating judiciously he prospered. He was director of the No. 1 North Glanmire ... and has acted in the same capacity in connection with the No. 7 Lady Mary, No. 6 North phoenix, and a host of other mining companies.'<sup>100</sup>

Mr. W.H. Rands, Assistant Government Geologist, visited Gympie and made several elaborate reports about the gold finds in Gympie. In one of his reports back to the Queensland Government he wrote: 'One of the most interesting features of this field is the very peculiar occurrence of gold in the reef. The strata consists of alternation of different sedimentary rocks, such as limestone, conglomerates, sandstone, shale with inter-bedded volcanic and intrusive igneous rocks-the latter becoming very frequent.'<sup>101</sup>

Edward Bytheway was married twice: to Emma, and then to Mary. Both of his wives predeceased him: Emma in 1871, Mary in 1902, three years before he died. He and Emma had four children; he and Mary had no children of their own. Emma died in

Gympie on 24 May 1871. She bore Edward two sons and two daughters: Edward junior (born 1865), Emma Mary (born 1866), Fanny (born 1868), and Thomas Owen (born 20 September 1870). Edward and Emma had only been married seven years when she died. She was just 30 years old as stated in her death notice.<sup>102</sup>



Emma is buried near Edward's brother Benjamin in the Church of England select section Number 111 at the Gympie Cemetery.

Emma's passing left Edward with four children aged from six to less than one year old. Edward would have been six years old; Emma, five years old; Fanny, three years old; and his youngest son, Thomas, eight months. Not only would the death of Emma come as a great shock to him, she being so young and having not long given birth to their youngest child. He would have had his hands full as by this time he did not have family to help him care for these little children. He was a single parent and a very busy man involved in many a community matter, so he must have hired a nanny for them.

After nine years of being in Brisbane, his brother Benjamin and wife Sophia and family arrived in Gympie in 1873. This would have afforded Edward the help of Sophia to raise

<sup>98</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

<sup>99</sup> Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men. Compiled by the Alcazar Press Brisbane. W.H. Wendt & Co Printers Edward Street Brisbane, 1900 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-36615454> Page 116

<sup>100</sup> Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men. Compiled by the Alcazar Press Brisbane. W.H. Wendt & Co Printers Edward Street Brisbane, 1900 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-36615454> Page 116

<sup>101</sup> Gympie Family History Society in Mines and Miners. [gympiefhs.egympie.com.au](http://gympiefhs.egympie.com.au)

<sup>102</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 May 1871

and care for the children. Both Edward and his brother Benjamin had stuck closely together since the death of their own mother in 1858. So Edward was blessed with the love and support of his family. The Bytheway brothers obviously had great respect for their own parents Sarah and Thomas, as these names are given by both Edward and Benjamin to their children.

The passage of Benjamin's life went something like this<sup>103</sup>:

- Birth March 1843 Bobbington, Staffordshire, England
- Baptism 19 Mar 1843 Bobbington, Stafford, England
- *Age 7* Death of Father Thomas Bytheway (1804–1850) October 1850 Wolverhampton, Staffordshire
- *Age 8* Residence 1851 Bobbington, Shropshire, England
- *Age 18* Residence 1861 Alveley, Shropshire, England
- *Age 19* Immigration 1862 Brisbane Queensland Australia
- *Age 19* Death of Mother Sarah Gorton (1813–1862) 1862
- *Age 21* Marriage to Sophia Harriett Bird (1840-1906) 21 Mar 1864 St. Peter, Liverpool, Lancashire, England
- *Age 27* Birth of Daughter Harriet Bird Bytheway (1870–1945) 14 Jul 1870 Queensland
- *Age 32* Birth and Death of Daughter Mary Emma Bytheway (1876–1876) 1876 Queensland
- *Age 33* Birth of Daughter Sarah Gertrude Bytheway (1877–1921) 1877 Gympie, Queensland, Australia
- 1892 Benjamin's daughter Harriet marries Henry Taylor
- *Age 54* Death 1897 Gympie, Queensland, Australia

After seven years of being a widower, Edward married Mary McCormack on 9 July 1878; the published wedding notice was a simple one<sup>104</sup>.

**MARRIAGE.**  
**BYTHEWAY—M'CORMACK. —On July 9, by the Rev. T. H. Butterley, E. Bytheway to M. M'Cormack.**

Edward's second wife, Mary, would have eased the issue of raising of his children for both Edward and Sophia. By this time, Edward would have been thirteen years old; Emma, twelve years old; Fanny, ten years old; and Thomas, almost eight years old. In 1878, Sophia had her own ten year old William Henry and one year old Sarah Gertrude. The six cousins would have time to play and get to know each other.

In 1867 Benjamin was listed as a witness giving evidence in the magisterial inquiry into the sudden death of Matthew Henry Clissold, whom he knew very well. Benjamin was described as a 'carpenter, residing in Brisbane.'<sup>105</sup>

While in Brisbane, three of Benjamin and Sophia's children died as babies, each under the age of two: Benjamin at three months (born February 1865-died 5 April 1865); Thomas George at 14 months (born February 1866-2 died April 1867); Mary Emma at around 2 months (born April 1876-died 23 August 1876). Benjamin and Sophia were in Gympie for the birth of their third child, Mary Emma, whose birth was registered in

<sup>103</sup> Ancestry.com Family Tree Bytheway

<sup>104</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 3 August 1878

<sup>105</sup> The Queenslander 20 July 1867

Gympie. Mary Emma was buried in Gympie's first cemetery and moved to the current cemetery in the Methodist section in 1919.

Their other three children: William Henry survived until he was fifty-eight years old (born 8 February 1868, died 8 December 1926); Sarah Gertrude who lived till she was forty-four years old (born 1877, died 1921); and Harriet, the eldest daughter married in Gympie in 1892. William and Sarah also both married.

Benjamin and Sophia would have suffered a great deal of sadness and grief with the death of three of their children at very young ages. Nevertheless, Benjamin established himself in interesting occupations. He became a well-known taxidermist; Benjamin had entries of stuffed birds in Queensland's Third Annual Royal Queensland Show in 1877. 'Mr. R. Illidge and Mr. Bytheway each exhibited a show case containing stuffed birds, both of which would form an attractive household ornament.'<sup>106</sup> He entered an exhibit of stuffed birds in the Queensland display for the 1886 Display of the Indian and Colonial Exhibition held in London that year. In Gympie, Benjamin was well known as a Picture Framer and Gilder, Picture Dealer, Taxidermist and Bird Stuffer, Tobacconist, Manager of the *Oyster Saloon*.<sup>107</sup> Benjamin, respected in Gympie like his brother, was often called to sit on the Bench at the Police Court.<sup>108</sup>

Sophia took work as the housekeeper at the Church of England Rectory. About eighteen months after Benjamin died in 1897, Sophia was there on her own on Thursday 8 December 1898, when suddenly the chimney, located in the centre of the house, suffered a tremendous lightning and thunder strike, dislodging bricks from the roof, hurling them into the street. The lightning immediately killed the Reverend Mr. Griffiths' mare at the house right in front of her eyes.<sup>109</sup> She must have been terrified, wondering if her time had come too; significant because she would still have been grieving for Benjamin. She was helped on that day by Mrs. Lear who had come back to the Rectory just as the lightning was striking the chimney. It was a real bad luck day for the Bytheways that Thursday. Edward senior had married Mary some five months before, and on that Thursday she happened to be down at Town Hall in her buggy, when a startled runaway horse from another mishap with a buggy at Town Hall, dashed into her buggy and broke its shaft.<sup>110</sup> Fortunately, neither Sophia nor Mary was hurt.

Joining Edward and his family would have been a source of comfort and support for both Benjamin and Sophia after such a sad period of his life. After all both of them had spent several years together surviving in London after their mother died, and then having made the decision to come out to Australia together. It is likely that Edward, being a generous loving brother may have given him some assistance to establish himself in business in Gympie.

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<sup>106</sup> The Brisbane Courier 23 August 1877

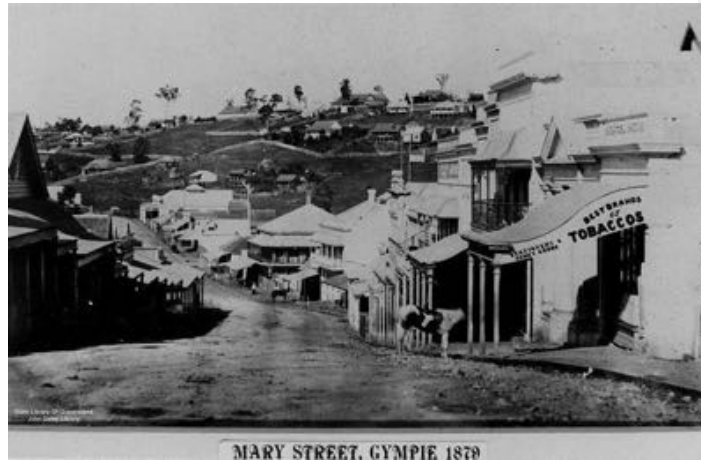
<sup>107</sup> The Gympie Family History Society Inc.

<sup>108</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 August 1898

<sup>109</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 December 1898

<sup>110</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 December 1898

Benjamin would have been thirty-six years old at the time of this photo of Mary Street in 1879.<sup>111</sup> He would have been in Gympie about six years. The photo is a downhill view of Mary Street. Horses are tethered to posts in front of the shops lining the street. The shop on the right of the photo, in the foreground, is one of the many tobacconists in Mary Street. In 1883, Mary Street had four tobacconists: B. Bytheway, R. Gordon, J. Lyons and M.



MARY STREET, GYMPIE 1879

Newman.<sup>112</sup> The Australasian Federal Directory listed both Edward and Benjamin in the following way: 'Bytheway, B Tobacconist Gympie Q [Queensland]; Bytheway B Carver Gympie Q [Queensland]; Bytheway E. Bootmaker Gympie Q [Queensland]'<sup>113</sup>

Five years before his death, Benjamin and Sophia saw their eldest daughter, Harriet, marry in 1892. The wedding notice<sup>114</sup> read:

*Taylor-Bytheway.- On the 25<sup>th</sup> December, at the Bride's residence, Calton Hill, by the Rev. T.B. Holmes, Albert Charles, the eldest son of Henry David Taylor, to Harriet Bird, eldest daughter of Benjamin Bytheway. Both of Gympie.*

Harriet and Albert lived in Excelsior Road following their marriage. Closeness of family was a hallmark of the Bytheways with this being demonstrated in the arrangements for Benjamin's funeral. Benjamin died on 2 April 1897<sup>115</sup>, aged 54, after having been admitted to the Gympie Hospital on 31 March 1897.

**FUNERAL NOTICE.**  
**T**HE Friends of the late **BENJAMIN BYTHEWAY** are respectfully invited to attend his Funeral, to move from his late residence, Calton Hill, **THIS DAY (Saturday)** at 11 o'clock.  
**AMBROSE & ASMUSSEN,**  
**Undertakers.**

**FUNERAL NOTICE.**  
**T**HE FRIENDS of the late **MRS. BENJAMIN BYTHEWAY** are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, to move from the residence of her Son-in-Law (Mr. A. Taylor), Excelsior Road, **THIS DAY (TUESDAY)**, at 4 o'clock p.m.  
**AMBROSE & ASMUSSEN,**  
**Undertakers.**

<sup>111</sup> Photo courtesy of the Local History Section Gympie Regional Library

<sup>112</sup> The Brisbane Post Office Directory and Country Guide, 1883-84. Brisbane: Watson, Ferguson & Co. p.307)

<sup>113</sup> The Australasian Federal Directory page 88. <http://www.mocavo.com/Australasian-Federal-Directory/433726/128> (accessed 13 January 2015)

<sup>114</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 January 1892

<sup>115</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 3 April 1897

Sophia lived at Hilton Road from 1903 until her death on 14 August 1906.<sup>116</sup> Twelve months after Sophia died, her daughters Harriet and Gertrude placed a notice in memory of her<sup>117</sup>.

BYTHEWAY.—In loving remembrance of our dear mother, Mrs. B. Bytheway, who died August 13th, 1906.  
As the ivy clings to the oak,  
Our memory clings to thee,  
Inserted by her loving daughters, Mrs. H. Taylor and G. Bytheway.

Edward was coming out of his second term as Mayor of Gympie when his brother died. He had not long returned from a visit with his wife to the 'southern colonies' in December 1896.<sup>118</sup> Edward Bytheway was a member of the Gympie Hospital Committee and was present for its monthly meeting on Tuesday 11 May to hear the report presented by Dr. W.S. Geddie, Resident Surgeon, containing the notice of Benjamin's death.<sup>119</sup> It seems that Benjamin may have died of typhoid fever as the Medical Officer's report for the week ending 4 April 1897 indicated the Hospital had 13 cases of typhoid fever.<sup>120</sup>

The notice for Benjamin's Will, cited probate granted to Edward Bytheway and James Woodrow.<sup>121</sup>

The *Statutory Notice to Creditors 1897* appeared in the *Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette* in August 1897.

**I**N THE SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND.  
In the WILL of BENJAMIN BYTHEWAY, late of Gympie, in the Colony of Queensland, Taxidermist, Deceased.  
Notice is hereby given that, after the expiration of fourteen days from the date of publication hereof, application will be made to this Honourable Court that PROBATE of the WILL of the abovenamed Benjamin Bytheway may be granted to JAMES WOODROW and EDWARD BYTHEWAY, both of Gympie aforesaid, the Executors named in the said Will. Any person interested who desires to object to the application, or to be heard upon it, may file a Caveat in the Registry any time before the grant is made.  
Dated this Twenty-second day of April, A.D. 1897.  
TOZER & TOZER, Solicitors for the said James Woodrow and Edward Bytheway, Gympie, and at Brisbane Chambers, George-street, Brisbane.

**Statutory Notice to Creditors.**  
BENJAMIN BYTHEWAY, DECEASED.  
PURSUANT to the Trustees and Incapacitated Persons Act of 1897 notice is hereby given that all persons having any claims or demands upon or against the estate of the late Benjamin Bytheway, late of Gympie, in the colony of Queensland, Taxidermist, deceased, who died on the second day of April, 1897, and of whose will Probate was, on the seventeenth day of July, 1897, granted to James Woodrow and Edward Bytheway, the Executors named in the said will, are hereby requested to send in particulars of their debts or claims to the said Executors at the Office of Messrs. Tozer and Tozer, their solicitors, at Gympie or Brisbane, on or before SATURDAY, the sixth day of October, 1897, and notice is also hereby given that after that date the said Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have had notice and that they will not be liable for the assets, or any part thereof, as distributed to any person whose debt or claim they shall not then have notice.  
Dated this 25th day of August, 1897.  
TOZER & TOZER,  
Gympie and Brisbane,  
Solicitors for the said Executors.

<sup>116</sup> The Gympie Family History Society and *Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette* 14 August 1906

<sup>117</sup> The *Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette* 13 August 1907

<sup>118</sup> The *Queenslander* 12 December 1896.

<sup>119</sup> The *Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette* 13 May 1897

<sup>120</sup> The *Gympie Times and Mary Street Mining Gazette* 6 April 1897

<sup>121</sup> The *Brisbane Courier* 24 April 1897

Edward Bytheway would have been in a deep state of grief over the death of his brother, and may have been this that prompted him to attend to affairs relating to land in Brisbane, soon after Benjamin died, as the Registrar of Titles' Office notice of 12 June 1897 shows<sup>122</sup>.

**Registrar of Titles' Office,  
Brisbane, 12th June, 1897.**

**N**OTICE is hereby given that I intend, on or after the Third day of July, 1897, in conformity with the provisions of the 95th section of the Real Property Act of 1861, to dispense with the production of duplicate Bill of Mortgage No. 225452, from Thomas Staniland to Edward Bytheway, over portions 1676 and 1724, county of Lennox, parish of Brooyar, being the land described in Deeds of Grant Nos. 75076 and 75077, Register Book volume 780, folios 86 and 87, for the purpose of allowing a Release to be endorsed on the original mortgage, and registered in this Office; the said duplicate having been destroyed by fire.

**J. O. BOURNE,  
Registrar of Titles.**

Benjamin's son, William, followed in his father's footsteps in the building trade. He married Emily Susan Ellen Lunn. Her parents were George Lunn and her mother Mary Ann Timms. Emily died aged eighty-five in 1959. She outlived William by twenty-seven years.

William and his wife lived at Woondum with their two children Ernest and Ada. Benjamin would have been really proud of his two grandchildren who had a reputation for loving school. In the years 1907 and 1908 for example, neither of them missed a day's school, despite having to walk five miles to school every day. His sister Ada has had no break for twelve months.<sup>123</sup> The commendable attendance was further recorded: 'Another Good School Attendance. Speaking of record school attendances (writes a correspondence), Ernest, the son of W. Bytheway, of Woondum, having had to walk over five miles to school every day for two years without one break, and in all sorts of weathers, has not been even late on any occasion - which should be encouragement for those living so far away.'<sup>124</sup> In 1910, young Ernest was awarded a State Bursary by the Queensland Government, which amounted to an allowance of £12 per annum.<sup>125</sup> He was one of 12 boys and 12 girls who were eligible for the allowance.

Benjamin's Sarah had a baby at 18 (born 15th November 1895.) She was a cook at the Freemason's Hotel in Gympie between 1903 and 1908. She married Edward Overli in 1910 in Brisbane.<sup>126</sup>

<sup>122</sup> The Brisbane Courier 14 June 1897

<sup>123</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 December 1908

<sup>124</sup> The Brisbane Courier Mail 24 December 1908

<sup>125</sup> The Queensland Times 21 January 1910

<sup>126</sup> Gympie Family History Inc.

William was closely involved with the Woondum Rifle Club, there having been a trophy known as Mr. W. Bytheway's trophy.<sup>127</sup> William's name is recorded in various places for the work he did. It is known that he submitted a tender in 1893 for the painting of the Gympie Court House for £67 16s.<sup>128</sup>

Three examples of William's work are the Cooran State School in James Street Cooran (interim school built 1890, state school built and opened 1909); the heritage listed Eumundi School of Arts (built in 1908 and rebuilt in 1912 because the original was too small); and the Pomona State School first opened in 1897. Cooran State School is regarded as one of the oldest schools in the Gympie/Noosa District.

As part of its plan to have certain items recognised to be heritage listed, in 2009, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council recorded the following: 'In 1906, on 19 May 1906, one of Cooran's leading citizens, the pioneer, William Martin, agreed to transfer part of Portion 548 in the Parish of Traveston to the Secretary of Public Instruction for a new school to be built. The building was erected by W. Bytheway and was occupied on 28 October 1907, and '... in September 1914 the school was raised onto higher stumps and extended by another sixteen feet to forty feet in length. This expanded into a complex of school buildings of which the earliest are timber and others are fibro-cement and concrete block. The L shaped main building comprises the original school building, built in 1907 and extended in 1914 in the arm closest to the street, with a 1928 building (now housing the library) being the other arm.'<sup>129</sup>

The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage and Protection has on its Heritage List (Registry Entry 24 March 2000), the Eumundi School of Arts, which was built in 1912 by 'W. Bytheway, a builder from Gympie'.<sup>130</sup> He built this hall in beech timber and gave it an iron roof. The Heritage reference describes Eumundi as being '... one of a number of small but prosperous Sunshine Coast hinterland towns servicing a timber, dairy and pastoral industry.' Eumundi School of Arts demonstrates the growth of the town following the opening up of the area through timber getting and dairying and through the construction of the railway in 1891.

After only four years however, the burgeoning community needed more space and Gympie builder, W. Bytheway, built a second hall in beech timber and iron roof on the same site, replacing the first hall. It can 'best be described as a big hall with stage at back, and a couple of anterooms at the front, having a library, wide passage, and reading room under the front, and supper room under the centre'. The hall was officially opened on 15 November 1912. 'The programme included a two day bazaar ...the whole to be started by the official opening of the splendid new building...a first glance was permitted... to the party accompanying the Honourable J. W. Blair, Minister of Education. The building was planned by Mr. W. Fenwick of Cooroy' and the hall was constructed at a cost of £1000 ...'.

According to social commentator, A. H. Corrie, writing in the Nambour Chronicle in January 1919, Eumundi was quite prosperous with two hotels, two stores, three churches, a large public hall, library and billiard table. He believed Eumundi's School of

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<sup>127</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 1913

<sup>128</sup> The Brisbane Courier 7 August 1893

<sup>129</sup> Sunshine Coast Regional Coast Cultural Heritage Background Study October 2009. Page 43

<sup>130</sup> <https://heritage-register.ehp.qld.gov.au/placeDetail.html?siteId=16419> (accessed 12 January 2015)

Arts was one of the 'largest and best appointed buildings of its kind on the North Coast Line between Brisbane suburbs and Gympie'.<sup>131</sup>

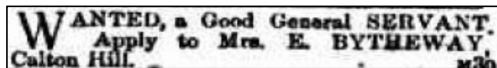
Eumundi School of Arts  
(1997)<sup>132</sup>



In 1968 the hall suffered significant termite damage and was renovated. The School of Arts is still the focus for many of Eumundi's social and cultural activities.

The current Pomona & District Kindergarten and Childcare Centre stands on the site of the former Pomona State School, built in 1908 by none other than William Bytheway of Gympie. His tender of £813/17/- (\$116,824 in today's currency<sup>133</sup>) was accepted 'for the erection of a State School and conversion of the existing building into a residence at Pomona'.<sup>134</sup> It opened in March 1909 as the Pomona State School,<sup>135</sup> and is still regarded as a significantly historic building.

With both Edward and Mary having their time taken up simultaneously raising their children, running their business, attending to a myriad of community commitments and social and church engagements, Mary ensured the smooth running of their home on Calton Hill with some paid help. The image shows the kind of advertisement that she placed seeking such help.<sup>136</sup>



Edward junior went on to manage Edward Bytheway and Son with his father, while the two girls eventually married. Fanny studied to become a school teacher in the Queensland State School system, passing her final exams in 1887.<sup>137</sup> She married seven years later. Thomas married and initially was a dairy farmer in the Gympie District, but later moved away when he was unable to sustain a living from the farm.

<sup>131</sup> <https://heritage-register.ehp.qld.gov.au/placeDetail.html?siteId=16419> (accessed 12 January 2015). Also Sunshine Coast Regional Coast Cultural Heritage Background Study October 2009. Page 61

<sup>132</sup> Media Date 1997-04-15 00:00:00.0. Copyright Queensland Government

<sup>133</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>134</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 November 1908

<sup>135</sup> <https://heritage-register.ehp.qld.gov.au/placeDetail.html?siteId=16419> (accessed 12 January 2015). Also Sunshine Coast Regional Coast Cultural Heritage Background Study October 2009. Page 48

<sup>136</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 March 1881

<sup>137</sup> The Queenslander 19 March 1887.



From the State Library of Queensland, an undated photograph has been provided of 'a Mrs Bytheway of Gympie'-this could be Edward's first or second wife, or even Annie Bytheway Edward junior's wife.<sup>138</sup>

Edward brought up his children to have a strong sense of civil and community responsibility and Christian values. As an example, his son, Edward Bytheway was a member of Queensland's Defence Force, an interest he held from an early adult age as by 1889, he had reached the rank of lieutenant. In addition to assisting his father in the family store in Mary Street, Edward was appointed provisional lieutenant in the Volunteer Branch of the Queensland Defence Force in 1889.<sup>139</sup>



He was twenty-four years old. In 1891 Edward was appointed from being a lieutenant with the Gympie Cadet Corps to acting lieutenant in the Defence Force attached to the F Company of the Port Curtis Division which was also part of the 'Wide Bay and Burnett Division-Wide Bay and Burnett Regiment.'<sup>140</sup> He obviously continued his attachment to the Army, as in 1893, still a lieutenant, he was placed (with others) on the unattached list of the Defence Force Division of the Queensland Land Forces, known as the Queensland Defence Force (Land).<sup>141</sup>

The family retained a certain element of mobility in its lifestyle often taking trips to Maryborough and Brisbane- indicative of this is a trip made by Edward's wife in 1878 and in 1888 by Edward with his daughters. In November 1891, one of Edward senior's daughters prepared 'an interesting paper' which was read out by the Treasurer at the fortnightly meeting of "Y" Union held at the Young Men's Christian Association Hall in Brisbane.<sup>142</sup>

When Edward was an Alderman of the Gympie Council, his younger daughter, Fanny (aged 26)<sup>143</sup> married the Reverend Tom Ellison on 12 April 1894 at the Surface Hill Wesleyan Church in Gympie. Tom Ellison was the second son of Henry Ellison from England. All the information gathered has made clear that Edward had created a close knit family.

In the Gympie district some distance from 'Rose Vale' farm owned by the Mullaly brothers, John and William, Edward's son Thomas bought the property called 'Oak Hill'. The property had been 'purchased from the executors of the late Mr. Conwell, and for

<sup>138</sup> Queensland State Library 6041 Walters and Scott Family Albums. Undated photograph of 'a Mrs Bytheway of Gympie'

<sup>139</sup> The Brisbane Courier 6 June 1889

<sup>140</sup> The Brisbane Courier 11 November 1889

<sup>141</sup> The Queenslander 7 October 1893

<sup>142</sup> The Brisbane Courier 17 November 1891

<sup>143</sup> The Brisbane Courier 21 April 1894

some time dairying operations were carried on and some cultivation. The loss of all the cattle from the combined effects of redwater and drought necessitated the former being abandoned, and the latter not proving remunerative by itself was also given up, and the 100 acres ... used as paddocks. A few healthy trees are in front of the house.'<sup>144</sup>

Living with Thomas at '*Oak Hill*' (which is off Brisbane Road) was his wife Elizabeth Clarke whom he, at age 28, had married on 30 April 1898.<sup>145</sup> There is limited recorded history that uncovers Edward's relationship with his son Thomas, or the extent to which he may have assisted Thomas financially after the failure of the '*Oak Hill*' property. Edward senior owned a property in Kybong on the Brisbane Road, where Thomas and his family were living until 1913 working as dairy farmers, before they moved to Ipswich.

The Bytheways, particularly Edward, Mrs Bytheway and his son Thomas, became directly involved in the establishment of the Kybong Provisional School in the early 1900s, organising regular social dances and functions to raise funds for the building of the school.<sup>146</sup> These functions were probably held at Thomas' Brisbane Road property barn and the Kybong Hall. The Model Band gave their services free of charge. Even when the evenings were among the hottest of summers, over 130 people would attend the dances. The hall or barn would be 'prettily decorated with flags and evergreens which gave the place quite a cheerful appearance and it was also well ventilated.'<sup>147</sup> The success of the evenings were attributed to indefatigable work of such members of the social committee as Mesdames Bytheway, Clarke, Moore, Pinkerton, Warnes, Misses Roberts and Wagenknecht, Messrs W.J. Warnes, T. Morggn and Thomas Bytheway.<sup>148</sup> These social functions and dances continued throughout each year and every year, long after the School opened to ensure funds were always available for the upkeep and maintenance of the School and the Bytheways were always there. In 1914, the dance was combined with a Euchre Tournament.<sup>149</sup>

Edward was Secretary of the Building Committee<sup>150</sup> for the School. He placed the advertisement for the calling of tenders for the erection of a provisional school at Kybong in 1905. It may have been because Edward was beginning to feel the effects of dengy fever (this was almost five months from his death), or that he wanted his son to take over some community responsibility, or that Thomas was living on the property on Brisbane Road at Kybong, because three days later, Thomas is shown as the Secretary of the Building Committee for the Kybong Provisional School.<sup>151</sup>

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<sup>144</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 1 April 1905

<sup>145</sup> Ancestry Library.com Electoral Roll 1905

<sup>146</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary Valley Mining Gazette 22 November 1904

<sup>147</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary Valley Mining Gazette 22 November 1904

<sup>148</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary Valley Mining Gazette 7 December 1905

<sup>149</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary Valley Mining Gazette 1 December 1914

<sup>150</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary Valley Mining Gazette 27 May 1905

<sup>151</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 May 1905

**Tenders,**

TENDERS wanted for the ERECTION of PROVISIONAL SCHOOL at "Kybong," Brisbane-road. Plans and Specifications to be seen at this Office. Tenders close with the Undersigned on SATURDAY, 9th June. The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

E. BYTHEWAY,  
m37 Secretary Building Committee.

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T. BYTHEWAY,  
Secretary Building Committee,  
c/o Columbia Smithfield.

The regulations to be complied with for the establishment of a Provisional School were reasonably rigorous, so the Bytheways had not only to ensure compliance, but also to garner the support of the community to enable the collection of adequate funds to proceed, which they obviously successfully did:

**'Extract from the 1897 Regulations of the Department of Public Instruction  
Establishment of Provisional Schools**

8. (a) Under ordinary circumstances the Minister will not establish Provisional schools except in places distant at least four miles from any existing State or Provisional school by the nearest route practicable for children, and unless the average attendance of pupils is likely to reach twelve at the least.
- (b) A building provided by the local promoters at their own expense will be approved by the Minister for a Provisional school if it is suitable as regards situation, form, and size; if it is weather-proof, sufficiently lighted and furnished; and if there is detached closet accommodation for each sex. It should contain at least 294 square feet of flooring, the desks must be sufficient to accommodate at least two-thirds of the children, and there must be seats and hat-pegs for all. The school must be furnished with a blackboard (3 feet 6 inches x 2 feet 9 inches) and easel, a press for the reception of school books, a table, and a chair. The closets must be at least a chain from each other, and from the school.
- (c) Out of money voted by Parliament for the purpose, the Minister may contribute towards the cost of a Provisional school building, and of providing the required furniture, tanks, and closets, on the following conditions:-
  - (1) That the promoters have first submitted their proposals to the Department with an estimate of the cost, and have applied for and obtained from the Minister a promise to contribute to the same;
  - (2) That the amount so contributed by the Department shall be not more than four-fifths of the total cost;
  - (3) That the building shall be placed on Crown lands, or on lands vested in the Secretary for Public Instruction;
  - P(4) That the building shall be not less than 21 feet in length by 14 feet in width and 9 feet in height to the wall-plates, and shall have a pitched roof, two or more windows, and a boarded floor, a veranda 7 feet wide on one side, two closets at least a chain apart, and at least a chain from

the school, a tank of minimum capacity of 400 gallons, and the following articles of furniture, viz. – four desks each 7 ½ feet long, six forms each 7 ½ feet long, a blackboard (3 feet 6 inches x 2 feet 9 inches) and an easel, a press (3 feet x 4 feet x 1 ½ feet), a table, a chair, a clock; building and furniture to be in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the Minister;

- (5) That payment of the said contribution shall not be made until an inspector or other person authorised by the Minister has reported the building to be erected and furnished in accordance with the foregoing conditions, and that it is ready for occupation.

These plans and specifications for a Provisional school with offices, furniture, and tank, have been prepared for the guidance and information of school committees intending to ask for Departmental contributions towards the cost, under the provisions of the foregoing section of the Regulations. Although it is desirable that these plans and specifications should be adhered to as far as possible, the Minister will contribute towards the cost of the erection and equipment of buildings sufficient for the requirements and suitable to local circumstances, if the material and the work are substantial, and the buildings and furniture are of the required form and proportions. It is necessary, however, that all the items specified in the Regulation, together with a blackboard, shall be supplied.<sup>152</sup>

The success of the work done by Edward, his wife, and his son Thomas and their associates meant that by the week of 16 October 1905, the first meeting of parents and subscribers in connection with the School was held and a School Committee elected. The School could be opened and start the job of educating the district's children.<sup>153</sup> What an achievement in just six months and just another legacy of the tremendous input Edward made to the quality of life in the Gympie District. He lived to see the School opened, and fortunately his family continued with the work of providing funding for the School after he died in October 1905.

The Kybong Provisional School opened about 1 October 1905, becoming a State School from 1909, when Mr Jobling was placed in charge of the school.<sup>154</sup> Kybong Creek flows through the site of the former Kybong State School which closed on 6 August 1960.<sup>155</sup>

In 1906, when the State and Provisional Schools were being inspected by District Inspector Kennedy, he gave Kybong Provisional School special mention.<sup>156</sup> The work in such schools as Kybong he described as generally creditable and being in advance on preceding years. At that time, two thirds of the Brisbane and Gympie district schools inspected by Kennedy were provisional, which meant that a lot of effort had been made by parents and the communities of those provisional schools to ensure adequate education was accessible to the children of especially the country districts. So the effort made by the Bytheways and those associated with them to establish the Kybong School should be acknowledged, especially so for the Bytheways who were always at the heart

<sup>152</sup> Department of Education Queensland. <http://education.qld.gov.au/library/docs/edhistory/provisional-app1.pdf>

<sup>153</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 October 1905

<sup>154</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary Valley Mining Gazette 25 August 1909

<sup>155</sup> Queensland State Archives Agency ID5975, Kybong State School  
<http://www.archivessearch.qld.gov.au/Search/AgencyDetails.aspx?AgencyId=5975>

<sup>156</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 June 1907

of community improvements and facilities. It also gave voters easier access to Polling Booths as it was used as such while ever it existed.

In 1919, the Kybong house on the Brisbane Road was still owned by the trustees of Edward senior's Estate.<sup>157</sup> This house was totally destroyed in a fire in April 1919 but fortunately it was insured with Atlas Insurance for £250.<sup>158</sup> Edward junior had to provide evidence in relation to the house during the inquiry, which was held into the cause and circumstances of the fire. As an aside, earlier in the year, 'the residents of Kybong celebrated New Year's Day by the river in Bytheway's paddock. A swing was erected for the children and a nice sports programme was arranged.'<sup>159</sup> This is testament again to the amazing commitment the Bytheway family had to the Gympie District to provide and contribute to the wellbeing of the community.

Gympie Family History Society Inc. records show that Elizabeth and Thomas had three children: a daughter born on 4 October 1898, named Annie Elizabeth. The date of the marriage and the birth date of their first child Anne, would suggest Elizabeth was pregnant at the time of the marriage. It is an indication of the closeness of the family that the Bytheway children were almost always named in honour of beloved relatives; in this case this would have been after his brother Edward's wife, Annie. Ruby Maud was born 8 December 1899 and died on 24 March 1900<sup>160</sup>; Thomasina Dorothy, born on 21 March 1905.<sup>161</sup> Elizabeth died in 1922, and Thomas married Esther Maude Newman on 17 February 1923.<sup>162</sup>

The '*Oak Hill*' property was given up, with the 1914 Electoral Roll listing Thomas and Elizabeth as 'left' and by 1917, he and Elizabeth are living in Bowen Street, Brisbane off Ipswich Road and Thomas is working as a foreman.<sup>163</sup>

In 1919 they are both still living at Bowen Street<sup>164</sup>. By 1925 Thomas is living with his family in Brisbane Street, Ipswich.<sup>165</sup> Thomasina married Anthony Hardy Boyd on 22 November 1930.<sup>166</sup>

In 1928, Thomas Bytheway was living in Darling Street Ipswich. He was charged at this time with stealing-he is described as aged 56 and a salesman.<sup>167</sup> He appeared in the Police Court on 31 August 1928, 'charged with having stolen £45, the property of Mrs. Elsie Turner, of Windsor, on October 8. Sergt M. O'Grady prosecuted.'<sup>168</sup> Thomas was interviewed by plain clothes policeman in his Darling Street Ipswich home about the theft. He confirmed to the police that 'he had no business dealings with Mrs. Turner in reference to a home and furniture at South Brisbane, but had received a loan of £45 from her.'<sup>169</sup> Thomas strongly claimed that he did not steal the money, and that it was a loan. The outcome was bail of £50, with one surety of a similar amount.

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<sup>157</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 April 1919

<sup>158</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 April 1919

<sup>159</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 January 1919

<sup>160</sup> Ancestry.com Australian Birth Index 1788-1922 and Australian Death Index 1787-1985

<sup>161</sup> Ancestry.com Australian Birth Index 1788-1922

<sup>162</sup> Ancestry.com Australian Marriage Index 1788-1950

<sup>163</sup> Ancestry.com 1917 Australian Electoral Roll

<sup>164</sup> Ancestry.com 1919 Australian Electoral Roll

<sup>165</sup> Ancestry.com 1925 Australian Electoral Roll

<sup>166</sup> Ancestry.com Australian Marriage Index 1788-1950

<sup>167</sup> The Queensland Times 1 September 1928

<sup>168</sup> The Queensland Times 1 September 1928

<sup>169</sup> The Queensland Times 1 September 1928

Thomas Owen seems to have been the son that suffered a more unfortunate life than his siblings as far as occupation goes, as history attests to his moving around many addresses, in Queensland and New South Wales. Thomas and his two families between 1898 and when he died in 1953, had around twelve changes of address in that fifty-five years, based on what has been able to be identified. He is recorded at one stage at living in Toombul in Brisbane- it could be concluded that he lived on the property that his father Edward Bytheway senior owned.

Following the 1928 incident, it seems that Thomas and his family moved to New South Wales, where in 1930 they are recorded as living at 130 Underwood Street Paddington, with his occupation still as a salesman, and his wife Esther undertaking home duties.<sup>170</sup> In 1936 they are living at North Rocks, his occupation being recorded as a farmer, while Esther remains as undertaking home duties.<sup>171</sup>

In 1943 the Commonwealth Electoral Roll for the seat of Werriwa records Thomas and Esther living in Gannon's Road Port Hacking, she as undertaking home duties, and he having no occupation.<sup>172</sup> Port Hacking is located around 30 kilometres south of Sydney's central business district.

In 1949, the family is now living at 16 Carrington Street Penshurst, he is recorded as having no occupation and his wife Esther continuing to be recorded as undertaking home duties. In 1953, Thomas Owen Bytheway died there on 5 June. He was cremated in Sydney on 8 June 1953, the records remaining at Woronora Cemetery in Sutherland in New South Wales.<sup>173</sup> The *Sydney Morning Herald* death notice shows that he was the husband of Esther, the children Edward, Stanley, Poppy, and Ena are children he had with Esther. His other children Ruby and Thomasina are not mentioned, although Ruby had died on 24 March 1900.<sup>174 175</sup>

Gympie Family History Society Inc. records cite that "The brother not mentioned on the E.

Bytheway & Son billboard above the business was Thomas Owen Bytheway. He married Elizabeth Clarke in 1898. They lived in Kybong in 1913 and were dairy farmers. They had three daughters, one being Annie Elizabeth born on 4 October 1898. They moved to Oxley in Brisbane. Thomas's wife Elizabeth died in 1922. Thomas remarried Esther Maude Newman the following year. He died in 1947.<sup>176</sup>

The family of the man who died in 1947 inserted a notice in memory of Thomas which read 'Bytheway-In loving memory of our dear father Thomas Bytheway who passed away on 27 October 1947. We will always remember you. Inserted by his loving

**DEATHS**  
BYTHEWAY.—At Penshurst, Sydney, on June 5th 1953, Thomas Owen Bytheway, formerly of Gympie, 82 years. Cremated Sydney, June 8th, 1953.

BYTHEWAY, Thomas Owen.—June 5, 1953, at his residence, 16 Carrington Street, Penshurst, dearly loved husband of Esther, loved father of Edward, Stanley, Poppy, and Ena, and fond father-in-law of Fred, Arthur, Nola, and Tony, and dear grandfather of their children, aged 82 years. At rest. Privately cremated June 8, 1953.

<sup>170</sup> Ancestry.com. Australian Electoral Roll 1903-1980, the Commonwealth seat of East Sydney and the State seat of Paddington

<sup>171</sup> Ancestry.com Australian Electoral Roll 1903-1980, the Commonwealth seat of Robertson and the State seat of Castle Hill

<sup>172</sup> 1943 Commonwealth Electoral Roll for the seat of Werriwa, State seat of George's River, Sub-Division of Sutherland

<sup>173</sup> Ancestry.com Australian Cemetery Index 1808-2007

<sup>174</sup> The Brisbane Courier Mail 25 June 1953

<sup>175</sup> The Sydney Morning Herald 9 June 1953

<sup>176</sup> Gympie Family History Society Inc.

family.<sup>177</sup> This notice was inserted into the newspaper annually. Ancestry.com records confirm that this Thomas Bytheway died in Queensland on 27 October 1947. The details cited by the Gympie Family History Society Inc. required clarification as Edward's brother Thomas was born in 1836, so this Thomas would have been 111 years old when he passed in 1947! Ergo this person cannot be Edward's brother, in fact this Thomas Bytheway was born in England around 1858, and aged 21, left London on the ship the *Arthurstone* and arriving in Brisbane on 31 July 1879. He married Bridget O'Leary from Randwick in Sydney New South Wales in 1919.<sup>178</sup> Further proof that this Thomas Bytheway is not Edward Bytheway's brother is that his mother's name was Mary Instone while Thomas' mother was Sarah Gorton. Both had fathers with the name of Thomas.

The Bytheway family must have become close friends of the Conwells from '*Oak Hill*' as Mr. and Mrs. Conwell attended Fanny's wedding in 1894 with Miss Isabel Conwell being one of the five bridesmaids.

The marriage notice for Fanny's marriage to Tom Ellison read:

*'Marriages*

*ELLISON--BYTHEWAY--On the 12th April, at the Surface Hill Wesleyan Church, Gympie, by the Rev. J.G. MARTIN, assisted by the Rev. T.B. HOLMES, the Rev. Tom ELLISON, second son of Henry ELLISON, of Swindon, England, to Fanny, second daughter of Edward BYTHEWAY, of Gympie.*

*Wedding at Gympie*

*The marriage of the Rev. T. ELLISON, recently of the Enoggera Wesleyan Circuit, and Miss Fanny BYTHEWAY, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. BYTHEWAY, Calton, Gympie, was celebrated at the Wesleyan Church, Gympie, on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> instant. The bride was attended by five bridesmaids -- Miss BYTHEWAY, Miss Lucy MELLOR, Miss Jessie DAVIES, Miss Isabel CONWELL, and Miss Agnes WOODROW. Mr. E. BYTHEWAY accompanied the bridegroom as best man.<sup>179</sup>*

The day Fanny and Tom married, the Gympie Surface Hill Wesleyan Church was 'thronged with guests and spectators'. The initials of the bride and groom were worked in leaves and flowers on the organ screen, and an arch of evergreens was placed over the entrance of the church ground with the motto "God bless you both".<sup>180</sup> It would have been a magical and colourful sight as 'the organist, Mr. Mueller, played the Bridal March from *Lohengrin* on the entry of the bridal party and the Wedding March at the close of the ceremony ... and the choir [sang while] the bride and groom were at the communion rails ... the bride was attended by five bridesmaids Miss Bytheway [Fanny's sister Emma], Miss Lucy Mellor, Miss Jessie Davies, Miss Isabel Conwell, and Miss Agnes Woodrow'.<sup>181</sup> Fanny's brother, Edward junior was best man.

This would have been the wedding of the year in Gympie at the time, an autumn wedding, following Easter at the end of March that year. The Reverend T.B Holmes had come from Brisbane to conduct the service with the resident Wesleyan Minister of Gympie, Reverend J. G. Martin. Edward Bytheway and his wife, Mary, would have been

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<sup>177</sup> The Courier Mail 27 October 1948

<sup>178</sup> Ancestry.com Marriage Index 1788-1950

<sup>179</sup> The Queenslander, Brisbane, 28 April, 1894

<sup>180</sup> The Queenslander, Brisbane, 28 April 1894

<sup>181</sup> The Queenslander 28 April 1894

extremely proud of Fanny. It is worth contemplating the scene and the style of the dresses worn by Fanny and her sister Emma: 'the bride was attired in a gown of white nun's cloth with a simply made bodice softened at the neck with a ruche and fall of embroidered chiffon caught up on the front at the left shoulder by a long trail of orange blossom and lilies of the valley. The sleeves were puffed at the elbow, whence depended a frill of embroidered chiffon. A broad moire silk band passed round the waist, and was fastened at the left side with a large bow with long ends. The petticoat was finished at the hem with a handsome flounce of embroidered chiffon. The Court train was outlined with a rich silk cord; on each corner was arranged a large moire silk bow holding in place a horseshoe wreathed with lilies of the valley and tied with ribbon. A small wreath of orange blossom supported a handsome tulle veil. The bride wore a gold cable bracelet and carried a shower bridal bouquet, the gifts of the bridegroom. Miss Bytheway [Emma], chief bridesmaid, wore a white cashmere gown with organ-piped pleated skirt ornamented with two gold braided bands placed round the skirt a few inches from the top. A treble piping of gold and white finished the bottom. The bodice, slightly full, was held in at the waist by a belt with gold edging; and the shaped yoke of cashmere was finished off with small bows of white satin. The sleeves were fashioned with alternate puffs and bands edged with gold. A large hat of white velvet ornamented with ostrich feathers and gold osprey to match completed the toilette. Miss Bytheway [Emma] wore a moonstone brooch and carried a shower bouquet, the gifts of the bridegroom.

The four little bridesmaids looked quaint in Empire frocks of white voile with sashes of buttercup surah and caps to match. They wore gold boomerang brooches presented by the bridegroom and carried Empire sticks with beautifully arranged flowers tied with white and buttercup bows and streamers. The bride's going-away gown was of dark blue crepette, with plain skirt edged with Russian musquash. The bodice had a waistcoat of crepette; the basque and revers were faced with silk and finished with musquash sleeves full to the elbow and trimmed like the bodice. A large picture hat of velvet trimmed with feathers completed the costume.<sup>182</sup> The wedding reception was at Calton Hill at the home of Edward and Mary Bytheway. How unfortunate that photos of this wedding have been unable to be found.

In early April 1894, Fanny's husband Tom had been appointed for a six year term to work in Mount Morgan following three years in Brisbane in the Paddington/Enoggera 'circuit' of the Wesleyan Churches, where at his farewell he received a good many high commendations of his time there often working with difficult issues. He was given warm wishes for a happy married life to Fanny, and success for his work in Mount Morgan. He was presented with 'a very handsome electro-plated tea and coffee service.'<sup>183</sup> He was obviously a very well-liked and respected man as a large number of his congregation attended his farewell at the Paddington Wesleyan Church on the night of 30 May 1894. The six year appointment in Mount Morgan would have taken Fanny out of Gympie until at least 1900.

Fanny and Tom had six children, four boys and two girls. They were: Dorothy May born 23 February 1895; Edward Burnett born 31 March 1897; Frank Gordon born 12 October 1898 Ivy Margaret born 16 February 1902; Alfred Owen born 31 December 1902; and the youngest Harold Percy born 2 August 1905. Grandfather Edward would

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<sup>182</sup> The Queenslander 28 April 1894

<sup>183</sup> The Morning Bulletin Rockhampton 6 April 1894



have known his grandchildren and been proud of them. The youngest, Harold, was just two months old at the time of Edward's death.

In 1927, Fanny and Tom's son, Alfred Owen Ellison, was 'received as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, and commenced the practice at Lombard Chambers, Pitt St. Mr. Ellison is an old Newingtonian, also a Wesley College man.'<sup>184</sup>

In 1909, Fanny's husband was to depart for New South Wales. His church colleagues placed on the record their 'appreciation of his services which he has rendered to the Church during the twenty years of his ministry in Queensland.'<sup>185</sup> In 1944 at a conference in New South Wales, Reverend Ellison was described as a 'gentle spirit, a gracious soul, a lover of the beautiful, a devoted servant of Christ and his Church.'<sup>186</sup> If Edward had been still alive he would have rejoiced that Fanny had married such a wonderful man, almost in his own mould when it came to the Church. Fanny and her husband were required to move around a lot with his work in the church. Fanny died in Chatswood NSW in 1944.

Not long after Edward Bytheway's brother Benjamin died on 3 April 1897, Edward junior married. He had married in New Zealand, returning to Gympie soon after their marriage on 6 August 1897 with his bride, Annie, to a lavish social which had been organised by the Wesley Surface Hill Church teachers of the Sunday School and the members of the church choir 'which he had been connected to for some time.'<sup>187</sup> Shortly after, Edward Junior and Annie, who had no children moved to a Bytheway owned home at 34 O'Connell Street. This house survived intact until December 2016 as a family home. The ironic thing is that this house was located right next to the back entrance of the Gympie Regional Galley. Edward junior died on 19 August 1935 in that house. Chapter Nine elaborates more on this house which has now been moved to a property near Gympie by the current owners for restoration.

Edward Junior's Death Notice read as follows:

'Bytheway-on August 19, at his late residence, O'Connell Street Gympie, Edward Bytheway, aged 70 years.'<sup>188</sup>

Annie died in 1947. They are buried together in Methodist Section Block 283 & 284 in the Gympie Cemetery which is not far from where Edward and Mary are buried.

At the age of thirty-three, Edward senior's eldest daughter Emma Mary married Rowland George Sanday on 31 October 1899 at the Wesleyan Parsonage in Toowong in Brisbane, the Reverend Tom Ellison (her brother-in-law) conducting the service. In October 1905, Emma's husband would almost carry Edward home the night he became really ill during an evening service at the Surface Hill Wesleyan Church. Mary and her husband died within 12 months of each other in 1942 and 1943 respectively.

Emma, aged 77 years old, died in Gympie on 25 October 1943, and at that time was a widow. She and Rowland had two daughters, Doris and Elsie.<sup>189</sup>

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<sup>184</sup> The Methodist 6 August 1927

<sup>185</sup> The Week 12 March 1909

<sup>186</sup> The Methodist 4 March 1944

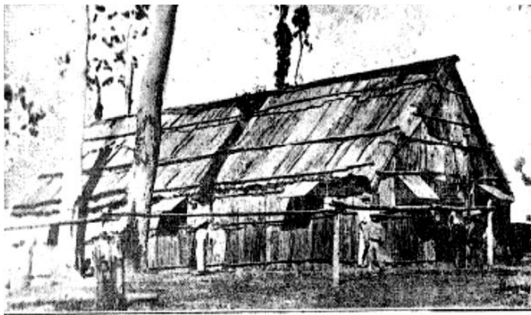
<sup>187</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 August 1897

<sup>188</sup> The Courier Mail 24 August 1935

<sup>189</sup> The Courier Mail 30 October 1943

The Surface Hill Wesleyan Church together with Christian devotion played a significant role in the family life of the Bytheways. Edward Bytheway had been associated with the Church since its foundation ... he had contributed £200 towards the cost of the building ... was warmly attached to his church and was for a number of years Senior Circuit Steward and latterly Society Steward; he was also trustee and Treasurer of the Gympie Church Trust.<sup>190</sup> He was present at the Brisbane Albert Street Wesleyan Church when Methodism was celebrating its fifty years in Queensland. He and Mr. M. Mellor received accolades along with others and several ministers for 'having helped build up Methodism in this colony to its present goodly proportions'.<sup>191</sup> These people were spoken of as having their names 'carved in the invisible foundation stones of our church.'<sup>192</sup>

Edward Bytheway gave one of the key speeches at the farewell of the Reverend J.F. Orr in 1882, when the temporary church was filled to overflowing with people from other congregations, and many other people from the town. Reverend Orr was described as a hardworking, sincere upright and earnest minister, the kind of description that could easily have been applied to Edward Bytheway. To Reverend Orr was attributed a great deal of the peace, prosperity and happiness that the congregations and the town enjoyed.<sup>193</sup>



TEMPORARY WESLEYAN CHURCH, SURFACE HILL (August, 1868)

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The image on the left is the temporary Wesleyan Church attended by Edward Bytheway and his family before the permanent building designed by Hugo Du Rietz was built between 1889 and 1890. Edward's funeral service was held in the new church in 1905, as was that of his second wife Mary in 1902.

He openly and publicly upheld the values of Christian virtues without any qualms as can be gleaned from a letter he wrote to the Editor of the *Gympie Times* in 1904:

*'ALDERMAN DAVIDSON'S REMARKS  
(To the editor of the Gympie Times)*

<sup>190</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

<sup>191</sup> The Brisbane Courier 13 July 1897

<sup>192</sup> The Brisbane Courier 13 July 1897

<sup>193</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 March 1882

<sup>194</sup> The Surface Hill Wesleyan Church designed by Hugo Du Rietz photograph taken by Linda Atkinson 2014

<sup>195</sup> The Temporary Wesleyan Church, Surface Hill (August 1868). Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927, Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfields Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie, September 1927. Authors Stumm, A. L., Woolgar, W. C., Back to Gympie Committee. Published Gympie, Qld. : Back to Gympie Committee, 1927

*Sir, Alderman Davidson remarking on the gambling element said, "It was all very well to talk but why did not Mr. Youngman say they should not have raffles at church bazaars and sell shilling tickets to people who dipped into bags and drew out articles worth perhaps threepence. These were the places where gambling often first started." I have in conjunction with the late respected Mr. M. Mellor, held the office of secretary or treasurer to the trustees for over 30 years, during which time there has never been either a raffle or lottery held in conjunction with Surface Hill or any other of our churches. Raffles and lotteries are entirely against the laws of the Methodist Church.' Yours truly  
E.BYTHEWAY<sup>196</sup>*

Once settled in Gympie, 'Mr. Bytheway's name became a household word since Gympie was Gympie, and as a public man, he succeeded in playing an honourable and useful role. His business capabilities were such that he was not only able to manage an extensive establishment of his own but to assist with his advice and oversight most of the public concerns of the town.'<sup>197</sup> At one time when the mining industry appeared to be stagnating, his optimistic view was 'I have ... seen them as bad and they have got better, Gympie is not done yet.'<sup>198</sup>

Freemasonry became part of the family experience of both Edward and his son, Edward. Both joined Freemason Lodges, Edward Senior joining Prince Leopold in 1892 and his son joining Lord Dufferin Lodge in 1894. The inaugural meeting of the Nashville Freemason's Lodge occurred on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1869. A second Lodge was established in 1884, and in 1889 the current Masonic Temple was established, which is the site where the original Gympie Hospital once stood. So Edward Bytheway became regarded as a prominent Freemason in Gympie, although he never progressed through the degrees in the Lodge and never made it to Master. It is more than a coincidence that Edward led the Gympie group who moved the Hospital to its new site and who was a member of the Hospital Committee for some considerable time.

In 1892, at age 52, Edward Bytheway became the 78<sup>th</sup> member of Prince Leopold Lodge. He was listed as a store keeper when he joined, his joining fee being £7 7shillings (this would be \$1,055 in today's currency<sup>199</sup>), and his joining certificate costing 1 guinea (\$151 in today's currency<sup>200</sup>). He was initiated on 30 August 1893, passed on 1 November 1893 and raised on 29 November 1893. After 10 years in the Lodge, he resigned on 2 March 1902, meaning that he was given a clearance certificate.<sup>201</sup>

Edward balanced his life by participating in community sports. What a special man Gympie had in its midst in those days. He played football for the Gympie Football Club indicating that he must have been a reasonably fit man. He can be spotted in the photograph of the Gympie Football Club in 1884, standing.<sup>202</sup> (marked with red arrow)

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<sup>196</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 June 1904

<sup>197</sup> The Gympie Times 14 October 1905

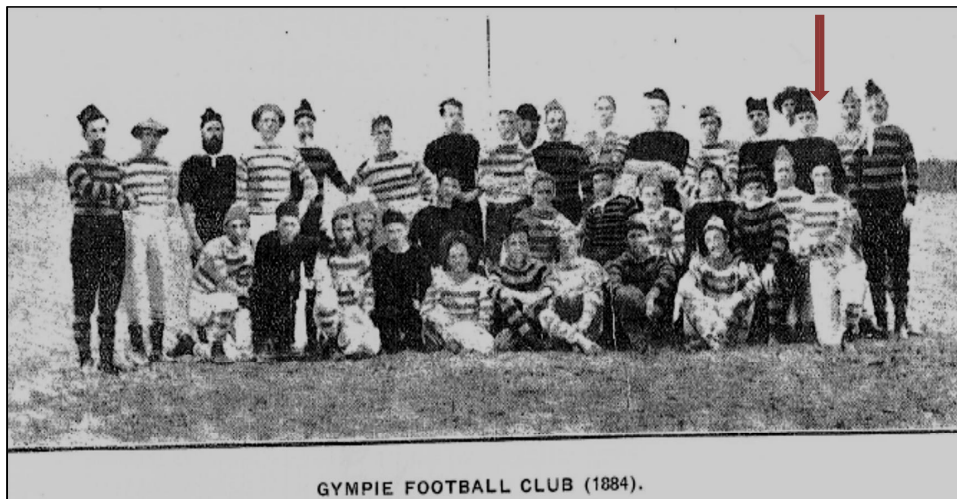
<sup>198</sup> The Gympie Times 14 October 1905

<sup>199</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>200</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>201</sup> Information provided by Historian of the Gympie Freemasons

<sup>202</sup> Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927. Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927. Page 75



GYMPIE FOOTBALL CLUB (1884).

The Gympie Players are in dark striped jerseys and dark knickers and their names reading from left to right are:

Standing: A.G. Ramsey, Wm Cunningham, Tom Swaine, F. Bunny, E.B. Davidson, J.R. Fawn, E. Bytheway, L. Lukin (Judge Lukin of the Federal Court) and Jas. Crawford.

Kneeling: Frank Purser, Harry Richardson, T.A. Pollock, J. Clarke, W.E. Southerden (Capt.), A.R. Ranson, C.J. Robinson, A.E. Joseph

It is assumed this team played Rugby Union. Football (rugby league, rugby union, and Australian Rules) is still the most popular sport in the Gympie district. In late October 1885, the Gympie Football Club held its second annual sports day. Edward Bytheway entered into a few of the races: the Second Fifteen Handicap of 200 yards, with a handicap of 18 yards; the 800 yards race, with a handicap of 30 yards.<sup>203</sup> A Sports and Fancy Dress Ball followed that sports day.

Edward played cricket and was a member of the Commercials Team as was his friend and colleague Hugo Du Rietz. It seems that the Commercials played The Gympie Times on a regular basis. In a game played on Thursday 26 March 1874, the Commercials looked like they might beat the previously victorious Gympie Times Team. In the first innings of play, Edward Bytheway was batting and he is recorded as being caught by Farnworth, bowled J. Chapple after one run! He was caught out for one run by J. Chapple in the second innings! His colleague Hugo Du Rietz fared little better being caught by Chapple after three runs and run out for three runs in the second innings.<sup>204</sup> The Commercials were all out for 80 runs in their first innings, and all out for 37 runs in their second innings. How wonderful a time they must have been having as the report boasts 'as usual we have to rely on memory for some details that are missing from the scoring book ...'<sup>205</sup> The Gympie Times Team only had to achieve 83 runs to avoid defeat, with the game resuming again on 3 April 1874.

Edward had his son join the Military Cadets, which also meant his son partook of their sporting activities. In the 1887 annual Military Sports under the auspices of the Gympie Mounted Infantry, held at the One-Mile Recreation Ground on Monday 12 December, his

<sup>203</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 20 October 1885.

<sup>204</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 March 1871.

<sup>205</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 March 1874

son came second in a Handicap Flat Race over 200 yards, thus earning himself 30 shillings in prize money. An interesting aspect of this day was that there was a muster of the Mounted Infantry and the Cadet Corps in the town, from where they marched accompanied by a band to the sports ground, to start proceedings at 10am.<sup>206</sup> Edward Bytheway's colleague and friend Hugo Du Rietz also had his son run in the same race, and he came third, earning 15 shillings in prize money.

Edward's second wife, Mary, possessed the same devotion to community as her husband. She was part of a group in Gympie called the Ladies' Benevolent Society, which by 1901 had been in existence for 10 years. The Ladies Benevolent Society modelled itself Australia's first charity founded originally in New South Wales in 1813. Mary was President of the group for a good many years. When she died the Group was devastated and spoke of her as a woman 'who for many years had filled the position [of President] so ably, taking a keen interest in all those who were in need of assistance and advice, ever ready to lend willing aid in any good cause'.<sup>207</sup> Mary died just before the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ladies Benevolent Society. The Society met in the Town Hall with the meetings presided over by the Mayor.

The group provided relief for families in dire need. It relied on subscriptions from the public and donors. In 1900, it had provided for 69 families which represented 110 adults and 120 children.<sup>208</sup> During 1902, the records show it provided relief for 173 families, consisting of 124 adults and 204 children; 997 articles of second hand clothing had been distributed; the medical men, including doctors, dentists and pharmacists of the town, provided extensive professional attendance for those in need.

Edward [junior] Bytheway's wife, Annie, carried on a family tradition also being on the Committee as Treasurer. It seems she joined the Society in 1902 and is recorded as being at a meeting of the Ladies Benevolent Society on 5 August 1902.<sup>209</sup> In the summer of 1911, this Mrs. Bytheway was concerned about a lot of men who had finished work on the sugar plantations coming to Gympie for work on the building of the new railway line. The concern was to encourage them not to become a problem for the community since they had no appropriate accommodation, and very little appropriate clothing. The Society had already provided these men with clothing, especially trousers and other items of clothing as they waited to see if they could get jobs building the railway. The question for the Society was, were these men really in need, compared to other families that the Society was helping. Her concern was that people in dire need might be disadvantaged if these men were given priority over them, and it might not reflect well on the Society.<sup>210</sup>

Edward's second wife Mary died on 13 January 1902, just a few years before he did. They had been married twenty-four years. On 25 January 1902, the notice for the settlement of Mary's estate appeared in the newspaper:

*'Brisbane, 24 January, 1902*

*IN THE SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND*

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<sup>206</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 December 1887

<sup>207</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 February 1902

<sup>208</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 February 1901

<sup>209</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 August 1902

<sup>210</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 February 1911

*In the Lands and Goods of MARY BYTHEWAY, late of Gympie in the State of Queensland  
(Wife of Edward Bytheway, of the same place, Merchants, Deceased, Intestate.)*

*Notice is hereby given that, after the expiration of fourteen days from the jurisdiction hereof, application will be made to his honourable Court that ADMINISTRATION of the Real and Personal Effects of the abovenamed Mary Bytheway, deceased, who died intestate, may be granted to EDWARD BYTHEWAY of Gympie aforesaid, merchant, the lawful Widower of the said deceased. Any person interested who desires to object to the application, or to be heard upon it, may file a Caveat in the Registry at any time before the grant is made.*

*Dated this Seventeenth day of January, AD 1902.*

*VIVIAN H. TOZER Solicitor for the said Edward Bytheway, Mary Street Gympie, Town  
Agents: Morris & Fletcher, Queen Street,  
Brisbane<sup>211</sup>*

Mary Bytheway's assets were publicly detailed<sup>212</sup>. Information held at the Local History Section of the Gympie Regional Library shows Allotments 8 and 22 of Section E are around the middle of Mary Street, with *Allotment 8* backing into Nash Street. Edward Bytheway was awarded the assets of his wife, in accordance with the Letter of Administration granted on 12 March 1902. His wife's realty and personalty was valued at £1698/8/6 [\$243,801 in today's currency].<sup>213</sup> A similar insertion appeared in *The Courier Mail* of 21 April 1902.

Edward junior took over E. Bytheway and Son when his father died and continued to successfully operate the business until his death in 1935. Neither his wife Annie, who died on 4 September 1947, nor any of the other Bytheway children (including those of Benjamin) picked up running the business. Annie in all formal documents such as the Electoral Roll is listed as a person undertaking home duties, meaning she had no role in the Bytheway business. Annie's father's name is recorded as Percy, with no information as to who her mother was.<sup>214</sup>

<p><b>Name of Deceased Proprietor.—</b> Mary Bytheway, late of Gympie, wife of Edward Bytheway, of the same place, merchant. <b>Date of Death.—</b>13th January, 1902 <b>Name of Claimant.—</b>Edward Bytheway aforesaid. <b>Description and Situation of Land.—</b>Allotments 8 and 22 of section E, town of Gympie. <b>Estate Claimed to be Transmitted.—</b>Fee-simple. <b>Particulars of Will or Otherwise.—</b>Letters of Administration. <b>Date within which Caveat may be Lodged.—</b>26th May, 1902.</p>
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The Bytheways were consistently involved in everything that was part of the community. It seems ironic that seven years after his Uncle Edward Bytheway died, that William (Benjamin's son) was involved in the building of a School of Arts in Eumundi, now about 45 minutes by car from Gympie. When we mention Gympie's history and heritage, the same breath should resonate with a few special names. Bytheway should be the first one we utter.

<sup>211</sup> The Brisbane Courier 25 January 1902

<sup>212</sup> Queensland Figaro 24 April 1902

<sup>213</sup> The Courier Mail 13 March 1902

<sup>214</sup> Ancestry.com Death Index

## Chapter Four

### Edward Bytheway and The School of Arts and the School of Mines

Most Schools of Arts established in Queensland were driven by community minded men, usually middle or upper class, many with political aspirations. The journey to a permanent building for the School of Arts and Mines in Gympie was a tortuous one taking some thirty-six years to be realised. It went through having three locations from 1869, with the last one being in 1905 at what is now the Gympie Regional Gallery at 39 Nash Street. The previous two sites were in Mary Street, the first one in the Hardcastle's Old Store, which was at what is now Goldburgs Menswear at 133 Mary Street.<sup>215</sup> The Hardcastles' Building was later known as Patterson Bros.<sup>216</sup> The second location was



opposite what was the Salvation Army Barracks in Mary Street. Edward Bytheway was Mayor when the Salvation Army moved from allotment 15, Lawrence Street Calton Hill to Mary Street, removing its building and re-erecting it on the vacant land across the road from the School of Arts and Mines.<sup>217</sup>

The Hardcastles' Old Store in Mary Street. It is the building on the left hand side with the steep roof<sup>218</sup>

Edward Bytheway and Hugo Du Rietz have received some public acknowledgement in print on the internet for the establishment of the School of Arts, with the words, "The impetus for a School of Arts was provided by Edward Bytheway, early settler and shopkeeper, and later Mayor. Bytheway was involved in many community organisations including the Gympie Hospital and the Agricultural, Pastoral and Mining Association"<sup>219</sup> Hugo Du Rietz is mentioned as the local architect who designed and built the present building between 1904 to 1905. It was a great achievement at that time to provide the town with a fine educational facility. Without the foresight, tenacity, and impetus of Edward Bytheway, it may never have become a reality for the School of Arts to have its own building on its own land.

<sup>215</sup> Dr. Elaine Brown Historian Gympie and Beth Wilson Local Historian Gympie Regional Library

<sup>216</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 15 January 1898

<sup>217</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 April 1895

<sup>218</sup> Photo courtesy of Local Historian Gympie Regional Library

<sup>219</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie\\_School\\_of\\_Arts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie_School_of_Arts) Gympie School of Arts

In 1896, the land where the School of Arts and Mines stood 'was of little commercial value, and if it was sold, it would not realize sufficient funds to erect a building worthy of the town.'<sup>220</sup> Such was the nature of finding enough funds and convincing people to join as subscribers so that there was some kind of 'permanent' cash coming into the organization. A lot of patience and perseverance was required to not give up the struggle to obtain funding, and a permanent home.

An overall consensus began emerging very early in the life of Gympie for a School of Arts to cohesed the community and provide intellectual and educational facilities for the whole town. A small group of energetic townspeople made attempts to establish a School of Arts as early as November 1869. Edward Bytheway was an important and integral part of that movement, he was a member of the School of Arts and Mines ever since its inception; in 1900 he was doing the job of the Treasurer of the School, but he was Chairman of the Committee for most of his time with this Institution.

*The move began on Monday 1 November 1869 when 'a deputation of Gympie towns people went to see the Queensland Attorney-General 'to bring to the attention of the hon. gentleman the desirability of immediate steps being taken by the Government for the carrying into effect the provisions of the Town Lands Act recently passed by the Legislature, as much uncertainty and inconvenience was experienced by reason of the inability of holders of business sites to obtain leases for the lands they now occupy. He also called attention to the dangerous state of the approaches to the township and the neglected condition of the roads, urging the necessity of prompt action being taken by the Government for the same.*

*The deputation then drew the attention of the hon. gentleman to a want felt by the townspeople generally for the establishment of a School of Arts, or some kindred literary institution, and inquiry was made as to the extent of support and subsidy which might be expected from the Government on behalf of this object. Mr. Lilley promised that he would endeavour to expedite the granting of leases to those desirous of taking them up.*

*With reference to local improvements and the erection of bridges in large and important township such at Gympie, he must say that the Government did not recognize the responsibility of undertaking such works, but he would recommend that the inhabitants should form themselves into a municipality, which they would be able to do as soon as the leases were granted under the new Act. With regard to the School of Arts, the hon. gentleman stated that he was fully convinced of the advantages to be derived from such an institution; that the School Government would undoubtedly grant them a site of land for the purpose, and that if the inhabitants would subscribe a sum for the erection of the building he would use his best endeavours to place a proportionate sum on the Estimates for this purpose.'*<sup>221</sup>

This was the signal for the townspeople to establish Gympie's own School of Arts, as well as a Municipal Council. According to the report the deputation consisted of Messrs. W.B. Rider, J.G. Kidgell, and Nugent Browne. At the time Mr. Kidgell was the Honorary Secretary of the Gympie Progress Association, of which Edward Bytheway was a prominent member. The impetus took off from that date.

An intelligent observer echoed the sentiment of the townspeople observing 'I have not been long a resident of Gympie; but during my short stay I have often had occasion to

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<sup>220</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 January 1896

<sup>221</sup> The Queenslander 6 November 1869



regret the utter absence of any sources of rational and elevating entertainment, such as those which, in favoured localities, are furnished by the existence of reading, lecture and debating rooms.<sup>222</sup>

By nature of being a goldfield, the community consisted of men from all classes and characters, presenting a real danger for men, 'and more especially young men, whose characters are not yet thoroughly formed- "getting into mischief" ... in the case of Gympie men released from their daily toil, even though possessing cultivated tastes and studious habits, have few opportunities for their gratification.'<sup>223</sup>

In addition, accommodation and housing on the goldfield was often temporary and so there was nowhere in the dwellings for such luxuries as shelves for books. Men mostly then took to the taverns or pubs to relax, but this often led to overindulgence and the evil that drink does. There was a strong feeling that a School of Arts would have the effect of helping to abolish class distinctions, while 'the existence of a library, lecture and reading room, where mutual improvement is the object, would bring all classes together, stimulate the glowing impulse to excel, and at once bring about the commingling of ideas ...'<sup>224</sup>

Community minded people seeking to improve the quality of life in Gympie expressed serious concerns about the numbers of men whose tastes led them to patronize public amusements far too often; Gympie's working population have little other than the tediousness of listless strolls down the street for an evening pastime; Gympie seen to be suffering from the 'evils of intemperance, gambling, although Gympie also had a reputation for its goldfield having less drunkenness than other Australian goldfields; 'Social and visiting circles seldom exist on new goldfields, and the tavern, billiard, or card rooms supply their place'.<sup>225</sup>

People residing on the Gympie goldfields who had come from all parts of the world had interests which were not met locally and needed to know something of the development of industries in other colonies ... men felt it necessary to post themselves up in news of the progress of other countries ... mining and managers of mining machinery need to obtain information on the latest discoveries in connection with their avocation<sup>226</sup>. The gold not only brought miners to Gympie 'but government officials, lawyers, doctors and businessmen of all kinds.'<sup>227</sup>

At this time, Gympie had a greater population than most inland Queensland towns which supported such institutions<sup>228</sup>, so there was a strong argument that a School of Arts could provide a well-lit and comfortable reading room, where men may obtain amusement and instruction of a superior kind from a well-stocked library. The other thoughts were that a School of Arts could become the nucleus of a mineral museum, and contain reference books and other materials on geological and mining matters; it might also become an established exhibition for horticultural, agricultural, and other produce of the district; but most of all would be a new and valuable educational institution for

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<sup>222</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 February 1870

<sup>223</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 February 1870

<sup>224</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 February 1870

<sup>225</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 February 1870

<sup>226</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 January –said by H.E. King, Esq., MLA.

<sup>227</sup> Webb, Rae. The Gympie School of Arts and Library 90years of Service 1905-1995 Aebis Publishing, Brisbane 1995, page 7

<sup>228</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 January 1870- said by Dr. John Robinson Benson

the people of Gympie. The town had grown extremely quickly: by 1868 there were 560 business licenses and 15,000 miner's rights.

Once established, the School of Arts would be a welcome facility for the people of Gympie because up until the time it was established, Gympie was a miserable place to amuse oneself. Some still say it is! At the Diggers' Bethel [the Primitive Methodist Church], the Temperance Hall, and the Masonic Hall, attractions were all more or less of an intellectual character, which may not have suited some of the miners. The miners preferred the sly grog shops, and later on, better class public houses, like the one at the bottom of Commissioner's Hill, called the Royal. The Royal had a theatre and a dancing room, and a fiddle and piano for a band. Another place the miners liked was French Charley's Theatre at the One-Mile in 1868. Parts of the town had developed in a more respectable way, but not so much as it could have. Some expressed the view that a show only comes along in that period of time known as the blue moon. One of the publicans would provide extra numbers of waitresses who would sometimes dance with the diggers. It has been said that many of these waitresses would bear the first children of Gympie!

The need for a new building remained current right through to the 1890s and into the early part of the twentieth century, but without the population coming forth with adequate subscriptions, the financial situation of the School of Arts remained insufficient for any new building.

At the Court House, on the night of Wednesday 18 January 1870<sup>229</sup>, Mr. H.E. King MLA<sup>230</sup> chaired a meeting of people which included Edward Bytheway, 'Dr. John Robinson Benson [Benson was appointed the Government Medical Officer in Gympie in November 1870. He was regarded highly by the community and built up a large private practice] the Revs. Caldwell, Jamieson, and Woodhouse, Messrs. M. Mellor, Crane, J.G. Kidgell, Gaynor, Best, Ballard, Laird, J.S. Cullinane, Pat. Lillis, Rogers, Adam Black, George Stupart, John Young, William Ferguson (Store), Nugent W. Browne, Thomas Smyth, Jas McGhie, George Patterson, Morgan Davies, J. Chapple, Daniell, J. O'C. Bligh, P.M., George Thrower, to discuss the establishment of the School of Arts.<sup>231</sup> It had been the Committee of the Gympie Progress Association who had requested that such a meeting be held.<sup>232</sup>

The men at this meeting not only established the School of Arts, but also agreed to name it the Gympie School of Arts and Mines and they wanted it applied in its widest sense. The group had also suggested other names such as Mechanics Institute; and the Gympie School of Arts and Miners' Institute. By the end of the meeting, £27 (equivalent to \$3,876 in 2016<sup>233</sup>) had been promised toward the process of establishing a Committee, with the first Honorary Treasurers being Messrs. M. Mellor and P. Lillis; Mr. Kidgell appointed Honorary Secretary pro tem; and Mr. King President, and Mr. J. O'C Bligh, Esq, P.M. Vice-President. Mr. Kidgell also mentioned during the meeting that 'three gentlemen had promised a sum of £10 each towards the establishment of the School of Arts, on condition that seven others gave the same amount'.<sup>234</sup> The meeting estimated

<sup>229</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 January 1870

<sup>230</sup> MLA is the acronym for Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament

<sup>231</sup> Historical Sketch of Gympie 1868-1927. Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927. Page 105

<sup>232</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 January 1870

<sup>233</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>234</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 January 1870

that to establish the School of Arts, 'a sum of £100 (equivalent to \$14,355 in 2016<sup>235</sup>) would be required, and that the Government would very probably give the same amount.<sup>236</sup>

The Committee quickly applied to the Government for land on which to construct a suitable building, but at the same time wasted no time in having a temporary reading room in an existing building in Mary Street (the Hardcastles' Building) until a hall would be constructed in 1874. This hall was four years coming! There were many disputes, often vehement, until the 1890s over the siting of the hall, some members wanting it near the government buildings, and others wanting it where it would be more accessible to the mass of the population in general, whether the School of Arts should merge with the One-Mile Miners' Institute.

Almost twelve months later, at a meeting of the Gympie Progress Association on Monday 12 December 1870, one of Edward Bytheway's colleagues, also passionate about a School of Arts for Gympie, had a resolution carried that the 'Secretary should write to the Government requesting them to let the Association have the old hospital buildings to be used as a temporary School of Arts, and also a place wherein the exhibition of Gympie specimens should be held.'<sup>237</sup> The Institution had 'a library and reading room ... quickly established ... [and donated were copies of] *The Gympie Times*, *Port Dennison Times*, *The Ravenswood Miner*, *Ipswich Observer*, *Dalby Herald*, *Darling Downs Gazette*, *Queenslander* and *Wide Bay and Burnett News* ... colonial and London newspapers were also held.'<sup>238</sup> However, the issue of funding was always ever present; sufficient funds, even from subscribers, were never forth coming.

The location of the site continued to cause dissention, as many from Northern Gympie continued to favour a Government allocated site, so much so that the One-Mile Miners' Institute opened a facility in 1870 holding '150 books, with a further 400 on order from Sydney.'<sup>239</sup> Subscriptions totalling £98 (\$14,067) were gathered. Then Edward Bytheway gained the support of the Committee for a building fund to be established, that is when the real business of work commenced toward the Nash Street building that exists today.

Gympie was fortunate to have the foresight, dedication and unselfish commitment of men like Edward Bytheway in the push for a School of Arts to improve the facilities available for the residents of Gympie. Funding the School of Arts was always a key concern of Edward Bytheway. He had been in Gympie since late 1867, as may have been the case with the others in the group. Many of these men became his colleagues over a long period of time in various community organisations and activities and also shared Edward's view to improve the quality of life in Gympie.

There was a feeling in the town, that while Gympie's gold mines had been the 'saviour of the colony', the Government had not been so forthcoming with support for other services for Gympie. The townspeople thought it only fair that the Government

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<sup>235</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>236</sup> *The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette* 21 January 1871

<sup>237</sup> *Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser* 13 December 1870

<sup>238</sup> Webb, Rae. *The Gympie School of Arts and Library 90 years of Service 1905-1995* Aebis Publishing, Brisbane 1995, page 8

<sup>239</sup> Webb, Rae. *The Gympie School of Arts and Library 90 years of Service 1905-1995* Aebis Publishing, Brisbane 1995, page 8

'refund a little of the money we have sent down to the Treasury during the last two year or three years'.<sup>240</sup> Although it was recognised from the beginning that it would not be totally suitable for a permanent building, the old hospital building (the site of the current Masonic Hall in Channon Street) was available and proposed as the first venue while funding was sought from the Government to grant a sum of money to purchase books and such. While this building was centrally located for most people, it was not going to be convenient for those from the One-Mile, and those who were pushing for the establishment of the School of Arts, needed the support of those from the One-Mile. Another suggestion was made to procure the Masonic Hall, which apparently could be bought for a moderate amount.

A School of Arts came formally into existence on 21 January 1871 following a public meeting. Mr. W. Kidman was the first Secretary. From that point on, Edward Bytheway and a group of dedicated men continued strenuous efforts to provide Gympie with a valuable social and intellectual facility the community.

Wouldn't it have been wonderful to have been privy to Edward Bytheway's reaction to two letters to the Editor relating to the School of Arts?<sup>241</sup> The text of these two letters demonstrates the passion of feeling that the establishment of the School of Arts generated. The first doctor in Gympie, Dr. Theodore Edgar Dickson Byrne, known for his irascibility, public outbursts, constant attendance at public meetings, and jumping gold prospecting claims (he was known as the jumping doctor), was obviously aggrieved because one of his colleagues, Dr. John Robinson Benson, had gained a place on the Committee, and not himself. Dr. Byrne thought he was a pretty important person in the town: he owned goldmines, he was for a while the town's only doctor until Dr. Stephen Burke arrived in early 1868 and later Dr. Benson; and he had some part in establishing the first hospital, the Nashville Miner's Hospital. He thought of himself as being a high level intellectual and quite erudite, having written and had published a medical book of his own. His superior view of himself would have made him incensed to think the residents of Gympie did not have him on the Committee of the School of Arts. He also fancied himself as a highly effective politician and man of the people, having stood (unsuccessfully) for the Wide Bay electorate at one time. The "Dr. Byrne" letter talks of soap, a reference to Hugo Du Rietz who established the soap factory in Gympie, ostensibly for the miners so they could have a good wash following the dirty work they did each day.

The first letter read<sup>242</sup>:

*'Sir,- The battle of the sites is over; its incidents are a matter of history; and the subscribers to the School of Arts have decided that a position central to the population, and ease of access to the main street, is an advantage, not to be overlooked. This, I think, Mr. Editor, is the view the public generally will endorse, and I trust that now the question of site is set at rest we shall see an extension of the roll of membership such as we have been led to anticipate. There are numbers who have refused to contribute because they concluded that the School of Arts must be of necessity be placed on the site granted by the Government. Consideration of these objections led many to vote for "Hardcastles' Old Store", and now it is to be hoped these men will show that their objection was something more than a mere subterfuge.*

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<sup>240</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 January 1871

<sup>241</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 March 1871

<sup>242</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 March 1871

*The School of Arts will have the advantage of stepping into a building which a small outlay will render sufficiently accommodating for present purposes. It will be the wisdom of the committee to at once provide for a full supply of the periodicals of the day, in order that the reading room may be made so attractive as to induce men to join in order that they may enjoy the advantage of perusing the leading periodical literature current.*

*The site question has divided the supporters of the movement into two parties, one contending for the erection of a building on a site contiguous to the public buildings, the other contending that as the supporters are looked for from the mass of the population generally, their convenience should be studied. I have often heard complaints from working men that it is a serious hardship that all the public offices should be placed so remote from the common centre of population as to compel them to waste so much time going to and returning therefrom.*

*To the men of Commissioner's Hill I would say- Gentlemen, there is enough of this hardship the working man has to submit to; do at least in future movements, think less of self and study more the convenience of the population.*

*Yours respectfully, A MEMBER'*

The second letter read<sup>243</sup>:

*'Sir, - Will you allow me, through the medium of your journal, to make a protest against the way the meetings of the Gympie School of Arts are obstructed by one of its members. Nearly every meeting Dr. Byrne has been present at has been a scene of frolic and larking instead of business and deliberation; and I cannot but think that the young institution is likely to be a good deal damaged by it. Dr. Byrne seems to come to the meetings for no other purpose than to kick up rows. It may be a very congenial occupation to him to abuse a man because he is, or has been, a manufacturer of soap; but let me tell him that if people used soap more they would want physic less. Then why should a doctor sneer at a soap boiler; the latter is quite as honorable a profession (!) as the former. Even Dr. Byrne finds the use of soft soap desirable (especially about election times). I think, Sir, you will agree with me that when a man adopts the course of sneering at others in a personal manner he must be awfully hard up for arguments. Any idiot can make a hit at a man because of his trade; you can sneer at a tailor because of his "goose" or his "cabbage"; at a bank clerk (or even editor) because he is a "quilldriver"; at a publican because of his "poison"; at a doctor because he amuses his patients with soap and bread pills while nature cures them. But a sneer requires very little sense; and is not at all a criterion of the high intellect which Dr. Byrne wants us all to believe he possesses. I REALLY HOPE Dr. Byrne won't come down to our meetings trying to be funny; we meet for business; when we want some empty blowing, we'll send for him.*

*I am, yours obliged, A MEMBER'*

Dr. Byrne continued his onslaughts on the School of Arts-he appeared to carry some kind of grudge against Mr. Kidgell. He had 'opposed that gentleman from the commencement on the subject of building...'<sup>244</sup> At a meeting of subscribers held at Hardcastles' Old Store on the Monday evening of 27 March 1871, Reverend L. Jamieson was nominated as chair. Others who nominated to be members of the Committee of the School of Arts were: 'Messrs. W.J. Daniel, McGhie, Tozer, McGroarty, Bytheway, Stupart, Ballard, Du Rietz, Mellor, Chapple, Berry, Toms, Rev. Mr. Jamieson, Landy, Rogers,

<sup>243</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 March 1871

<sup>244</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 1 April 1871

Mathewson, Goodchap, Rev. Mr. Campbell, Thrower, Hyne, McLeod, Saunders, Rev. Mr. Caldwell, Rev. Mr. Woodhouse, Rev. Mr. Dobson, and Dr. Benson.<sup>245</sup> Dr. Byrne was also nominated but declined the nomination. It was a boisterous unruly meeting with many interjections from the colourful obstreperous first doctor of Gympie (*the jumping doctor*) Dr. T. E. D. Byrne with the Chairman saying that 'his experience led him to believe that on Dr. Byrne retiring from the audience there would be order.'<sup>246</sup>

On 31 March 1871, Edward Bytheway was amongst the following men to be appointed to a permanent Committee of the School of Arts by the subscribers to the School of Arts: Messrs. McGhie, Daniell, Benson, Jamieson, Campbell, Caldwell, Chapple, Ballard, Mellor, Du Rietz, and McGroarty. The membership of this Committee was subject to a formal protest being lodged.<sup>247</sup> The protestations stirred by Dr. Byrne and some others created a great deal of confusion at the meeting.<sup>248</sup>

On 24 April 1871 the School of Arts began operating in a substantive way, after a number of disagreements about the site and its committee structure and membership. Some citizens were arguing that the School of Arts should be in Nash Street on Commissioner's Hill, because the land had been allocated by the Government; others argued it should be on a site which was easily accessible to the general population. Finally in April 1871, a building in Mary Street known as the Hardcastles' Building was bought for £25 (equivalent to \$3,589 in 2016<sup>249</sup>), and alterations were made which cost £20 (equivalent to \$2,871 in 2016<sup>250</sup>).

The Committee elected in April 1871, had only a few of original group as part of its membership. Edward Bytheway remained, and Mr. H.E. King was named Patron. Edward Bytheway had successfully moved that Mr. Bligh be President and Mr. Kidgell, Vice-President. One of Edward Bytheway's close colleagues, who was also an architect, builder, and dairy, poultry and cattle farmer, Hugo Du Rietz was also a member of the Committee. Over time Bytheway and Du Rietz would work together to have constructed the building which, opened in 1905, is now the Gympie Regional Gallery. The members of this Committee were:

President: Mr. J. O'C. Bligh, P.M.; Vice-President: Mr. J.G. Kidgell; Treasurer: Mr. M. Mellor; Trustees: Dr. John Robinson Benson, Rev. Caldwell, Messrs. Daniell, J. Brennan, J. Chapple, J.S. Cullinane, G. Stupart, D.C. McGroarty and J. Landy;

Ordinary Members: Messrs. Tozer, W. Kidman, Bytheway, Du Rietz.

Edward's wife Emma died on 24 May 1871, just as crucial progress was being made for the School of Arts. His stamina counted for a lot at this time as he endured his grief, continued his devotion to his family and his strong commitments to the community of Gympie. It is no wonder he missed some of the School of Arts Committee meetings in 1871.

On 24 January 1872, at its Annual Meeting, the Committee presented its first Annual Report dated 17 January 1872 to its members. The meeting opened with 'The Committee of the School of Arts in presenting their first Annual Report congratulates

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<sup>245</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 March 1871

<sup>246</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 March 1871

<sup>247</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 1 April 1871

<sup>248</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 April 1871

<sup>249</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>250</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

members on the establishment of the Institution in Gympie. Your Committee took possession of the present School of Arts in April last, the alterations necessary in consequence of the building projecting on the main street and to adapt it for the purposes of the Institution ...'<sup>251</sup>

Edward Bytheway had been immensely influential in getting the Institution to this point, working with its then Chairman, the Reverend L. Jamieson. There had been thirteen meetings in the past twelve months and Edward Bytheway had attended 11 of those. At the 24 January meeting, he was again elected to the Committee, along with other colleagues Messrs. Landy, Woodburn, Morton, Saunders, Costin, W.J. Daniell, C. Daniell, Dr. Benson, Brennan, Hugo Du Rietz, and McGroarty. Messrs. King, Tozer and Mr. H. Rogers were respectively Patron, President, and Vice-President.<sup>252</sup>

It may never be known if Edward Bytheway was a smoker, but he did say during that meeting 'it would be well if the question whether smoking should be allowed in the reading room, were mooted. It was permitted in the One-Mile Institution, and frequently in other reading rooms; he did not see any great objection to it, and he thought it might tend to popularise the Institution.'<sup>253</sup> Even though Dr. Benson supported Edward Bytheway's motion, the Committee ruled that smoking would not be strictly prohibited as it might cause a great deal of offence. Even in 1872, some future minded people were considering banning smoking, well, except maybe Dr. Benson! We have to remember that Edward's brother, Benjamin was a tobacconist.

The members of the Committee of the School of Arts would have become well known to the community of Gympie<sup>254</sup> as these were prominent men in the town and almost always included Edward Bytheway and his colleague Hugo Du Rietz. The Committee changed composition in 1873: Patron: H.E. King, Esq. MLA; President: H. Tozer, Esq.; Vice-President: Dr. Benson; Trustee: Mr. W.J. Daniell; and Secretary: W.S. Quinton.

Committee Members were Mr. H. Du Rietz, T. Lillis, E. Bytheway, Mr. Kenny, D. McGroarty, Mr. Saunders, W.J. Costin, Dr. Benson, Mr. J. Landy, J. Woodrow, W.J. Daniell, G. Toms, J. Young.

Chair Mr. H. Rogers presented the Institution's second Annual Report on 22 January 1873. In the view of the Committee, the School of Arts had been so far successful, having 98 members, 400 volumes in its library, and supplying eight newspapers to its readers: *The Gympie Times*; *The Port Denison Times*; *The Ravenswood Miner*; *The Ipswich Observer*; *The Dalby Herald*; *The Darling Downs Gazette*; *The Queenslander*; and *the Wide Bay and Burnett News*. Some funding had been received from the Wide Bay Amateur Minstrels. Arrangements had been made with the Gympie Mutual Improvement Association for use of a room for the chess clubs.

Success though was proving hard to achieve as most people from the northern part of Gympie just were not interested in joining the School of Arts, no matter how hard the Committee members had tried to convince them. They put forward their reason that the School of Arts was not erected on the Government site and that the current building was not suitable for holding classes.

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<sup>251</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 January 1872

<sup>252</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 January 1872

<sup>253</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 January 1872

<sup>254</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 January 1873

Funding was always going to be a weakness for the School of Arts to keep it viable. Edward had attended thirteen out of the eighteen meetings of the School of Arts Committee during the year of 1872; he was severely concerned about the viability of the School. He was at this meeting and in a sense this was a watershed meeting for his leadership. He made the proposition, to which the meeting agreed, that a Building Fund be set up for erection of a new School on the Government site. He also had been already nominated to sit on the Committee again for 1873.

There had been a split of the School with a separate Institution being established at the One-Mile. Mr. Kidgell spoke with a warning that he regretted that the Committee had not drawn attention to desirability or otherwise of removing the Institution to the site granted by the Government. He firmly reminded those present that 'the present site had only been determined on by a small majority ... the time had come to fuse the two parties together [Mary Street and the One-Mile]'.<sup>255</sup>

Following Emma's death, the extra workload to care for his young family will have taken a good bit of his time, nevertheless during 1873, he attended ten of the eighteen meetings of the School of Arts. Mr. Jas. Woodrow chaired the 28 January 1874 Annual Meeting, the report of which revealed a very small increase in subscribers from 98 to 104; another newspaper added to those for the reading room *The Northern Advocate*; and the library held 545 volumes. *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*, and the *Imperial Dictionary* were exciting new additions, together with reference books on metallurgy and books by best authors in history, travel and works of fiction. The School of Arts Committee lost no enthusiasm for improving its facilities and so purchased the property of the Chess Club, comprised 7 arm-chairs, 1 table, 2 chess boards, 1 chess table, 4 sets of chessmen, 2 lamps, 1 stove and 1 Staunton's Chess Book.

The Committee re-emphasised that the Mary Street premises were still regarded as a temporary home for the School of Arts, and were delighted to receive a donation from the One-Mile Glee Club for the Building Fund for the new School of Arts on the Government allocated site in Nash Street. The Nash Street site would afford the School being centrally located and have ample space for all requirements.<sup>256</sup>

It could never be said that the building of a new School of Arts went on without any public consultation. The public were involved and consulted with at almost every step and they certainly had their say, either verbally or by not taking up subscriptions. It can already be seen that views varied and the community was split on where the site should be located, and this often prevented people from taking up subscriptions. With Edward Bytheway on the Committee, he would never have allowed anything but the process being transparent to the public, as that was the way he worked.

A large proportion of the township attended the Special Meeting on 9 April 1873 to discuss whether the new building should be on the Government allocated site. Mr. C.H. Barlee was voted to Chair this meeting, while Dr. Benson spoke as Chair of the School of Arts Committee. Dr. Benson iterated that it was critical for a full meeting of subscribers and the public to decide the question as to the Government site, noting that 'when it was decided to purchase the present building as a School of Arts, nearly all the top end of town withdrew their support'.<sup>257</sup> The meeting began to degenerate when Mr. Kidgell began to air matters of disagreement within the Committee to the meeting. This

<sup>255</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 25 January 1873

<sup>256</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 4 February 1874

<sup>257</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 April 1873



sparked open argument between Committee members which wound up those present. Dr. Benson said that members and subscribers and others present would have 'only themselves to blame for their apathy if anything was decided to which they objected ... [he commented strongly] upon the conduct of those who would withhold their support if the Institution were not placed before their doors.'<sup>258</sup>

The meeting became very heated, with loud expressions of disapproval, stamping of the feet etc. The meeting was making no progress while Mr. Kidgell opined that the 'Institution is a public one, receiving assistance from the Government, so all parties should have a voice as to its disposal ... in comparing the two sites the Government site was the more central one, noting that for One-Mile Miners' Institute and the Hibernian Society which both have libraries, were providing for the residents of the One-Mile and vicinity.'<sup>259</sup>

When it was clear the meeting was making no progress, and speakers could not be heard, Edward Bytheway proposed an adjournment of the meeting describing it as a 'hole and corner one.'<sup>260</sup> This was dismissed, and finally a ballot was taken, the result of which was that the building should be erected on the Government site. More loud dissention occurred with motions of no confidence in the Committee began to surface which also did not go anywhere. The meeting turned out to be a disaster. The matter for a School of Arts for Gympie and its permanent home did not settle for a long time as disputes continued until Edward Bytheway became President in 1890. The level of feeling is something to comprehend, especially when there was a clear need for a facility of its kind. Matters were almost constantly fractious because of the combination of a lack of adequate funds, and the public seething as occupation of the Nash Street site seemed it was never going to happen. The public fully expected that the Government should provide the required funds. Occupying the Nash Street site was the key to obtaining support from the residents of Gympie, and for them to take up subscriptions. While ever the Committee retained the School of Arts in Mary Street in unsuitable accommodation, dissention, a lack of support and heated arguments would continue.

On the night of 4 June 1873, Edward Bytheway encountered some strong resistance to the School of Arts movement when 'a meeting (convened by circular of persons favorable to the establishment of a Museum and School of Mines in Gympie) was held on Thursday evening at Thrower's Hotel, with Mr. Barlee voted to chair the meeting.'<sup>261</sup> Thrower's Hotel which was owned by publican George Thrower was known colloquially by that name but was in fact the Freemason's Hotel on the corner of Duke and Channon Streets.

The purpose of this Institution would be to provide easily 'works of reference on all mining matters and which also should be the nucleus of a museum which should adequately represent the important mineral resources of this district. [the Chairman] found that the present School of Arts did not supply such a want.'<sup>262</sup> An example was that the School of Arts did not bring to the prominence of the public of Gympie the new machinery and other inventions for the saving of gold that were becoming constantly available. In addition, the meeting accused the School of Arts as being negligent in ever

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<sup>258</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 April 1873

<sup>259</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 April 1873

<sup>260</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 April 1873

<sup>261</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 June 1873

<sup>262</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 June 1873

putting on display, any of the mineral specimens to show the production of the district or sending such specimens away to Intercolonial and other Exhibitions. Mr. Kidgell, who was also a member of the School of Arts Committee since its commencement, strongly expressed that he had proposed a separate School of Mines at the very outset of the establishment of the School of Arts and the fact that this had not happened demonstrated 'a practical censure of apathy of that Committee.'<sup>263</sup> Mr. Kidgell also emphasized that the School of Mines would encourage the agricultural and horticultural advancement of the district. Despite his firmly held views, Mr. Kidgell did not at the same time want to see an arrangement where two rival institutions were created, thus 'dividing local and Government support, and substituting two weakly institutions for one well-supported and flourishing Institution. He would rather have an understanding brought about with the School of Arts Committee with a view to the establishment of an Institution which should properly represent the energy and intelligence of this Goldfield.'<sup>264</sup> But heated arguments already being experienced in the School of Arts Committee meetings were perpetuated here this night as Dr. Benson fired verbal canon back at Mr. Kidgell when he referred to Mr. Kidgell's 'allusion to the alleged neglect of the School of Arts Committee since its commencement-had not given utterance as a Committee-man to the views he now enunciated. It was a majority of the School of Arts subscribers who decided the question of the site, and not, as Mr. Kidgell appeared to think, the Committee.'<sup>265</sup> Dr. Benson went on to acknowledge the irreconcilable differences between members of the Committee of the School of Arts, and it was this that motivated him to give his support for a separate Institution.

The notion was that the site for such an Institution would be on the piece of land that the School of Arts had rejected as being unsuitable for its purposes. Via Mr. G Thrower noted though that at this time that the School of Arts Committee had already purchased the site for a new building for the School of Arts which made it appropriate for a plea to be made to the Government to set aside the rejected land for the new Institution. The meeting unanimously decided 'that immediate steps be taken for the formation of a Museum to represent the mining and other industries of this district.'<sup>266</sup> Following this meeting a Committee was appointed to write to the Government 'on the subject of procuring a grant for the School of Arts site in Nash Street, stating that the Committee of the Institution did not appear to require it for the purposes for which it was granted.'<sup>267</sup> The conflict between the men on the issues of the Museum and the School of Mines exacerbated as the proposed Museum and School of Mines was to have no connection with the School of Arts. Mr. Kidgell continued to publicly give strong support for a separate Institution which in December 1873 at a minerals Exhibition organized by the Museum Committee of Management, he referred to it as the Gympie Museum and Scientific Institute. In his public opening speech for the Exhibition, he expressed hope that the Institute would soon be a reality. In 1875, the Committee of the Mining Museum received their grant of £200 for Mining Schools from the Queensland Legislative Assembly.<sup>268</sup> By 1880 the Committee of the School of Mines and Mining Museum which consisted of the Chair Dr. Benson and Messrs. W.J. Daniell, T. Cockburn, R. Critchley, D.G. Stuart, W. Ferguson, R. Saunders and Mr. J.G. Kidgell, were still grappling with funding

<sup>263</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 June 1873

<sup>264</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 June 1873

<sup>265</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 June 1873

<sup>266</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 June 1873

<sup>267</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 June 1873

<sup>268</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 July 1875

issues for the Institution, making a plea to 'leading mine managers to keep the institution open'<sup>269</sup> and enticing the Government and subscribers to also do the same.

The evolution of both Institutions continued. By 1874, the School of Arts shifted to another building in the middle of Mary Street, opposite to where the Salvation Army had its Barracks. The School of Arts in this Mary Street location had a library and a meeting/reading room.

On the night of Wednesday 20 January 1875 the Annual General Meeting of the School of Arts was held in the reading room, with only a small number of people attending. The Committee was presenting its Fourth Annual Report, with the hope that 'the central position, the substantial building, and the valuable library in possession of the members may prove the foundation of prosperity beyond the most sanguine expectations.'<sup>270</sup> In that year 'Mr. Mellor and Dr. Benson were elected trustees, in whose names the freehold property of the School of Arts is to be vested. The Patron was R. S. Lord, Esq; President, H. Tozer, Esq; Vice-President, Dr. Benson. The Auditors elected were Messrs. Tronson and Young; the Committee, Messrs. McGroarty, Ferguson, Mellor, Daniell, Bytheway, Quinton, Roberts, McNamara, Hughes, Jamieson, Woodrow and Booth.'<sup>271</sup>

The Palmer River gold rush had drawn a number of miners and others away from Gympie, with this having a negative impact on the membership falling from 104 to 80. Nevertheless, '129 volumes of various descriptions-scientific, historical, and other popular literature'<sup>272</sup> had been added to the library. There had been 16 meetings of the Committee in 1875, Edward Bytheway attending 13 of those meetings. However despite this, his commitment to the improvement of Gympie was unflinching.

In 1875, the issue of funding for the School of Mines came to the fore, with public concern that money provided by the Government be spent wisely toward the School of Mines and even some for the beginnings of a Mining Museum. The letter to the Editor<sup>273</sup> expresses some of these concerns. What it also demonstrates that the struggle to establish the School of Arts was always going to have to be mindful of the complexities of providing educational facilities for miners and skills associated with the mining operations in a School of Mines, as well as educational facilities for other members of the Gympie townsfolk, such as music, dressmaking, book keeping, languages and so on. It also demonstrates the rivalry and conflict that was existent between the two areas of need as funding was sought, not just for classes to be provided but in the location of the

**GYMPIE SCHOOL OF MINES.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE "GYMPIE TIMES."  
DEAR SIR,—I think your leader on the question of Schools of Mines is opportune, and I trust the committee appointed to look after the matter will see to the wise and judicious expenditure of the £200 granted by the Government for the School of Mines (not a Mining Museum, merely). The amount is not sufficient to do the thing in a way the importance of the subject demands, but I believe the mining community would be very ready to contribute towards the increase of the sum so, if necessary, to build a suitable place in a central position, or if not funds enough for that the Miners' Institute, One-mile, would be willing to spend £100 for the purpose of erecting an additional room for a laboratory, and the Hall could be used for lectures. There is in the library suitable works for reference on geology, mineralogy, metallurgy, and other sciences. Or if that is thought to be as much at one end of the town as the Masonic Hall is the other, why not make an addition to the Oddfellows Hall, Red Hill, which no one can deny is the most central position for the workings and residences of the community.  
However, I trust the matter will be looked at by the committee from a broad point of view. Something may be done to improve and interest the minds of the community, tending to increase the efficiency of mining managers, engineers, &c., and so promote the general prosperity of the field. I am, yours truly,  
**EXCELSIOR.**

<sup>269</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 April 1880

<sup>270</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 January 1875

<sup>271</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 January 1875

<sup>272</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 January 1875

<sup>273</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 June 1875

institutions. There was frustration in the community that the institutions were only providing reading rooms, and that the need for the dissemination of scientific knowledge relating to the mining industry, such as in chemistry, geology and assaying had to be met. The community was talking in terms of a Gympie School of Mines and Mining Museum.<sup>274</sup> Make no mistake about it, Edward Bytheway was across all of these issues and had the right capabilities to bring issues through to satisfactory outcomes. In July 1875, the Queensland Legislative Assembly confirmed that the Committee of the Mining Museum would receive the sum of £200 for Mining Schools.<sup>275</sup>

In 1876, Dr. Benson was President. With fifteen members present, the Annual Report of the School of Arts was presented. Not much had changed since the previous report: the School had around seventy subscribers and 780 volumes in the library. Strenuous effort had again been applied by the Committee to acquire more subscribers with little success, so the matter of funding was raised with a suggestion to have the current building altered to make it suitable for letting. Hugo Du Rietz strongly opposed this proposition telling the Committee 'that sort of thing had been the ruin of Schools of Arts in Brisbane, Ipswich and elsewhere. A School of Arts was for the use of members and not for the purpose of making money. If there were funds available, let them be applied to completing the building and painting it.'<sup>276</sup> No further discussion ensued on the matter, and the Committee turned its attention to the issue of amalgamating the School with the Mining Museum. There was almost unanimous agreement on this matter. Edward who had only missed two out of twelve meetings during 1875 was re-elected to the Committee; he was ever the one for the integral approach to keep the community together. He was also the one who always proposed immediate action. He spoke up to say 'that an amalgamation of the two Institutions is most desirable. And that a Committee consisting of Dr. Benson, Mr. Woodrow, and Mr. Rogers confer with the Museum Committee ... and that free use of the School of Arts should be offered to the Museum Committee'.<sup>277</sup> The Secretary of the Gympie Mining Museum Committee was Mr. Critchley.

The School of Arts Committee concluded that a catalogue of what is in the library must be printed and that filtered water should be available in the reading room. At the Annual General Meeting of the School of Arts on the evening of 17 January 1877, the focus as always during that year was on enlarging 'the sphere and usefulness of the Institution.'<sup>278</sup>

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<sup>274</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 March 1875

<sup>275</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 July 1875

<sup>276</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 January 1876

<sup>277</sup> The Gympie Times 2 and Mary River Mining Gazette 2 January 1876

<sup>278</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 20 January 1877

## ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "GYMPIE TIMES."

SIR,—I was very pleased to observe by the leader in last Wednesday's paper that all interest in the "Gympie School of Mines and Mining Museum" had not expired, and that some one at all events, was alive to the importance of such an institution. It seems to me that there cannot be a better time than the present, i.e., pending the decision of Government regarding the amount of money that shall be granted towards its establishment and support, for recapitulating and discussing publicly the main objects of its formation, and determining the means whereby it can be made of the utmost practical utility.

The main object in forming the School of Mines was, if I mistake not, the dissemination of scientific knowledge—technical and accurate—amongst the inhabitants of Gympie and its neighbourhood. The branches of science to be especially taught, as more directly bearing on the mining industry, embracing chemistry, mineralogy, and geology. That an intimate knowledge of the elements of these might be gained, lectures were to be given, experiments made, and as many specimens possible of the various minerals and rocks collected, both for illustrating lectures, and for general exhibition. The Museum was to comprise reports on mines, and mining matters, plans of mines, models of mining machinery, and everything procurable that either directly or indirectly had anything to do with the science of mining, and these were also to be exhibited for the edification of the public.

The scheme is a remarkably good one, and judiciously carried out cannot fail to be of inestimable benefit. From the Secretary's report we lately learnt that a great deal of preliminary work has already been done in the way of collecting specimens, maps, reports, &c., but the work that remains to be done is far more important, and, therefore, should by no means be executed rashly, or without due consideration. One of the first things likely to be brought before the Committee will be the position of the site for building of the School of Mines. The determination of this will be of paramount importance, for upon the suitability of the place chosen in a great measure depends the future success of the whole concern. No matter how attractive a thing of this sort may be, or beneficial in an intellectual sense, unless it is easily accessible at

all times to parties from each end of the goldfield, it will not be rightly appreciated. Respecting the suggestion that this institution should be united to the Gympie School of Arts, or the Miners' Institute, One-mile, I am afraid, if acted on, the result in neither case would be entirely satisfactory. It is useless to close one's eyes to the fact that a rivalry does exist, and is likely to continue between Gympie and the One-mile. To augment the jealousy would be exceedingly unwise. Without doubt the people of Gympie can produce good arguments in keeping the School of Mines at their end of the goldfield, but considering the major portion of the mining community would have to walk near upon 4 miles to derive any benefit from it, makes it very undesirable that such should be the case. Supposing, on the other hand, the site were chosen at the One-mile, a similar objection might be urged by the Gympieites. Under the circumstances, in my opinion, the better plan will be to fix on some central position—say, at or about the Red Hill. Both parties would then find it comparatively easy to attend the lectures, and visit the museum. Should that finally be decided on, I see no reason why the three institutions, the School of Arts, Miners' Institute, and School of Mines, should not "amalgamate" and carry on their work conjointly. On the contrary, I believe such a union would be advantageous in every way—in a financial sense, perhaps, more than any other, but their effectiveness would also be materially increased. At present the School of Arts, and Miners' Institute are little else than reading rooms, and there is no proper provision in either for classes or lectures; but if a good building were put up for the School of Mines, scientific classes might be organised, and lectures given without interfering in the slightest degree with the reading accommodation.

OLIVER TWIST.

In two years, membership had only grown from 80 to 84. Edward Bytheway was still a member of the Committee, as was his colleague Hugo Du Rietz, Dr. Benson taking the role of Patron, Mr. Horace Tozer President, and Mr. M. Mellor, Vice-President for 1877.

On 9 July 1878, Edward married Mary McCormack, which probably explains why he had time to only attend eight of the eleven meetings held in 1877; we can only hope he spent time courting Mary who was to become his second wife. He possibly felt comfortable not attending all of the meetings as there was a big show at the Annual Meeting of 16 January 1878, seventy members attending as well as the Committee. Mr. J. G. Kidgell was voted Chair and was proud to announce that the School now had 135 subscribers and the overdraft had been reduced to the trifling debt of £2 6s 10d (equivalent to \$336<sup>279</sup>). *The Capricornian and The Manchester Examiner* had been added to the newspapers in the Reading Room, with more English newspapers planned to be added. Edward Bytheway it seems did not attend this meeting, as the forward thinking Dr. Benson chose his time to express his big ideas. He told the Committee it was 'time the members thought of enlarging the present building or got a more suitable one erected somewhere else ... the Committee should induce all the Societies, including the Lodges on Gympie to combine to erect a fine edifice that would be an architectural ornament in the town. He believed it would be possible to embrace in this idea a movement for the erection of a Grammar School and to get a large reserve granted so that a park and gardens might also be formed in connection with the building'.<sup>280</sup>

Mr. Kidgell also had the idea that eventually Gympie would have a Grammar School, 'but felt more would be gained if the School of Arts, the Mining Museum, the Agricultural Society and the Oddfellows amalgamated and were accommodated in one building ... Ipswich and Toowoomba had buildings like palaces for Schools of Arts'.<sup>281</sup> Such were the ideas when the Building Fund was nowhere near having enough for any such grandiose dreams.

It must have been heavily disheartening throughout 1879 to acknowledge that the School of Mines was still poorly patronised. Those involved never ceased their efforts to provide Gympie with a facility to improve the quality of education, its productivity and infrastructure and to seek public subscriptions.

In January 1879, when the various institutions in Gympie were giving an account of their stewardship, public reports on the School of Arts read: *'Among those most prominent are the School of Arts, which seems to have improved materially under its changed management. The School of Mines, an educational establishment, was but poorly patronised during the past half year, the fees received from classes from January to October amounting only to the small sum of £3/0/6. Large inducements are offered to the public at this establishment "to come and learn" at a trifling cost. The curriculum this year mathematics, surveying, chemistry, phonetic shorthand, mechanical engineering and elementary chemistry for juveniles. The three latter subjects have been only just added this year. Teachers of very high merit are in command of each class, and it is most reprehensible if the public does not avail itself of the boon offered.'*<sup>282</sup>

Edward Bytheway had done his utmost to ensure there was a separate School of Mines, and promoted its services and low fees, but it suffered not only from lack of Government funding but lack of interest on the part of those who needed the education the most. He and his colleagues must have felt gutted to read *'there is a serious complaint that our miners are not availing themselves of the teaching powers of the*

<sup>279</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

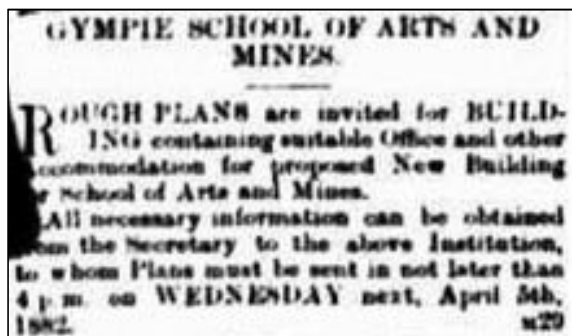
<sup>280</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 January 1878

<sup>281</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 January 1878

<sup>282</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 21 January 1879

*School of Mines, and besides, that the Government are niggardly in the help they give it. The truth is that the human species when they arrive at manhood are, as a rule, past going to school, and as this is a requisite before treading the realms of science or higher callings in life, I fear the School will be little used by the generation already raised. It might be otherwise that with that rising if made an adjunct of our national school, where some of our lads, growing into mature years, might acquire a class of technological education which might avail them when they begin life. It is well that the school should have a longer trial under present conditions, but if no improvement is manifest, it will then be a matter for consideration whether it will be not wiser for the committee to turn their attention towards the younger section of the community, and in such case the Government might feel inclined to subsidise the institution more liberally.'*<sup>283</sup>

The issue of funding the School of Arts constantly haunted Edward Bytheway, with its struggle known publicly in a report dated 12 January 1881 appearing in a regional newspaper: 'The School of Mines after a struggling existence of about five years has for want of funds been obliged to suspend, its operations, and this just as it was beginning to do good work, and was increasing in favor with the more intelligent of the miners, who had begun to appreciate the facilities it offered for the attainment of good, sound, elemental knowledge of some of the branches of science having a direct bearing on the occupation followed by them. From the start the Institution was badly supported, but the blow struck at it and kindred institutions by the withdrawal of subsidies by the present Ministry, gave it its quietus. The Committee has made overtures to the School of Arts with a view to amalgamating the two. It is to be hoped they will succeed in their object and that their bands may therefore be sufficiently strengthened to enable them to carry out their plan of education as efficiently as ever.'

<sup>284</sup>


The idea of amalgamating the two Institutions was pursued a little further in 1882 with a call for rough plans for 'a building containing suitable Office and other accommodation for proposed New Building for School of Arts and Mines.'

<sup>285</sup>

<sup>286</sup>

In another eight years the move began to establish a School of Mines as a separate entity to the School of Arts. Edward Bytheway was instrumental with its establishment and its related funding. He dealt with the many and varied views from the citizens and miners of Gympie which emerged during open debates about the School of Arts and Mines. It was a very public affair with very public views being expressed. Although the School of Arts became established in Gympie, it took some thirty-six years for the School of Arts to finally have its own permanent building. Edward Bytheway endured the slow progress during all that time. Current citizens of Gympie might better appreciate the building that is now the Regional

<sup>283</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 20 May 1879

<sup>284</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 18 January 1881

<sup>285</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 March 1882

<sup>286</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 March 1882

Art Gallery and how Gympie obtained its Regional Library by understanding the struggles of our early 'fathers of Gympie' especially Edward Bytheway.

Some good news was promulgated at the 15 January 1890 Annual Meeting, which was that the Queensland Government (the Minister for Mines Mr. J.M. Macrossan) approved a 'grant of £750 (equivalent to \$107,659<sup>287</sup>) toward a new building to be devoted to the purpose of a School of Arts and Mines, on condition that a similar amount is locally raised ... and that part of the building must be definitely set apart for the teaching in such subjects as clearly fall within the scope of a technical mining education'.<sup>288</sup>

The Chairman, Mr. Kidgell acknowledged that the present building is unsuitable and gives no room for educational projects. Edward Bytheway had attended eleven of the thirteen meetings held in 1889. The Committee for 1890 would be Patron Mr. W. Smyth; President Mr. M. Mellor, Committee Messrs. G. Argo, J. Pack, E. Bytheway, A. Conwell, A.G. Ramsay, J.M. Illidge, S. Harding, E.H. Booth, J.C. Bayliss, W. Gayton; Auditors Messrs. C. Boase and W. McGhie.

The path to the new building might have seemed smooth at that time, but almost the opposite was the case, and so the struggle continued.

On Tuesday evening of 28 January 1890, a Sub Committee of the School of Arts met at Messrs. Flood and Co.'s offices to consider the School of Mines scheme. The discussion occurred between Edward Bytheway as chair and Messrs. T.B. Wallace, K. Morrison and A.L. Wall.<sup>289</sup> This meeting agreed that the following resolutions would be put to a public meeting to be convened on Thursday 6 February 1890<sup>290</sup>:

1. 'That in the opinion of this meeting it is considered advisable to establish a School of Mines on Gympie, and that we avail ourselves of the amount promised by the Government for that object.
2. That in the opinion of this meeting it is advisable to co-operate with the present School of Arts and Mines, and that their assistance be cordially invited, in conjunction with that of other Associations, to carry out this object.
3. That to insure the success of this Institution a powerful committee should be formed, consisting of prominent citizens, mining managers, and members of other associations in connection with mining.
4. That the committee be appointed as follows: Two members each from the Municipal Council, the School of Arts and Mines, One-Mile Institute, Managers' Association, Amalgamated Miner's Association, and the Chamber of Commerce.

It was also resolved that the Members for Gympie and Wide Bay be appointed.'

On 27 January and 4 February 1890, a group of 29 citizens (obviously miners) placed a notice in the *Gympie Times*:<sup>291</sup>

*'To the Worshipful the Mayor of the Gympie Municipality*

*Sir - We, the undersigned inhabitants of the Gympie Goldfield hereby respectfully request you to convene a public meeting on THURSDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> February 1890, for the purpose of considering the following resolution: "Whether it is the best course for this community to*

<sup>287</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>288</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 January 1890

<sup>289</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 January 1890

<sup>290</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 January 1890

<sup>291</sup> The Gympie Times 28 January 1890 and The Gympie Times 4 February 1890



join with the Gympie School of Arts and Mines in securing the grant £750 (equivalent to \$110,019 in 2016<sup>292</sup>) promised them by the Minister for Mines”.

Edward’s plan for the smooth transition to a separate School of Mines suffered an undercurrent of opposition quietly running in the community. The day before the 6 February public meeting, some consternation had been expressed that the School of Arts would take the £750 (equivalent to \$110,019 in 2016<sup>293</sup>) subsidy promised by the Government and absorb it into their coffers for their own benefit, and that it would not be put towards the erecting a separate School of Mines in Gympie. A mining student had on 5 February put publicly to the miners of Gympie a strong sentiment which said ‘Let the miners beware that the School of Arts have nothing in common with them, but possibly wish to enrich a non-kindred institution at the expense of one that has a direct and legitimate claim on the State. Miners, roll up your sleeves and see that your interests are fairly protected, otherwise your technical School will only be a lame attachment to an almost defunct circulating library, the misnomer of which is School of Arts and Mines’.<sup>294</sup>

After extensive intense discussion<sup>295</sup>, the public meeting accepted all of the resolutions, in particular that the School of Mines would join with the School of Arts Committee in putting up a building, this being despite the counsel of Mr. H. Tozer MLA that the promise of the Queensland Government for £750 (equivalent to \$110,019 in 2016<sup>296</sup>) was largely based on the condition that the School of Mines would be a separate institution. This was contrary to the Minister for Mines advice to the Committee on 15 January 1890. The proviso then was that there be a part of the building set apart for technical mining education. The meeting discussed also a proposal to stop all of the gold going out of the colony by establishing a mint, but the resolution failed to have strong support, even though Mr. M. Mellor MLA stated he would do his best to establish a mint in Gympie.

Because Horace Tozer had spoken at the public meeting in terms of the funding being available for a separate building for a School of Mines, Edward Bytheway, at the conclusion of the meeting, expressed concern the School of Arts became suppressed as an item for discussion in favour of matters relating to the School of Mines<sup>297</sup>. He was unhappy to see how the School of Arts was overlooked on that night. His ability to be fully informed and to focus on the practical and pertinent issues is very strong here, giving an inkling that he had the resilience to fight for the funding for a proper permanent building for the School of Arts. A great deal that had been said that evening was altogether beside the question which was underpinned by the fact that nothing about the School of Arts had come before the public meeting; it was all about the School of Mines.

While Edward acceded there is advantage in higher education generally, the interest taken in the School of Mines was extraordinary, partly explained by the bringing in of the new *Mining Bill*, and managers of mines at that time had found they do not have the relevant and necessary information to make informed decisions. He was keen to see the

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<sup>292</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>293</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>294</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 February 1890

<sup>295</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 February 1890

<sup>296</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>297</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 February 1890

resolutions passed by the public meeting strongly supported, but he was very mindful that the Queensland Government was yet to recognise the importance of mining and the contribution made by the Gympie goldfield to the economy of Queensland. Mining in the past had not received that consideration from the Government which it should have received in view of its importance to the colony. The £750 (equivalent to \$107,650 in 2016<sup>298</sup>) promised for the School of Mines was not nearly enough to efficiently carry out the purposes intended, and it should not have been given with the condition attached to it; the grant should have been at least £2000 (equivalent to \$287,091 in 2016<sup>299</sup>), but if they commenced in a small way, the School might hereafter be enlarged.

He further believed that the Maryborough people were now getting a subsidy of £250 (equivalent to \$35,886 in 2016<sup>300</sup>) for the teaching of agriculture, and if Maryborough got that, surely Gympie would also be able to get something annually to support a School of Mines; a School of Mines should be established in Gympie, because it can be considered as a step towards Protection, and would give employment to labour. He felt there would be merit in proceeding with the establishment of a Mint in Gympie, but the priority remained for a building worthy of the School of Mines to be constructed.

Despite the meeting having accepted that a School of Mines was a priority, it drew forth some antagonism toward the School of Arts Committee from the miners. In many respects the views of the miners were similar to those certain members of the School of Arts Committee, that is, that the School of Mines had to be separate from the School of Arts. The School of Mines held its first meeting on Wednesday evening of 2 April 1890, 'when representatives of the Municipal Council, the School of Arts and Mines, the Amalgamated Miner's Association and the Chamber of Commerce were present. Mr. E. Bytheway occupied the chair.'<sup>301</sup>

The debate about the School of Arts and Mines was afforded continuous open consultation in which the whole town could be involved. A number of public meetings were held to raise funds for the operation of the School of Arts and to raise funds for a new School of Arts building. Two men who were constants in this push for the new School of Arts were Edward Bytheway and Hugo Du Rietz. Hugo Du Rietz submitted a plan of the 'proposed new School of Arts and Mines which was adopted provisionally as a working basis. The proposed building will be in two storeys 81 ft. (24.7 metres) by 52ft (15.8 metres) and is estimated to cost £3000 (equivalent to \$430,636 in 2016<sup>302</sup>) ... leading citizens of Gympie [were] to be invited to a meeting on Tuesday 25 October at the Town Hall to consider the question of canvassing for funds in aid of the proposed new building.'<sup>303</sup>

The School of Arts and Mines consistently recorded in its Minutes the amount of Queensland Government subsidy received.<sup>304</sup> In 1890 there was concern about maintaining the needed level of funding, a sound program of technical classes and having a reasonable number of subscribers to keep the school economically sustained. The Minutes of the meeting of 6 August 1890 (with Edward Bytheway in the Chair),

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<sup>298</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>299</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>300</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>301</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 April 1890

<sup>302</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>303</sup> Original School of Arts and Mines documentation courtesy of Local History Section, Regional Library Gympie

<sup>304</sup> Original Minutes of the meetings of the School of Arts Committee

record that the Government Subsidy of £91/9/- (equivalent to \$13,127 in 2016<sup>305</sup>) for the half year had been received, and also that Mining Managers had been informed by letter of the status of the annual government endowment. The meeting also recorded that although there were 207 subscribers on the paid list, only 135, or 65 percent, had paid their subscriptions to 30 September 1890.

So the School could not rely wholly on their subscribers and had to make considerable effort to follow up on these and also seek new subscribers. The Secretary was given a task to follow up the outstanding payments, or obtain an additional 30 percent of subscriptions. This was mentioned in the Minutes. In that time the Secretary received a salary so that salary was somewhat dependent on the receipt of subscriptions.

Bytheway was ever persistent in his push for funding. As Chairman of the School of Arts Committee, on 3 October 1890 he resolved to draft a 'letter to W. Smyth Esq. asking him to interview the Minister for Mines and request him to place on the supplementary estimates the sum of £700 (equivalent to \$100,482 in 2016<sup>306</sup>), or more if possible, also an Annual Endowment towards the maintenance of the Institution for Technical Classes.' He signed the letter E. Bytheway Chairman.

As a member of the Queensland Parliament, ex-Gympieite Andrew Fisher attempted to obtain funding for Gympie to build a suitable facility in which to provide technical education in mining. The debate on the matter did not go very far as there was still some lingering reluctance on the part of the Government to subsidise a separate School of Mining. A catalyst which helped to further debate on the issue occurred when Gympie obtained the Government services of an adviser to work with the miners to assess the value of their ground. But this was not enough to garner support from the Government for the building of a facility for mining courses in Gympie, although the School of Arts Committee had ensured that there was adequate literature and reference books on mining in its library. The School of Arts limped along with an overdraft of £10/7/9 (equivalent to \$1,491 in 2016<sup>307</sup>), 84 subscribers, about 640 books, and 300 properly classified mineral specimens.

The Committee made the point at the 5 November meeting of 1890 that without funding it would not be possible to extend or enlarge the current building to cater for the increasing demand for technical classes and a Cribbage Club. The School of Arts proved to be a popular much sought-after education facility for the population of Gympie. A choice of technical classes for shorthand, physics, botany, mathematical drawing, surveying, geology, mathematics, cooking, free hand drawing, chemistry, and dressmaking was available.

Community leader and Member of the Legislative Assembly for Gympie (1883 to 1899), Mr. William Smyth, maintained strong representation for the needs of Gympie in the Queensland Parliament. Edward Bytheway ensured he maintained close liaison with Mr. Smyth in relation to the School of Arts and Mines and the mining industry in Gympie, and he also followed the debates in the Legislative Assembly via Hansard. An example of this representation is shown by Smyth's comments in the Parliament on 18 November 1890 (it was only four days before that Edward Bytheway had written to the Minister for Mines and moves were being made for funding of a new building in Gympie). It demonstrates just how much tremendous effort and time was required by Edward

<sup>305</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>306</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>307</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

Bytheway as a key leader, and his colleagues to be mindful of the machinations of the Queensland Government and to obtain funds for a Gympie School of Arts and Mines.

Mr. Smyth had been in the Queensland Parliament for seven years when that debate on 18 November 1890 whirled around the issue of funds for mining schools: 'every year he had pleaded the cause of Mr. Nash, the discoverer of the Gympie Gold Field. Mr. Nash at that time discovered the Gympie Gold Field, and was the means of bringing 20,000 or 30,000 people into the colony from New Zealand, Victoria, New South Wales, and elsewhere. If he had discovered the field five years earlier he would have been entitled to a reward of £5,000 (\$717,727), but the law was altered during that time, and he only received £1,000 (\$143,545). He was now in poorly circumstances, as all he received was £100 per annum (equivalent to \$14,355 in 2016<sup>308</sup>) as keeper of a powder magazine ... He had travelled to New Zealand lately, and from what he had seen there and in other places, he did not think there was any place in the world where mining was so much set upon as in Queensland ... with regard to the vote under consideration, he would ask why the sum of £750 (equivalent to \$107,659 in 2016<sup>309</sup>) for a School of Mines had been knocked off?

Previously that sum was set down as available for a School of Mines when a like amount was subscribed in the district. But now it was omitted, as if the mining interest was not worth recognising. They were willing to put down £750 (equivalent to \$107,659 in 2016<sup>310</sup>) if the Government would put down the other £750 (equivalent to \$107,659 in 2016<sup>311</sup>). Surely the Governments of Queensland were very parsimonious in their Estimates. In Victoria they voted £80,000 (equivalent to \$11,483,632 in 2016<sup>312</sup>) a year for prospecting, and in New Zealand splendid books were published for the instruction of miners ... He [Mr. Smyth] wanted to know what had become of the £750 (equivalent to \$107,659 in 2016<sup>313</sup>) which was on the Estimates last year for a School of Mines at Gympie. They were losing thousands of pounds through the ignorance on their own part. They imported men here as mineralogists and geologists ... there were new restrictions placed upon miners by the *Mines Regulation Act* ... a person could not take charge of a winding machine unless he had a certificate. He had to pass a certain examination, and in the absence of a School of Mines that was very much like the case of a man who said he would never get into water until he had learnt to swim. Where were they to obtain engine drivers if their young men could not go through a course of instruction either in a technical college or a mining school? They had to pass an examination, and could not get into a position to do so.

They were not legislating for Queenslanders, but in such a way as to make it necessary to import men into the colony, and what were those men to do when they did come? He wished to know from the Minister for Mines what he intended to do about the School of Mines at Gympie. Did he intend to give them that £750 (equivalent to \$107,659 in 2016<sup>314</sup>), if the people subscribed an equal amount? ... if the Government would build a

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<sup>308</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>309</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

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<sup>314</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

new court-house at Gympie, and give them the present court-house for a School of Mines, they would be perfectly satisfied'.<sup>315</sup>

It appeared at the end of the debate that the Queensland Government would be providing Gympie with the funds for a mining school: 'The Hon. J. M. Macrossan said 'the Government would do so, and promised to get such a subsidy passed on those conditions, they being the same conditions on which Charters Towers was to get the £2,000 (equivalent to \$287,091 in 2016<sup>316</sup>). The Minister for Mines said that every pledge given by his predecessor would be carried out'.<sup>317</sup>

Finally Gympie had been duly recognised by the Queensland Government for its critical needs on the goldfield. This must have come as a great relief to Edward Bytheway, but the fight was not yet over.

Edward Bytheway as Chair of the School of Arts and Mines Committee, with his colleagues, captained the ongoing impetus for funding, not only for the building but also to ensure that adequate funding would be made available to sustain a robust program of Technical Classes for those working in the gold mines. Here is the text of a letter signed by him on 14 November 1890 to the Queensland Minister for Mines (who at that time was the Hon. W.O. Hodgkinson).

" *Gympie Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 1890*

*The Honorable the Minister for Mines*

*Sir*

*Mr. Mellor has requested me to furnish you with the probable amount required as an annual endowment towards the maintenance of Technical Classes in connexion (sic) with our School of Mines.*

*The object of the application is to enable the Committee, to obtain the services of a Master capable of directing and superintending the studies of the pupils attending the classes. The Committee feel assured that they can rely on obtaining considerable assistance from our local talent in subjects, such as Mining Assaying and Metallurgy.*

*The Committee leave the amount entirely in the hands of the Minister, but promise on their part to obtain the best possible results-their desire being to raise the workman to a higher standard of technical education and training.*

*I have the honor to be Sir,*

*Your obedient servant*

*Signed E. Bytheway, Chairman of Committee"*<sup>318</sup>

<sup>315</sup> Queensland Legislative Assembly Hansard for 18 November 1890

<sup>316</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>317</sup> Queensland Legislative Assembly Hansard for 18 November 1890

<sup>318</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines signed by Edward Bytheway in November 1890

Gympie Nov. - 14 - 1891

The Honorable the Minister for Mines  
 Sir

Mr. Mellor has requested me to furnish  
 you with the probable amount required as an  
 annual Endowment towards the Maintenance  
 of Technical Classes in connexion with  
 our School of Mines.

The object of the Application is to enable the  
 Committee to obtain the Services of a Master  
 Capable of directing and Superintending  
 the Studies of the pupils attending the Classes.

The Committee feel assured that they can  
 rely on obtaining considerable assistance  
 from our Local Talent in Subjects, such as  
 Mining, assaying, and Metallurgy.

The Committee leave the amount entirely  
 in the hands of the Minister, but promise  
 on their part to obtain the best possible  
 results - Their desire being to raise the  
 Workman to a higher Standard of Technical  
 Education and training. I have the honor to be  
 Your obedient Servant  
 Edward Bytheway, Chairman of Committee

Copy of the letter to the  
 Minister for Mines from  
 the original Minutes of  
 Committee for School of  
 Arts and Mines  
 November 1890 in  
 Edward Bytheway's own  
 handwriting.

The School of Mines learned quite early that it was wise to retain and foster constructive relationships with the Minister for Mines. The School relied on the Minister for Mines for other critical matters related to the goldfield, such as obtaining agreement for the services of the Government Geologist Mr. Rands, to come to Gympie to formally classify rocks and specimens held in the museum at the School, and providing lectures on these for the miners and the public.<sup>319</sup> It was therefore wise for the School to retain and foster constructive relationships with the Minister for Mines.

Gympie was competing for funding for its School with other districts in Queensland, such as Charters Towers and the Palmer River Gold Field. The Queensland Government was providing Gympie with an annual endowment of only around £200 (equivalent to

<sup>319</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee for the School of Arts and Mines signed by Edward Bytheway on 7 January 1891

\$28,709 in 2016<sup>320</sup>). During November 1890, debate in the Queensland's Legislative Assembly centred about the cost of the establishment of a School of Mines in the Charters Towers district.

Based on a report he had received, the Minister for Mines had stated that it 'would cost £20,000 (equivalent to \$2,914,212 in 2016<sup>321</sup>) to initiate a School of Mines that would be of the least use to the district, and that it would further take a very large annual sum to keep the School of Mines in active operation. He was doing what he could in the meantime. There was a geological lecturer at Charters Towers, that they had at Gympie a drill attempting to find another bed of slate, which might really mean the resuscitation of Gympie, and when they had another drill at Croydon, to prove the nature of the ground there, he could not understand how the Government could be justly accused of neglecting the mining industry.'<sup>322</sup> Debate continued by Members with such comments as: '£2000.00 (equivalent to \$287,091 in 2016<sup>323</sup>) had been placed on the estimates for the purpose of a technical School of Mines ... had the hon. gentleman formulated any scheme for the expenditure of that money, and if so, how he intended to spend it? ... in such a colony like Queensland. Which was so rich in minerals, it should especially be the duty of every Government to strain every nerve to develop the mining industry ... About four or five years ago a vote was placed on the Estimates for mineralogical lecturers and it was understood that they were to deliver lectures at the various mining centres throughout the colony wherever it might be thought their lectures would lead to beneficial results. Two lecturers were appointed, and one of them was at Gympie for a considerable time.'<sup>324</sup>

The Special Committee meeting of 22 April 1891 at the School of Arts and Mines was an important one. Two tenders 'from the two sawmills in Gympie were submitted for the new building. The tenders were opened by Edward Bytheway as Chair of the Committee.'<sup>325</sup> The first tender was from the 'Gympie Saw Mill viz. Messrs. Ferguson & Co £99/19/-' (equivalent to \$14,347 in 2016), and the second tender was from One-Mile Saw Mill £90/-/- (equivalent to \$12,919 in 2016<sup>326</sup>), [both] according to plan and specifications without lining but sealed and sheeted with hardwood weather board.'<sup>327</sup> After discussion the Members agreed that the building would cost '£101/10/- (equivalent to \$14,570 in 2016<sup>328</sup>) with the addition of being lined throughout ... [the meeting agreed that] the One-Mile Saw Mill's tender viz. being lined throughout for the sum of £101/10/- (equivalent to \$14,570 in 2016<sup>329</sup>) be accepted.'<sup>330</sup> The Committee 'resolved that Mr. Du Rietz be asked to superintend the erection of the above and the

<sup>320</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>321</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>322</sup> Queensland Parliamentary Debates Hansard Legislative Assembly Tuesday 18 November 1890 page 1457

<sup>323</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>324</sup> Queensland Parliamentary Debates Hansard Legislative Assembly Tuesday 18 November 1890 page 1459

<sup>325</sup> Original Minutes of the Special Committee of Wednesday 22 April 1891 signed by Edward Bytheway on 6 May 1891. Present at the meeting were Edward Bytheway (Chair) and Messrs. Argo, Ambrose, Booth, Conwell, Gayton, Illidge, Koch, Murray and Pack

<sup>326</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>327</sup> Original minutes of the Special Committee Meeting of Wednesday 22 April 1891.

<sup>328</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>329</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>330</sup> Original Minutes of the Special Committee Meeting of Wednesday 22 April 1891

Building to be finished by the 1<sup>st</sup> June.<sup>331</sup> Hugo Du Rietz was again formally elected a member of the Committee on 1 August 1898.<sup>332</sup>

Edward Bytheway wrote to the Minister for Mines again on 12 January 1891:

*'The Honorable The Minister for Mines*

*Sir,*

*Referring to your letter of the 17th inst, re-endowment for Technical Classes. I have the honor to inform you the Committee of the above [School of Arts and Mines] have resolved on the following subjects, viz. Physics; Botany; Mathematical Drawing; Surveying; Geology; Mathematics; Chemistry; Shorthand; Free Hand Drawing; Dressmaking and Cooking. From the above classes, the Committee expect to realise a sum of say £150 to £200. We are also sanguine that the attendance will be considerable from the fact of the growing necessity for higher technical education and training.*

*I have the honor to be, Sir,*

*Your obedient Servant Signed E. Bytheway Chairman'*

Edward Bytheway was appointed Chairman for the year 1891 and also took a place on the Book Committee of the School of Arts and Mines. Under Edward Bytheway's guidance and with the work of the Members, 1891 became a year of considerable progress for the School of Arts. On 22 April, a new building for the School of Arts and Mines was opened, made from wood from the two sawmills operating in Gympie at the time. The cost of the wood from Messrs. Ferguson and Co. cost £99 19s (equivalent to \$14,347 in 2016<sup>333</sup>) and the wood from the One-Mile Saw Mill cost £90 (equivalent to \$12,919 in 2016<sup>334</sup>). In June 1891, the Committee agreed to furnish the new building with forms and chairs for the classes. Painting and Designing was added to the list of subjects available to study and learn.

News about this new building for School of Arts and Mines for Gympie became known around the district. The School of Arts minutes signed by Edward Bytheway recorded that the Secretary of the School of Arts in Gladstone had requested information about the cost and plan for Gympie's new building. This information was duly sent.<sup>335</sup> At the same meeting, text of the letter to be sent to the proprietors of the One-Mile Saw Mill from the Chairman was read out. The letter was to inform the company that the tender for their part of the new building for the sum of £10 had been accepted by the Committee, and that completion of their work was to be done by 1 June 1891.

The momentum for support of the School increased as the miners accepted it as an important facility to improve their skills and education. The Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 7 September 1892, confirmed by Edward Bytheway on 5 October 1892, record the copy of a letter dated 30 August 1892 from the School of Arts and Mines to the Committee of the Mining Managers' Association and signed by Edward Bytheway as Chairman, which read:

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<sup>331</sup> Original Minutes of the Special Committee Meeting of Wednesday 22 April 1891

<sup>332</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee of School of Arts and Mines for 1 August 1898

<sup>333</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>334</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>335</sup> Original Minutes of the School of Arts Committee meeting of 6 May 1891 signed by Edward Bytheway on 3 June 1891



*“The Committee of the above institution have noted with pleasure the efforts of your association to promote Technical Education in subjects relating to Mining, Metallurgy, Assaying etc. I am instructed to offer our hearty cooperation and assistance with everything this School affords with a view to the promotion and extension of mining knowledge generally.*

*I am Gentlemen*

*Your obedient Servant*

*Signed E. Bytheway Chairman”*

Edward Bytheway presided over the twenty-third Annual Meeting of the Gympie School of Arts and Mines on the evening of 17 January 1894. He reported that despite the Institution having suffered from a major flood to its building in 1893; a fall in subscriptions; and the costs of restoring the building and the collections lost, good management had kept the Institution out of debt, having 170 paid members, and 39 paid members for the technical classes. The Institution had not only been subject to the vagaries of the flood and the current financial depression, it still had challenges to face to adequately serve the miners and the mining industry. One of the greatest challenges was to convince these people to join and support the Institution, because without such support, the technical classes could not continue to be provided. Some revenue was being derived from classes in dressmaking, freehand drawing, water colour painting and shorthand.<sup>336</sup>

Ever the popular Chairman, Edward Bytheway attended ten out of its twelve meetings held in 1893, thus never stinting in his commitment and dedication to maintaining the growth and relevance to School of Arts and Mines for the goldmining community of Gympie. It was unusual if he ever missed a meeting of the Committee, even over the Christmas and New Year periods. The Committee relied heavily on his immense versatility and capability and placed a high level of trust in him. In particular they relied on his financial and business management skills. The School’s subsidy from the Queensland Government in 1893 was £6 6s, but funding was still an issue. Raising funds occurred through a number of events such as chess tournaments, tug of war, balls and a band contest.<sup>337</sup>

In August 1894, the Committee decided to connect gas into the building, and left this matter entirely with Edward Bytheway. The Minutes of the School of Arts Committee clearly give a message that Edward always features strongly in discussion or suggesting initiatives, especially when it involved finances or money in some way or the improvement of the institution as a public facility. French and Latin were added to the list of classes in 1894, and the Chief Assayer of Gympie Mr. Robert Burbidge was teaching Practical Chemistry.<sup>338</sup> 1894 became both a year of achievement and improvements for Edward and his Committee of the School of Arts, but at the same time serious concern. The Committee resolved to write to Mr. Andrew Fisher MLA to remind him of the promise he made to endeavour to get the £2,000 placed on the supplementary estimates for the Queensland Government.

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<sup>336</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 20 January 1894

<sup>337</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 17 February 1892

<sup>338</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 17 January 1894

The 9 October 1894 meeting raised many matters critical to the forward progress of the School of Arts and Mines. The Committee learned 'that movement was afoot with reference to the Municipal Council taking over the School of Arts.'<sup>339</sup> The Committee decided to 'hold the matter over for consideration until the Council move in the matter.'<sup>340</sup> At the same meeting, based on the constant concern for the quality of the building as a public space, the Committee agreed to Hugo Du Rietz's putting wire quilting and plaster over some of the rooms, to a cost of £28 (equivalent to \$4,019 in 2016<sup>341</sup>).<sup>342</sup>

Eventually a letter arrived from the Gympie Municipal Council indicating plans for the Council to take over the School of Arts.<sup>343</sup>

Not to be deterred by the overtures of the Municipal Council, Edward Bytheway, as Chairman, made a plea to the Committee to have further improvements to the class rooms made. The job fell to Chief Assayer of Gympie Robert Burbidge to get the necessary work done<sup>344</sup>. The Committee received a tender from 'Mr. W. Bytheway for painting of the building for an amount of £13 15s, and for doing other painting and repairs £16 5s (equivalent to \$2,333 in 2016<sup>345</sup>), which was accepted.'<sup>346</sup> This, of course, was William, Benjamin's son.

1895 came round, Edward was again appointed Chairman. The Minutes show that throughout that year, the main issue of discussion focussed on raising funds for the Institution. 1895 and 1896 were years where funding issues continued to remain a serious threat to the Institution.

The Committee iterated that the Institution must get funds from other than its subscribers<sup>347</sup>. One point strongly made was that Ferguson and Co. Ltd had had the free use of the School of Arts allotment in Nash Street for so long that they should be asked to pay rent.<sup>348</sup> Ferguson and Co. Ltd, who operated under the name of Union Saw Mills, sold pine, cedar, hardwood, P.T. and G and Chamfer Boards, were agents for Standard Paint Co., as well as providing products for builders, and selling ironmongery, tanks, and spouting.

The School of Arts sometimes suffered from Members unable, or not willing to attend meetings, so discussion of important matters such as finances, would be deferred. The meeting of 13 October 1896 was cancelled due to lack of a quorum, although our highly committed Edward Bytheway was present with only three other Members of the Committee.<sup>349</sup> From the outset in 1869, funding for a School of Arts for Gympie had always been a problem, to either seek money from the Government, or to conjure up enthusiasm from the miners and other residents of Gympie for subscriptions.

A trend evident in 1894 and 1895 followed into 1896, with evident indifference of members and the people of Gympie. Edward Bytheway himself was able to attend only

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<sup>339</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 9 October 1894

<sup>340</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 9 October 1894

<sup>341</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>342</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 9 October 1894

<sup>343</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 11 December 1894

<sup>344</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 13 November 1894

<sup>345</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>346</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 13 November 1894

<sup>347</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 18 February 1896

<sup>348</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 18 February 1896

<sup>349</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 15 October 1896

six meetings out of the thirteen held, and he said 'that progress was not what he would want it to be'.<sup>350</sup> Still as Mr. M. Mellor presented the twenty-fourth report to the Annual Meeting of the School of Arts and Mines as President, he could inform the Committee and subscribers that there were 175 subscribers, 159 pupils attended the Technical Classes, and such subjects as French, Latin, Chemistry, Dressmaking, Shorthand, Freehand Drawing, and Watercolour Painting were on offer.

Edward Bytheway was described as the Chairman of Directors when he tabled the twenty-sixth Annual Report of the combined Institutions, i.e. The School of Arts and Mines on 20 January 1897.<sup>351</sup> Only a moderate number of people were present to hear the details of the report. The year began with 153 subscribers but by the end of 1897 the institution had only 130 subscribers, a 15 percent decrease. There were 111 pupils undertaking Technical Classes which was 16 percent fewer than in 1896. Subjects being taught were French; Art; Needlework; Dressmaking; Practical Chemistry; Watercolour and Oil Painting; Mathematics and Surveying; Shorthand; and Pen Painting. The library had benefitted from the addition of 160 new books. New publications had been added for the enjoyment and use as reference material, *The Gympie Miner*, *Queensland Departmental Reports*, *The Darling Downs Gazette*, *The Toowoomba Chronicle*, *The Bundaberg Mail*, and *the Bundaberg Guardian*. During 1896, the building had been ravaged by ants and it cost £27 19s 5d (equivalent to \$4,015 in 2016<sup>352</sup>) for the repairs and painting for the interior and exterior. Edward had attended ten out of the eleven meetings held. Edward commended the Committee in its management of the Institution, saying the area had 'suffered depression in full, so it was something for the Institution to have maintained its position.<sup>353</sup> Still increased funding was needed for the School from increased subscriptions, if it was to maintain an ongoing ability to service the community. The 'management' team for 1898 were Patron: Mr. W. Smyth MLA; President: Mr. M. Mellor; Vice-President: J. Stumm MLA (also a close colleague of Hugo Du Rietz.

Committee Members were Messrs. E. Bytheway, J. C. Bayliss, J.A. McFie, A. Simpson, J. H. Maynard, J.J. Lane, E. Maxey, J. E. O'Regan and R. Kennedy; and Honorary Auditors: G.E. King and C.M. Jenkinson.

Then came 1898, Edward Bytheway was again Chairman, and the Committee began to seek ways of increasing the membership of the School of Arts.<sup>354</sup> The new strategy now was to raise the profile of the Institution, and learn from the experiences of other similar Institutions. This meant that the Committee found it important to have effective and successful networking with the Schools of Arts in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Bundaberg, and Maryborough. These Institutions began to regularly send copies of their catalogues and annual reports to the Gympie Institution.<sup>355</sup> The move to affiliate Gympie's Technical College function with Trinity College London occurred in March 1898.<sup>356</sup>

In March and April 1898, Edward Bytheway gave his strong support that Trinity College proposal be furthered. A member of the Committee would be going to Brisbane to

<sup>350</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 January 1895

<sup>351</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 January 1897

<sup>352</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>353</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 January 1897

<sup>354</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 9 February 1898

<sup>355</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 9 February 1898

<sup>356</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 7 March 1898

'interview the Secretary of the Brisbane Technical College regarding advantages and other matters in relation to affiliation with Trinity College London and associated costs.'<sup>357</sup>

Affiliation with Trinity College was a significant achievement, but in 1898 the School of Arts returned to its 1897 level of average subscription numbers of 152 from June onwards. This was preceded by subscriptions falling to around 118 in April that year despite a dedicated drive having been undertaken by Committee Members. Although there were a number of meetings during 1898 which Edward Bytheway did not attend, some achievements were nevertheless occurring. Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines of 6 June 1898 refer to the Chairman making a statement about a 'grant to the School of Arts and Mines and quoted from *The Miner*, to prove that a sum of £750 (equivalent to \$107,659 in 2016<sup>358</sup>) was promised by Mr. Macrossan for the erection of a new School of Arts and Mines, provided a sum of the same amount was raised locally and as part of the institution now devoted to the School of Mines.'<sup>359</sup> Mr. Macrossan had written to the Committee in January 1890 to confirm the grant of £750 in terms as printed in *The Miner*.

The Committee's fund raising efforts included giving lectures; Messrs. Kennedy and Tozer visiting the Premier to ask him to deliver a lecture in aid of the School of Arts; at Edward Bytheway's suggestion in May 1898, steps were being taken to follow the example of the Maryborough School of Arts to develop an affiliation with Trinity College London for musical examinations; The Committee resolved to speak to 'Henderson & Co with regard to the freehold property in Monkland Street, and ask them what rent they are prepared to pay for same'<sup>360</sup>.

By the end of May 1898, frustrations about getting a new building had been bubbling away for some twenty-eight years, and were now increasing. Edward Bytheway was absent from the 31 May 1898 meeting. Chairman Mr. Lane stated at the meeting that 'it would be recognised by all that it was desirable to do something to get a new building for a School of Arts. Something had been done in the past and he asked some members who knew the circumstances to make a statement [to which Andrew Fisher responded] that a sum of £750 (equivalent \$107,659 in 2016<sup>361</sup>) was placed on the supplementary estimates for the School of Arts in 1898.'<sup>362</sup> This meeting resulted in an agreement that the Chairman Lane with Messrs. Stumm, Jenkinson, Mellor, Bytheway, Fisher, and O'Sullivan would make a deputation to the Queensland Premier on his visit to Gympie to ask him for a grant of £1500 (equivalent to \$251,319 in 2016<sup>363</sup>) for the erection of a new School of Arts and Mines.<sup>364</sup>

However Gympie was at the mercy of a stop start process from Queensland Premiers with different political proclivities. Over a period of eight years from 13 April 1898 to 19 January 1906, there were five Premiers: Thomas Joseph Byrnes 13 April 1898 to when he died on 27 September 1898; James Robert Dickson from 1 October 1898 to 1

<sup>357</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 4 April 1898

<sup>358</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>359</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines of 6 June 1898

<sup>360</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts 2 May 1898

<sup>361</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>362</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts for the Special Committee Meeting of 31 May 1898

<sup>363</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>364</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts for the Special Committee Meeting of 31 May 1898 (these minutes were confirmed by Mr. Lane on 6 June 1898)

December 1899; Anderson Dawson from 1 December 1899 to 7 December 1899; Robert Philp from 7 December 1899 to 17 September 1903; and Arthur Morgan from 17 September 1903 to 19 January 1906. So what the deputation said to Premier Byrnes probably went unheeded due to his short time in office. Gympie residents could be forgiven for characterising the Premiers and their Ministers as being disingenuous in their “promises” to provide funding for the School of Arts and other needs. This situation undoubtedly fuelled some of the frustrations that emerged at public meetings to discuss funding and subscriptions for the School of Arts.

Edward Bytheway suggested that the advice received on 2 August 1898, from the Chief Secretary of the Queensland Government of an offer for an endowment for the School of Arts be immediately accepted<sup>365</sup>. He also suggested and gained agreement (it was seconded by Andrew Fisher) in 1898 ‘that an appeal be made to the public of Gympie for funds to build a new School of Arts and Mines suitable to the field.’<sup>366</sup> He was then appointed by the Committee (Mr. J.J. Lane was Chairman of the Committee at this time) with Messrs. Booth, Fisher and Lane as a Sub Committee, ‘to draft a circular letter to the public soliciting subscriptions to erect a new building ... public bodies of Gympie and district [will be asked in the letter] to cooperate with the School of Arts and Mines Committee in [this] matter.’<sup>367</sup>

Edward Bytheway was still of the view that the School of Arts and Mines needed a new building, a matter that was extensively discussed at the Committee’s meeting of 10 August 1898. In November 1898, the Committee extended great effort to canvass for subscriptions. The current subscription lists were sent to the various mine managers to gain their cooperation in obtaining new subscriptions, mainly because very few subscriptions were held by miners.

Edward Bytheway assured the Committee that he would send 3,000 copies of a circular outlining the fund raising campaign for the new building to the citizens of Gympie and district.<sup>368</sup> A certain Mr. Wise was engaged at a remuneration of £3 (equivalent to \$431 in 2016<sup>369</sup>) to distribute the circulars.<sup>370</sup> The number of subscribers had fallen from 130 to 118 in April 1898.<sup>371</sup> A slight rise in the numbers of subscribers to 124 in May 1898 did not solve the funding problem, and it caused Edward Bytheway to reconsider on financial grounds, the basis of a proposed Ball to be held.<sup>372</sup> To reduce the risk of a loss being incurred, he ‘insisted for a plain and fancy dress ball in aid of the School of Arts to be held on May 18 with the price of tickets to be 5 shillings (equivalent to \$36 in 2016) for a single and 7 shillings and sixpence (equivalent to \$54 in 2016<sup>373</sup>) for a double.’<sup>374</sup> The efforts of the Committee had some impact by September 1898, with the number of subscriptions numbering 161, a 30 percent increase from May 1898.

At the same time as Members of the Committee were making these intense efforts, they noted that debate had continued in the Queensland Parliament’s Legislative Assembly

<sup>365</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines for the meeting of 10 August 1898

<sup>366</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines for the meeting of 10 August 1898

<sup>367</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines for the meeting of 10 August 1898

<sup>368</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the School of Arts and Mines 15 August 1898

<sup>369</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>370</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the School of Arts and Mines 5 September 1898

<sup>371</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 4 April 1898

<sup>372</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 2 May 1898 and 24 May 1898

<sup>373</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>374</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 2 May

in respect of the School of Mines. Committee Member Jenkinson reported that ‘the Premier had stated that a School of Mines would be connected with the proposed university. [Jenkinson] doubted if the Government would assist them [the Committee] to set up a separate School of Mines.’<sup>375</sup>

The struggle for the new building must have seemed endless to Edward Bytheway. On 10 August 1898, he was working on a Sub Committee of the School of Arts with a future Prime Minister of Australia, Andrew Fisher. They were in a special meeting with other members of the Committee, Hugo Du Rietz, Messrs. Lane, Booth and Simpson. They were discussing a letter from the Chief Secretary about a Queensland Government subsidy for a new School of Arts. Edward suggested and the Committee agreed that they write to the Chief Secretary to say: ‘they were taking immediate steps for the acceptance of the endowment in terms of the letter’.<sup>376</sup> Du Rietz had the Committee agree that ‘to popularise the scheme and to appeal to the mining instincts of the Gympie public, it must be become a School of Arts and Mines’.<sup>377</sup> A level of depression set in when Du Rietz informed them that the cost of building the Bundaberg School of Arts was £3,800 (equivalent to \$545,473 in 2016<sup>378</sup>). This meant the Committee had to appeal to the public and organisations for funds, as a building for Gympie could easily cost about the same. There was a boom occurring in Gympie at that time, it was good timing to urge everyone to cooperate with the School of Arts. The Sub-Committee comprising Edward Bytheway, Andrew Fisher, and Mr. Lane would draw up the ‘circular letter to the public soliciting subscriptions’.<sup>379</sup>

The Committee of the School of Arts and Mines had been struggling now for *some twenty-nine years* with the issues, since 1869 when the idea for a long term facility had first been mooted by the citizens of Gympie, Edward Bytheway being one of the leaders for the cause<sup>380</sup>. The 5 September 1898 meeting records the diversity of views which in some part reflects the struggle:

*Mr. Mellor: was of the opinion that a School of Mines and School of Arts in one building was undesirable, and would not be satisfactory to the majority of the subscribers. He was also of opinion that a School of Mines should be erected by the State. It would have been better he thought if more definite information had been given the public as to the building site before appealing for subscriptions. Plans might also have been prepared.*

*Mr. Bytheway: thought there was no difference of opinion as to the site of the new institution. It would of course be the Government site on the corners of Monkland and Nash Streets. He hoped there would be unity among all classes in pressing the advantages furnished by the Government's offer. He would like to know if a School of Mines could not be built on the Government site. It was argued that a crushing battery and cyanide plant were necessary but they also wanted a library and facilities for obtaining technical information in all branches of mining. He urged all to pull together in this matter.*

*Mr. O'Sullivan: said with regard to Mr Mellor's idea to prepare plans, it was a question of expense. The report of the meeting would settle any doubt as to the site of the new Institution. His idea with regard to the School of Mines was to form mining classes in*

<sup>375</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 5 September 1898

<sup>376</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 August 1898

<sup>377</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 August 1898

<sup>378</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>379</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 August 1898

<sup>380</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 5 September 1898

connection with the Technical College. He thought it was not feasible at present to get a separate School of Mines. He was of opinion that it would be better to have a School of Mines distinct from the university.

Mr. Du Rietz: said he was in favour of Technical Classes in connection with the School of Arts giving instruction in subjects connected with the mining industry. Anybody who went through the local course could then, if he wished, go to a higher school as suggested by Mr O'Sullivan. He offered to prepare plans at no cost to the School of Arts.

Mr. Booth: asked Mr Mellor who seemed to be opposed to the proposal of the Committee, whether he endorsed the view that it would stand in the way of the project to establish a separate School of Mines.

Mr. Mellor: replied that he only expressed the opinion that the Committee were going a little too fast in the matter.

Mr. Jenkinson: said it was evidently the intention of the Premier to establish a School of Mines in connection with the University in Brisbane. If Gympie asked for a separate School of Mines, other towns would do the same and the Government would have a splendid excuse to refuse assistance as the colony could not bear the expense of Schools of Mines in all of the mining centres. What they should do was work together now to earn as much endowment as possible for the new School of Arts, establish classes for mining instruction in connection with the Technical College, and there prepare students who might desire to go further in their studies for the University which they could no doubt have before long.

The Chairman (Mr. J. J. Lane): said he was quite in accord with Mr. Jenkinson's remarks. He believed they ought to proceed as they had in the past. They could undertake to provide in connection with the Technical College, instruction in any subject there was demand for. A democratic University would meet all their requirements in the matter of the School of Mines. He did not believe in a School of Arts and School of Mines combined. It would be impossible for the committee of a School of Arts to control a School of Mines. He was in accord with the circular of appeal, which simply proposed to continue on present lines, and afford instruction in mining subjects as the demand arose.

Mr. Du Rietz offered to prepare plans, if so desired, and it would cost the School of Arts nothing. These would be guidance when competitive designs were called. Mr Du Rietz's generous offer was accepted with thanks.<sup>381</sup>

In 1898 Gympie was thriving as was its gold output, making it clear that something had to be done to serve its community as was the intent of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines. The budget discussion in the Queensland Parliament had noted that 'Gympie had been receiving a good deal of attention lately from the investing public and from men of extensive mining experience. The 1897 output exceeded that of 1896 by nearly 31 per cent, and the output of the first six months of 1898 exceeded that of the corresponding period of 1897 by 36 per cent. There is every reason to believe that 1898 will be the most productive year in the history of the field. Measures had been taken for the protection of the mines from the floods which in former years periodically threw a large number of men out of employment, and led to the expenditure in drainage operations of much capital which might have been more profitably employed. The

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<sup>381</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 5 September 1898

experience of the last wet season proves the scheme to have been a complete success.<sup>382</sup>

Nothing appears to have been formally recorded about Edward Bytheway's frustrations with his twenty-nine year struggle to date for a proper School of Arts, as his "dream" of a proper School of Arts finally began to become reality. The Committee agreed to have him, and Messrs. Lane, Mellor and O'Sullivan form a subcommittee to 'confer with Mr. Du Rietz as to the drawing of a plan of the proposed building ... and the Chairman should call another meeting as soon as the Sub Committee are prepared to submit the plan.'<sup>383</sup>

At the Committee meeting of 19 October 1898, Hugo Du Rietz presented his proposed drawings for the new School of Arts and Mines building. The Committee (Mr. J.J. Lane was Chairman but Edward Bytheway was present at the meeting) 'adopted [the drawing plans] provisionally as a working basis. The proposed building will be in two storeys, 81ft (24.7 metres) by 52ft (15.8 metres), and is estimated to cost £3,000 (equivalent to \$430,636 in 2016<sup>384</sup>).'<sup>385</sup> In addition, the Committee decided to call a 'meeting on Tuesday 25 October 1898 at the Town Hall, to consider the question of canvassing for funds in aid of the proposed new building.' All the leading citizens of Gympie were to be invited.<sup>386</sup>

The funding issue remained the critical focus at the 25 October 1898 meeting in the Town Hall as the Mayor, Alderman D. Mulcahy (Chair) made sure he was there. Other prominent citizens attending as part of the Committee were Messrs. J.J. Lane, E. Bytheway, H.W. Du Rietz, E. Maxey, J.E. O'Regan, A. Simpson, R. Kennedy, C.B. Steele, W.E. Thomas, W.J. Ferguson, A. Stewart, P.A. Sullivan, and Lee'.<sup>387</sup> Messrs. Power, Flood and Fisher were unable to be present. Mr. Power donated £25 towards the building fund at the meeting, and Edward Bytheway gained the agreement of the Meeting that canvassers be allocated in the following way to undertake their fund raising:<sup>388</sup>

No. 1 Division of Gympie: Messrs. F.I. Power, A. Stewart and Edward Bytheway- north side of Mary Street along Horse Shoe Bend, down Lawrence Street to the Town Hall;

No. 2 Division of Gympie: Messrs. Mulcahy, O'Sullivan and Ferguson- south side of Mary Street, down Channon Street to the River Road, up River Road to Nash's Gully, then Nash's Gully to Town Hall;

No. 3 Division: Messrs. Mellor and Colonel Patterson- Caledonian Hill extending to Lawrence Street to Town Hall and up to Calton Hill;

No. 4 Division: Messrs. Kennedy, Thomas, Steele, W. Suthers and E. Maxey- Red Hill, Crown Crescent down to Deep Creek;

No. 5 Division: Messrs. Potter, A. Fisher, and E. Baker- southside of Deep Creek and Monkland;

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<sup>382</sup> The Brisbane Courier 19 August 1898

<sup>383</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 5 September 1898

<sup>384</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>385</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 19 October 1898

<sup>386</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 19 October 1898

<sup>387</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 October 1898

<sup>388</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 October 1898



No. 6 Division: Messrs. J.B. Atkinson, M.J. O'Brien, Jos. Burchill and Jeremy McSweeney- from Channon Street Bridge up north side of Horseshoe Bend north to the Two Mile; and

No. 7 Division: Hugo Du Rietz and A.G. Ramsey- South side of Mary River.

Messrs. F.I. Power and M. Mellor were appointed Trustees for the money collected for the new building, while Edward Bytheway was appointed Treasurer, and Mr. J.J. Lane, Secretary. The Committee appointed a Sub Committee of Messrs. Tank, Mellor, Bytheway, and O'Sullivan to confer with Mr. Du Rietz about the drawings of the proposed building.

Edward Bytheway's strategy for canvassers to raise the number of subscribers in the six districts the Committee had mapped out, was made public.<sup>389</sup> There was progress occurring at last. The full text of the press article which was incorporated into the Minutes is reproduced here.

### ***Gympie School of Arts and Mines***

*'A meeting of the citizens of Gympie was held in the Town Hall last night, to affirm by necessity of appointing canvassers to canvass the town and district for subscriptions in aid of the proposed new School of Arts. His worship the Mayor (ALD. D. Mulcahy) presided and the others present were Messrs. J. Lane, E. Bytheway, H.W. Du Rietz, E. Maxey, J.E. O'Regan, A. Simpson, R. Kennedy, C.B. Steele, W.E. Thomas, W.J. Ferguson, A. Stewart, P.A. O'Sullivan, and Lee. Apologies were received from Messrs. F.I. Power, J. Flood, and A. Fisher. The Chairman stated the objects of the meeting in a few well-chosen and pertinent remarks, and called upon Mr. Lane, to state what had been done. Mr. Lane, after thanking the Mayor for his kindness in granting the use of the Town Hall, and his courtesy in presiding at the meeting, gave a concise and succinct account of what had been done in the matter. The plan of the proposed building was produced and inspected. Mr. Bytheway moved that the canvassers be appointed to the six districts which the committee had mapped out. Mr. C. B. Steele seconded the resolution, which was supported by Messrs. O'Sullivan and Kennedy. The motion was put and carried. Mr. Lane moved that Messrs. F.I. Power, E. Bytheway, and A. Stewart be canvassers (for No. 1 Division of north side Mary Street, which was second by Mr. Maxey, and carried. Proposed by Mr. O'Regan and seconded by Mr. Thomas, that Messrs. Mulcahy, O'Sullivan and Ferguson be canvassers for No.2 division, which was also carried. It was resolved that Messrs. Mellor and Colonel Patterson be requested to canvass No. 3 division; and that Messrs. Kennedy, Thomas Steele, W. Suthers, and E. Maxey be appointed to canvass no. 4 district. For No. 5 Messrs. Potter, A. Fisher, and E. Baker were appointed; and for No. 6 Messrs. J.B. Atkinson, M.J. O'Brien, Jos. Burchill, and Jer. McSweeney; and for the South Side Messrs. A.G. Ramsey and Du Rietz were appointed. Each Sub Committee was given power to add to its number and for all committees to form one central committee. Resolved that E. Bytheway be Treasurer; Mr. J.J. Lane Secretary, and Messrs. F.I. Power and M. Mellor Trustees for the money collected*

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<sup>389</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 October 1898, and from the Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts 25 October 1898

*for the new building. During the evening the Mayor announced that Mr. F.I. Power was according the movement his hearty support.'*

To augment the funds, the firm (Henderson and Co.-previous occupant Ferguson and Co.) who had free use of the freehold allotment (in Monkland Street) of the School of Arts and Mines were told that from 1 June 1898, rent would be charged.<sup>390</sup> The rent on the Monkland Street property would be offered to Henderson and Co. at £5 (equivalent to \$718 in 2016<sup>391</sup>) per year payable half yearly together with all rates, taxes, and assessments, if any. Six months' notice would be needed by either party for any changes in the tenancy.<sup>392</sup>

As President of the School of Arts Committee, Mr. Edward Bytheway had been pushing hard since around 1890 to get a new School of Arts building, the lack of the funds being the reason that delayed its becoming a reality. While Mr P.A. O'Sullivan took the chair during 1899, Edward Bytheway continued his hard work for the Committee, even though he was absent for most of the meetings in 1899. Fortunately, his colleague Hugo Du Rietz who would become significant in the building of the new School of Arts building was almost always present at meetings that year. One can imagine that this would have been a great source of reassurance for Edward Bytheway to have Du Rietz contributing to the work of the Committee at such a critical time.

The work of collecting funds for the new building continued throughout 1899. The School of Arts and Mines was still sustaining low numbers of subscriptions with only 122 paid subscriptions. By the meeting of 7 June, there was established a Building Fund Committee with Colonel Patterson being the Trustee of the Building Fund. At a meeting of 4 July 1899 the Committee followed up with the members of the Committee who had been nominated to undertake the task of collecting funds for the new building. The Members were to follow up on the amounts that they had been promised. According to the Rules and Constitution for the Gympie School of Arts and Mines (1899), a subscription was '£1 per annum (equivalent to \$144 in 2016<sup>393</sup>), or 5 shillings per quarter (equivalent to \$36 in 2016<sup>394</sup>), payable in advance, viz., 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 1<sup>st</sup> July, and 1<sup>st</sup> of October, or for life membership the sum of £10 (equivalent to \$1,435 in 2016<sup>395</sup>). Visitors may be admitted to the reading room on payment of one shilling weekly in advance (equivalent to \$7 in 2016<sup>396</sup>).'<sup>397</sup> These were the kinds of amounts that were being asked of the community for the use of the facility. Payment of technical and other classes was separate.

On the evening Monday 25 September 1899 'a meeting of subscribers and others interested in the proposed new School of Arts was held in the Stock Exchange Building

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<sup>390</sup> Andrew Fisher from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 4 April 1898

<sup>391</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>392</sup> Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 4 July 1898

<sup>393</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>394</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>395</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>396</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>397</sup> The Gympie School of Arts and Mines. 1899 Rules. Constitution. Management. Duties of the Committee. Trustees. Auditors. Meetings

in Gympie.<sup>398</sup> Edward Bytheway did not attend the meeting as a member of the Committee.

In the words of the Chairman Warden Parkinson, the purpose of the meeting was to 'find ways and means to erect a new School of Arts Building ... the present building for an important and progressive goldfield like Gympie was somewhat of a disgrace ... for the past twelve months in a certain sense, the matter had been allowed to drag, but he considered if a fresh effort was made it would meet with success.'<sup>399</sup> At the meeting a subscription list was opened to encourage people to put forward money for the cause; that list resulted in promises of £13/11/- (equivalent to \$1,945 in 2016<sup>400</sup>), although the Committee announced that they had previously raised £287 (equivalent to \$41,198 in 2016<sup>401</sup>), a mixture of promises and the amount of £65/7/6 (equivalent to \$9,384 in 2016) which was already in the bank. The Committee concluded that ways and means needed to be found to raise the necessary money for the new building and it needed to be done immediately and should not be allowed to drag on as it had already done so. Collectors would be nominated to canvass the Divisions in Gympie for funds, and even Gympieites in Western Australia would be asked to also collect what they could.

Funding being the preoccupation of the Committee, the issue of rent for the allotment at the corner of Nash and Monkland Streets had been raised in 1898, and was raised again at the Committee meeting of 1 August 1899.<sup>402</sup> The Committee resolved that Henderson's offer to rent the allotment at an annual rent of £2/10/- (equivalent to \$359 in 2016<sup>403</sup>) be declined and that he be advised that any lower a rent than £5/-/- per annum (equivalent to \$754 in 2016<sup>404</sup>) would not be accepted. Pressing for the collecting of subscriptions continued and members had to take appropriate action. However the frustration and inadequacy of funds being collected was evident again at the September meeting when the Committee agreed with the Chair that 'progress toward the erection of the new School of Arts and Mines is unsatisfactory and that the Committee proposed to ask the Mayor to call another meeting of citizens.'<sup>405</sup>

On 26 October 1899, the Queensland Parliament's Legislative Assembly carried a motion that Schools of Mines and Metallurgical Works would be established in certain mining centres.<sup>406</sup>

By February 1900 the Committee was still having dealings with Queensland Premiers about the new School of Arts building. Andrew Fisher told the Committee he had been in contact with Premier Philp who had informed him that he was not averse to allowing the old Court House in Gympie to be converted into a Technical College. Fisher thought this might be better for it to be converted to be the new School of Arts and Mines building. On consideration of this approach, the Committee concluded that it would be

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<sup>398</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 September 1899 and the Minutes of a Public Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines

<sup>399</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 September 1899 and the Minutes of a Public Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines

<sup>400</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>401</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>402</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines meeting of 1 August 1899

<sup>403</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>404</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>405</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines meeting of 5 September 1899

<sup>406</sup> The West Australian 27 October 1899 page 5

far better to not lose sight to secure a more suitable building for the School of Arts and Mines.<sup>407</sup>

The Court House Building referred to by Premier Philp was built in 1876. A substantial masonry building erected in Channon Street on land reserved for police purposes, this building served Gympie until the mid-1890s when there was pressure for a new court house, primarily from local Labor politician Andrew Fisher. The 1876 court house building survived and became the Gympie Lands Office.<sup>408</sup>



The Gympie Court House around 1870

Gympie's current Court House Building was built between 1900 and 1902, and was added to the Queensland Heritage Register on 21 October 1992.<sup>409</sup> Andrew Fisher went on to become Prime Minister of Australia three times: between 1908 and 1909; between 1910 and 1913; and between 1914 and 1915. Sadly Edward did not live to see him become Prime Minister, the man who worked in Edward's mine for some time!

The discussion of the establishment of separate Schools of Mines was again gaining momentum during various discussions and debates in the Queensland Parliament. In February 1900, the Government had offered to take over the Mining Institute in Charters Towers with a view to it becoming a School of Mines; the Government was still considering what model this might follow, but that there would be funding from the Government with a local body running it as with the Ballarat School of Mines model; there was also the question of a £1000 (equivalent to \$143,545 in 2016<sup>410</sup>) subsidy for the Charters Towers Mining Institute for a new building and what would become of the extensive library which had been accumulated over time with the private funds of that Institute.<sup>411</sup> These were similar dilemmas facing the Gympie Committee.

On Monday night 11 February 1901, Edward Bytheway chaired the Annual General Meeting of Subscribers for the School of Arts and Mines. The meeting had been postponed to this date out of respect of the return of soldiers from the Boer War and the

<sup>407</sup> Original Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines 6 February 1900. Edward Bytheway was elected Chairman for the year 1900

<sup>408</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie\\_Court\\_House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie_Court_House)

<sup>409</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie\\_Court\\_House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie_Court_House) Gympie Court House Entry 600533 Queensland Heritage Register Queensland Heritage Council

<sup>410</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>411</sup> The North Queensland Register 26 February 1900, page 31

death on 22 January of Queen Victoria. As Chairman, Edward Bytheway presented the reports to the meeting. 1901 however had been a good year for the institution as it was in a good financial position. There had been an increase in the number of subscribers to 236, the library obtained 521 new works, the Technical classes were being well attended, especially the music classes (nine out of thirteen pupils passed the Trinity College examinations).

The downside was that not enough of the public seemed to be taking advantage of the reading room, and Chairman Edward Bytheway said he was unable to explain this as so much work had been done to encourage the public to use it. He said 'He did not know who was to blame for that, certainly not the committee, who had done everything in their power to make the institution attractive. He was inclined to think the cause was that they were out of the way of a large number of the population. If they were in the very heart of the town—although everyone came into town — they might possibly have a larger share of subscribers. That, however, did not seem to follow as the institution which once flourished at the One-Mile, right in the heart of the population, died a natural death, while the town one lived and progressed.'<sup>412</sup> He emphasised that the State Member for Gympie, Andrew Fisher, had continued his efforts for the institution to obtain 'the old Court House, when the new one was completed. They would then have a large number of rooms allotted for them in the old Court House, where they could conduct the mining classes, if, of course, the Government would aid them still further. A School of Mines was a difficult matter for a School of Arts and Mines to take in hand, but if they got sufficient endowment they would face this or any other useful Institution for the good of the town with all the energy they were capable of. Mr. Fisher was also furthering their interests in this respect.'<sup>413</sup>

Despite Andrew Fisher's efforts, Edward Bytheway went on to say to the meeting that 'the Committee were of the opinion that it would be best to erect a new building. The old Court House when they got possession of it would be utilised for a School of Mines, and the proposed new building as a School of Arts, and for the Technical Classes. These were of course only suggestions which remain for the subscribers later on to adopt.' All of the reports, including that of the Committee on the new building were accepted unanimously. At that meeting Edward Bytheway was appointed President for 1902 with Vice-Presidents being Mr. A. Fisher MLA and Mr. J. Stumm; Committee, Messrs. Loveday, Rankin, Diack, Sykes, Simpson, Woodward, Du Reitz, Woolgar, and Burbidge.<sup>414</sup> Mr. Stumm later became a member of Queensland State Parliament and remained a great friend of Hugo Du Rietz, even to the extent that he was executor of his Will.

In June 1901 Edward Bytheway was a member of the Deputation of fifteen from the Committee of the School of the Arts and Mines and Technical College 'to urge the Government to give a grant towards the building of a new School of Arts as promised by the late Hon. T.J. Byrnes in 1898.'<sup>415</sup> He was Chair of the Committee and the Deputation was before the Hon. A. Rutledge (Acting Premier), the Hon. J. Leahy and Mr. George Ryland MLA on Friday 7 June at Gympie's Northumberland Hotel. This hotel, large and very architecturally pleasing, was located on the corner of Nash and Channon Streets, behind the old Cobb & Co. stables.

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<sup>412</sup> The Gympie Times and Mining River Gazette 12 February 1901

<sup>413</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 February 1901

<sup>414</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 February 1901

<sup>415</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 June 1901



The Northumberland Hotel which was in behind the old Cobb and Co. stables on the corner of Nash and Channon Streets. The hotel later burned down.<sup>416</sup>

Given the cut and thrust of local and State politics these days, the text of the report in the newspaper is worth reading, especially the response of the Acting Premier<sup>417</sup>:

*'Mr E. Bytheway, Chairman of the Committee, explained that Gympie was badly situated as compared with other towns, where they had been able to dispose part of their property for a good figure, and build a new School of Arts. The Government had given them a site some years ago, but it was not now worth more than £400 at the most. The Committee were in a position to find about £1500, and the deputation which waited on the late Hon. T.J. Byrnes had got a promise of £2 endowment on every £1 raised, and they wanted the Government to give effect to that promise. The Technical classes were now very considerable and there was nothing like sufficient room, besides the building was under the flood mark and was of such a character that they were ashamed to point it out to distinguished visitors. The Committee was a live one and had a little ambition and wanted to get a building worthy of the place.*

*Mr. F.I. Power, one of the trustees pointed out the inadequacy of the present buildings for the purposes of a School of Mines, and the necessity for such instructions to miners and youths. He thought the object worthy of the assistance of the Government and would be greatly valued. The people of Gympie would also like to create a museum when they had a suitable building.*

*The Hon. A. Rutledge, in replying, said he occupied a most delicate position. He was not like the late Mr. Byrnes, when he visited Gympie, going round the colony enquiring into the wants of the people. He was here, not as acting Premier but as a politician to address a political meeting and was therefore on delicate ground, and if he made them a promise it*

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<sup>416</sup> Photo courtesy Local History Section Gympie Regional Library

<sup>417</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 June 1901

*might be said he went to Gympie scattering promises right and left to gain votes. Of course, they had this ground on which to stand that they had a letter written at the direction of the Hon. T. J. Byrnes, making certain promises, and he for one always endeavoured to recognise any deliberate promise made officially, (Hear, hear.) There was a code of honour which prevented one Government repudiating a promise made by another in the best interests of the people. They had the site and he understood the £4,500 would be spent on the building. (Mr. Bytheway: Yes.) He (Mr. Rutledge recognised the necessity of establishing a School of Mines in a town of such magnitude. In regard to the application, they had his and Mr. Leahy's sincere sympathy and genuine anxiety to assist, and he thought he might go so far as to say that the Government would redeem the promise made, but he would ask them not to press for it just at once. The Government had been cudgelled on all sides because they had a deficit, and if he said yes to their application, the deficit would be increased by £3,000. He could assure them that the promise made would be kept but asked for a little time to get the finances straight.'*

By the end of 1901 the School of Arts Committee meeting on 3 December 1901 was still having difficulty with subscribers, many of them in arrears, despite the good start in February. Edward Bytheway was chairing, and the Committee was preparing to write its Annual Report. There seemed to be so much work to be done by the Secretary to collect subscriptions and canvass for subscribers.<sup>418</sup>

By 4 March 1902, the School of Arts Committee had again visited the Nash Street site and Hugo Du Rietz had undertaken the necessary levels. On 5 August 1902, with Edward Bytheway Chairman, the Committee of the Gympie School of Arts met for its monthly meeting, where he reported that he and Joseph Stumm had been to see the Premier 'in reference to a grant for the School of Mines and that the Premier had promised to see if he could help the Institution. The Premier had indicated that it may be possible that £100 (equivalent to \$14,355 in 2016<sup>419</sup>) could be made available but no definite decision had been given.<sup>420</sup>

Edward Bytheway presided over the Annual Meeting of the School of Arts and Mines on 23 January 1902, when there was a good attendance. This meeting had some optimism for the future because it was in a comfortable financial position with 213 subscribers; 3,432 volumes in the library; the Technical College was more prosperous than in previous years, the technical classes being well attended. Edward noted to those present that the 'weak spot was always the number of subscribers ... there had always been an ebb and flow ever since they had commenced 33 years ago ... they were not far from a mining boom and the subscribers would then increase.'<sup>421</sup> In addition the Building Fund contained £886 15s for the erection of their own building on their own site. Edward in addressing his audience said that the question was whether the new building would cost £4,000 (equivalent to \$574,182 in 2016<sup>422</sup>) or £5,000 (equivalent to \$717,727 in 2016). He was re-elected as President for 1903.

In 1903, a public statement read: 'Our School of Arts has been a sick and dying institution ever since it was born; no healthy public interest appears to be taken in it.'<sup>423</sup>

<sup>418</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 June 1901

<sup>419</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>420</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 February 1902

<sup>421</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 25 January 1902

<sup>422</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>423</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 February 1903

The situation appeared to be exacerbated by the rift between the School of Arts Committee and the School of Mines lobby in relation to where Technical Classes could be held. However, Edward Bytheway as Chairman of the School of Arts Committee was not deterred and simply continued his efforts to raise the funds to build the new School of Arts on land that had been set aside in Nash Street. On 8 February 1904, the Committee decided to obtain plans and specifications of a building suitable for a School of Arts and a Technical College to replace the cramped premises in Mary Street occupied by the School of Arts and Mines since its foundation in 1871.

The site in Mary Street had to be sold to provide funds for the purchase of the land in Nash Street and construction of the new building. In the event, the Mary Street site had not yet been sold at the time of the opening of the new building in Nash Street.

On 19 February 1904, the Committee asked Hugo Du Rietz, who had previously served on the School of Arts Committee for a number of years, to 'provide rough sketch plans for a new building which was not to exceed £1500 (equivalent to \$215,319 in 2016<sup>424</sup>). The Committee provided a preferred layout, based on the workings of the previous building.'<sup>425</sup> The drawings had to be ready to be discussed at the next meeting on 1 March 1904.

It was resolved again to ask the Queensland Government for financial assistance. In 1904, although retired, Du Rietz designed the new School of Arts in Nash Street and supervised its construction, free of charge. With £1000 in the building fund in 1904, the Committee decided that this, coupled with the proposed sale of the existing building was sufficient to erect a new building. The block of land in Nash Street had been allocated by the Queensland Government for the new building in 1871, and here it was 1904 when finally sufficient available funds were making it possible for the new building to become a reality after thirty-three years, or thirty-four years if consideration is made for the opening of the building in February 1905. Without Hugo Du Rietz providing his work pro bono, the wait could have been prolonged for who knows how long. It was Edward Bytheway's influence in his discussions with his long term colleague and friend, Hugo Du Rietz, which made it all possible in 1904.

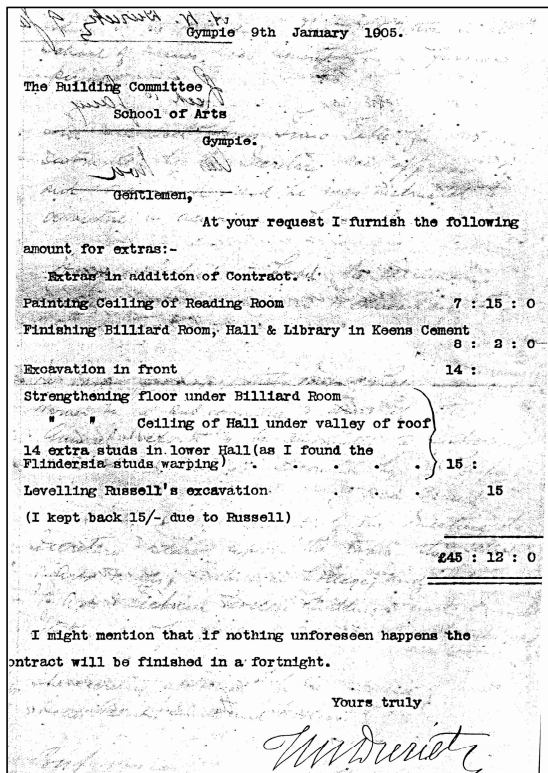
Prior to opening of the "new" building in 1905, the School of Arts Committee, formally established in 1871, and made up of Gympie's prominent business men, had a library and reading rooms in Mary Street. Subscriptions from members allowed new books to be purchased, but many books and newspapers were donated. Apart from the library, there were also classes held in a variety of subjects, and these fees plus a State Government subsidy, together with member subscriptions, paid the bills.

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<sup>424</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>425</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie\\_School\\_of\\_Arts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie_School_of_Arts)





Drawing from Rae Webb's work<sup>426</sup>, the 1904-1905 timeline provides further details about Hugo's involvement to get the new building into construction:

1 March 1904: Hugo was present at a meeting to consider the adoption of plans for the new building and costs.

22 March 1904: The Committee asked Hugo to submit specifications for the new building as per the sketch plan he provided, with the addition of gas fittings and fencing, provided the cost did not exceed £5/5/- (equivalent to \$754 in 2016<sup>427</sup>).

19 April 1904: Hugo submitted the plans and specifications of the proposed new School of Arts and Technical College. He had estimated that the cost of the building would be £1,529 plus an extra £20 for gas fittings and fencing.

3 May 1904: Hugo submits the plans and specifications for the new building which had been approved and it was decided to call for tenders. By 31 May, eight tenders had been received to be considered.

9 January 1905: Hugo wrote to the Committee detailing the extras and informing that the contract would be completed in a fortnight. The extras included the floor under the billiards room and extra studs in the lower hall where the Flindersia studs were warping. The floors of the two large rooms behind the Reading Room were reinforced to take the weight of billiard tables, which the Committee was never able to afford. A copy of the Du Rietz invoice shows the details of the invoice for the work, noting that 'the contract will be finished in a fortnight.'<sup>428</sup>

14 February 1905: The Building Committee inspected the building and described it as a 'satisfactory building'. Hugo gave his certificate that the building had been completed as per the contract. The building was originally lit with gas.

1923: The Building has electricity installed to replace the gas.

The School of Arts increased the classes it provided and so did its staffing issues. It was natural that disputes with tutors and other staff could arise, such as the matter which took two days of Edward Bytheway's time over an alleged salary short payment for

<sup>426</sup> The Gympie School of Arts and Library 90 years of service 1905-1995

<sup>427</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>428</sup> Copy of the Du Rietz invoice from the original lodged at the Gympie Regional Library by his great grandson Glen Du Rietz. Copy courtesy Local Historian Gympie Regional Library

tutor Mr. H.F. Wallman. The case went before the Gympie Petty Debts Court. Two other members of the School of Arts Committee assisted Edward over those two days, Mr. R. Rankin and Mr. F. G. Woodward. The verdict was made in Mr. Wallman's favour with the School of Arts having to pay Mr. Wallman £15. Today such disputes would be held by an industrial relations tribunal of one sort or another.<sup>429</sup> Fortunately the School of Arts did not have to contend with many of these issues while Edward Bytheway was President, as he still was in 1904.

On Tuesday 7 February 1905, Edward Bytheway presided over the Annual Meeting of the subscribers to the Gympie School of Arts to present its thirty-fourth Annual Report. Twenty-five subscribers attended the meeting which was held in the reading room at the School of Arts. This would be the last annual meeting he would attend. As part of the presentation of that Annual Report, Edward Bytheway relayed a number of matters:

'He then complemented the members upon the good attendance, saying that it was encouraging to see so good a muster considering that there was no burning question to excite public attention. The Institution had gone on as usual. In regard to the library and reading room these branches had received about the same amount of attention as before, but there was a small falling off in the technical classes, and they had had no mining school. There was also a falling off in the item of rent. Last year the mandate was given to the Committee to proceed with the erection of the new building at once, and as a result they now had a fine institution which would cost about £1600 (equivalent to \$229,673 in 2016<sup>430</sup>). He thought the outgoing Committee deserved the thanks of the subscribers for the work they had done. He was certain that no Committee could have done better. With regard to the old building they expected to have been able to sell it for £350 (equivalent to \$50,241 in 2016<sup>431</sup>) or £400 (equivalent to \$57,418 in 2016<sup>432</sup>), but had not been able to do so. When they succeeded in disposing of it, the money would be spent in furnishing the new building, which would cost about as much as they expected to realise on the old building. He had great pleasure in adopting the report.'<sup>433</sup>

He and Hugo Du Rietz would have also taken great pride and pleasure to know that the building was added to the Queensland Heritage Register on 23 April 1999. Edward had certainly fulfilled the intention of Schools of Arts to address the educational needs of the working classes, although it appears they were directed more towards the middle classes, with lectures on subjects such as philosophy, and classes in French and Latin, which may not have appealed to a largely illiterate working class. Some institutes like that established by the efforts of Edward Bytheway and his colleagues, provided technical classes including measured drawing, painting and typewriting and all Schools of Arts provided a variety of entertainments as well as games, lending libraries and reading rooms. The Heritage Register statement reads:

'The present building was designed by Hugo Du Rietz, and erected in 1905 at a cost of £1600 (equivalent to \$229,763 in 2016<sup>434</sup>). The building has housed the School of Mines and Technical College at various times. A bitumen footpath was constructed from Monkland Street to the School of Arts in February 1941.<sup>435</sup> The Gympie City Council

<sup>429</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 January 1904

<sup>430</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>431</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>432</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>433</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 February 1905

<sup>434</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>435</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 February 1991, page 6, "Fifty Years Ago" Column

took over the building in 1977 ... 'the School of Arts building is a place of cultural heritage significance because of its association with Adult Education activities in Gympie; School of Arts activities in Queensland; and Gympie's gold era and its upper Mary Street and Nash Street precinct of buildings.'<sup>436</sup>

That 7 February 1905 meeting also confirmed that the name would not change as the School of Mines had become a separate Institution, although it was not yet certain if this would be a permanent arrangement.

Edward Bytheway was re-elected President at the 7 February 1905 meeting, with others elected being: 'Vice-Presidents Messrs. R. Rankin and J. Stumm; Committee, Messrs. W. H. Smyth, F. B. Sykes, J. Hollis, E. L. Park, N. M. Bell, W. C. Woolgar, Warner, C. C. Caston and J. M. Pack.'<sup>437</sup> The Committee was instructed by the meeting to arrange for a Subscription Ball to open the new School of Arts and to consider the purchase of billiard tables for the new building.

The new School of Arts opened on 28 February 1905, unfurnished but free of debt, at a cost of £1,400 (equivalent to \$200,964 in 2016<sup>438</sup>), this being under budget from the estimated price of £1,600. How can one not be taken by the purpose design of the building: 'The design for the new building was of a functional nature with few decorative features. Constructed of brick it was two-storeyed with verandahs to the upper floor. The ground floor had a central entrance, with a library on the right and four classrooms on the left. The upper floor contained two rooms with specially reinforced floors for billiard tables and a reading room across the front of the building.'<sup>439</sup> The opening was celebrated with a progressive euchre party with a dance for juveniles the next evening.

Edward Bytheway presided over two more monthly meetings, 1 August 1905 and 5 September 1905. At the August meeting 'a large amount of correspondence in connection with Technical College matters was dealt with. The formation of the cookery classes was advanced another stage, and it was decided to extend the time for enrolling students. Two tenders were received for fencing but they were held over awaiting the alignment by the Municipal Council.'<sup>440</sup> At the September meeting, 'the Ball Committee reported that arrangements for the forthcoming Ball on Tuesday evening were progressing satisfactorily and that the function was expected to prove most successful. It was resolved to close the library on the evening of Tuesday next'.<sup>441</sup>

In 1905 some of the classes being held were: Model and Perspective Drawing; Watercolour Painting; Dressmaking; Bookkeeping; Shorthand; Typewriting; Carpentry; Geology and Theory of Music. In 1910 a new building was erected beside the School of Arts Building, to provide for carpentry classes. This building is now privately occupied but was once used as the College of Technical and Further Education (TAFE) in the late 1970's.

At its inception in 1871, the School of Arts had a small number of subscribers, meaning a low income. In 1938 the Mayor of Gympie City Council, Mr. Thomas, became President of the Committee. With revenue still the bane of the School of Arts, the upstairs reading

<sup>436</sup> School of Arts Heritage Listing Statement Queensland Heritage Council 1999

<sup>437</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 February 1905

<sup>438</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>439</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie\\_School\\_of\\_Arts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie_School_of_Arts)

<sup>440</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 3 August 1905

<sup>441</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 September 1905

room was converted into a flat for rent in 1941. Council steadily increased its donation to the School of Arts from £25 (equivalent to \$3,589 in 2016<sup>442</sup>) in 1938 to £100 (equivalent to \$14,355 2016<sup>443</sup>) after 1944. As the world continued to progress, the role of a School of Arts became redundant and Gympie's began to diminish in the 1970s, when technical education was taken over by TAFE and the Gympie Adult Education Organisation. However, this was also a period where government support was given to the development of a free library system, and in January 1975, \$30,000 was allocated to refurbish the School of Arts as a municipal library. At the end of 1975, the School of Arts Trustees resigned and the administration of the library was taken over by the Gympie City Council. In addition to the library, the School of Arts Building has been occupied by the Wide Bay Regional Council, Police Department and National Fitness Council. In 1985, the building contained the Library, and the Local History Collection, which was located in the former reading room. It was during this period that air conditioning and a book lift were installed in the building. The building continued to house the Library until 1995, when the Library was moved to its present location in Mellor Street, leaving the building unoccupied.

With Council in control in 1977, free library membership for Gympie City residents was introduced. Users from outlying areas still had to pay, \$20 per year. This changed when Widgee Shire Council decided to contribute to the costs in 1978. After a combined 106 years of service by well-meaning local people, the first qualified Librarian was appointed in September 1977, Mrs. J. Kesteven. She set about revamping the Library, disposing of old books and acquiring more modern ones. Library membership steadily increased. She continued her role until 1986 when she retired.

After the Library moved to Mellor Street, the School of Arts building stood unused for approximately two years. It aroused the interest of the artistic community of Cooloola, who saw it as a great place for a gallery. The benefit of Cooloola having a base for Gympie's art groups was clearly seen, as well as the need to recognise the lifestyle of the residents. The then Cooloola Shire Council (1996), and Mayor Adrian McClintock saw this need for a gallery, and offered the School of Arts building as first preference. This was nearly jeopardised in late 1996, when the Natural Resources Department asked to use it as offices. However, the Department later withdrew its interest.

After local elections in 1997, the new Council with Mayor Mick Venardos committed itself to funding the establishment of the Cooloola Shire Public Gallery by allocating \$100,000 for capital works, and a further \$44,000 for operations in the first year. In July 1997, it also received \$2,500 from Regional Galleries Association of Queensland for a Special Projects Fund. Gympie's population was now around 11,300 compared to 2,500 in 1871 two years after the moves for a School of Arts began, and almost four years from the date of the discovery of gold in 1867.

Kevin Wilson, Director of the Noosa Regional Gallery was appointed consultant to the Council for the gallery project. With his guidance, several public meetings were held to inform and gauge the interest on issues of gallery policies and other matters. All of these meetings were well attended, and showed there was support in the community. In November 1997, the Friends of the Gallery was formed. This group is still integral to the Gallery and helps to raise funds for the Gallery. Sponsorship from local businesses and service industries was also sought.

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<sup>442</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>443</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

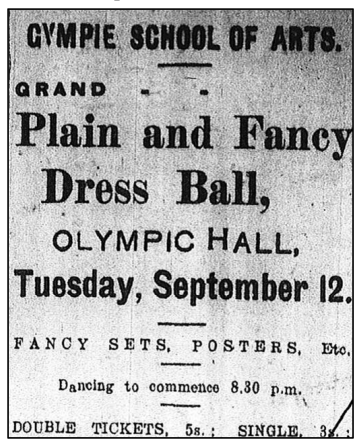
In November 1997, the Gallery secured a \$7,000 government grant from the Arts Office and Museum Development Program, to train a person in all aspects of gallery management administration. The Friends of the Gallery also received \$2,000 from the Regional Arts Development Fund towards the costs of training volunteers, and \$500 from the local Cooloola Arts Society to help with establishment costs.

The Cooloola Shire Public Gallery opened on 28 February 1998 and quickly developed exhibition programming, and a variety of uses for the spaces. The spaces were later redefined after an extension to the building in 2002 and 2003.

The date of 28 February has become a significant date as the Regional Gallery's birthday: the new School of Arts opened on 28 February 1905; it opened as the Cooloola Shire Public Gallery on 28 February 1998. So since 1998, to celebrate the Gallery's birthday each year, the Friends of the Gallery, in partnership with the Gympie Regional Gallery, celebrate Bizzart Day. In 2005, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building's opening, the *100 years 100 voices* exhibition was held from 25 February to 4 April, with an all day celebration on Sunday 27 February, featuring stalls, demonstrations, music, food, official speeches and of course a birthday cake. Leading up to the event was an Oral History Project where over ninety local people, who had experience with the building over the years, gave recollections of the building's place in their lives.

Many fund raising events for the School of Arts have been held over several years, such as the most successful Plain and Fancy Dress Ball on Tuesday 12 September 1905 in the Olympic Hall, a month before Edward Bytheway died.<sup>444</sup> Edward junior and his wife attended the Ball, Mrs. Annie Bytheway being dressed in a black voile dress. Edward also attended. This may have been one of the last grand social occasions he attended in Gympie.

Such events were always advertised<sup>445</sup> in the *Gympie Times* as well as there being an article to promote the event. In the case of this Ball<sup>446</sup>, double tickets were 5 shillings



(equivalent to \$36 in 2016<sup>447</sup>); single tickets were 3 shillings (equivalent to \$22 in 2016<sup>448</sup>); 1 shilling (equivalent to \$7 in 2016<sup>449</sup>) for spectators to enter and watch [over 200 spectators paid to watch and large numbers gathered outside to watch the arrival of everyone]; Foster's Orchestra would be playing and an excellent *recherché* (exquisite) supper would be served around 11pm and several fancy sets have been arranged. Foster's Orchestra usually commenced with a grand march which would signal that the ladies and gentlemen would file around the ball-room.

The advertisement for the School of Arts Ball<sup>450</sup>

<sup>444</sup> The *Gympie Times* and *Mary River Mining Gazette* 14 September 1905

<sup>445</sup> The *Gympie Times* and *Mary River Mining Gazette* 12 September 1905

<sup>446</sup> The *Gympie Times* and *Mary River Mining Gazette* 12 September 1905 and The *Gympie Times* 14 September 1905

<sup>447</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>448</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>449</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Reserve Bank of Australia Pre Decimal Inflatior. This has been used throughout this book for the conversion of Australia's Pounds, Shillings and Pence to today's Australian currency

<sup>450</sup> The *Gympie Times* and *Mary River Mining Gazette* 12 September 1905

One of Hugo Du Rietz's daughters attended the Ball as part of the Dresden China set, being dressed in 'quilted white satin skirts, short bodice, and pannier of gold satin covered with a gold gauze, powdered hair, and patches on face. The gentlemen in court dress, in the style of knee breeches and bows, coats en-suite, hose and shoes.<sup>451</sup> One can imagine the amount of colour in the hall that night as the other sets included two Shamrock sets; a Nurses set; a Magpie set; a Rainbow set; a Nancy Lee set; a French Poppy set, as well as all the fancy dressed people and then of course the elegant ballroom dresses.

Edward Bytheway died on 12 October 1905, about 8 months after the new building at 39 Nash Street, was officially opened on 28 February 1905. He would never be acknowledged while he was alive just how much Gympie owes him for his contribution to Gympie's quality of life and its infrastructure. He has not been acknowledged since.

The School of Arts Building is one of Hugo Du Rietz's best known design and construction projects (G. Britton assisted Hugo as a building supervisor).

The Building has seen many uses over the years, mostly as a library, but also as a place to hold classes, before it became an art gallery. The original red cedar staircase and the locally made "Dudley" bricks are striking features, as well as the original double red cedar front doors with their frame to hold them open, sash windows, and pine floor boards. Once electricity was available it replaced the original gas lighting.

At the Gympie Regional Gallery both Edward Bytheway and Hugo Du Reitz are remembered with honour. When the Cooloola Shire, Kilkivan Shire and part of the Tiaro Shire amalgamated in 2008, the Gallery was renamed the Gympie Regional Gallery, having previously been known as the Cooloola Shire Public Gallery from 1998, and previously the Gympie Library between 1977 and 1995.

Edward Bytheway was a 'member of the School of Arts for 36 years, serving six years as its President.'<sup>452</sup> Edward Bytheway junior followed his father to become a long term committee member of the School of Arts Committee. Father and son served the Committee for a combined span of over 60 years, which is substantial contribution (Queen Elizabeth II would agree with that!).

Edward Bytheway was an initiator and a quiet but effective leader whose role in the establishment of the School of Arts and Mines was an integral element of his efforts, achievements, and quality of life for Gympie and the district. Edward Bytheway's made substantial contributions to Mining; Agriculture; Business, Economic, Architectural and Supplies Infrastructure; Transport and Port Facilities; Municipal Government; and an Education, Learning, Intellectual and Social Infrastructure, including the example of following a Christian way of life. He was a selfless person, a forward-looking person and it could be said a strategic thinker who spent the last 38 years of his life in Gympie looking at its future development and ways to better the quality of life of those who came to live and work here. It might be argued that such a champion of these issues is missing in our midst in this current day.

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<sup>451</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 September 1905.

<sup>452</sup> Historical Sketch of Gympie 1868-1927. Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927. Page 105

The Gympie Regional Gallery now promotes the development of the arts as an integral part of the local community bringing educational opportunities, cultural enrichment, economic and social benefits to the Gympie District and surrounding region. Visitors to the Gallery continue to admire the wonderful building left to us by Edward Bytheway and Hugo Du Rietz.



Present day School of Arts Building



The internal cedar stairs as designed by Hugo Du Rietz<sup>453</sup> and

A side on view of the cedar stair case

<sup>453</sup>Photo courtesy of the Regional Gallery Gympie





## Chapter Five

### Edward Bytheway- Wise, Astute, Successful

Edward Bytheway should be known as the Father of Gympie. Sadly few people in Gympie and the district have ever heard of him. He is perhaps the most significant figure in nineteenth and early twentieth century Gympie. He spent thirty-eight years of his life in Gympie, packing this time with achievement after achievement for the benefit of the development of this town, while running a highly profitable business of his own, having two sound marriages (he remarried sometime after the death of his first wife) and rearing his four children as responsible citizens.

Edward Bytheway consistently brought success to everything he was involved with or managed. He focused on the best strategies for prosperity, and thought broadly about all of the issues for the community. Wherever there was an initiative, Gympie's Edward Bytheway would be there, providing energy, initiative, sound guidance and great leadership.

He was a pioneer who had great faith in the future of the district. He also foresaw that gold would fade and that Gympie would have to find another source of primary production to maintain and foster its prosperity.

His was a huge dedicated contribution to the foundation of Gympie. Gympie owes Edward Bytheway and his son, Edward, a great debt of gratitude and appreciation. He was a self-made man, and those who have followed him in these parts would still have to fill big boots to equal what he achieved during his lifetime. He was working right up until a few days of his death.

It is only one hundred and fifty years ago that Edward was here with his colleagues providing his leadership for the cause of the town. It should not go forgotten.

A word picture describes the man:

- Unselfishly dedicated his life to Gympie;
- High level of social conscience, ethics and morals;
- Religious man and devout member of the Surface Hill Wesleyan Methodist Church;
- A man deeply committed to his family;
- A highly capable, effective, and industrious forward looking leader. A compassionate man who understood the needs of the people in the district, the industries and economic framework that would work for Gympie as its circumstances changed;
- A man of insight who initiated and implemented several community, civic and business projects and activities;
- Networked extensively and energetically with people from diverse areas of industry and the community;
- A fair, astute, wise, shrewd, smart and successful business man, who made sound well informed decisions and judgments in respect of his own personal interests and for Gympie and its surrounding districts.
- Justice of the Peace.

Edward Bytheway can be remembered as a man whose 'business capabilities were such that he was not only able to manage an extensive business of his own, but to assist with

his advice and oversight on most of the public concerns of the town.<sup>454</sup> Edward Bytheway had colleagues around him, that, like him, were enterprising men with a deep store of commitment when working with the needs of Gympie as a fledging town. The meetings where the discussions and resolutions were taken, occurred in the evenings and often these meetings went on until very late. Many other activities such as fund raising activities were done in their 'spare time'. They could be tending their own businesses and personal life during the day, then at a meeting nearly every night or afternoon or morning of any week, but so necessary if a broad spectrum of information and views were to be gleaned. Edward kept his ear out all the time.

It is no coincidence that the same names appear again and again on the range of committees upon which Edward served. Edward and his colleagues did not work on these progressive committees for remuneration; mostly there was none; they did it for the betterment of their town and district.

It took less than three years from the discovery of gold for a number of groups to exist looking to the future of Gympie as a town.

Throughout his life, Edward kept his family happily together, working and praying together. He and his family retained their strong commitment to their faith at the Wesleyan Surface Hill Methodist Church. Even here he had a range of important roles that he undertook commendably.

His achievements shown chronologically, drawn from various sources, may contain some omissions, but provide convincing evidence that he left a resounding legacy in Gympie with his tireless commitment to his adopted home. He also made quite substantial financial investments in Gympie:

- 1867** Establishes Bytheway and Son in Mary Street, around about the site of where the Australian National Bank and the Gympie Friendly Society Pharmacy stand today. The land upon which the Store stood was valued at £66, and was classified as occupying Section H3, Blocks 21,22,23,24 with Homestead lease number 2986.<sup>455</sup> In the 1940s when street numbers came in, the address became 57-67 Mary Street.<sup>456</sup>
- 1868** Buys Caledonian Reef No. 8 South Mine with other men in Gympie: John Martin, Arthur Mann, John Hanner, F.H. Hunt, William Scott, and Horace Tozer (who later became a Member of Parliament for Queensland)
- 1868** Begins process for acquiring site for Surface Hill Methodist Church
- 1868** Interested in effective workplace conditions and so agrees with his business colleagues who also owned stores to closing each Thursday from 1pm
- 1868** Founding Member of the Gympie Hospital Committee and is on the Committee for thirty-six years until his death on 12 October 1905
- 1869-1872** Leased land on the Goldfields Town Land–Gympie Gold Fields Town Allotments between 1 March 1869 and 7 February 1872 (Gympie 65)
- 1869** Begins an initiative with a group of Gympie citizens to establish a School of Arts for Gympie

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<sup>454</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

<sup>455</sup> Gympie Valuation Register 1914

<sup>456</sup> Gympie Valuation Register 1940

- 1870** Member and subscriber of the Gympie Turf Club
- 1870** Member of Gympie Progress Association from 1870 onwards
- 1870** Rebuilds his store Bytheway and Son after the major 1870 flood
- 1870s** Invests in a number of allotments of land in Gympie, Traveston, Noosa and Brisbane in the early 1870s
- 1871** Appointed as a member of the first formal Committee of the School of Arts. Continued as a member of the Committee until his death, and was President of the Committee for many years
- 1872** Secretary of the Gympie Branch of the Mutual Improvement Association
- 1873** Takes the leading initiative as part of a group of about sixty householders gathered to discuss forming Gympie into a Municipality
- 1877** Rebuilds Edward Bytheway and Son after the 1877 fire caused by explosives allegedly from Scott's Receiving Store (on the Monkland<sup>457</sup>). [Scott's Store was used as a Polling Booth for the State Elections in 1878, as was the One-Mile Miners' Institute<sup>458</sup>]
- 1877** For more than 10 years he was Director of No. 6 North Phoenix Mine, No.1 North Glanmire, and the Gold Creek Gold Mining Company and Prospecting Company; he had a permanent financial share in the No. 7 Lady Mary mine
- 1880** Leads the way and signs a petition sent to the Queensland Government stating that Gympie warranted being gazetted as a Municipality. The town became a Municipality on 25 June 1880
- 1881** Purchases 400 shares at 10s 3d each (equivalent to \$73.57 in 2016<sup>459</sup>) of the Golden Crowns Mine from Thomas Power
- 1881** Buys 250 shares at 4s 6d each (equivalent to \$30.50 in 2016<sup>460</sup>) of the New Zealand Junction Mine from Mr. A. Conwell
- 1881** Sells 500 shares to Mr. E. Pope from his No.3 North Phoenix Mine
- 1881** Buys an allotment of land on Calton Hill for £50 (equivalent to \$7,177 in 2016)<sup>461</sup>
- 1881** Is instrumental in establishing the Gympie Gas and Coke Company to supply gas to Gympie and as much of surrounding district as possible. He is Chairman of Directors from 1882 until his death
- 1882** Nominated for the seat in the Municipal Council rendered vacant by the death of the Alderman D. O'Brien, but was unsuccessful
- 1887** Member of the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society, and later becomes President and Patron
- 1887** Has Hugo Du Rietz design a hotel for him to be built in Mary Street.<sup>462</sup>

<sup>457</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary Rive Mining Gazette 18 November 1878

<sup>458</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary Rive Mining Gazette 18 November 1878

<sup>459</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>460</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>461</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

- 1888** First elected to the Municipal Council
- 1888** Becomes a Member of Gympie Chamber of Commerce
- 1889** Appointed with the Mayor as a delegate to the Maryborough Conference on the *Financial Districts Bill*
- 1889** Becomes Treasurer of the Gympie Chamber of Commerce
- 1890** Is made a Justice of the Peace-oath number 96 on 3 May 1890<sup>463</sup>
- 1890** Is elected Mayor of Gympie after having been an Alderman for several years
- 1890** Becomes Chair of the Gympie Chamber of Commerce
- 1891** With members of the Municipal Council, attends the Agricultural Conference in Maryborough
- 1891** Term of Mayor expires and he retires from Council
- 1893** Returns to Council as an Alderman
- 1893** Is an active Member of Flood Relief Committee
- 1895** Is again elected Mayor. His term as Mayor was until 30 January 1896
- 1895** On 25 September attends the Local Authorities Conference in Brisbane, and takes an active role there for Gympie
- 1895** On 19 December opens a Bazaar at the Theatre Royal Building in aid of an Organ for St Patrick's Catholic Church
- 1897** Is appointed Member of the Widgee Divisional Board
- 1897** Honorary Secretary to the Gympie Dairy, Ice and Cold Storage Company
- 1898** Becomes Chairman of the Gympie Dairying Company and plays large role in management of the Gympie Butter Factory
- 1899** Returning Officer for the 11 March elections, a role he undertook many times over the years
- 1899** September 1899 elected Patron of the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society
- 1900** Provides substantive evidence before the Queensland Government Royal Commission for proposed railway extensions for the Nanango Railway, namely the Kilkivan, Crow's Nest, Esk and Caboolture routes, and argues strongly that Maryborough should be the port for Gympie
- 1900** Elected President of the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society
- 1901-1902** He is both Patron and President of the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society
- 1901** Sets up and is Chairman of the Committee for the Reception of the Gympie South African Contingent
- 1901** Returns to the Gympie Municipal Council as Alderman

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<sup>462</sup> Documents on the history of hotels in Gympie held at the Local History Section at the Gympie Regional Library show no record of this hotel

<sup>463</sup> Ancestry.com Justices of the Peace 1857-1922. QSA Reference Number A/4848

- 1901** 11 April is present with Mayor and Aldermen of Gympie Municipal Council to take over the Gympie Water Works (another one of his initiatives)
- 1903** Undertakes role of Assistant Returning Officer in Gympie for the Wide Bay Electorate
- 1903** Chairman of the Water Works Sub-Committee for the Municipal Council
- 1904** Retires from Gympie Municipal Council, after a total of twelve years serving the community as Mayor and Alderman
- 1905** 28 February new School of Arts Building is opened in Nash Street, after thirty-six years of effort by him to obtain funding for the new building
- 1905** In March he visits Lennons Hotel in Brisbane for business reasons
- 1905** 12 October Edward Bytheway dies from dengue fever, five days short of Gympie's 38<sup>th</sup> birthday.

There appears to have been a great synergy between Edward and his two wives, as it can be seen that while he was participating in his many committee meetings, each of his wives while they were alive, led busy lives with their own activities, often in company with the wives of the men with whom he shared his own committee meetings. So what he didn't pick up about what was going on in Gympie at his meetings, he most likely picked up from each of his wives after they would have been, for example, at meetings of the Ladies' Benevolent Society.

### **Bytheway Property on Calton Hill**

The Bytheways began small on their arrival in Australia. In 1865 Edward Bytheway was listed as having residence and property in Edward Street Brisbane, and described as a wholesale and family grocer. His brother Benjamin was described as a carpenter.<sup>464</sup> By the 1880s, the family owned property on Calton Hill and Calton Terrace. Edward Senior with his family lived there.

The Queensland Electoral Roll of 1880 listed Edward Bytheway as a householder, and his son Edward as a leaseholder (then aged 15), both on Calton Hill and Benjamin Bytheway as having freehold land on Calton Hill.<sup>465</sup> The Queensland Electoral Roll of 7 January 1890 also listed William Henry Bytheway (Benjamin's son aged 22), freeholder, also living in Calton Terrace.<sup>466</sup> Other records show that 'between 1880 and 1884, Edward Snr is shown as living as Freeholder in Mary St. 1889 to 1895, he is listed as being a householder in Calton Hill and in 1895 he is shown as having a freehold property at Noosa. The 1903 records show him as living at Calton Terrace, Gympie.'<sup>467</sup>

Chapter 9 of this history contains information about the Bytheways owning 34 O'Connell Street Gympie from 1898 onwards until around 1948. 34 O'Connell Street may be the last link to the Bytheways in Gympie. The Bytheway family was quite astute in its ownership of land in Gympie, an example set by Edward Bytheway himself. At the time of his death, there were several parcels of land that were passed onto members of

<sup>464</sup> Ancestry.com Australia, City Directories 1845-1948. Pugh's Almanac and Queensland Directory and Queensland P O Directory (Wise)

<sup>465</sup> Queensland Electoral Rolls, Electoral Districts of Gympie and Wide Bay (Police District of Gympie) 1880. Courtesy Gympie Family History Society Inc. Document MSB 066 & 067

<sup>466</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Miner Gazette 23 January 1890

<sup>467</sup> Gympie Family History Society Inc.

the family. So not only did Edward Bytheway invest of himself in the community of Gympie and its infrastructure, he invested in land for his family.

From the 1914 Valuation Register<sup>468</sup> comes the following information:

Register 863 Owned by Rowland George Sanday and Emma Mary Sanday (Edward Bytheway's daughter and son-in-law, described as a grocer in the Valuation Register) Homestead 3357 a Mining Tenure on Lady Mary Terrace of 20 and two tenths perches (0.13 acres or 526 square metres) valued at £42.

Register 960 owned by William Bytheway (son of Benjamin Bytheway), Allotment 10 of 25 perches (0.2 acres or 809 square metres) valued at £54. This allotment is the second block from the corner off Calton Hill and is 4 Young Street.

Register 966 Owned by Emma Mary Sanday and Tom Ellison (Edward Bytheway's daughter and son-in-law married to his other daughter Fanny) Homesteads 3523 (21.5 roods or 5.4 acres or 21,853 square metres), 1116 (residence area 35 of 1 rood or 0.125 acres or 506 square metres), 570 (1 rood or 0.25 acres or 1,012 square metres), Mining Tenures on Calton Terrace valued at a £114. Translating this information to current house numbers they are 20 and 22 Calton Terrace.

From the 1916 Valuation Register<sup>469</sup>, comes the following information:

Register 948 Owned by Edward Bytheway Junior Homestead 645, a Mining Tenure of 30 of a quarter perches (2 acres or 8,094 square metres) valued at £45.

Including 34 O'Connell Street of 1515 square metres and excluding the real estate pertinent to the Bytheway and Son store in Mary Street, the Bytheways held a total of prime real estate in Gympie of 8.5 acres, all in a high hill area that would be safe from flooding.

It has also been established that Gympie's first kindergarten was in a house at 3 Alma Street once owned by the Bytheways. On the site now is what is known as the Alma Street Pre-Prep.<sup>470</sup>

What these land records strongly suggest is that Edward Bytheway moulded an extended family that were close and worked together in consideration of each other's quality of life in all aspects.



### **Gympie Mutual Improvement Association**

During Gympie's early developing days, Edward actively employed his foresight to ensure that essential infrastructure was established, based on sound Christian values and effective business and administrative management strategies. He moved quickly to

<sup>468</sup> 1914 Valuation Register held in Local History Section of Gympie Regional Library

<sup>469</sup> 1916 Valuation Register held in the Local History Section of the Gympie Regional Library

<sup>470</sup> Photograph courtesy of Local Historian Beth Wilson Gympie Regional Library. The photograph of the Gympie Kindergarten is circa 1950

establish himself and his family both in business and in the community in Gympie. He was the Honorary Secretary of the Association from early 1872. The Pugh's Almanac of 1873<sup>471</sup> shows him listed as the Secretary of the Gympie Branch of the Mutual Improvement Association, with Mr. J. G. Kidgell being the President. This group was established in Gympie in April 1870, and met every Thursday evening at the School of Arts and always had reasonable attendance at its meetings. It was an effective way for Edward to network with his colleagues and remain ever informed about the goings on in the town and initiatives that might be discussed.

In accordance with its Syllabus, this Association ran regular debates of the most interesting kind. One would have to have a fine level of intellect and good general knowledge to participate. Debating, reading constructive essays composed by the reader and giving lectures were popular in Gympie in those times. The Association's main purpose was to afford the people of Gympie, recreation combined with instruction and intellectual improvement, although the topics discussed could be more related to developmental matters for Gympie.

In 1869, as the sentiments toward the establishment of a School of Arts for Gympie gained momentum, the Association was already beginning to see how the School of Arts might incorporate the activities of the Association. In fact by February 1871, the people of Gympie were feeling overburdened by the demands for donations and felt strongly that there is too great a rush of subscription lists'.<sup>472</sup> Concomitantly the organisations seeking funds were The Gympie Hospital; The Gympie Progress Association; The Mutual Improvement Association; The Chess Club; The School of Arts; The Gympie Musical and Dramatical Society; The French War Relief Fund; The Blackall Testimonial Fund; The 'Captain Relief' Fund (an English organisation seeking funds from Australians); and the Gympie Primary School. The public could only see a point in providing donations or subscriptions to relevant and necessary organisations with the priorities running 1. Gympie Hospital, 2. Gympie Primary School, 3. The Gympie School of Arts.<sup>473</sup> This background helps to explain why it was so hard for Edward Bytheway to gain subscriptions for the School of Arts.

Some of the Association's activities in 1870 was a debate topic on 'Protection vs. Free Trade'<sup>474</sup>, while Mr. Kidgell gave a lecture at the Presbyterian Church on "Causes of Social Discontent in New Countries-how to remove them."<sup>475</sup> Instructive essays delivered from the Association came with such diverse titles such as *Life Assurance*, *Should Capital Punishment be Abolished*, *The Duke of Wellington*.

By May 1871, the Association had seventy-one members.<sup>476</sup>

On 27 April 1871, the debate was 'Have Dramatic Entertainments a pernicious tendency?'<sup>477</sup> Edward kept company here with Committee members Messrs. Jamieson, Stupart, Irwin, Brennan, Chapple, Watts, W.J. Daniell, Ballard, Mathieson, Berry, Du Rietz. Roberts; President Mr. J.G. Kidgell, Vice-President Messrs. G. Stupart and W.J.

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<sup>471</sup> Pugh's Queensland Almanac, Law Calendar, Directory and Coast Guide for 1873. Fifteenth Year of Publication, Brisbane Queensland. Published and printed by Thorne and Greenwell Queen Street Brisbane. 1873. Page 106

<sup>472</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 25 February 1871

<sup>473</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 25 February 1871

<sup>474</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 December 1870

<sup>475</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 June 1870

<sup>476</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 May 1871

<sup>477</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 April 1871

Daniell, Treasurer Mr. Quinton, and Secretary Mr. Berry. Mr. W.J. Daniell was also Secretary.

The debate on 18 October 1871 was 'the desirability of Gympie becoming a Municipality.'<sup>478</sup> This subject certainly had a great airing in Gympie over the ten years before it actually become a Municipality.

The meeting of Thursday evening 15 February 1872 was its eighth session, having had its quarterly report presented on 9 February 1872. That evening, the agenda included readings. Edward Bytheway was one of the readers along with colleagues Messrs. Kidgell, Ayers, C.S. Daniell, and Mr. J.G. Kidgell, who was President.<sup>479</sup>

On Wednesday night of 20 March 1872, Edward Bytheway and his colleagues Messrs. J.G. Kidgell, Irwin, Balfour, Jamieson, W.J. Daniell 'criticised favourably in regard to composition, and more or less favourably in respect of sentiments'<sup>480</sup> an essay presented by Mr. W.J. Costin on "the Origin of the Human Race." Also in 1872, the Association put pressure on the Gold Commissioner Mr. King to give his careful attention 'to the subject of legislation for facilitating establishment of municipalities on goldfields.'<sup>481</sup> On the Thursday night, the Association, Edward and his colleagues engaged in a highly animated discussion ranging from having roads leading to the crushing machines and other main thoroughfares in good condition, to land sales on the gold fields, and revenue from Miners' Rights, Business Licences, and leases from prospecting claims.<sup>482</sup>

It is somewhat blurred to tell when the Mutual Improvement Society faded; certainly in 1886, the fact was that there was not too much literary life in this golden township and 'just now it seems to be at as low an ebb as some of the industries in the field ... it is high time Gympie with its scores of Welsh inhabitants followed the example [of the Welsh] who boast 'in every village and hamlet in Cambria ... its own Literacy and Debating Society as well as its Musical Clubs'.<sup>483</sup>

Edward at this time was devoting his energies elsewhere mainly in the establishment of the School of Arts to incorporate some of this example from Cambria.

### **Gympie Progress Association**

Edward Bytheway was an active member of the Gympie Progress Association, which had been established in 1870. This Association had considerable authority, acting like a planning and development committee for Gympie and its surrounding district, which is why Edward Bytheway was such an avid member of it. The Association also had a sister group known as the South Gympie Progress Association. His work with the Association prepared him well for the issues he would deal with as an Alderman and Mayor of Gympie. The Association was the forerunner to the Municipal Council formed in 1880, picking up all municipal and infrastructure issues for Gympie and lobbying the Queensland Government for approval of many matters. The Association continued with its work after the formation of the Municipal Council.

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<sup>478</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 October 1870

<sup>479</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 17 February 1872

<sup>480</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 March 1872

<sup>481</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 March 1873

<sup>482</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 February 1872

<sup>483</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 March 1886



As well as Edward Bytheway, membership included other prominent business men of the town, Mr. William Ferguson, Mr. J. G. Kidgell (by 1878 Kidgell had become a Member of the Queensland Parliament's Legislative Assembly), Mr. Hugo Du Rietz, who were also on other prominent committees in the town. One of the interesting things that comes out of those early days in Gympie is that the Associations and Committees formed links of one kind or another with each other. This is why issues like that of the School of Arts which began being agitated for in 1869, received consideration in other places. It often meant there would be unnecessary twists and turns in the consideration of many important matters.

Through his work with the Gympie Progress Association, Edward Bytheway became very closely acquainted with Gympie municipal matters, prior to its being declared a Municipality. Some of these matters were:

### **1870**

The Gympie Progress Association that 'woke up' after 'a hibernation of several months' met at Soowen's Hotel: Mr. Crane voted to the Chair. The reason for the meeting was that Honorary Secretary Mr. J.G. Kidgell 'had received communication to the effect that land applied for (the site of the old Gympie Hospital) for a **School of Arts** had been granted to the Board of Education; but if application were made for any other piece suitable for the purpose the Government would consider it.'<sup>484</sup> As early as this date, the issue which caused the most dissention over the years and deterred people taking up subscriptions was the location of the School of Arts, the Committee firmly noting that 'a more central site ought to be chosen so that the convenience of as large a number of persons might be considered.'<sup>485</sup>

Another important resolution that came out of this meeting was the formation of Gympie into a Municipality, raised by Mr. Hardcastle, because of the poor state of the streets needing extensive repair. It was a way of getting Government funding into Gympie for basic infrastructure. His argument was that 'the Government would endow the proposed municipality proportionately to the amount raised by assessments, and that a large portion of the receipts of land sales within municipal boundaries would also be given a further endowment.'<sup>486</sup> The Gympie Progress Association agreed and proposed to elect a Sub Committee at a meeting at the end of July of 'fee-simple and lease holders in the town of Gympie and Members of the Progress Association to take the resolution forward.

This Association really took on the role of a Municipal Council in the matters it was raising and dealing with. Its Members had the amazing foresight to stay closely in touch with the rather fast development of the town, its needs, and having ongoing effective liaison with the Queensland Government to have these needs attended to. Edward Bytheway and these men were strongly and firmly committed to the improvement of Gympie and shirked nothing, nor the effort involved for the people of the town.

### **1871**

**Newsa Road:** The Association commissioned a detailed report on capital works that would be required to make Newsa Road fit for traffic including dealing with the swamps on the road.

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<sup>484</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 July 1870

<sup>485</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 July 1870

<sup>486</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 July 1870

**Prevention of Fires:** The Association began to develop a strategy for the prevention of destructive fires spreading through Gympie. A plea to people to build houses of material less vulnerable to fire, and for storekeepers to not store blasting powder on their premises.

**Road Repairs and Flood Issues:** The Association ensured that priority was given to roads leading from the main road to the crushing machines. The Association would seek the approval of the Queensland Minister for Works for a survey to 'be made of a line of streets running parallel with Mary Street on the southwest side, and allotments on the proposed street ... and of such land as might not be liable to inundation.'<sup>487</sup>

**Gympie as a Municipality:** Clear resolution of issues to establish Gympie as a Municipality were required so the Gympie Progress Association called for a meeting of leaseholders of the town to discuss the municipality question, as well as who would be responsible for repair of streets; land sales and allotments; endowment of this revenue to the 'Council' as well as the Queensland Government endowment; and the effect of leases under the *Goldfields Town Act*. Discussions on this matter continued into 1877 until agreement was reached that it be put to the Queensland Government that it 'ought to be requested to so arrange the boundaries of proposed Gympie municipality as to exclude all mining property.'<sup>488</sup> The South Gympie Progress Association formed in 1877 immediately joined the push for Gympie to become a Municipality.

**Streets of Gympie:** During mid 1871 the Surveyor-General carried out a survey 'of a line of street running parallel with Mary Street on the south west side and of the allotments on the proposed street and of such land as might not be liable to inundation.'<sup>489</sup> The Gold Commissioner had vested in him the power to put into place the *Goldfields Town Lands Act* which provided for the removal of buildings on the main and cross streets, which he did as some buildings on the line of the street. Many complied without issue.

**Other matters** discussed emanating from the 15 August Association meeting for rapid implementation was the setting aside of land for recreational purposes and the establishment of an Agricultural and Horticultural Society [this was proposed by Mr. Hardcastle].

## 1875

**Passenger and Goods Traffic and Mail Services:** The Association became very concerned about the steadily increasing passenger and goods traffic between Brisbane and Gympie via Newsa and Maryborough; and the need for mail services to keep pace with this increase. Edward Bytheway and his colleagues were sending pleas to the Postmaster-General to improve mail despatches to Gympie by the 'steamship *Culgoa* or any other steamer leaving Brisbane for Newsa'<sup>490</sup>. By July 1875, improvements as requested by the Association to the steamship *Culgoa* were being made for mail dispatch. Pleas were also sent to the Chief Secretary in Brisbane for Newsa to be declared a port, and the harbour improved.<sup>491</sup> The Association resolved to take steps 'to ensure the delivery of letters within the town boundary at the uniform rate of one penny.'<sup>492</sup>

<sup>487</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 August 1871

<sup>488</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 2 February 1877

<sup>489</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 August 1871

<sup>490</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 November 1875

<sup>491</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 November 1875

<sup>492</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 November 1875

**Fire Brigade for Gympie:** The Gympie Progress Association began its efforts for the establishment for a fire brigade for Gympie.

**Sales of Land:** The Gympie Progress Association asked that a survey related to the sale of allotments of land on Red Hill be undertaken.

**Diversion of Six-Mile Creek:** The Association wrote to Mr. R.S. Lord MLA asking that the scheme to divert the waters of this Creek be seriously considered.<sup>493</sup> This scheme was something that one of the members of the Association, Mr. Hay, to prevent flood damage from the Mary River.

### **1876 and 1877**

**Site for Gympie Railway Station:** In late 1877, the Association agreed that the 'site chosen adjoins the public offices and principal business establishments of the town.'<sup>494</sup> Discussions on this matter continued into 1878.

**Sale of Allotments of Land:** This became a vexatious issue, the Association sending a letter to the Queensland Minister for Lands. There had been a 'petition by 223 residents of the Goldfield for a survey and sale of certain lands within the Gympie town boundary ... and 90 miners were objecting to the survey and sale on the basis that the land was auriferous.'<sup>495</sup> In addition, the Gympie Progress Association questioned at what level rates would be set if Gympie became a municipality. Honorary Secretary Mr. J.G. Kidgell was firm in dealings with the Queensland Government's Minister for Lands seeking clarification 'while the Association cannot recommend the alienation of any Crown Lands supposed to be auriferous, they are of the opinion that the present holders of business and residence areas, and have been for the last eight years laboring under a great and manifest disadvantage or account of the insecurity of their tenures and the continued payment of the business licences and they should have strongly pressed upon the notice of the Government the urgent necessity for some measures taken for the ensured relief of the class above referred to.'<sup>496</sup>

**Planning of Roads:** Urgent attention required to the planning of roads and housing at the One-Mile and Monkland. This issue was further pursued in 1878 when the Association also sought improvements to be made to the insufficient police protection and accommodation of the One-Mile and Monkland areas.

**Sale of Land:** The Association was looking for justice on this matter, as the Queensland Government had ignored a petition of 500 miners. Letters of strong dissatisfaction went to the Queensland Government, in particular to Mr. J.G. Kidgell, a previous member of the Gympie Progress Association, and now a Member of the Legislative Assembly, strongly requesting that 'no more land on this Goldfield be sold'.<sup>497</sup> This had emanated from the Association's meeting of 7 August asserting 'this meeting views with alarm the sale of any lands within the Goldfield boundary, and recommends that if possible the sale of lands be advertised to take place Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> be cancelled.'<sup>498</sup> At the same time as this high level of dissatisfaction was occurring in Gympie, the responsibility was moving from the Department of Works to the Department of Lands, and there was a

<sup>493</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 July 1875

<sup>494</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 November 1877

<sup>495</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 February 1876

<sup>496</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 February 1876 from meeting of 2 February 1876

<sup>497</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 August 1878

<sup>498</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 August 1878

proposed redesign of the Gympie State electorate to be incorporated into the Wide Bay constituency.

**Cemetery:** The Association asked for some action to be taken to provide protection and some element of convenience for persons attending the Cemetery.

**Powder Magazine:** A proposed site for the new Powder Magazine was discussed. The Association ruled on the quantities of explosives that tradesman were allowed to store.

**Survey of Southern Goldfield:** The Association followed up on the progress of the survey of the southern portion of the Goldfield, and the making of the approaches to the high level bridge connecting Mount Pleasant with Inglewood Pocket.

**Deep Creek:** The Gympie Progress Association began arrangements to satisfy 'the need for a high level bridge over Deep Creek near the present Victoria Bridge. This was critical because the slightest flood covered the present bridge and compelled miners on the other side of the creek to pay boat hire; tradesmen taking goods across were also subject to this expense, and of course made their customers bear it.'<sup>499</sup> This matter was still current in 1879, so the Association took some follow up action to get some progress on the work.

**Business Licences:** The proposal for business licences to be levied at £4 per annum (equivalent to \$574 in 2016)<sup>500</sup> did not proceed.

**Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society:** The Association, concerned that people could actually get to the meetings, ruled that meetings of the Society must be held in a central location such as Caledonian Hill, NOT Commissioner's Hill.

**Mining Museum:** The Association made arrangements for the Mining Museum to be relocated to the One-Mile because it was no use to miners where it is.

1877 ended with the municipal question being the issue most pressing for as the end of year meeting noted 'we might take it for granted the Government would never do much good for Gympie until a Municipality was formed'.<sup>501</sup> The Association went into 1878 with the caution from Edward Bytheway's colleague, Mr. Hugo Du Rietz 'if the boundaries are confined to freehold property ... the yearly rates would be nearly represented by £500 [equivalent to \$71,773 in 2016<sup>502</sup>] a year, but even with the subsidy from Government would give £1,500 [equivalent to \$215,318 in 2016]<sup>503</sup> a year for improvements etc'.<sup>504</sup>

## 1878

Sale of land within the goldfield boundary became an impassioned issue that members of the Gympie Progress Association were totally opposed to. During 1878, the Association was doing what it could to prevent such sales from occurring. It viewed with alarm the proposal to sell any more land on this goldfield believing it was detrimental to interests of the goldfield. Sales had been planned for 13 August and these were requested to be cancelled. Such was the power the Association it believed it held and such was the merkitness of what land on the goldfield was auriferous or not. The Association was also concerned that petitions being sent to the Government by residents and miners were being ignored. These matters only impelled members such as Edward Bytheway and James G. Kidgell (the Honorary Secretary) to see the

<sup>499</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 2 February 1878

<sup>500</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>501</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 December 1877

<sup>502</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html><http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>503</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html><http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>504</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 December 1877

declaration of Gympie as a Municipality as the solution to the current reality of their lack of power to overturn actions of the Queensland Government.

**1879**

**Post Office at the One-Mile:** The Association was looking for premises for the new Post Office, with one in mind being a four-roomed house available for £55 (equivalent to \$7,895 in 2016)<sup>505</sup>, opposite the current post office.

**Limited Liability Act:** The Association made a proposal to reduce the cost of placing companies under the provisions of the Limited Liabilities Act

**Mining Sludge and Tailings:** Another vexatious issue where 'the Association call [called] the attention of the Phoenix Gold Mining Company to the great inconvenience caused to the public by running their sludge and tailings across the main road at the foot of the Red Hill, and request that they at once remedy the same.'<sup>506</sup>

**Diversion of Flood Waters from the Mary River to the Noosa River:** A certain Walter Hay had devised a scheme to deal with flood issues in Gympie by diverting the waters of the Mary River into the Noosa River. The Gympie Progress Association requested the Queensland Government undertake a survey to ascertain practicality of the scheme, in detail, 'that a survey of levels from the junction of the Six-Mile Creek with the Mary River to the nearest point of the Noosa River be made in order to ascertain whether or not Mr. Hay's plan for turning the flood waters of the Mary River toward Noosa is feasible.'<sup>507</sup>

1880 came and the town of Gympie became a Municipality but the Progress Association was still flexing its power even in 1896. At a meeting presided over by the Mayor (Alderman W. Suthers), it saw itself as an independent body which could advance the town of Gympie just like it had done in the past. It had looked around Gympie and saw that other towns like Maryborough, Bundaberg and Charters Towers were well in advance of Gympie.

The Members of the Association viewed the telegraph Office as 'a disgrace, there was so little room that there was no privacy for the writing out of messages'; the Court House and Warden's Court accommodation was not worthy of the town, and the railway station was not sufficient for a town the size of Gympie; the accommodation there was disgraceful and should certainly be improved. The Municipal Council and the Widgee Divisional Board could also be assisted by having such matters brought under their notice.'<sup>508</sup> The Association from then became known as the Gympie and District Association and would operate something like a Chamber of Commerce. The Association had good reason to want to retain an interest in the development of the town. Gympie, gaslit since 1880, its railway station in the centre of the town, the train which for 2-3 miles before the station is made, 'rushes through a regular avenue of poppet heads ... Gympie has never been laid in under the hard dominion of straight lines, or ruled in five acre blocks ... had a population of about 9000, and the district at over 18,000 ... [it had] about seventy-eight miles of roads; and there was upwards of 2400 dwellings ... [and] over half a dozen good churches, seven State schools, a Catholic School for boys, and the Convent; a well-managed and thoroughly equipped hospital subsidized by the State, branches of various friendly societies and sporting associations ... round about

<sup>505</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>506</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 March 1879

<sup>507</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 March 1879

<sup>508</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 November 1896

considerable farming ... raising maize and the cultivation of fruit ... a sturdy farming class springing up near the goldfield, which forms a good market for produce.<sup>509</sup>

Edward Bytheway, Gympie's highly respected citizen, had much to do in relation to the maintenance of the thriving town so his efforts and leadership continued in a wide number of Committees and Associations.

### **The Store: Edward Bytheway and Son**

Prior to opening the store in Gympie, Edward Bytheway, as a grocer and produce merchant, had owned successful grocery stores in Brisbane, first in unpretentious premises in Edward Street, and later in Brunswick Street in Fortitude Valley. The Gympie gold lured him. At the end of 1867, he rode to Gympie on horseback from Brisbane and pegged out the site in Mary Street where upon he established E. Bytheway and Son under a license. This was to be a branch of his other businesses in Brisbane. In 1867, the business and store situation in Mary Street was so described:

'At this time only eight business licenses had been taken out, the usual thing being to select 66ft. of ground for which £4 had to be paid per annum. Under these conditions Mr. Bytheway took up the site upon which the premises of Bytheway and Son now stand, and opened up business for the sale of general merchandise. Finding the prospects at Gympie such as would require his whole attention to make the best use of them, he gave up his Brisbane stores and decided to make his home on the goldfield. By steady industry, which was characteristic of the man, Mr. Bytheway gradually extended his business operations until he established himself as a manufacturer and importer on a large scale.'<sup>510</sup>

Edward Bytheway and Son opened in 1867 in Mary Street soon after the establishment of the Gympie Goldfield. It was one of the first all-purpose stores in Gympie. Early photographs show it as one of the landmarks of early Gympie. In 1871, the Government sold land to license holders for a nominal sum and in 1927 the frontage on that block was worth £16 a foot (equivalent to \$1,239 in 2016). Dabbling in mine speculation in the early days, Edward made a lot of money and went to the extent of buying a sugar plantation in Bundaberg. This proved to be an unsuccessful venture.

In 1871, Edward's first store in Mary Street is shown in the image; Edward himself is standing outside the shop, and it has been deduced that the little girl in the image is his daughter (his second child) Emma Mary who would have been about five years old at the time.<sup>511</sup>

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<sup>509</sup> The Queenslander 27 March 1897

<sup>510</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

<sup>511</sup> Edward Bytheway in front of his first store in Mary Street circa 1871. The little girl with him is likely to be Emma Mary, his second child. Image courtesy Local Historian Gympie Regional Library H20 Mary Street. Image courtesy of the Local Historian Gympie Regional Library



Edward Bytheway standing in front of his first shop in Mary Street, circa 1871.

Edward Bytheway and Son store was extremely successful for some 40 years until May 1935, having been managed by his son, after Edward had died in 1905. When his son died on 29 August 1935, the business died with him. There were no family members to take on the business.

The Store was 'identified with the progress of the field, [having] an immense assortment of goods in their various apartments, and are showing specially cheap lines in tan and black boots and shoes, a branch of their business in which the firm excels ... in the ladies department, these goods are ... from such celebrated manufacturers as Bostock and Co., England, Strakosch Sohn, Austria, Pilant & Co, USA ... all the best Australian makes are stocked in all sizes and large quantities, including the famous "Castle" brands ... other lines are crockery, ironmongery, plated ware, sewing machines, cream separators, furniture and bedding ... the companies represented by the firm included the Atlas Assurance Co., Ltd., The White Sewing Machine Co., International Harvester Co., USA, and the Orient Pacific line of steamers.'<sup>512</sup> Edward Bytheway, through his store, was the local insurance agent for the Atlas Office-one claim he had to deal with was a three-bedroom house located behind the Sovereign Hotel on Brisbane Road which had been destroyed by fire on 2 June 1905. The house was insured for £50 (equivalent to \$7,182 in 2016) and was the property of Mrs. Robert Sawyers.<sup>513</sup>

The Store was located on the left hand side of Mary Street (heading in the one way direction of the current street arrangement) where National Bank of Australia and the Gympie Friendly Society Pharmacy (known as The Friendlies) are presently located.

<sup>512</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 17 December 1904

<sup>513</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 3 June 1905

The 'red arrow' on the 1869 Plan of Mary Street<sup>514</sup> shows the site of the Bytheway store. Toward Nash's Gully on the same side was Booth's, then Walkers, Landy Base, Markwell, and further along the West Coast Hotel, Tronson and O'Neill's, Thornton's, with humpies closer to Nash's Gully. On the other side of Nash's Gully were three hotels including the Nashville Hotel and the Caledonian Hotel. The larger buildings on either side of the plan are the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church.

A larger copy of the 1869 map at the end of this chapter shows the location of Gympie businesses marked with red arrows.



Plan of Mary Street and Gympie Goldfields 6 March 1869<sup>515</sup>

Just as in Gympie now, the stores and shops in Bytheway's time had certain restrictions about opening and closing times. He was one of a group of storekeepers in Brisbane and Gympie and the One-Mile and other locations who had agreed to a half holiday regime for Thursdays from 1pm, effective from 1 January 1869. In 1912, his son Edward was still fighting to retain the half-holiday arrangements. The advertisement shows the details.

Despite coping with the death of his dear wife Emma in 1871, Edward Bytheway met the daily

**HALF HOLIDAY MOVEMENT.**

**WE**, the undersigned Storekeepers of Gympie and One-mile, do hereby agree to **CLOSE** our respective establishments on every **THURSDAY**, at one o'clock p.m., commencing from 1st January, 1869.

Merry and Davies	M. Donnelly
G. Stupart	P. and J. Cullinane
George Toms	Lewis Moses
Edward Bytheway	Finney, Isles, & Co.
Landy Brothers	Paterson Brothers
Patrick Lillis	A. B. Webster
Markwell & Co.	B. Bobarfeld
James Graham	Thomas King
John Wilson	S. Hutchins & Co.
W. Kidman	Geo. Slater
Scott & Hamill	Chas. Taylor
Stewart & Hemmant	Thomson & Gardner
R. A. and J. Kingsford	J. Woodburn
George C. Craig	Freenton and Kidgell
Thos. Woodrow	J. & J. Burns

174

<sup>514</sup> Plan of Mary Street Gympie Goldfield drawn by the District Surveyor Wide Bay District 6 March 1869 Clarendyn. Stuart Licenced Surveyor. Original copy held in Local History Section of Gympie Regional Library. Copy of the full map is included at the end of this Chapter

<sup>515</sup> Plan of Mary Street Gympie Goldfield drawn by the District Surveyor Wide Bay District 6 March 1869 Clarendon Stuart Licenced Surveyor. Original copy held in Local History Section of Gympie Regional Library



challenges of living in a mining town where he was constantly and consistently involved in its development and improvement. About the same time, Gympie began to experience a number of petty robberies at that time, so much so that the reputation of the police was suffering. These robberies affected his store.

On Saturday 6 April 1872, a daring robbery was committed at his Store around twelve o'clock. The story goes that he 'left his shop to transact some business with his nearest neighbor, Mr. Toms. He was away only for a very short time; on his return he found that his cash-box, which contained about fifteen pounds in notes, gold, and silver, and some papers of value, had been abstracted. Just previously he had used the box, but he is not certain whether at the time he left the shop it was on the counter or at the back of it. The strangest part of this affair is that the papers were found at the back of Mr. Bytheway's place on Sunday evening.'<sup>516</sup>

One other experience of robbery occurred in late December 1903, when a certain William Thomas Murphy stole two pairs of boots valued at 21s from the stand in front of Bytheway and Son. Edward junior and a shop assistant, Mr. W. Jefferson were in the Store at the time and saw the robbery take place, and Edward junior immediately gave chase, caught him up on the Hilton Road, and then took him to the Police Station to be placed in custody. Murphy was also the worse for drink, to the point where he 'hardly knew what he was doing.'<sup>517</sup> Constable Culhane now had him in his charge. On 30 December 1903, Murphy came before Police Magistrate Mr. E. Eglinton, who after having heard evidence from Senior Sergeant Bell, Mr. Jefferson and Edward junior and Murphy's guilty plea, discharged him on the basis of giving him another chance, and made him enter into 'recognizance of £20 to be of good behaviour for twelve months.'<sup>518</sup> Edward senior was fortunate to have such a reliable and dedicated son as his own Edward.

A gold reef was discovered east of Edward Bytheway's Store on some private land. Accounts suggest that the prospects of this reef were really good with coarse gold being washed out.<sup>519</sup> One can only wonder what Edward Bytheway must have made of this find right near his store.

On 17 August 1877, 'shortly before five am on that Friday morning the tolling of the bell at the Roman Catholic Church aroused the people of Gympie'<sup>520</sup>, as a fire accompanied by two fearful and immense explosions, the shock of which could be felt a good two miles away (just over three kilometres), destroyed several stores in the business centre of Gympie, several people were badly injured, and houses at the foot of Calton Hill right next to the Catholic Church and Anglican Church were also damaged. There were 'excited crowds from Apollonian Vale and the One-Mile hurrying toward Caledonian Hill and from Commissioner's Hill toward Nash's Gully Bridge.'<sup>521</sup> The fire could be seen from the surrounding hills. The fire brigade was helpless to save anything as the fire was fuelled by large quantities of blasting material for the mines. People at the One-Mile, Mount Pleasant and Monkland had thought an earthquake had taken place!

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<sup>516</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 April 1872

<sup>517</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 31 December 1903

<sup>518</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 31 December 1903

<sup>519</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 June 1875

<sup>520</sup> The Rockhampton Bulletin 23 August 1877

<sup>521</sup> The Rockhampton Bulletin 23 August 1877

Although the cause of the fire is unknown to this day, it was established that the explosions occurred respectively in Scott's Receiving Store ('on the Monkland'<sup>522</sup>) where 'a quantity of kerosene, pyrolignoine and other explosives were stored; and James Woodrow's out store where powder and lithofracteur was stored.<sup>523</sup> Burning debris was hurled high into the air and thrown some half a mile away (almost one kilometre) as far as the 'Church of England parsonage in one direction and the top of the Caledonian Hill in another.'<sup>524</sup>

Some damage and effects of the blast was felt as far as the Commissioners Hill, for example at Mr. Lyons' tobacco shop, 'so violently that a box of wax vestas was displaced and on coming into contact with the floor, ignited.'<sup>525</sup> The owners of the shops, public house and store houses lost vast quantities of stock, and it seems that many were underinsured or not insured at all. Vandals also did not take long to make good pickings of what was around. Innumerable portions of burning timber were being thrown high in the air from Mr. Scott's store yard. Mr. Robinson's gunsmith shop was burned down and he lost his valuable tools; Mr. Woodrow, who had such items as about a keg and half of explosive powder and some lithofracteur stored near Mr. Scott's store, lost his stable and outhouses, had his extensive stock of china and glassware smashed, lost considerable store of groceries, the powder keg, a billiard table and other heavy items were blown away as far as Calton Hill; Mr. B.B. Smith lost his valuable stock of chemicals and drugs and building; Mrs. Lynch's public houses which were amongst the oldest in Gympie at that time, sustained considerable damage; the Bytheways lost considerable glass and chinaware; Mr. Tabb, the watchmaker, was robbed by looters; Mr. Kidman and Mr. Daniell lost considerable furniture and household items. Buildings on either side of Mary Street were destroyed. It was a major event that left many seriously injured or wounded. No wonder there were moves in the town to not store such explosives so close to the business centre.

Among the stores destroyed was that of Edward Bytheway; 'Edward Bytheway and his brother were both blown a considerable distance, and the former an ugly shaking and some cuts on the head and heels ... the breakages amongst Mr. Bytheway's glass and chinaware were very great'.<sup>526</sup> The overall view was that the 'premises and stocks of Messrs. Bytheway, Tabb, Kidman, and Daniell 'will require a very large outlay to make good.'<sup>527</sup> Mr. Bytheway was fully insured, 'but it was asserted yesterday afternoon that the insurance offices were disposed to dispute their liability to pay compensation on the technical ground that the damage had resulted from an explosion and not from a fire.'<sup>528</sup> Given the nature of the explosion, damage caused, and property destroyed in August 1877, by the end of September 1877, the Insurance Company had inspected the damages and compensated the store keepers reasonably quickly with 'Mr. William Scott paid in full to the amount for which he was insured, and other storekeepers who had no legal claim on the Company having been generously dealt with. Mr. W. J. Daniell received £15 (equivalent to \$2,153 in 2016<sup>529</sup>), Mr. T R. Tronson £20 (equivalent to

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<sup>522</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 November 1878

<sup>523</sup> The Warwick Examiner 18 August 1877

<sup>524</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 August 1877

<sup>525</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 August 1877

<sup>526</sup> The Rockhampton Bulletin 23 August 1877

<sup>527</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 August 1877

<sup>528</sup> The Rockhampton Bulletin 23 August 1877

<sup>529</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

\$2,871 in 2016<sup>530</sup>), Mr. Edward Bytheway £55 (equivalent to \$7,895 in 2016<sup>531</sup>), and Mr. W. Kidman £100 (equivalent to \$14,355 in 2016<sup>532,533</sup>) The men sent a combined letter to Mr. Staley, the agent for the Company in Gympie which said 'we beg to thank you for the allowance made to us by your Company for loss by the late explosion in Mary Street, having no claim under the policy for the same.<sup>534</sup>

This appeared a good result for the storekeepers of Mary Street because Mr. Scott's had assets of some £3,000 (equivalent to \$430,636 in 2016<sup>535</sup>) in stores, outhouses, stable, large stock of general merchandise which were completely destroyed. Luckily his horse was saved.

After this fire, arrangements were made for more secure storage of explosives out of town, this having been the decision of the Gympie Progress Association.

In 1879, the Bytheway Store, like some other stores located around Queensland, became an agent for the sale of the Australian American Lock Stitch 'Home Shuttle' sewing machine.<sup>536</sup> These were imported by the case and came in trunks as did products like biscuits. Three cases of sewing machines were recorded as being imported in 1882 for the Bytheway Store, as well as a trunk of biscuits.<sup>537</sup>

As a major importer, a steady stream of goods continuously arrived for the store to meet the needs of the Gympie residents and those of the district. Maryborough was favoured as a port by Edward Bytheway for imports to Gympie because it was cheaper to have goods transported here once they had been off loaded by steamer at Maryborough. This was something that he entered into his submission to the Railway Commission when new railway lines were being considered for the district. As his Store made and sold handmade boots, he regularly imported large supplies of leather, while stores in Gympie like J.S. Cullinane were importing stationary, drapery, cotton, axle grease, machinery oil, crockery and hardware, weather boards and wire, and soda crystals. Some of Bytheway's imports have been recorded from the steamers which regularly docked at Maryborough:

September 1881:	ex <i>Keilawarra</i>	from Sydney and Brisbane Crate of tumbling equipment <sup>538</sup>
October 1881:	ex <i>You Yangs</i>	1 case of boots <sup>539</sup>
September 1882:	ex <i>You Yangs</i>	2 trunks
October 1882:		3 cases of sewing machines and other products <sup>540</sup>
March 1883:	ex <i>Keilawarra</i>	3 cases trunks <sup>541</sup>
March 1883:	ex <i>Queensland</i>	5 trunks <sup>542</sup>
June 1883:	ex <i>Geelong</i>	1 trunk of boots <sup>543</sup>

<sup>530</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

<sup>531</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

<sup>532</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

<sup>533</sup> Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 26 September 1877

<sup>534</sup> Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 26 September 1877

<sup>535</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

<sup>536</sup> The Queenslander 22 November 1879; 17 July, 14 August and 15 November 1880

<sup>537</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 October 1882

<sup>538</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 September 1881

<sup>539</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 October 1881

<sup>540</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 October 1882

<sup>541</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 March 1883

<sup>542</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 March 1883

<sup>543</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 June 1883

June 1883:	ex <i>Burwah</i>	case of nails, case of ink, and supply of leather
January 1884:	ex <i>Burwah</i>	3 cases and parcels
October 1884:	ex <i>Rodondo</i>	15 bags chaff
October 1884:	ex <i>Rodondo</i>	A box of grindery, 2 cases of machinery, case of ink, and case of blacking
February 1885:	ex <i>Tinonee</i>	1 Truss earthenware, 1 bale of leather <sup>544</sup>
June 1885:	ex <i>Rodondo</i>	2 packets leather <sup>545</sup>
June 1885:	ex <i>Keilawarra</i>	2 bales of leather, and 1 package of leather <sup>546</sup>
	ex <i>Rodondo</i>	2 cases of boots <sup>547</sup>
August 1885:	ex <i>Egmont</i>	3 cases of machine oil; 1 trunk of boots <sup>548</sup>
August 1885:	ex <i>Rodondo</i>	1 bale of leather, 2 cases grindery, 26½ cases fruit <sup>549</sup>
September 1885:	ex <i>Eurimbia</i>	2 trunks of boots
February 1886:	ex <i>Rodondo</i>	2 bundles of leather <sup>550</sup>
March 1886:	ex <i>Leichhardt</i>	1 keg and parcel <sup>551</sup>
March 1886:	ex <i>Eurimbia</i>	2 cases of glass, case of grain, and case of hardware
January 1886:	ex <i>Keilawarra</i>	4 cases of sewing machines <sup>552</sup>
March 1886:	ex <i>Eurimbia</i>	6 cases of nails, 1 case of axes, 1 bundle of spades, 1 case of wedges, 1 case paints, coil, wire rope, 1 bundle of handles
February 1887:	ex <i>Fitzroy</i>	3 cases of leather <sup>553</sup>
February 1887:	ex <i>Derwent</i>	1 trunk
June 1887:	ex <i>Burwah</i>	3 packages of leather <sup>554</sup>
August 1887:	ex <i>Yaralla</i>	2 packages of leather <sup>555</sup>
October 1887:	ex <i>Balmain</i>	1 box
December 1887:	ex <i>Yaralla</i>	1 case of merchandise, 5 cases of palisading, 1 case crockery <sup>556</sup>

In 1877, the local newspaper ceased to publish shipping information, so more complete information on the continuing imports to the Store is unavailable. Nevertheless, the time line gives a glimpse of the nature of the imports and the regularity with which they arrived.

The Bytheways rebuilt their Store and it was a much upgraded version of their first Store. It gave them the opportunity to expand the range of products sold. Many of the goods sold were imported.

<sup>544</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 February 1885

<sup>545</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 June 1885

<sup>546</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 June 1885

<sup>547</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 June 1885

<sup>548</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 August 1885

<sup>549</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 August 1885

<sup>550</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 February 1886

<sup>551</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 March 1886

<sup>552</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 January 1886

<sup>553</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 February 1887

<sup>554</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 June 1887

<sup>555</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 August 1887

<sup>556</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 December 1887

Pugh's Queensland Almanac Law Calendar Directory and Coast Guide 1881 showed the 1881 Gympie Directory with the following listing for the Bytheway shop (the listing uses Benjamin's initial. This shows the family involvement in the Store and also the closeness of the Bytheway family):

*BOOTMAKERS. Bytheway. B. (importer), Mary Street*<sup>557</sup>.

*CROCKERY WAREHOUSES. Bytheway E. Mary Street*

On the same page, the Directory also listed Benjamin's Bird Stuffing and Picture Gallery in Mary Street.

Most months saw considerable stock arriving at the Bytheway Store. June 1885 seemed to have been a busy time for stocks to arrive, evidence from the ship arrivals showing that Edward Bytheway had received three packages of leather, 2 bales of leather, and two cases of boots. A case was brought against him for having a cask on the footway at his store in Mary Street. The case was brought before the Local Court, and fortunately dismissed.<sup>558</sup>

In 1896, Edward Bytheway Junior was called to give some specialist evidence in the Gympie Police Court in relation to Shannon Johnson who had been charged 'with larceny of a till containing about £14 (equivalent to \$2,010 in 2016<sup>559</sup>) in notes and coin, and cheques amounting to £9 10s 9d (equivalent to \$1,369 in 2016<sup>560</sup>), the property of Geo. Flay from the Freemason's Hotel.'<sup>561</sup> The evidence also related to a pair of boots that had been found at the hotel and were suspected to belong to the accused. The deposition in Court by Edward Bytheway Junior explains his experience and responsibilities at the Bytheway Store in Mary Street and also the nature of Gympie's being a small town: 'I am the manager of the boot and shoe department of Bytheway and Son. I am generally present when the measuring is done and in the habit of fitting boots and shoes. I have had 13 years' experience of that branch of the business. In my opinion the boots and shoes (marked exhibits Nos. 1 and 2) have been worn by the same person; the heels of each pair have been worn down at the same spot. Both pairs are No. 6 size and wearing on the soles are the same. I know the accused and saw the boots fitted on him since his arrest. I examined them thoroughly and saw they fitted him. From the way they fitted I should say they were worn previously by the accused. On the inner sole of the left boot there is a hole; I should say it was burnt.'<sup>562</sup> Bytheway and Son had been open 29 years at the time of this court case, and Edward Senior had eased his son into the business just as soon as he could.

Edward senior's father was a bootmaker; it makes sense to assume that he taught Edward how to make good hand-made shoes and boots, a skill he never forgot when he

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<sup>557</sup> Pugh's Queensland Almanac Law Calendar Directory and Coast Guide 1881, The Gympie Directory page 322 and page 323. APA: (2013). pp. 322-3. Pugh's Queensland Almanac, Law Calendar, Directory, and Coast Guide, 1881. London: Forgotten Books. (Original work published 1881)

MLA: Pugh's Queensland Almanac, Law Calendar, Directory, and Coast Guide, 1881. 1881. Reprint. London: Forgotten Books, 2013. 322-

[http://www.forgottenbooks.com/readbook\\_text/Pughs\\_Queensland\\_Almanac\\_Law\\_Calendar\\_Directory\\_and\\_Coast\\_Guide\\_1881\\_1000753497/339](http://www.forgottenbooks.com/readbook_text/Pughs_Queensland_Almanac_Law_Calendar_Directory_and_Coast_Guide_1881_1000753497/339) (accessed 13 January 2015)

<sup>558</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 June 1885

<sup>559</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

<sup>560</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

<sup>561</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 September 1896

<sup>562</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 September 1896

set up Bytheway and Son. Edward junior must have been taught some fine bootmaking skills from his father, this being the key to the business in Mary Street.

In 1890 Gympie, petty crime was of a different nature to what is true of 21<sup>st</sup> century Gympie. Alfred Constantine and Ernest Moore, alias Morrison, acquired a teapot belonging to Edward Bytheway, and on 23 May 1898 in the Police Court, they were both charged with the larceny of the tea pot and given three months in the Brisbane Gaol with hard labour.<sup>563</sup>

In 1900 the Bytheway Store was again in danger of being affected by fire when the bulk store of the Gympie Industrial Cooperative Society was completely destroyed by fire. It was lucky there was no wind blowing and that 'willing hands kept the other side of the street from catching, though the business establishments of E. Bytheway and Son, J. Lyons and others, were in danger of ignition at the most critical period.'<sup>564</sup>

Christmas 1901 saw Edward in great spirits and demonstrating just how proud he was of his shop. He seemed to be bursting with pride, in fact. He told the *Gympie Times* representative that 'for Christmas he had a lot to say and a lot to sell.'<sup>565</sup>

Edward continued 'In the first place there were boots manufactured by Bytheway and Son at their own factory ... these boots were making a big name for themselves throughout the field and district. In fact the public appreciation for them by their coming to the shop and insisting on having them and none other. The firm also stocks Bostock's well-known foot-gear and are agents for Christopher Johnson's cutlery and tools. Fancy goods, crockery, electroplate, and many other lines too numerous to mention, also come within their sphere of barter.'<sup>566</sup>

In September 1902, the Bytheways featured a neat and attractive display of boots in their store which drew regular attention from the public, with 'the articles ... made up on the premises of the firm, in Mary Street, and included specimens of different varieties and heavy hobnailers to the light more elegant kinds. As an example of the work that can be turned out by this old established firm the exhibit was a valuable one and it can safely be said that it received the attention it deserved at the hands of the public.'<sup>567</sup> The boots made in this small factory in Edward Bytheway's shop had a big name in the district, with the many customers insisting on having the made to measure hand-made boots. It seems fairly clear that if you wanted good boots, that Bytheways were the ones that could make them.

In Christmas 1902, the store was described as the 'oldest importers on the field ... everything this old firm undertakes it does well. It aims to produce the best of everything. The high standard of excellence which the firm has placed before it as its ideal, enthralls and captures customers sooner or later. It manufactures, as it has always manufactured the very best boots and shoes from the very best selected material.' If (remarks the senior proprietor) there is a fault about the goods manufactured by us, it is that they are too good, and last too long. Gympie against the world, and we can assure you that the Gympie native boy can't be beaten at the craft of bootmaking. He is intelligent, capable, and has a splendid eye for a boot. From the foreman down, our young men are all natives. You saw our show case at the last Exhibition; every boot was

<sup>563</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 May 1898

<sup>564</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 October 1900

<sup>565</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 December 1901

<sup>566</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 December 1901

<sup>567</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 20 September 1902.

made by these young fellows ... you can be measured in the morning and wear your boots at night. White or black or tan in any colour of any material. Patent court shoes we can measure you in the morning, you can dance in them at night. Ladies' High lace' or Button boots or shoes, white tan or black, come and see.<sup>568</sup>

Bytheway and Son were agents 'for Bostock & Co. of Stafford and Northampton, the beautiful goods of which the firm will be importing notwithstanding the Federal tariff of 6s. (equivalent to \$43 in 2016<sup>569</sup>) in the £ (equivalent to \$144 in 2016<sup>570</sup>). Boot importing and manufacturing are only two of Bytheway and Son's departments. They import largely all kinds of household requisites, household ironmongery, cooking utensils, sewing machines, stoves, bedsteads, the new blue light-kerosene stove, Christopher Johnson's cutlery, carvers, plated-ware, spoons, and forks. See the cutlery window for a thousand useful articles for Christmas presents; see the plated ware window for choice and valuable Christmas presents. All goods are marked in plain figures. The crockery, china, and glassware department is replete with high class goods of the useful type. Breakfast, tea, dinner, and toilet sets, all the firm's importing from the manufacturers, an immense stock to clear suitable for presents ... the firm is agent for the famous De Laval Cream Separators; furniture is also a specialty, the difficulty being to do justice to the stock in such a brief notice as this must necessarily be.<sup>571</sup>

The element of quality that stands out from this description is indicative of the Edward Bytheway personality. He was a man of class although humble; he had a certain elegance and pride in himself and set high standards and values for himself. He himself stood for quality and wished to pass this to the community. It would be fair to say that no shop of its equivalent exists in Gympie today. It was a business that Edward Bytheway and his family could be justifiably proud.



**AMERICAN SEWING MACHINES.**

**T**HE "Home" Shuttle Lock Stitch. The Perfection of Mechanism. Simple, Compact, Efficient, Durable, and Complete. It Sews with the least possible amount of labor, and a girl twelve years old can run it without fatigue. It is a Triumph of Mechanical Genius.

The "Home" Shuttle is the only practical Low priced Lock-stitch Sewing Machine ever invented. This Unequaled Machine uses a straight Needle, makes the "Lock stitch" (alike on both sides), has a self-adjusting tension, and is adapted to every variety of Sewing for family wear, from the lightest Muslins to the heaviest Cloths, and will even Sew Leather. It will Hem, Fell, Bind, Curl, Braid, Seam, Tuck, Ruffle, Hemstitch, and Gather. This Machine will sew on and Gather at the same time, and will work equally well on Silk, Linen, Woollen, and Cotton Goods, with Silk, Linen, or Cotton Thread.

It is not necessary for us to endeavor to detract from the merits of any other machine. We claim to sell the Best Family Sewing Machine in the Market. Without regard to Price. And we feel confident that whenever persons wishing to buy Sewing Machines give the

**HOME SHUTTLE SEWING MACHINE**  
a fair trial, in competition with other Machines, it will have the Preference.

With the Machine is furnished—Hemmer, Braider, Shuttle, Bobbins, Oil-can, Oil, Screw-driver, Five Needles, Gauge, Table-Clamp, and directions for use. All securely packed, in strong case, with hinges. Price Complete—£4 10s.

<sup>568</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 December 1902

<sup>569</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

<sup>570</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

<sup>571</sup> The Gympie Times and Mining Gazette 23 December 1902

At the St Patrick's Day Sports Day of 17 March 1905 held at the One-Mile Recreation Ground, Messrs. E. Bytheway and Son had donated a pair of boots to the value of £10/6/- (equivalent to \$1,479 in 2016<sup>572</sup>) as one of the special prizes being given. To be eligible for prizes at the Social that night, tickets at a cost three shillings (equivalent to \$26 in 2016<sup>573</sup>) for a single; five shillings (equivalent to \$36 in 2016<sup>574</sup>) for a double had to be bought. Tickets for a gentleman and two ladies cost seven shillings (equivalent to \$50 in 2016.<sup>575</sup>)<sup>576</sup>

The Bytheway Store diversified for the changing needs of the Gympie population, while retaining its reputation for top quality handmade boots and shoes and other requirements for the miners, farmers, and the general population. The Store became the local agent for the Australian "Home" Shuttle sewing machine described as 'most simple in its handling and most effective in work ... the ease with which it can be worked by even the youngest child, its remarkable durability, speed and cheapness, all combine to make it attractive to the householders as well as the manufacturer.'<sup>577</sup> It is a noteworthy fact that the "Home Shuttle" has reduced the high priced Machines to half their original cost, which however is still much above the price of the 'Home Shuttle.'<sup>578</sup>

Over the years from 1867, advertisements appeared in the *Gympie Times*, *The Catholic Press*, *The Queenslander* and other newspapers.<sup>579</sup>

**LATEST SPECIAL.**

**E. BYTHEWAY,**  
MARY-STREET.

HAS just received Ex Duke of Devonshire, and Jamna, direct from the Manufacturers, 2000 PAIRS LADIES', GENT'S, and CHILDREN'S BOOTS and SHOES.

Special Patterns, of unequalled Style and Finish, of beautiful Design, and a truly Magnificent Assortment.

We only import from the best known Houses in the Trade, the known character of the Maker being our best guarantee in this respect.

We invite the Public to test the quality of our Goods. Special, a line of Ladies' Leasing Military Heels, Patent Toes, splendid value, at 4s 9d.

We ask special attention to our own manufacture. A great amount of study and attention has been devoted to perfecting this purely local manufacture. Our Customers know what we are doing in this Department, but we wish to extend this knowledge so as to secure the patronage of the whole of the District.

Our own make, Navvies' Watertight, is giving general satisfaction on the Railway Works. Our Miner's Blucher has attained perfection. Our French Calf, 1st Quality, Boots and Shoes are unequalled.

1887

**E. BYTHEWAY,**  
MANUFACTURER AND IMPORTER OF  
**BOOTS AND SHOES**

**BUY YOUR BOOTS AT BYTHEWAY'S**  
for the following reasons :-

**BECAUSE THEY ARE THE BEST.**  
**BECAUSE THEY ARE THE CHEAPEST.**  
**BECAUSE A FIT IS GUARANTEED.**  
**BECAUSE THE STOCK IS ENORMOUS.**  
**BECAUSE WE USE THE BEST MATERIAL**

**BECAUSE OUR LEATHER BOOTS AND SHOES ARE ALL OUR OWN**  
**BRATED "OWN MAKE."**

**BECAUSE FOR HARD WEAR FOR MINERS, FARMERS, AND BUSHMEN**  
**THEY CAN BE RELIED ON.**

We are constantly hearing the remark from Working Men--  
"THIS IS A GRAND PAIR OF BOOTS."

**E. BYTHEWAY,**  
MANUFACTURER. m16

1889

<sup>572</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

<sup>573</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

<sup>574</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

<sup>575</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Pre Decimal Inflation Calculator

<sup>576</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 March 1905

<sup>577</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 July 1880

<sup>578</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 November 1874

<sup>579</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 1 December 1887 and 3 October 1889



**E. BYTHEWAY,**  
 MANUFACTURER OF  
**BOOTS AND SHOES**

Awarded FIRST PRIZE

for Men's Strong Medium and Fancy BOOTS AND SHOES.  
 also First Prize for Women's Strong, Medium, and Fancy BOOTS AND SHOES at the A.M.P. Society's Show. We can confidently recommend our BOOTS AND SHOES to MEASURE for Fit, Durability, Elegance, Neatness, Ease, and Comfort, combined with the Lowest possible Prices. We use only the Best Material; the Best Workmanship WE GUARANTEE.

OUR BOOTS ARE REGISTERED FOR HARD WEAR.

TO TEST THE FIT, WE INVITE THE PUBLIC TO TEST THE WEAR, AND TO TEST THE PRICE.

Our English and Continental Importations, direct from the BEST MAKERS only, continue to arrive by each British India steamer.

**E. BYTHEWAY,**  
 MANUFACTURER AND IMPORTER, MARY STREET.

**E. Bytheway and Son**

HAVE JUST OPENED UP  
 A MAGNIFICENT ASSORTMENT of  
**KNIVES, FORKS, SPOONS,**  
 and **PLATED WARE.**

**TABLE KNIVES**  
 from 10/ doz.  
**DESSERT KNIVES** from 8/ doz.; all White Handles. Sets of Knives and Forks from 9/ doz. Bread Knives, Butchers' Knives, Farmers' Knives, Pocket Knives in endless variety.

**SCISSORS in all Designs.**  
  
 Cutting-out, Nail, and Button-hole Scissors.  
 Tailors' Scissors, Pruning Scissors, and Barbers' Scissors.

**SPOONS.**  
 We hold a Large Stock in Tea, Afternoon, Dessert, Table, Jam and Fruit Spoons.


**FORKS.**—Table, Dessert, Bread Forks, and Pickle Forks.

We are also displaying a Beautiful Collection of  
**Plated Ware.** New Designs in Teapots, Cruets, Sugar Basins, Card Trays, Butter Dishes, Jam Dishes, Berry Dishes, and scores of other useful articles.  
 The whole we guarantee of First-Class Workmanship, and marked prices within the reach of all.

**E. BYTHEWAY & SON**

Advertisements that appeared in the Gympie Times during 1905 before Edward's death

ELECTRIC INSOLES. PRICE, 5s. 6d.  
 ELECTRIC INSOLES.  
 ELECTRIC INSOLES.



Do You Suffer from Lumbago?  
 Do You Suffer from Chilblains?  
 Do You Suffer from Rheumatism?  
 Do You Suffer from Sciatica?  
 Do You Suffer from Gout?  
 Have You a Poor Circulation of the Blood?

If so, Wear a Pair of ELECTRIC INSOLES.  
**THEY CURE. THEY CURE. THEY CURE.**  
**Wm. E. BYTHEWAY & SON**  
**ARE THE AGENTS FOR THIS DISTRICT.**

GENTS' GLACE KID LACE, 8/6 PAIR.  
 GENTS' FANCY BUCKLE BOOTS, 12/6 PAIR.  
 GENTS' TAN LACE "YALE" TOE, 10/6 PAIR.  
 GENTS' ROMEOS, TAN OR BLACK, 10/6 PAIR.  
 MEN'S MILITARY COSSACKS, 8/6.  
 MEN'S WHITE CHAMPION BALS, 5/6.  
 MEN'S WHITE CHAMPION SHOES, 4/6.  
 MEN'S FOOTBALL BOOTS, 4/11.  
 MEN'S BLUCHERS, 4/11, 5/6, 6/6, 8/6, 10/6.  
 MEN'S EVENING SHOES, 6/6, 4/6, 12/6.  
 GOLOSHERS, SAND SHOES, SLIPPERS, RUBBER BOOTS IN ENDLESS VARIETY.

**E. BYTHEWAY & SON,**  
**GREAT BOOT PROVIDERS.**

<sup>580</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 August 1898

More advertisements that appeared in the *Gympie Times* during 1905 before Edward's death in 1905




**GREAT -  
SALE! -**

**BOOTS  
AND  
SHOES!**

**NOW ON!**

**E. BYTHEWAY  
AND  
SON'S,**

**FOR - -  
PRICES  
SEE - -  
WINDOWS!**



**LOW  
CASH PRICES**

AT  
**E. BYTHEWAY**

AND  
**SON'S,**

FOR  
**BOOTS AND SHOES.**

We are showing Remarkable Value in both our Shops.

All Lines marked at very Cheap Prices.

As our stock is large and varied it is impossible to detail Price

**LOW PRICES**

Gents, Ladies, and Children's

**Boots and Shoes**

Both Imported and our Own Make.

**See Our Stock**  
BEFORE YOU BUY ELSEWHERE.

Lowest Prices, together with Good Quality.

**E. BYTHEWAY  
AND SON**



New Line of Leather.

**WALLABY KID.**

Tanned from the Native Wallaby Skins.

**Soft and -  
Durable to Wear**

- IN -

**Black & Tan.**

Gents Made to Measure,  
Lace, 15s Pair.

Ladies Made to Measure,  
Lace, 12s 6d Pair.

Come and Try a Pair.

**E. BYTHEWAY  
AND SON  
MANUFACTURERS.**



**CHRISTMAS SEASON**

**E. BYTHEWAY  
AND SON**  
WILL OFFER

**Specially Selected Lines**

IN  
**Boots and Shoes at Low Prices**

All Lines have been "Marked Down" to a Minimum Price

Bargains in Ladies Shoes, Exquisite Designs, in "Button or Lace Boots," An "Infinite Variety of Fresh Styles," Beautiful Lines in Tan and Black Goods, Gents' Boots and Shoes in a Choice of Colors, North British and White Boots and Gents' White Boots in Lace.

Every Line at Specially Cut Prices during the Festive Season

CALL EARLY AND GET FITTED

**E. Bytheway  
AND SON,**  
Manufacturers and Importers.



More advertisements that appeared in the Gympie Times during 1905 before Edward's death in 1905



**BOOTS**  
—AND—  
**SHOES**

To Wear Well!

**E. BYTHEWAY**  
AND  
**SON'S.**

OUR CELEBRATED  
Boots and Shoes  
to Measure  
always give entire satisfaction.

**CALL IN** —  
and have your  
Measure.

FOUND BOOTS FOR GENTS  
FOUND BOOTS OR SHOES  
FOR LADIES.  
FOUND DOOTS for YOUTHS  
AND MAIDS.

It will pay you  
TO GET A  
Pair of Boots of  
our own make.

They are the Cheapest in the  
Long Run.

**E. BYTHEWAY**  
AND SON.

**E. BYTHEWAY**  
AND  
**SON**

Have full stocks of the following lines—  
Johnson's Celebrated Fine Brand Cutlery.

**Special Values in**  
TABLE AND DESSERT KNIVES,  
FORKS, SPOONS, SCISSORS, RAZORS, ETC.  
GARDEN TOOLS,  
SPADES, RAKES, HOES,  
DIGGING FORKS, TROWELS,  
PRUNING SHEARS, ETC.  
HAND MANGLES, TABLE WINGERS,  
MINCERS, IRONS, CANARY CAGES,  
LAMPWARE, CARPENTER'S TOOLS,  
AXES, SHOVELS, BRUSHWARE, ETC.

**Large stocks of**  
CHOCOLATEWARE, GLASSWARE,  
CUPWARE, BEDSTEADS,  
BEDDING AND FURNITURE.

**Also in stock—**  
BUGGY HARNESS, BRIDLES,  
BITS, STIRRUPS,  
PLOUGH REINS, HALTERS,  
HORSE TIES, ETC.

**Agents for**  
ATLAS ASSURANCE CO. LTD. (FIRE),  
ORIENT PACIFIC LINE OF STEAMERS,  
WHITE SEWING MACHINES,  
ALFA LVAL ORGAS REFRIGERATORS,  
DR. MARSDEN'S ELECTRIC INSOLES,  
McCORMICK'S FARM IMPLEMENTS.

Bytheway and Son became identified with the progress of the goldfield, and its supply of goods that suited the people, as the 1904 article confirms.<sup>581</sup>

After Edward Junior took over the store, the advertisements began to take on a different appearance, as the ones below in 1909.<sup>582 583</sup>

**GENTS' BOOTS**  
**GENTS' BOOTS**



**E. BYTHEWAY AND SON.**  
 HAVE THE LARGEST STOCK OF  
**Gents' Boots**  
 TO SELECT FROM IN THE CITY.  
 ALL SHAPES AND DESIGNS  
 IN TAN OR BLACK.

GENTS' BLACK GLACE KID BAL-  
 MORALS, WHOLE GOLOSH  
 'TALE' TOES, 10/6 PAIR.

**E. BYTHEWAY & SON**  
 General Merchants, Boot and Shoe  
 Manufacturers,  
**GYMPIE (Q.).**  
 Established 1867.  
 Agents for Bostock's Boots and Shoes, "White" Sewing  
 Machines, Alfa-Laval Cream Separators, Dr. Marsden's In-  
 soles, Queensland Cattle Dip, Atlas Assurance Co., Ltd.,  
 Orient Royal Mail Line of Steamers.

**Bytheway and Son.**

Messrs. Bytheway and Son, another old established firm whose name is identified with the progress of the field, have an immense assortment of goods in their various departments, and are showing specially cheap lines in tan and black boots and shoes, a branch of their business in which the firm excels. In the ladies department the range of goods is exceptionally great, and consists of all the latest shapes and designs from the daintiest evening shoe to the high button boot. These goods are fresh and new and brilliant from such celebrated manufacturers as Bostock and Co., England, Strakosch Sohn, Austria, Pilant & Co., U.S.A. In addition all the best Australian makes are stocked in all sizes, and large quantities, including the famous "Castle" brands. In the gentleman's boot department the same condition of things prevails, the firm carries a large stock, and the quality leaves nothing to be desired. Other lines are crockeryware, ironmongery, platedware, sewing machines, cream separators, furniture, and bedding, in all of which departments the firm has abundant supplies to select from. The companies represented by the firm include the Atlas Assurance Co., Ltd., The White Sewing Machine Co., International Harvester Co., U.S.A., and the Orient Pacific line of steamers.

Edward Bytheway's close friend and colleague, Hugo Du Rietz, died in 1908. The invoices shown here were rendered to Hugo's Estate by Edward Bytheway and Son for payment. What is interesting about these invoices is the Bytheway and Son business logo and the layout and style of invoices used by the business.<sup>584</sup>

<sup>581</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 17 December 1904

<sup>582</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 September 1909

<sup>583</sup> Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927. Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927. Page 154

<sup>584</sup> Edward Bytheway and Son invoices rendered to Estate of Hugo Du Rietz in 1908

GYMPLIE EXCHANGE.

Sydney, Sept 7 1898

To the Estate of John W. James

**E. BYTHEWAY & SON;**  
**MANUFACTURERS OF BOOTS AND SHOES.**  
 IMPORTERS OF CHINA, GLASS, EARTHENWARE, FANCY GOODS, JEWELLERY, CLOCKS, CUTLERY, AND PLATED WARE.

Sept 20	To Balance	96
Sept 5	To Face Book	1
Oct 6	Separate of goods	56
Nov 9	To Balance	56
Dec 3	To Balance	16
Jan 21	To Balance	56
Aug 28	To Balance	56
Oct 6	To Face Book	1
Nov 14	To Balance	56
Dec 15	To Balance	48
Jan 28	To Balance	56
Feb 11	To Balance	7
Apr 1	To Balance	56
Apr 12	To Balance	16
May 9	To Balance	56
Jul 11	To Balance	26
	Forward	816.9

GYMPLIE EXCHANGE.

Sydney, Sept 7 1898

To the Estate of John W. James

**E. BYTHEWAY & SON;**  
**MANUFACTURERS OF BOOTS AND SHOES.**  
 IMPORTERS OF CHINA, GLASS, EARTHENWARE, FANCY GOODS, JEWELLERY, CLOCKS, CUTLERY, AND PLATED WARE.

May 5	To Balance	816.9
May 23	To Balance	16
May 25	To Balance	56
May 31	To Balance	16
	Forward	1016.3

1911

# E. BYTHEWAY and SON,

Established 43 Years. = = General Merchants.

## Departments

**Boots and Shoes** of every description—"Our Own Make" and also the Imported Article. Footwear made to your Measure.

**Leather**.—Sole Leather, Kip, Tweed, Calf, Basils and Kid, Grindery, etc.

**Saddles, Bridles, Martingales, Cruppers, Bits, Spurs, Whips, and Riding Whips.**

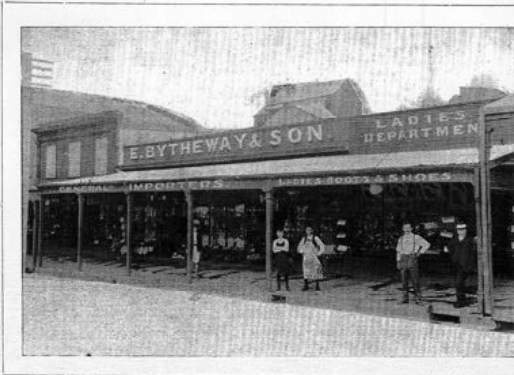
**Ironmongery**.—Axes, Saws, Hammers, Picks, Shovels, Cooking Utensils, Cutlery, Spoons, Forks, Plated-ware, Jewellery, Alfa Laval Separators, Rex Stoves, Beacon Light Stoves, Sewing Machines, Spray Pumps.

**Crockeryware**.—Glassware, Vases, Flower Pots, Lamps, Globes, Chimneys, Wicks, etc.

**Basketware** of All Kinds.

**Insurance**.—If you want your House or Barn covered against Loss by Fire or Lightning, we are Agents for the Atlas Assurance Co., Ltd.

**Shipping**.—If you want a trip to Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, or London, we can suit you. Agents for the Orient Line of Royal Mail Steamers—12,000 ton Boats.



**CHRISTMAS SEASON**  
1925.  
**E. Bytheway & Son**  
We hold full stocks for the  
FESTIVE SEASON, in each  
Department.

**LADIES' AND GENT'S**  
**FOOTWEAR.**  
IN NEW SHAPES AND  
DESIGNS.  
COOL SUMMER SLIPPERS,  
suitable for gifts.  
TENNIS SHOES, BOWLING  
SHOES, SAND SHOES,  
GIRLS AND BOYS' FOOT-  
WEAR, in all colours and fit-  
tings.  
CHILDREN'S GIFT SLIPPERS  
in endless variety.

**CROCKERY AND HARD-  
WARE DEPARTMENT.**  
SUIT CASES, HAT BOXES,  
BRIEF BAGS, KIT BAGS,  
TRUNKS, LABELS.  
Beautiful Assortment of TEA  
AND DINNER SERVICES,  
GLASSWARE, WATER SETS,  
JUGS, VASES, BUTTER AND  
SUGARS, SALAD BOWLS,  
JARDINIERES, TUMBLERS  
AND WINE GLASSES,  
STAINLESS CUTLERY,  
FORKS, SPOONS, PLATED  
WARE, CRUETS, VACUUM  
FLASKS, BREAD BOARDS,  
POCKET CUTLERY,  
TENTS AND FLYS for Camp-  
ers.  
SADDLES AND BRIDLES,  
WHITE SEWING MACHINES,  
BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY LAMPS  
CLOCKS, WATCHES, ETC.  
It is impossible to quote  
prices for every line, but our  
goods are always marked at  
**LOW CASH PRICES.**  
Examine our Window Display.  
**E. Bytheway & Son**  
Agents for Orient Line of  
Steamers.

A few years before 1925, the store was thoroughly remodeled and had a fine plate glass window front installed. This resulted in a marked expansion of trade, the show windows always presenting an attractive appearance.<sup>585</sup> The store was fully stocked with anything the Gympie heart could desire, miners and all.

The store was still going strong in 1925, being run by Edward junior. The store had continued to be held in high regard in Gympie for some fifty-eight years, and now carrying the largest up to date stock of ladies' and men's footwear in the Gympie district. The store also specialised in good reliable sports shoes with rubbered soles, admirably adapted for tennis, cricket, bowling and seaside wear. By now it had also held the agency for the Orient Shipping Company in Gympie for over 40 years. This was a Store where 'the crockery and glassware department contains full stocks of tea and dinner ware, and a choice assortment of glassware, ornaments and goods suitable for Christmas presents. The hardware department includes cooking utensils, stoves, cutlery, spoons and forks, travelling goods, tents and flys, saddles and bridles, also wire mattresses in all sizes. The window display is particularly attractive and worthy of inspection.'

1927

**E. BYTHEWAY & SON**  
(ESTABLISHED 1868.)

THIS old Firm is still going as strong as ever. We will be pleased to re-  
new old friendships and have a talk over old times. Our store is  
fully stocked up with the following lines of Merchandise :—

Boots and Shoes for Ladies and Men ; Footwear for the  
Children ; Sporting Shoes for all games. ; Leather, Grind-  
ery, and all Shoe Findings.

Crockeryware, Glassware, Chinaware, Ornaments, Cutlery,  
Platedware, Travelling Goods, Wire Mattresses, Fibre  
Mattresses, Kapoek Bedding, Pillows, Japanese  
Blinds and many other lines.

**E. BYTHEWAY & SON.**  
(ESTABLISHED 1868.)

<sup>585</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 December 1925



1929 showing the Union Jack flying

From its beginnings, E Bytheway and Son always sold a broad range of goods, and by 1927 it was like a department store, the likes of which is not found in Gympie these days, but could be likened to, on a smaller scale, David Jones or Myer. It carried handmade on site and

imported boots and shoes; leather goods; saddles; ironmongery; crockery ware, glassware, chinaware; plated ware; basket ware; cutlery; ornaments; travelling goods; mattresses and pillows; sporting goods; insurance and shipping. It must also be remembered that it catered for items required by the mines and miners, and the cream separator for the dairy farmers. And just in case you needed assistance to put on those fine boots and shoes, they also carried these exquisite shoe horns<sup>586</sup>.



During the First World War in 1918, Edward Junior had not lost the enthusiasm for the Store starting the new year with a 'Great sale of Plated-ware and Silverware ... at a discount of 10 percent ... on all articles of Plated-ware and Silverware 2/- in the £ ... the following are the articles offered:- Cruets; Breakfast Cruets; Egg Frames; Toast Racks; Pickle Cruets; Biscuit Jars; Cake Stands; Wine Frames; Fruit Dishes; Butter Dishes; Honey Jars; Jam Dishes; Sugar Bowls; Hot Water Jugs; Claret Jugs; Crumb Scoops; Salad Bowls; Carver Sets; Fish Servers; Tea Pots etc etc ... All Best English Electro-Plate by

<sup>586</sup> Items held on display at the Gympie Gold and Historical Museum

Cooper Bros. and C. Johnson and Co,<sup>587</sup> all this giving an inkling to dietary styles of the day. In 1919 the store was still stocking the Alfa Laval Cream Separator and all spare parts for that item; Viking Separators; Queensland Cattle Dip; and Sewing Machines. The agency for the Orient Line of Steamers and the Atlas Fire Assurance Coy Ltd continued. Despite the plethora of goods being sold at this time including the boots and shoes, there has been no information available as to when Bytheway and Son actually ceased manufacturing hand-made boots and shoes.

The closure of Bytheway and Son in 1935 was marked by the words 'a link with the early life of Gympie was severed with the death of Alderman Edward Bytheway. Soon after the opening of the Gympie Goldfield in 1867 the business of E. Bytheway and Son was opened in Mary Street. Initiated by Alderman Bytheway's father, it was carried on until May last, when Alderman Bytheway, being 70 years old and suffering from ill health, decided to seek a rest.'<sup>588</sup> The store had eminently served Gympie for a record period of sixty-eight years, without a break, and in the same family.

### **Gympie Gas and Coke Company Ltd**

In Gympie's Municipal Chambers in the afternoon of 5 September 1881, a meeting was held of interested people to form a Gas Company. According to the sources, Edward Bytheway did not attend that meeting, but became instrumental immediately after in establishing the Gympie Gas and Coke Company. Those present who already had agreed on the benefits of bringing gas to Gympie were Messrs. Mellor, Ferguson, Bennett, Kidgell, Du Rietz, Booth, Rowe, Daniell, McGhie, Fleming, Bourcicault and F.R. Davis. Mr. Davis told the meeting that 'he had put down the capital as being £10,000 (equivalent to \$1,435,454 in 2016<sup>589</sup>).'<sup>590</sup>

Mr. Davis informed the meeting that the estimated cost of having gas mains and surface pipes extending over a surface of 3½ to 4 miles to be £7,500 (equivalent to \$1,076,590 in 2016); the Burrum Railway would carry the necessary coal to the Gympie Railway Station; according to the Council records and excluding the mines, public buildings, public lamps, and areas such as Lady Mary Terrace, Calton Hill, O'Connell Street, and Channon Street, that between O'Donnell's store and the Post Office there were 30 tenements which would give 10 consumers; between Nash's Gully and the Post Office there 106 tenements, giving 70 consumers; from Nash's Gully to the One-Mile there were 107 tenements, giving 40 consumers; on Mt Pleasant Road there were 69 tenements, giving 30 consumers; Graham Street had 22 tenements, giving 22 consumers; initially the Company would service 185 private consumers; and the gas works should be sited near the Railway Station at the foot of Horace Tozer's paddock; the main pipe would be carried to Nash's Gully and then there would be branches to the town, to the Monkland and Glanmire, down the Mount Pleasant Road and Graham Street.<sup>591</sup>

The Prospectus shows that the banker for the project was the Australia Joint Stock Bank, the solicitor was Horace Tozer, and explains that it will cost £8500 (equivalent

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<sup>587</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 31 January 1918

<sup>588</sup> The Courier Mail 24 August 1935

<sup>589</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>590</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 September 1881

<sup>591</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 September 1881



to \$1,220,136 in 2016<sup>592</sup>) to build. Gas coal would be provided from Maryborough by train. During the week of 6 October 1881, the Allotment Meeting was held for the allocation of shares.<sup>593</sup>

**Prospectus.**

**PROSPECTUS**  
OF THE  
**GYMPIE GAS AND COKE COMPANY,**  
LIMITED.

To be Registered under the Companies Act,  
limiting the Liability of the Shareholders.

**CAPITAL:**  
£10,000 in 10,000 Shares of £1 each; payable,  
1s. on Application, 2s. 6d. on Allotment, and  
the Balance by Calls of 2s. 6d. per Share at  
intervals of not less than one month.

**PROVISIONAL COMMITTEES:**

Matthew Mallor	H. W. Durlots
W. Ferguson	J. G. Kidgell
A. L. Bourcounit	W. Ferguson
J. B. Cullinane	E. H. Booth
W. J. Daniell	J. Bennett
W. Smythe	W. Scott
T. B. Tronson	M. J. O'Brien
E. Bythway	R. A. Pollock

(With power to add to their number.)

**BANKERS:**  
The Australian Joint Stock Bank.

**SOLICITOR:**  
Mr. Horace Tozer.

**PROVISIONAL SECRETARY:**  
Francis R. Davis.

Early application for Shares is necessary, as a large number have been disposed of, and must be made in the form annexed, addressed to the Provisional Directors, care of Davis & Smith, 44 Eagle-street, Brisbane, accompanied with a cash deposit of one shilling (1s.) per share, without which no application will be received.

The Share List will CLOSE on the 25th September.

**FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.**

To the Provisional Directors Gympie Gas and Coke Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—I hereby apply for — Shares in the above Company, and I agree to accept the same or any less number that may be allotted to me. I enclose the sum of £ , being the application money of 1s. per Share, and I also agree to sign the Deed of Association when called upon to do so, and to pay all Calls when made by the Company in respect to such Shares as may be allotted to me as in terms of the Prospectus.

Name in Full.....  
Occupation.....  
Address.....  
3017 Date .....

The estimated revenue and expenditure on the proposed capital for the first year may be given as follows:—

<b>REVENUE.</b>	
Sale of 250,000 cubic feet of gas per month—3,000,000 feet per annum, at 12s. per 1000 cubic feet	£2250 0 0
Sale of residuary products	200 0 0
	£2450 0 0
<b>EXPENDITURE.</b>	
355 tons of coal, at 12s. 6d.	£438 5 6
15 tons of lime, at 40s. ..	60 0 0
Manager	250 0 0
Two stokers, each twelve hours, at 10s. per shift	365 0 0
Secretary	100 0 0
Directors	120 0 0
Office expenses	120 0 0
Sundries	100 0 0
Yardman	78 0 0
	£1891 5 6
Net profit	£558 14 4

Early application for Shares is necessary, as a large number have been disposed of, and must be made in the form annexed, addressed to the Provisional Directors, care of Davis & Smith, 44 Eagle-street, Brisbane, accompanied with a cash deposit of one shilling (1s.) per share, without which no application will be received.

The Share List will CLOSE on the 25th September.

**T**HIS Company is formed for the purpose of Purchasing and Erecting the necessary Plant and Machinery for supplying the town of Gympie with Gas.

The Company will be registered under the Companies Act of 1863, limiting the liability of the shareholders.

On the completion of the waterworks, arrangements will be made for supplying the mines with Gas to the lowest levels.

The experience of other towns in the colony where Gas has been introduced tends to show that the introduction of Gas to Gympie will operate not only as a boon to the inhabitants but be an investment of a most lucrative character to the shareholders.

It is estimated that a plant sufficiently large to supply all immediate wants can be erected for the sum of £8500. This figure includes the necessary land and preliminary expenses.

By a very careful computation it has been ascertained that the number of consumers to commence with will be about 210, and the estimated consumption 3,000,000 cubic feet per annum.

On the opening of the Burrum Railway to Maryborough an unlimited supply of the finest gas coal could be obtained, delivered at the works, if erected in a position to be connected by a siding with the railway, at 18s. 2d. per ton.

<sup>592</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>  
<sup>593</sup> The Brisbane Courier 6 October 1881

Insurance issues were as critical way back then as they are now. Mr. Ferguson iterated that 'as long as we burn kerosene and had no water supply we could not expect to get insurance at a reasonable rate.'<sup>594</sup>

With Gympie's population having grown to almost 7,500, ostensibly a sound customer base, it was predicted that the Gympie Gas and Coke Company would be remarkably remunerative as an investment.<sup>595</sup> The first General Meeting of the Company on 14 December 1881 occurred in the Municipal Chambers in Gympie.<sup>596</sup>

**The first general meeting of the shareholders in the Gympie Gas and Coke Company is announced to be held at the Municipal Chambers, Mary-street, Gympie, on Wednesday, 14th December, at 8 o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of approving of the articles of association and electing directors and auditors.**

Apart from those members and shareholders who were unable to attend and tendered proxies, Edward Bytheway was joined at this meeting by Messrs. Mellor, Stuckey, Woodrow, Rohde, F.R. Davies, Whittingham, R.A. Pollock, Cuffe, Stretton, Ferguson (store), Daniell, Quinlan, Hendry, Du Rietz, Chapple, Ferguson (sawmill), Booth, Rowe, Frew, Nash, Stumm, Daunt, Walker, Crawford, Cullinane, Henderson.<sup>597</sup> The main purpose of the meeting was to endorse rules for appointment of directors and other office holders and the votes of shareholders. A glimmer of Bytheway's sense of humour comes through at this meeting when the discussion of directors having the appointment and control of the secretary and other officers occurred. His comment 'the wings of the directors have been clipped quite enough by the articles' was received with laughter.<sup>598</sup>

That meeting undertook a ballot for the appointment of Directors and Auditors, with the following results<sup>599</sup>, Edward Bytheway polling 275 votes. That meeting broke up at 1am!

Established under the *Gympie Gas and Coke Company Act of 1884*, the Gas and Coke works commenced operations on 18 December 1883 in a building designed by Hugo Du Rietz. It began providing light to Gympie, and then in 1909 it supplied heating, and power for cooking and other electrical appliances. In 1927, the Company had 500 consumers, and an estimated over 300 cookers had been supplied.

**The ballot resulted as follows:—**  
**DIRECTORS.**  
W. Ferguson—store—(852), Woodrow (782), Davis (643), Daniell (553), Scott (427), Ferguson—saw-mill—(460), Pollock (310) E. Bytheway (275), Potter (194), Cullinane (159), Durietz (30), Booth (20).  
Messrs. Ferguson (store), Woodrow, Davis, Daniell, and Scott were declared elected.  
**AUDITORS.**  
W. Compigne (748), H. Y. Daunt (734), T. Campbell (150), A. H. Zillman (134), E. H. Booth (20).  
Messrs. Compigne and Daunt were elected.

It is a credit to Edward Bytheway and his colleagues that this facility was established without recourse to the Government for loans. How fortunate was Gympie to have benefited from their business insight. The Company delivered its services well, with one

Comment [P1]:  
Comment [P2]:

<sup>594</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 September 1881  
<sup>595</sup> The Brisbane Courier 1 October 1881  
<sup>596</sup> The Brisbane Courier 6 October 1881  
<sup>597</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Gazette 17 December 1881  
<sup>598</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Gazette 17 December 1881  
<sup>599</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Gazette 17 December 1881

of its foundations being a focus on customer service, something we often find lacking these days from private providers of such public utilities.

The Gympie Gas Company 'was registered on 3 February 1882, with a capital of £10,000 (equivalent to \$1,435,459 in 2016<sup>600</sup>), divided into 10,000 shares of 20/- each (equivalent to \$144 2016 in 2016<sup>601</sup>). This sum was subsequently increased to £20,000 (equivalent to \$2,871,051 in 2016<sup>602</sup>) by the creation of 10,000 new £1 shares (equivalent to \$144 in 2016<sup>603</sup>), the whole of which has been subscribed.'<sup>604</sup> The Company could confidently be described as a forerunner of community service obligations. The Memorandum Land Articles of Association of the Gympie Gas Company (Limited) was printed at the *Gympie Times* in 1882.<sup>605</sup>

With Edward Bytheway as the Chairman of Directors, no less could be expected. The Company made a regular annual donation of £5/5/- (equivalent to \$754 in 2016<sup>606</sup>) to the Gympie Hospital. From the time of the establishment of the Company, Edward Bytheway continued to preside over all meetings of shareholders. Meetings were held every fortnight, six months and annually. What comes through in Edward's management style as Chairman of Directors, a role he held for some thirty-three years until he died, was consistent optimism combined with a pragmatic approach to the unpredictable nature of the gold yield which affected the Company's profitability. His hands on approach was to regularly inspect the plant and operations. He applied his analytical approach to the economic conditions, including taxation liabilities and future planning noting that investments with a long term maturation expired before returning profit to the company. By 1904, (the year before he died) the Company retained fluctuating, if not successful, profitability.

During 1892 and 1893, severe drought prevented the Company from being able to pay the shareholders their usual dividends. His counsel to his fellow Directors was that they were to 'use utmost efforts to work the Company as economically as possible ... [and to ensure that shareholders had to be kept on side 'to prevent them from disposing of their interest'<sup>607</sup>, because shares had fallen to less than half of their capital value.

The half yearly meeting on 30 July 1894 confirmed that the Gympie Gas and Coke Company had maintained its profitable trend and had been well managed.<sup>608</sup> Early in the life of the Company, suggestions were being made by Directors that shareholders be invited to take up increased numbers of shares, so that the overdraft could be addressed more effectively. Edward Bytheway cautioned on this with the advice that such a move needed to be thoroughly considered. His counsel was to consider offering new shares or to issue debentures. Such was the wisdom of his management duly accepted by the Directors.

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<sup>600</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>601</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>602</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>603</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>604</sup> Photo taken from Historical Sketch of Gympie 1868-1927. Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days.

Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927. Page 125

<sup>605</sup> <https://books.google.com.au/books?id=7HtENAAACAAJ&dq=Gympie+Gas+Company&num=4&client=internal-uds&cd=1&source=uds&hl=en>

<sup>606</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>607</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 July 1895

<sup>608</sup> The Queenslander 11 August 1894

In 1896, Edward Bytheway was Mayor while still undertaking his role as Chairman of Directors. The Company continued to operate successfully and at a profit. Consistent with its fourteenth annual report to shareholders, it delivered a dividend of 5 percent per annum. The profit for the past half year had been £1,004/11/11 (equivalent to \$144,205 in 2016<sup>609</sup>.) The prospects for the Company were encouraging even though 'there were always little changes on the goldfield'<sup>610</sup>. As the Gympie District was still recovering from depression, as well as bearing the heavy liabilities for new taxation laws, Edward's pragmatism would show in comments such as it has been a successful year, but 'gold yield was the indicator which governed the Gas Company as well as other industries on the field'.<sup>611</sup> He saw signs of revival in the mining industry that would have a positive impact on the Company, and was predicting that dividends to the shareholders would be paid as usual. In addition, the Chairman announced that Messrs. Woodrow and Bytheway had been re-elected to the Board of Directors. Mr. Alfred R. Ranson was auditor.

Sixteen years after its establishment, the Company, successful with its substantial profitable position such that Mr. Henderson the sawmill owner, proffered that the Company might extend its dividend from 6 percent to 8 percent, based on the agreement at a 26 July 1897 meeting that 'present prospects of the Company were never better or brighter than at the present time'.<sup>612</sup> Again, the cautious economic wisdom of Edward Bytheway played in at this time declaring that it was better to keep the dividend at 6 percent, so that the overdraft could continue to be cleared. Edward based this on the fact that it was at the fifteenth Annual Meeting in 1897 that he announced that although it had been a profitable year, it was not sufficient to return the 6 percent dividend to the shareholders. He continued to iterate that the Company had to be ever mindful that the 'goldfields are subject to very considerable fluctuations in business ... [there was] no steady volume of increasing business for any length of time ... the Gympie municipality was of great extent'.<sup>613</sup> He stated that considerable outlays were required to extend mains ... [however] 'the Company's works and freehold property were a credit to the town'.<sup>614</sup> The Company was supplying good quality gas to its consumers.

The Gympie Gas Company Directors 'thought their first duty was to consumers, and by looking after them it would be the best way to make provision for the shareholders'.<sup>615</sup> This strategy was expressed at a half yearly meeting of the Company presided over by Edward Bytheway on 29 July 1898, with fellow Directors Messrs. W. Smyth, J. Woodrow, W. Davies, W.H. Kelly, T. Sim, and A.G. Ramsey. This group had agreed that 'on or after the first of August next a reduction in the price of gas be made to 10s [equivalent to \$72 in 2016<sup>616</sup>] per 1,000 feet [305 metres], to all consumers of 500 feet [152 metres] and upwards'.<sup>617</sup> In Edward's words, 'the concession might not be a large one, but in the aggregate it would mean a considerable reduction in the income of the Company ... low prices stimulated consumption ... he [Edward Bytheway] trusted the prosperity and

<sup>609</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>610</sup> The Brisbane Courier 29 January 1896

<sup>611</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 January 1896

<sup>612</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 July 1897

<sup>613</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 January 1897

<sup>614</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 January 1897

<sup>615</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 July 1898

<sup>616</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>617</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 July 1898

development of the gold field was the precursor of better times ahead for the Gas Company. The Directors were doing their best to take advantage of any business which might arise from that prosperity which they were all participating in to a certain degree'.<sup>618</sup>

The Company's mains were being extended in every direction where business promised, but this business could be compromised by the immense distances involved in the Gympie district. In the same year, a new contract was made with the Municipal Council to light the town with incandescent burners. These were quite successful and worked well, but for a weakness, the fragile mantles which needed to be made of a much more durable material.

As Chairman of Directors, Edward Bytheway reported at the half yearly meeting of the Company on 28 July 1899 that it was in such a good financial position it was able to declare a 6 percent dividend. This Company which Edward Bytheway had done so much to establish was going well; he said that 'anyone at all acquainted with the vast extent of the Gympie Municipality would be surprised at the accomplishment of as much as they had really managed. They had extended their mains and service pipes to almost the whole populous of the goldfield.'<sup>619</sup>

Plans for other improvements and extensions were on the way to meet the considerable and growing demands of the business. A great achievement of the Company was the high standard of maintenance of the works and its thorough efficiency, no doubt due in large part to the standards set by Edward Bytheway. Two of its original Directors Mr. M. Mellor and Mr. Smyth died. Not only did Edward lose two of his close colleagues, genuine men like Bytheway himself, but Gympie lost two men who had devoted the whole of their working lives 'to the interests and welfare of the citizens of the goldfield.'<sup>620</sup> Over a long period of time Edward had relied on the sound wisdom and counsel of both men, who had both been the two best known citizens of Gympie. Both Smyth and Mellor had been Mayors of Gympie and members of Queensland's Legislative Assembly. Smyth was a solid citizen of Gympie with many years experience as a working gold miner, including in News South Wales goldfields, and he managed No.1 North Phoenix mine, as well as being on the board of directors for eight Gympie gold mines. He was one of the first members of the Gympie Municipal Council. Mellor's first trade was as a butcher, but he also worked as a miner and in the timber trade. Both had skills and expertise that would have left a void for Edward.

On Thursday 21 January 1901, the Gympie Gas Company held its Annual General Meeting for shareholders in the Company's Office in Monkland Street. Nine shareholders were present including Edward Bytheway presiding as Chairman of Directors. The reports confirmed the Company continued to be in a sound financial position, and noted that 'the incandescent gas light was the cheapest and best form of lighting that science had yet discovered ... [and that the Company] was in a position to do increased business in this direction. The Company's mains were fairly well extended throughout the Municipality; it was in touch with the bulk of the people and they desired householders to benefit the company by becoming customers. The Company constructed connections with its mains and carried its service pipes into the properties of householders absolutely free in all cases, and its courteous manager would be always

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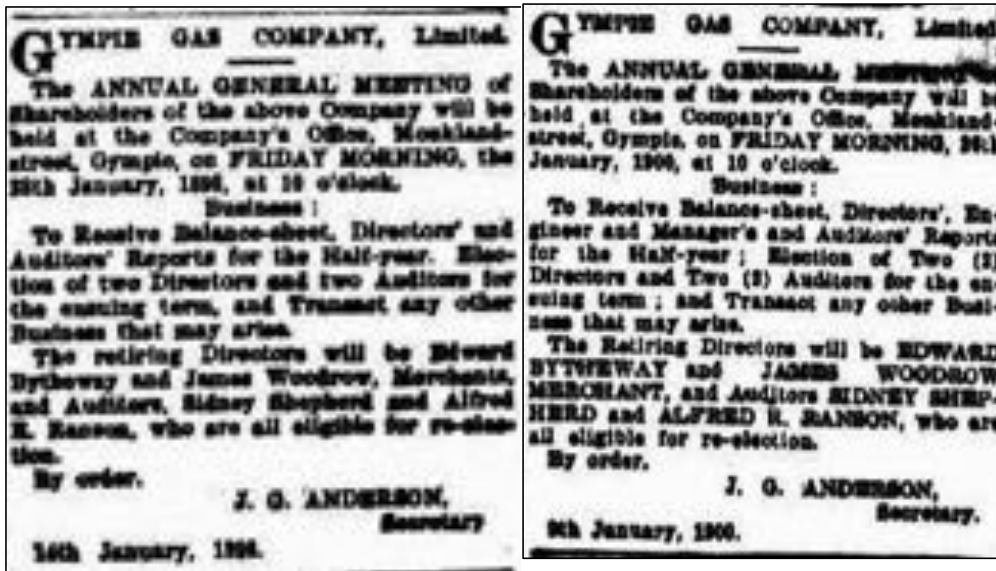
<sup>618</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 July 1898

<sup>619</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 July 1899

<sup>620</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 July 1899

ready to meet customers or consumers on matters that would be mutually advantageous to the Company and the customer. The Company's greatest concern had always been the vast extent of the Municipality, and the scattered nature of the population. Most of the Company's investment was in pipes below the ground. However the Company was gradually addressing this, and in a very few years it would overcome the difficulty of reaching the people.'<sup>621</sup>

Edward Bytheway had created a facility that was splendid in appearance, clean and a credit to the district.



*The Brisbane Courier* 10 and 17 January 1898  
*The Brisbane Courier* 10 January 1900

Together with a year of drought in 1902, the Company had also to contend with a new *Local Government Act* which introduced new rating clauses, and a lot of interference in the Company with increased taxation measures. Edward Bytheway began his report at the Annual General Meeting of 31 January 1902 by saying that the last 'half year had begun in dull times and the dullness had continued ... the most cheering thing was that they were able to make their usual dividend ... the erection of two new sets of retorts had been commenced and when some new castings arrived from England, the retorts would be completed and prove a very valuable addition to the plant ... everything about the works was in first class order and condition.' He was also of the view that once they had tested the new retorts he was sure they could double the output of gas supplies. He was reelected as Chairman of Directors at that meeting.<sup>622</sup> At this meeting, Edward's son put a positive spin on the situation, by commenting that 'the shareholders hold the view that all is satisfactory, otherwise more of them would have been at the meeting'.<sup>623</sup>

<sup>621</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 2 February 1901

<sup>622</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 1 February 1902

<sup>623</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 1 February 1902

On Friday 31 July 1903, Edward Bytheway presiding over the half yearly meeting of shareholders of the Gympie Gas Company, informed them of a good operating profit, and a 6 percent dividend. Under Edward Bytheway's direction, the Company achieved 'several extensions, alterations and repairs to the Company's mains, service pipes, and meters ... and supply pipes to new lamps and gas consumers were completed as required. The works and apparatus throughout are maintained in a thorough state of efficiency.'<sup>624</sup> His comment to the Directors was that 'the position of the Company ... for a provincial town ... is a very satisfactory one'.<sup>625</sup>

In 1904, Mr. W.H. Kelly, the engineer upon whom Edward Bytheway and his fellow Directors had relied on from the inception of the Company, died, which was a great loss to the Company. At this time, Edward's colleagues in the company were Messrs. W. Davies, W. Henderson, J.S. Cullinane and D. Menzies; Messrs. C.B. Steele, C.C. Caston, A.G. Ramsey, and Mr. J. G. Anderson (Secretary). He remained Director of the Company (Chairman of Directors) until his death in 1905.

The last two meetings chaired by Edward Bytheway Edward would have been the Annual General Meeting of the Company on 26 January 1905 and the half yearly meeting of 28 July 1905.

He would have been very satisfied with progress that year with a fine new gasholder being completed, bringing the Company's storage capacity to 100,000 feet [30,480 metres] of gas. A new brick exhaust house with an exhauster and two gas engines had also been built. The overdraft had still not been cleared, but there was still room to consider reducing the price of gas and improving the quality of gas being supplied to consumers.<sup>626</sup>

By July 1905, the Company had a greater number of consumers and had introduced the shilling in the slot system. Bytheway concluded the half yearly meeting with some words dedicated to the Company, its success and its employees, 'he was in a way one of the company, and, in a way, part of the institution, having been connected with it for a long time. He was pleased to see what was likely to be the full success of the company. All that was wanting was good times and the company would become one of the best existing on Gympie. They had a new holder which had cost them some £3,000 (equivalent to \$430,636 in 2016<sup>627</sup>), and an exhaust that cost them another £300 (\$43,064<sup>628</sup>), and they had done a lot of useful work. Their Manager had risen to the occasion and proved in every way capable of undertaking the responsibilities. Both the Secretary and Manager were good, straight men. He would like to say a word for all the company's employees. The Company would do good work yet; he did not think they would be allowed to pay a higher percentage, but they would accumulate funds.'<sup>629</sup>

The half yearly meeting of shareholders on 27 January 1906, paid strong tribute to Edward Bytheway, his son being present at that meeting. The shareholders acknowledged the great loss to the Company of their late Chairman 'who was always most attentive to the interests of the Company, and whose place as Chairman of

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<sup>624</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 1 August 1903

<sup>625</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 January 1903

<sup>626</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 January 1905

<sup>627</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>628</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>629</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 July 1905

Directors would be hard to fill.<sup>630</sup> He had contributed a dedicated twenty-four years to the sound management and productivity of the Gympie Gas Company, a major enterprise for Queensland. It would have bothered him that the Company had not had the best year possible with their having been some heavy outlays on repairs and maintenance and keeping plant up to date.

Edward's son followed in his father's footsteps to become Chairman of the Board and was still Chairman in 1927.<sup>631</sup> It was said that Edward junior was a 'consistent supporter of gold mining and is Chairman of Directors of the Gympie Gas Company'.<sup>632</sup> In addition he was nominated as a member of the Wages Board for the south western division of Queensland for the Gas Working Industry Board.<sup>633</sup> He is recorded as presiding over meetings of the Company, as well as annual meetings, and sustaining the Company in such a profitable position as to continue to declare its dividend of 6 percent and provide its annual donation to the Gympie Hospital of £5 5s, despite that in 1908, he had to contend with an economic depression.<sup>634</sup>

Gas Working Industry Board: William Lane (Toowoomba), Edward Bytheway (Gympie), and John Fleming (Bundaherg), employers' representatives; Henry Lewis (Toowoomba), employees' representative.

**WAGES BOARDS.**

The Annual General Meeting Notice for 30 January 1908 meeting

**GYMPIE GAS COMPANY.**  
 The ANNUAL MEETING of Shareholders of the Gympie Gas Company will be held at the Company's Office, Monkland-street, on THURSDAY, January 30, 1908, at 10 a.m.  
 Business: To receive Balance-sheet, Directors', Manager's, and Auditors' reports for the half-year, and transact any other business that may arise.  
 The retiring Directors will be W. Henderson, Esq. (Saw-mill Proprietor), and E. Bytheway, Esq. (Merchant), and Auditors, S. Shepherd and J. Jackson, who are all eligible for re-election.  
 The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 20th to the 30th instant, in accordance with clause 24 of the Company's Articles.  
 By order,  
 J. G. ANDERSON, Secretary.  
 January 14, 1908.

<sup>630</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 January 1906

<sup>631</sup> The Brisbane Courier 17 January 1908

<sup>632</sup> The Daily Mail Brisbane 20 June 1922

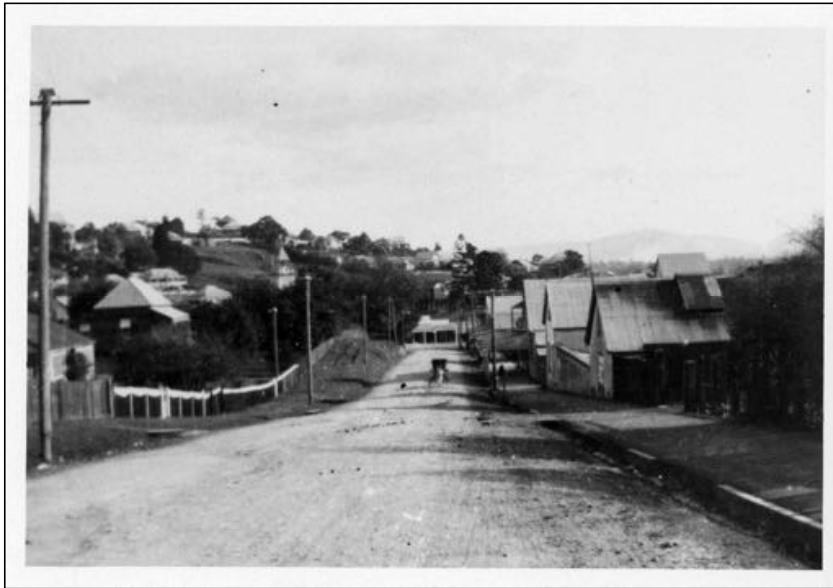
<sup>633</sup> The Brisbane Courier 21 November 1912

<sup>634</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 January 1908





The Gympie Gas Works Mellor Street<sup>635</sup>



Mellor Street. The Gas Works are on the right where the pathway widens. The current location of the Fiveways is at the bottom of the street behind the horse and cart. The top of the Council Town Hall Tower can be seen on the left of the photograph.

<sup>635</sup> Gasworks, Mellor Street, site of Civic Centre, Gympie Times Photo. Donor to the Gympie Regional Library R. Sami May 1997



Looking from the Fiveways up Mellor Street in the 1930s. The Air Dome Theatre and the Olympia Theatre are the first two buildings on the left.



The large gas light shown here, found in Gympie, is 500mm by 350mm (20" by 14") and has three mantles. It would probably have been used in a shop or theatre. The chains operate the on/off gas valve via the overhead lever.<sup>636</sup>

In 1916, the Gympie City Council under Mayor Weller, was arranging with Mr. W.F. Turk, an electrical engineer from Brisbane, to install an electric light plant. The company would become known as the Electric Light Co. The plan was that it would go into operation by the end of March 1916 and to light up the whole of Mary Street by 1 July 1916.<sup>637</sup> The Gas Company was still operating but had been bought out by the Gas Company Limited of Melbourne. With the introduction of electricity, use of gas went into decline. Edward Bytheway gave Gympie a valuable asset which improved the quality of life for Gympieites, which would be later replaced with electricity.

Gympie's Civic Centre, which opened in 1977, covers the area that once was home to the gasworks' engine rooms and its giant holding tanks. The gasworks was bordered on one side by Mellor Street, the main thoroughfare that meandered from the railway station at

<sup>636</sup> <http://www.museum.gympiegoldmuseum.com.au/files/other/FF-GAS-LAMP.pdf>

<sup>637</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 March 1916

one end along and down into Mary Street. This site is a place where Edward Bytheway spent a lot of his time.

By 1928 the Gympie Gas Company like the Ipswich Gas and Coal Company, changed hands to be merged with the Colonial Gas Association, which pays a 'tribute to the manner in which the company's boards of directors over a long period of years have laid the foundations of the company'.<sup>638</sup>

Recognition of Edward Bytheway is long overdue, that is apparent. The Gas Works brought Gympie great improvement in its comfort and life style and should merit recognition in Gympie's special historical past.



Gympie Civic Centre (the site of the Gas Works and later Olympia Theatre)<sup>639</sup>

### **Gympie Agricultural Mining and Pastoral Society (GAMPS)**

The Gympie Agricultural Mining and Pastoral Society (GAMPS) was established in 1877 with its Patron being the then Governor, Sir Arthur Kennedy, and President Dr. John Robinson Benson. Dr. Benson, an Irishman, emigrated to Australia in 1867 and set up a medical practice in Rockhampton. 'In November 1870 Benson was appointed government medical officer at Gympie at a salary of £30 [equivalent to \$4,306 in 2016]<sup>640</sup>. His varied activities in the district indicated his wide interests and sympathies and he built up a large private practice ... he acted as returning officer for Gympie in the 1877 elections. When an Agricultural Society was formed at Gympie the *Brisbane Courier*, 21 April 1877, commented, 'Dr. Benson who, like Oliver Goldsmith, is overflowing, not with vanity, but with energy and perseverance, was elected president of the society'. He resigned from government service in 1884 and left for Melbourne, where he died at St Kilda, [aged forty-nine years old] on 25 July 1885.<sup>641</sup>

The Gympie Agricultural Mining and Pastoral Society came to fruition on 17 March 1877 when after the ploughing match had been successfully held, a group of people, chaired by Mr. W. Scott, agreed at the Seven-Mile Hotel to form an Agricultural Society. Mr. Mellor promised £20 to help the Society become established and 23 people expressed willingness to become members.<sup>642</sup> On 13 April 1877, the newly formed

<sup>638</sup> The Brisbane Courier 1 March 1928

<sup>639</sup> <http://kitconn.blogspot.com.au/2013/06/the-age-of-innocence-and-time-of.html> The Age of Innocence; and the Time of Awakening 23 June 2013

<sup>640</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>641</sup> Bell, Jacqueline. Australian Dictionary of Biography. This article was published in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 3, (MUP), 1969

<sup>642</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 20 April 1878

Society received a telegram from the Queensland Minister for Lands that 'the limestone reserve, better known as Tucker's paddock, had been granted on condition that the *bone fide* nature of the Society and that it was a permanent Institution were guaranteed to him ... the Society was at liberty to occupy the ground at once.'<sup>643</sup> The Society also agreed on the same evening's meeting that 'the end of May would be the best time to hold the Society's shows, and that the Society should be called 'the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society.'<sup>644</sup> The event became known as 'The Show'.

In 1878 Hugo Du Rietz had a set of plans for 'the proposed building for the Association ... the design is excellent, and if carried out will prove as useful as ornamental.'<sup>645</sup> In 1883-1884, Hugo Du Rietz oversighted the construction of the Gympie Showground's buildings (which have since been replaced).

Edward Bytheway soon became involved in the management and initiatives associated with the Gympie Agricultural Mining and Pastoral Society's Show and became a member in 1887. He entered exhibits, and in 1890, he was judge of certain of the competitions held at the Show, such as Recitation, Verse Competition, and Letters in Business Writing.

As with his other interests, his wife supported him, she being a judge of the Plain and Fancy Work Section of the Show, with her good friend Mrs. J.G. Kidgell.<sup>646</sup> In 1890, she was judge for the Needlework and Juvenile Industries' competitions for Recitation, Verse, Letters in Business Writing, general knowledge, and song.<sup>647</sup>



The Gympie Show Grounds and new buildings in 1884

Ten years after the first Gympie Show, the Committee had to face the fact that the January 1887 Show was not a success either financially or in any other sense, 'its main feature centred in the splendid array of pot plants exhibited by Messrs. Watts, Ayers, and E. Bytheway, those of the latter not for competition. These exhibits constituted by the far the best display of the sort ever seen in the district, and of themselves were well worth the trouble of going to see.'<sup>649</sup> This suggests that Edward Bytheway among his many talents, was a keen gardener. Messrs. Bytheway, Watts, and Ayers successfully featured again as three principal competitors in the Summer Show of the Gympie

<sup>643</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 April 1877

<sup>644</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 April 1877

<sup>645</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 20 April 1878

<sup>646</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 25 September 1890

<sup>647</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 25 September 1890

<sup>648</sup> The Life and Times of the Gympie Show <http://www.gympieshow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Brief-History-for-website.pdf> (accessed 4 July 2014)

<sup>649</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 January 1887

Agricultural, Mining, and Pastoral Society which opened on Tuesday afternoon 27 December 1887, 'in the Drill Hall under depressing conditions, the heavy downpour of rain effectually precluding anything like an attendance of the public, and necessitating a postponement of the exhibition until the afternoon of 29 December 1887.'<sup>650</sup> With so many commitments, one wonders when Edward Bytheway had time to tend flowers to a show quality standard, but he did. He and his fellow prize winners were commended for the 'care and taste exhibited in the display of their floral treasures ... a beautiful fuchsia the property of Mr. E. Bytheway.'<sup>651</sup>

On 25 November 1891, Edward Bytheway chaired the annual meeting of the members of the Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Association. This was a particularly important meeting as the members had significantly improved the success of the Society despite the ongoing depression. He informed the meeting that 'the popularity of our annual exhibitions does not diminish, as evidenced by the very large attendance on the second day of our last Show ... your committee spared no effort in preparing an attractive programme and the entries in the various sections provided in the schedule were quite up to the average of former years.'<sup>652</sup>

In March 1892, an Agricultural Societies' Conference of delegates from the Agricultural and Industrial Societies of Gympie, Bundaberg and Maryborough was held at the office of the secretary of the Wide Bay and Burnett Pastoral and Agricultural Society (Mr. James Marsden). Edward Bytheway and Mr. A. Hutchinson attended this conference as representatives of the Gympie Agricultural Mining and Pastoral Association, as did others from the Bundaberg Agricultural Society, and the Wide Bay and Burnett Pastoral and Agricultural Society. The Conference members agreed after much discussion that combined district shows would be held every three years, allowing each town to hold their own annual shows if they wanted to. But it was Edward Bytheway who ensured 'that the Society where the district show is held shall take the whole of the proceeds and pay the whole of the expenses'.<sup>653</sup> He brought the much needed sensible logic to this arrangement because the motion of one of the members from the Bundaberg Agricultural Society had proposed that it 'would be scarcely fair to the society where the district show was held. There would be certain membership privileges which they would claim, and it would be a difficult to raise £200 in addition to the ordinary claims on the members of the society. Then the towns where the show was not held in a certain year would get little benefit from the show.'<sup>654</sup> Edward Bytheway thought the separate Societies would scarcely accept such a resolution. In the event, the first combined district show was held in 1892 in Maryborough. Gympie has continued to have its annual Shows, with the organisation now called the Gympie District Society Inc. What a tremendous legacy he left behind with the annual Gympie Show being a highlight in the program of events in Gympie; it has been a great family event for the past 139 years.

Edward's effective leadership skills maintained the enthusiasm of members of the Committee to prepare activities for each Gympie Show. For example at the 29 August 1893 meeting which he chaired, he coordinated discussion for such matters as appointment of judges and stewards for exhibitions, special trains for people to use to

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<sup>650</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 December 1887

<sup>651</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 December 1887

<sup>652</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 1 December 1891

<sup>653</sup> The Brisbane Courier 10 March 1892

<sup>654</sup> The Brisbane Courier 10 March 1892

get to the Show, the completion of the Channon Street Bridge and getting school children involved to put on concerts.<sup>655</sup>

At the Rockhampton Agricultural Conference in May 1898, a comment was made that 'the trouble and vexation the average farmer has to contend with in disposing of his produce is well worthy of serious consideration from the Agricultural Department.'<sup>656</sup> Now Edward Bytheway was at that Conference and proffered 'that farmers want educating on the subject of co-operation; also that they should pay more attention to the present produce in a better style. As to the first part, two co-operative societies have started on Gympie, and the farmer has been bitten in both cases. Well, if, "if once bitten is twice shy", it will be seen with the aid of arithmetic that the shyness of farmers around Gympie is now down to 4. As for the second part, would it not be as well to leave that for the retail dealer? Wholesale, a first class article will recommend itself.'<sup>657</sup> At that Conference, the Hon. Minister for Agriculture summed up that the producers' grievance seemed to be that scarcity should be the rule among consumers when his harvest was plentiful.

By 1900 Edward Bytheway was President of the Society. He arranged for that year's show to be opened by the Hon. Mr. J.G. Drake Postmaster-General and Minister for Instruction. Mr. Drake proposed 'Success to the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society'. The high level of success of the Show was a true reflection on the skills and extraordinary commitment by Edward Bytheway as he informed Mr. Drake and those present that the 'Society was now free of debt'<sup>658</sup> and that 'as regards the quantity and quality of exhibits, the show was the most successful held by the Society since it was founded twenty years ago'.<sup>659</sup> In this year in the *Implements and Machinery Section* of the Society's Show, 'the judges awarded first prize to Messrs. E. Bytheway and Son for their Alpha Laval Cream Separators which ranged from a capacity of 10 up to 100 gallons of milk per hour.'<sup>660</sup> It should not be forgotten that Hugo Du Rietz had been accredited with bringing the first one of these separators to Gympie which made possible the beginning of the butter industry in Gympie and Edward's possibility to have built the butter factory up on Tozer Road.

Edward had long realized that 'if the Gympie district, from an industrial standpoint, is anything besides mining, it is pastoral. It cannot be called an agricultural centre, because the best land is mostly flooded, although there are some really good patches ... [so] he became determined to assist the farming community to make the pastoral industry a more profitable one. With several other prominent gentlemen he therefore inaugurated the movement for the establishment of a butter factory.'<sup>661</sup>

Edward Bytheway was a delegate from the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society at the Warwick Agricultural Conference in 1900. The Conference had attracted some 200 attendees. As part of the Conference he visited the Hermitage Experimental Farm located near Warwick. Keeping in mind his strong interest in the commercial aspects of the agricultural and pastoral industries of the Gympie District, he noted that

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<sup>655</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 31 August 1893

<sup>656</sup> The Queenslander 17 September 1898

<sup>657</sup> The Queenslander 17 September 1898

<sup>658</sup> The Brisbane Courier 13 September 1900

<sup>659</sup> The Brisbane Courier 13 September 1900

<sup>660</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 15 September 1900

<sup>661</sup> Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men. Compiled by the Alcazar Press Brisbane . W.H. Wendt & Co Printers Edward Street Brisbane, 1900 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-36615454> Page 116

the Hermitage Experimental Farm and the whole of the Downs country from Toowoomba beyond Killarney, was suitable 'for the growing wheat, maize, potatoes, oats, barley, lucerne, swedes, mangolds, turnips, in fact every product of the temperate zone.'<sup>662</sup> He also commented favourably on the Yangan Cheese Factory which had been exceptionally successful in its 'manufacture and marketing of its hams, bacon, butter, cheese.' On his visit to the Gatton Agricultural College with the delegates, he noted the splendid soil around the College buildings and the Lockyer Creek and its safety from floods; the success of using Guernsey cows for dairy production; Berkshire, Yorkshire and red Tamworth pigs for hams, bacon and pork products, and the thriving crops of swedes, mangolds, turnips, potatoes, carrots, parsnips, cabbages, oats, and lucerne. He could not help but notice the scarcity of timber for fuel and fences and the lack of shelter on the Central Downs for crops and stock, as compared to the well wooded areas of the coastal hinterlands. Edward Bytheway could not fathom why there had not been any initiative to establish 'plantations of quick growing trees and shrubs like the silky oak, the hoop pine, durnata etc.' to redress this problem.<sup>663</sup>

He presided over a well-attended meeting of the Society on 19 August 1902. A significant matter noted at this meeting was a copy of a letter from the North Bundaberg Association 'asking the Premier to place the necessary machinery in motion to raise a loan of £3,000,000 [equivalent to \$430,636,183 in in 2016<sup>664</sup>] to be used in the construction of works for the adequate conservation of water and the propagation of irrigation areas.'<sup>665</sup> The meeting agreed to give the North Bundaberg Association full support in its endeavours.

In 1901 and 1902, Edward Bytheway was Patron to the Society.<sup>666</sup> His name appears amongst the list of members for 1904 published in the *Gympie Times*.<sup>667</sup> His resignation as President is recorded in the meeting of the Society of 1 November 1904. A great deal of regret was expressed at this meeting that he would no longer be President.<sup>668</sup> He clearly was a 'prominent worker for the Gympie Agricultural Mining and Pastoral Society for very many years and he did good work on the committee.'<sup>669</sup>

### **Proposed Railway Extensions 1900**

On 25 May 1900 Edward Bytheway appeared before a Queensland Government Royal Commission concerning proposed railway extensions. The routes proposed were for the Nanango Railway-the Kilkivan, Crow's Nest, Esk and Caboolture routes. As ever Edward Bytheway had Gympie's interests at the forefront. Another local from Gympie, George Stuckey, Produce Merchant and Farmer, also gave evidence to the Royal Commission in support of Gympie's claims.

Edward Bytheway held strong economic views that Maryborough should be the port for Gympie at that time and into the long term future, with it complementing the rail service for the carriage of produce and to keep prices as low as possible and to ensure that produce would be getting to the market as fresh as possible.

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<sup>662</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 July 1900

<sup>663</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 July 1900

<sup>664</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>665</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 August 1902

<sup>666</sup> Queensland Country Life 1 December 1901 and Queensland Country Life 1 January 1902

<sup>667</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 20 May 1905

<sup>668</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 3 November 1904

<sup>669</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 20 May 1905

With Maryborough having lost much of its buzz as a town (and its ship building industry no longer exists), it seems a shame that Edward Bytheway's foresight has not lived on, even though the port may have required dredging, as the Brisbane River still does. He represented both the business and farmers' views of the district. Reproduced here is the evidence Edward Bytheway gave before the Royal Commission; the evidence he provides also gives great clues to his very capable business expertise; his very articulate, logical, and analytical way of thinking, and convincing representational style:<sup>670</sup>

**Section 713** 'Our action in regard to the extension from Kilkivan to Nanango was taken on account of the alarm felt by the Nanango people at being, as they considered, robbed of this market. They wished that any railway connection should be in the direction of Gympie; and the reason is obvious. Here we are a first class market. I suppose the prices in this market are perhaps as high as any in the colony, with the exception, perhaps, of Charters Towers. The Nanango farmers want this market; they want to bring their produce here. They have been getting it here the best way they could; and they took alarm when the alternative routes via Crow's Nest and Esk were being agitated for. They thought they were going to be deprived of their legitimate market, which is in this direction; and we, too, when we considered the question, began to see that we could get our produce much cheaper from Nanango than in the roundabout way it comes now. It comes chiefly from the Downs via Brisbane. This district is principally a dairying district. There was one time when considerable produce was grown in the valley of the Mary, but often recurring floods have simply ruined the farmers, and now they have devoted their lands to dairying instead of farming. The bulk of the produce comes from outside. Others in the district at Kilkivan and Maryborough and Gympie began to see it in a sensible light, too, and thought they would assist the Nanango people as far as possible. There was a deputation sent down here from Nanango to agitate for the Kilkivan extension in opposition to any other route. This conference was largely attended by representative men from every part of the district. There was an afternoon conference and there was a public meeting in the Theatre Royal at night. The afternoon conference was held on Friday, the 26 May 1899, and the following resolution was carried unanimously:-

*That, in the opinion of this conference, the extension of the railway line from Kilkivan towards Nanango is a matter of urgency, and such extension entirely agrees with the desires of the residents of the Nanango district, is the cheaper and better route now before the country, and will more readily develop the resources of that important district.*

This was a large and influential meeting of residents from every part of the district. There was also a large meeting held at night at Theatre Royal, where the following resolution was proposed by Mr. Power of Gympie, and seconded by Mr. Corser of Maryborough<sup>671</sup>:-

*That we, the inhabitants of the Gympie and district, in public meeting assembled, do respectfully request and urge you the Government the necessity that exists for the immediate extension of the Kilkivan railway line to Nanango, this opening up the fertile lands of that district to close settlement, and affording the settlers an easy outlet for their produce. We wish also to thank the Government for their promises to us in regard to this*

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<sup>670</sup> Minutes of Royal Commission on Certain Proposed Railways-The Line to Nanango. 1900 Volume 3 pages 341-343-archives held at the State Library of Queensland

<sup>671</sup> Mr. Isidor Power was a prominent solicitor, land owner, and vitally interested in the sound economic future of Gympie



*line, and for the action already taken to survey it, and respectfully request that the survey now proceeding may be followed in rapid succession by the other necessary surveys, and that plans may be prepared and tenders called for at an early date for this extension.*

That resolution also was carried unanimously. I thought it would be of some use to give you some statistics obtained from the station-master here as to the produce, including corn and potatoes, of course coming to Gympie Railway Station; so I asked him to furnish me, if possible, with the produce received from Brisbane and south of Brisbane, but not anything from north of Brisbane, that is to say, everything from Brisbane, Toowoomba, Laidley, and other stations beyond Brisbane, but not anything from this side of Brisbane, and not anything from the Maryborough line either. The tonnage of produce that was received at, or passed through, the Gympie Railway Station from Brisbane and stations south of Brisbane, during the year 1899, was 3,470 tons 17cwt. [this is the equivalent of 3,470,864 kilograms]<sup>672</sup> and this does not include anything sent to Monkville or Nashville. If we got produce from Nanango it would be cheapened. In any case, we should have better means of doing business with the people of Nanango if that produce came direct to our market than the way we are supplied at the present time. Of course, we depend upon mining; but we are a business community here, too, and we should expect to do business with Nanango were the line brought to Kilkivan; we would expect to supply them with something as well as take their produce. One thing we require to disabuse the minds of the people of is the idea that Brisbane is the natural port of this goldfield. Maryborough is the natural port of the goldfield, and it is cheaper to get goods or anything via Maryborough than via Brisbane, on account of the long railage. I have been importing goods now for many years direct from London, and I find I can land goods via Maryborough much cheaper than via Brisbane, which never could be the natural port of this goldfield. Maryborough is, and always will be, our natural port on account of the difference in the railage.

**Section 714** [The Chairman] What kind of fuel do you burn in your mining machinery and steam engines? Edward Bytheway: Coal and wood.

**Section 715** [The Chairman] Do you burn much wood? Edward Bytheway: A good deal.

**Section 716** [The Chairman] Can you get it in the neighbourhood cheaply as well? Edward Bytheway: We have done hitherto, but at present we have a long way to go for it. Of course, coal is coming into consumption, and there is no doubt its consumption will increase because it is getting more difficult to obtain sufficient wood for our mines. Some of the mines, I think, use almost all coal now.

**Section 717** [The Chairman] You use a large quantity of timber for timbering mines, I suppose? Edward Bytheway: An immense quantity.

**Section 718** [The Chairman] Where do you get that from? Edward Bytheway: From the neighbourhood; but all the while we have to go further for it. At present we have to go to Cooran and Cooroy.

**Section 719** Do you think the opening of a railway from Kilkivan in the direction of Nanango would affect this fuel and timber question? Edward Bytheway: I have no knowledge of the country beyond Kilkivan.

**Section 720** [The Chairman] I should presume that in a mining district there must be some consumption of horse feed? Edward Bytheway: There is an immense consumption of corn and chaff.

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<sup>672</sup> <http://convert-to.com/conversion/weight/convert-cwt-long-uk-to-kg.html>

**Section 721** [The Chairman] Which you at present get from Brisbane largely? Edward Bytheway: From Brisbane and down the Maryborough line. We get a very large amount from Brisbane; of course we get some locally. But this is what would be considered a fine market for produce, one of the best in the colony. I suppose we have 15,000 people here.

**Section 722** [The Chairman] In your contact with the Nanango people, have you ever heard about the Coolabunia Scrub? Edward Bytheway: I have.

**Section 723** [The Chairman] Will you tell us what you think about it? Edward Bytheway: I understand the Coolabunia Scrub would be traversed by this railway leaving Kilkivan, and that it contains immense resources in land. I dare say that what I have heard of it may be exaggerated; that it is simply fabulous and the line would open up a district better than the Darling Downs. That is what they have told me.

**Section 724** [The Chairman] Have you ever heard what is the area of the really rich portion of the Coolabunia Scrub? Edward Bytheway: I have not.

**Section 725** [The Chairman] We have been informed that it is about 41,000 acres; do you know anything to the contrary? Edward Bytheway: No, I do not.

**Section 726** [The Chairman] You would think 41,000 acres only a small patch? Edward Bytheway: Yes, I should think so.

**Section 727** [The Chairman] You submit that Maryborough is the true port of the Gympie district? Edward Bytheway: Yes. Decidedly.

**Section 728** [The Chairman] And there are difficulties in the navigation of the Mary River to Maryborough? Edward Bytheway: Yes, but there are difficulties also in the navigation of the Brisbane. Very large steamers would have a difficulty in navigating the Mary, but I have travelled in most of the coastal steamers to Maryborough.

**Section 729** [The Chairman] Supposing a large development of farming in the Nanango district, affording a supply sufficient to overtake the requirements of Gympie and Maryborough, too, and leave something for export, where would it go? Edward Bytheway: It would go to Rockhampton and to Townsville, which of course, has Charters Towers behind it, the largest market in the North.

**Section 730** [By Mr. Curnow] What do they produce at Nanango now? Edward Bytheway: They grow fruit, maize, potatoes, and some wheat. It has been said that it will be a wheat growing district. They produce also large quantities of eggs and poultry.

**Section 731** [Mr. Curnow] You said they produce dairy produce, milk and butter, and so on? Edward Bytheway: Yes, but the milk would get here in the shape of butter. There is very little of that sent because they have not the means of sending it. They have of course to bring what they produce to Kilkivan by road.

**Section 732** [Mr. Curnow] You say that you suppose the district would produce certain things, but would you, as a business man, recommend that the Government should spend £300,000 [equivalent to \$43,063,618 in 2016<sup>673</sup>] on a railway to secure a problematical traffic? Edward Bytheway: No.

**Section 733** [Mr. Curnow] At present the district does not produce those things because the people are not settled on the land? Edward Bytheway: Well I understand that there are numbers there who are only vegetating for want of some means of getting produce to market. The people cannot live there, and they want this railway line because the road carriage is so difficult and troublesome, and when the heavy railage is added to that, the Nanango people find it impossible to get their produce to market at all.

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<sup>673</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

**Section 734** [Mr. Curnow] Even if the railway was constructed, because you speak of the expenses of railage at present as heavy? Edward Bytheway: Because they have 70 miles of road carriage as well.

**Section 735** [Mr. Curnow] With the railway they would have, roughly, 100 miles [161 kilometres] of railage to Gympie? Edward Bytheway: Yes.

**Section 736** [Mr. Curnow] At present railway rates, does it pay to carry produce 100 miles? Edward Bytheway: Well, we are in this position now: that we have to pay railage for 200 miles, and if 200 miles [322 kilometres] will pay, I submit that 100 miles will pay.

**Section 737** [Mr. Curnow] Then you think it would pay to send this produce, if grown, 100 miles from the Nanango district to Gympie? Edward Bytheway: Decidedly.

**Section 738** [Mr. Curnow] At the present time that produce is not grown there? Edward Bytheway: Not in a large quantity, because they have not the means to bring it to market. What they want is this railway to bring their produce to market.

**Section 739** [Mr. Curnow] Then again I ask you: would you recommend the Government to spend £300,000 [equivalent to \$43,063,618 in 2016<sup>674</sup>] to secure a problematic traffic? Edward Bytheway: Well, you have an immense agricultural district there, and the same argument was used in reference to the Downs, and in fact, in connection with every railway we have had, it was problematic traffic.

**Section 740** [Mr. Curnow] Well, if you would recommend it, say so. I simply ask you the question? Edward Bytheway: Yes.

**Section 741** [Mr. Curnow] You would do so because the potentialities of the district are such as would enable a large population to be employed, and would meet the requirements of a large population? Edward Bytheway: Yes.

**Section 742** [Mr. Curnow] You think that the railway, if constructed, would lead to the settlement of a large population in the Coolabunia Scrub and the districts surrounding Nanango? Edward Bytheway: I am certain of it.

**Section 743** [Mr. Curnow] And you believe they would grow a lot of produce which is required in this district? Edward Bytheway: Yes, and this is one of the best markets in Australia.

**Section 744** [Mr. Curnow] And the result would be a large volume of traffic by the line from Nanango district to Gympie and Maryborough. Is that right? Edward Bytheway: Yes, that is quite right.

**Section 745** [Mr. Curnow] Have you not got a very good district now to get produce from? Edward Bytheway: Oh, yes, but that would be better; it would be only about half the distance.

**Section 736** [Mr. Curnow] From where? Edward Bytheway: We get our produce now from the Downs.

**Section 747** [Mr. Curnow] Do I understand, then, that the Maryborough district does not produce maize, potatoes, vegetables, and the like of that, on the Mary River? Edward Bytheway: Yes; but in addition to that, I have pointed out that we got from Brisbane last year between 3,000 and 4,000 tons of produce [the equivalent of about 3,470,864 kilograms]. That, I may say, is an increasing traffic, as the station-master at Gympie told me that in the matter of the introduction of produce from Brisbane and the South, we are this year very much ahead of last year.

**Section 748** [Mr. Curnow] Have you any difficulty in the town of Gympie in obtaining the agricultural produce that you require? Edward Bytheway: There is no difficulty, but

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<sup>674</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

we have to pay pretty high. We have to buy it all in Brisbane; it is chiefly Downs' produce.

**Section 749** [Mr. Curnow] You can get all you require by Brisbane and Maryborough? Edward Bytheway: Yes.

**Section 750** [Mr. Curnow] You think you could get it cheaper from Nanango? Edward Bytheway: Yes.

**Section 751** [Mr. Curnow] You know that agricultural produce and other freights are carried very cheaply by water and comparatively speaking, railage is much heavier than water carriage? Edward Bytheway: That is so everywhere.

**Section 752** [Mr. Curnow] You get very reasonable freights from Brisbane to Maryborough by water? Edward Bytheway: Yes.

**Section 753** [Mr. Curnow] Then from Maryborough you have 60 miles [97 kilometres] by rail? Edward Bytheway: Yes

**Section 754** [Mr. Curnow] And a lot of your produce comes from the Laidley and Gatton districts; and those districts are not so far from Brisbane as Nanango is from Gympie, therefore the railage from those districts to Brisbane would be much less than the railage from Nanango to Gympie; and the very small water carriage added to the railway freights would hardly bring them up to the railage from Nanango to Gympie?

Edward Bytheway: I would like to explain here. Of course, produce, of all the things in the world, has to be handled; and it is in the handling that the trouble comes. Produce coming from the Downs is left at the railway station; it has to be handled there; it has to be carted; a farmer on the Downs consigning his produce to Brisbane must have an agent there, and he has to pay agency fees; he has to cart it even to the wharf, and there is cartage; and it is put on the steamer. Then it is brought to Maryborough; then there is another agency; and there are further wharfage and cartage and other incidental expenses; and we know well enough; we have to wince over them frequently-what all these extra charges are; but when once stuff is placed in a railway truck and consigned to the other end and there is no other expenses than that, it cheapens it considerably.

**Section 755** [Mr. Curnow] Then boiling down of your answer I take it that you would get your stuff cheaper direct from Nanango than from the Laidley and Gatton districts via Brisbane and Maryborough? Edward Bytheway: Decidely.

**Section 756** [Mr. Curnow] And, furthermore, the stuff would be fresher and would be received in better condition, because there would be less handling? Edward Bytheway: That is perfectly right.

**Section 757** [Mr. Curnow] Where do you get your coal from now? Edward Bytheway: From Howard.

**Section 758** [Mr. McDowall] You say Maryborough is the natural port for Gympie, because the distance is only 60 miles, as against 106 miles from Gympie to Brisbane, and even though the navigation and the shipping facilities are not quite so good at Maryborough as at Brisbane, the difference in railage would make all the difference to you in using Maryborough as your port as against Brisbane? Edward Bytheway: Of course, if the shipping facilities were improved up the Mary River it would be better; but in all cases the port nearest the market will ultimately become the port of any district. Whatever may be said to the contrary, I am firmly convinced of that from experience.

**Section 759** [Mr. McLean] I think you stated that in the event of production in the Nanango district exceeding the local demand, say, at Gympie and Maryborough, there would be an export trade to Rockhampton, Townsville, and the North? Edward Bytheway: Yes.

**Section 760** [Mr. McLean] How do you propose taking produce to Townsville from Maryborough? Edward Bytheway: I know what you are aiming at now; that large steamers only ply between Brisbane and Townsville. That is a fact; but if surplus products are produced the facilities for conveying them to market will follow. It is not an argument that because the A.U.S.N. Company only send their large boats from Brisbane to Townsville that boats not so large, but really large boats- will not go in and out of Maryborough. I know that the "*Aramac*" and the "*Arawatta*" are too large for the port of Maryborough; not much too large, either, and I don't know that they couldn't get in; but vessels of very nearly their tonnage can get in and out and carry produce all over the world. It is simply a monopoly that the A.U.S.N. Company has; but it does not follow that a monopoly of that kind can be maintained.

**Section 761** [Mr. McLean] You must be aware that there are other companies plying on the coast? Edward Bytheway: At the present time I don't think Howard Smith would send a boat direct to Townsville from Maryborough. It is centralising everything in Brisbane, that is the curse of the country; but the Government of the country should be in favour of fostering ports all up the coast.

**Section 762** [Mr. McLean] You are of the opinion that if there was surplus produce for an export trade there would be steamers of sufficient capacity to carry it direct from Maryborough to the Northern ports of the colony? Edward Bytheway: Decidely. We who are in business know very well that the means of transit always follow the production of produce.

**Section 763** [Mr. McLean] Was the conference of which you spoke got up by Gympie, Nanango, or Maryborough people? Edward Bytheway: It was really a suggestion from Nanango. I should like to impress on the Commission the fact that the Nanango people want the Kilkivan route, and they are alarmed at the idea that Brisbane influence may take the railway the other way. They are afraid of the overmastering influence of Brisbane.

**Section 764** [Mr. McLean] I think you stated the local farmers produced very little agricultural produce? Edward Bytheway: I would not like to say "very little". The farmers on the Mary River, on all those alluvial flats-used to produce immense quantities of corn and potatoes, but they lost so much by successive floods that they find it pays them best to lay down pasture and devote their energies to dairy farming.

**Section 765** [Mr. McLean] Has not the establishment of butter factories tended to bring about this change? Edward Bytheway: Yes, it has given a great impetus to dairy farming.

**Section 766** [Mr. McLean] Is the Gympie butter factory working now? Edward Bytheway: Yes.

**Section 767** [Mr. McLean] Is that factory capable of producing sufficient butter for the Gympie Market? Edward Bytheway: It supplies the whole of the market.

**Section 768** [Mr. McLean] Then there would be no demand for butter from the Nanango district? Edward Bytheway: I do not think so; still it would come in as that from Maryborough does, and come into competition as the Gympie butter does with Brisbane butter at the present time.

**Section 769** [The Chairman] As a mercantile man, you must know that these are the days of big steamers and big carriage of all kinds, and that the day of the little boats and schooners has gone by. Do you think those large vessels will ever be able to come up to Maryborough with cargo? Edward Bytheway: I do, decidedly. I was in Brisbane when nothing bigger than a small barque could come up the river there, and I remember that when the first barque came up, they made quite a gala day of it. It was said at that time that it would be impossible to get vessels drawing any water to moor at the wharves in

Brisbane, but we have seen immense steamers brought up since then. It will be the same with Maryborough, and very large steamers will come up there ultimately. I differ with you to some extent when you say this is the day of big things. It is, and it is not. You do not take a huge hammer to kill a fly, and you would not use enormous steamers to ply between Brisbane and Townsville.

**Section 770** [Chairman] I mean large steamers? Edward Bytheway: Nor large ones, either. These tremendous steamers are not used everywhere. On our coast we find considerable opportunities for the use of small boats. Much depends upon what you have to carry, and the consumption of the market to which you carry it. Between London and Sydney or New York, you would use immense boats, not between Brisbane and any other Queensland port.

**Section 771** [Chairman] What I mean is that it is relatively far less expensive to run a great steamer than a small one. Without saying anything disrespectful of Maryborough, do you think there is a reasonable probability that the money spent on the Brisbane River will be spent on the Mary? Edward Bytheway: I am certain of it. Money will be spent on the Mary River and Maryborough will be made an excellent port. We know that even now the timber industry of the colony is largely carried on at Maryborough, and the best firms are there, and they supply the Townsville and Rockhampton markets.

**Section 772** [Chairman] To show you that I am absolutely impartial in the matter, I will put it to you in this way: Under the intercolonial freetrade, southern produce, if coming at all, will come mainly to Brisbane, because of the additional facilities and advantages. Do you not think that will affect the market for Queensland produce more in Brisbane than in Maryborough. Edward Bytheway: I would not be so positive about potatoes, but I do not think the Queensland producers have anything to fear in connection with such produce as maize. Our land is cheaper, and we have more of it. The population is growing down south and they have more mouths to feed, in every sense, and they will find they will have very little surplus produce to send us. As a matter of fact, I believe that at the present time Hutton's ham and bacon curing factory is doing an immense trade with Sydney and Melbourne. We are turning the tables upon them, and I believe we will send immense quantities of maize to Sydney and Melbourne in the near future. This is a great country, and will develop rapidly under good laws.

**Section 773** [Mr. Curnow] You say you are going to compete with Brisbane and the south in produce; where will you get the produce from to compete with? Edward Bytheway: I can assure you it is being done at the present time.

**Section 774** [Mr. Curnow] Where are you going to get produce from to compete with? Edward Bytheway: From Nanango.

**Section 775** [Mr. Curnow] You said the terror of the Nanango people was lest they should be connected with Brisbane? Edward Bytheway: That is their fear.

**Section 776** [Mr. Curnow] I presume that at present Maryborough or Gympie contents them? Edward Bytheway: You see they know where they get the best prices.

**Section 777** [Mr. Curnow] I ask you as a business man, do you consider Gympie a better market for the Nanango people than Brisbane? Edward Bytheway: I think Gympie the best market they could have, and, next to Gympie, Maryborough and Charters Towers.

**Section 778** [Mr. Curnow] Those are better markets for them than for Brisbane, you think? Edward Bytheway: Decidedly, yes.

**Section 779** [Mr. Curnow] And therefore the Nanango people are justified in their fear of being connected with Brisbane? Edward Bytheway: Yes, these hardheaded farmers know on which side their bread is buttered.

**Section 780** [Mr. Curnow] And you coincide with their opinion? Edward Bytheway: Yes, I do. I think they know best what is best for them.

**Section 781** [Mr. McLean] You said you imported direct from England. Do you do so through Maryborough or through Brisbane? Edward Bytheway: Always through Maryborough, except when the Antigua Bridge was washed away. I had to get my goods via Brisbane then, but as soon as the bridge was re-erected I went back to Maryborough because I found it the cheaper route.

**Section 782** [The Chairman] Notwithstanding you had to lighter your goods in Wide Bay and then bring them up to Maryborough? Edward Bytheway: Notwithstanding the lightering. Now they frequently adopt this system: they take the goods on to Brisbane and send them back and they can still be got cheaper through Maryborough, with all Brisbane to compete with, because I get a through freight from London to Maryborough by the British India Steam Navigation boats, and they can send the goods how they like, either onto Brisbane or lighter in Wide Bay.

**Section 783** [The Chairman] Which of course they usually pursue. Edward Bytheway: They have done both.

**Section 785** [The Chairman] Then these large steamers do not come up the river to Maryborough? Edward Bytheway: No, not the mail boats. George Stuckey gave evidence following Edward Bytheway and his main point was that '[his] estimate of the consumption of maize in Gympie is 4,000 bags per month, that is exclusive of local production; Maryborough and Childers, I estimate consume about 5,000 bags per month. That means a total of 9,000 bags of maize a month, or 108,000 bag a year, all imported from the south, I mean south of Gympie.' Stuckey continued to give support to Edward Bytheway's evidence.

In 1900 Queensland was experiencing one of its worst droughts in 25 years; the wet season in February and March had entirely failed; and 'little or no rain in the summer months had brought the agricultural, pastoral and dairying industries almost to a standstill, and also hampered the mining and timber industries.<sup>675</sup> The Queensland Government cognisant of the prolonged retardation of business during the drought, sought to stimulate business through the building of some railways. At the close of the parliamentary session, the Government 'brought down a programme of State railway proposals, involving an estimated of over £2,000,000 [equivalent to \$287,090,789 in 2016<sup>676</sup>] ... including the Kilkivan-Nanango line ... the most conspicuous [agricultural] activity has been shown in the Nanango district, where throughout the year there has been witnessed a most extraordinary rush for homestead and agricultural selections. The richness of the lands combined with the prospect of the early construction of the Nanango railway, now confirmed, has much to do with this eager demand, and it is hoped by this time next year ... the best hopes of the Nanango district farmers will be realized, and that they will then be possessed of the means of carrying to markets the splendid crops which so largely go to waste for want of transport facilities ... along the Mary River, general farming has continued to give place to dairy farming, and this change of occupation seems likely to continue ... the fortunes of Gympie fluctuated greatly, and at times, affairs could hardly have been duller, but there were several more or less exciting booms, and sensation discoveries, and the year has closed with a considerable larger output of gold than its predecessor. The present outlook in Gympie is certainly encouraging and some of the great deep sinking enterprises are showing

<sup>675</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 29 December 1900

<sup>676</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

hopeful signs of a near approach to their well-deserved reward.<sup>677</sup> The drought broke with good rains at the end of the year.

The Legislative Council of Queensland debated the Report of the Select Committee on the Proposed Kilkivan to Coolabunia Railway on 12 December 1900. The Post-Master General began the debate to move:

'That the report of the select committee on the proposed railway from Kilkivan to Coolabunia be now adopted, said: This is an extension of the railway from Kilkivan in the direction of Nanango for a distance of nearly 56 miles [90 kilometres], terminating at a very rich tract of country known as the Coolabunia Scrub. It has been referred to a select committee, whose report has been in the hands of members of the Council some few days. The witnesses examined were the Commissioner for Railways; Mr. C.B. Lethem, officer in charge of surveys; Mr. J. Darley, representing the Nanango Divisional Board; Mr. P.J. McNamara, journalist; Mr. J. Fairlie, chairman of the Maryborough branch of the Nanango Railway Association; and Mr. Edward Bytheway, storekeeper, Gympie. The evidence of those gentlemen will be found in the minutes of the evidence attached to the report. The report itself speaks exceedingly highly of the district that will be tapped by the proposed railway, which will bring the people engaged in agricultural pursuits in the district into touch with Maryborough, Gympie, Bundaberg, and Childers. The committee has unanimously recommended the approval of the extension, and I beg to move that the report be now adopted.'<sup>678</sup> The question was put and passed. The debate concluded with approval and support for the line to be constructed. Final comments came from the Hon. J. McMaster who said 'it is my intention to support the line, believing that it will tend to settle people on the land, and that, if it does not pay at once, it will indirectly prove beneficial to the country. The Commissioner's evidence is very encouraging. He states that there is good land in the district, and he hopes the line will pay as well as the lines in other agricultural districts. Taking into account his evidence, and the evidence of the other witnesses, I think the Council will be justified in passing this line.

Edward Bytheway and the other witnesses won the case and the Kilkivan-Nanango was financed to be built by the Queensland Government. Edward Bytheway had put forward sound logical forceful convincing and economically sound arguments in presenting his case to the Select Committee, and Gympie owes him a great deal on that count.

### **Giving Evidence in Court and Other Legal Matters**

Being the business man he was and closely involved in the operations of a diverse range of organisations, it is natural that Edward Bytheway would have been called to give evidence in court, as well as being a member of the jury from time to time. He experienced being Foreman of the jury, and often sat on the Bench of the Police Court. His life in Gympie involved him in many a range of cases, a few of which have been selected to give a flavor of the cases he experienced.

On Friday 20 June 1879, he was in the Petty Debts Court before the Police Magistrate in an Interpleader case *Bytheway v. Austin*. John Purser, Claimant. Mr. H.E. Austin was the son-in-law of Mr. Purser, who bought the house on Mount Pleasant where Mr. Austin lived. Included in the purchase was furniture, some saddles, a horse and a share of a

<sup>677</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 29 December 1900

<sup>678</sup> Parliamentary Debates Legislative Council Wednesday 12 December 1900 page 2555



reef at the Two Mile, in fact he bought everything Mr. Austin had. Mr. Austin in fact was in a debt to a Mr. Staley unbeknowns to Mr. Purser, and to some extent, also unbeknowns to Mr. Purser, Edward Bytheway was also involved. After the case had been heard, the verdict was found for the claimant with £2/2/- (equivalent to \$301 in 2016<sup>679</sup>) professional costs and costs of the Court.<sup>680</sup>

In 1885, probate was granted from the estate of 'Charles Brown of Gympie wheelwright, deceased to Matthew Mellor, gentleman, and Edward Bytheway, both of Gympie, personalty sworn under £305 [equivalent to \$43,781 in 2016<sup>681</sup>].'<sup>682</sup> Mr. Brown had a shop in Mary Street. This would have been a nice unexpected windfall for both of these esteemed men of Gympie!

Edward was called to give evidence in the Civil Sittings of the Supreme Court in March 1886 in the case of Lyons v. O'Connell. This was unusual as Mr. O'Connell still married, was proposing to leave his estate to Eliza Lyons. O'Connell had been well known to many in Gympie for over seventeen years.

Eliza Lyons had brought action against James O'Connell for decree to prove by solemn form the Will of the late Mr. Michael O'Connell of Gympie, painter. Mr. O'Connell had never wanted the public to know about his relationship with Eliza Lyons.

At the hearing, Eliza Lyons as the plaintiff, 'said she remembered the deceased showing her the Will produced; he told her not to read it, but to put it in the box: that was in the month of November; at the time the deceased was perfectly sober; the Will was placed in the Bank of New South Wales; she never told the plaintiff what she was doing with it; she and the testator had lived together twenty-three years; she remembered him taking the pledge at the instance of Mr. Bytheway.'<sup>683</sup> Eliza was also known by some people in Gympie as Mrs. O'Connell.

O'Connell also used to frequent O'Neill's Public House. Mr. Real (instructed by Messrs. Chambers, Bruce and McNab) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Virgil Power and Mr. Lilley (instructed by Messrs. Wilson and Wilson) for the defendant.'<sup>684</sup> Edward Bytheway was described in the transcript of the court hearing 'Mr. Bytheway, merchant, Gympie, stated that the testator had not lived far from the witness's place of business; he saw him in September 1883; he had been drinking a good deal, and the witness had been talking to him on several occasions about it, and he sent for him, and he said he would take the pledge to abstain from drinking in a public house; the reason why he would abstain altogether was that he had been drinking heavily and he would not break off suddenly; he saw the testator every other day between September and November; he told the witness on several occasions that he should leave everything he had to Mrs. O'Connell, whom he understood to be the plaintiff; in November he told the witness he made everything over to Mrs. O'Connell in Mr. Kidgell's office [James Gathorne Kidgell was an insurance agent, and the Town Clerk of Gympie], when the testator told him that he was sober.'<sup>685</sup> Mr. Kidgell had on 17 November 1883, at O'Connell's request drawn up a Will for O'Connell.

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<sup>679</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>680</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 25 June 1879

<sup>681</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>682</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Valley Mining Gazette 25 July 1885

<sup>683</sup> The Brisbane Courier 16 March 1868

<sup>684</sup> The Brisbane Courier 16 March 1886

<sup>685</sup> The Brisbane Courier 16 March 1886

It was revealed that O'Connell had two Wills, the first dated 19 November 1882, and the second 18 May 1885<sup>686</sup>, and he had a legitimate son. O'Connell had told William Haig, tipstaff to his Honour Mr. Justice Mein, that if he should die, Eliza should have things left to her, but at the same time did not mention anything about a Will. Haig did not know that Eliza and O'Connell were not married as he had always known them as Mr. and Mrs. O'Connell. Edward Bytheway did not know that Eliza Lyons was not O'Connell's wife.

What was not known was that he had a legitimate wife, from whom he claimed he had been separated for many years, and did not know if she was alive or dead. He told his Solicitor Horace Tozer that she was dead. The fact was that his first wife was a lady of high position in Dublin who had eloped with him. The information about O'Connell not being married to Eliza Lyons cropped up incidentally when Mr. Real had been making inquiries regarding the parentage of heirs of the Blennerhussel property.

Those involved in this case were people well-known in Gympie, including Mr. William Ferguson saw-mill proprietor, Mr. Horace Tozer, a well-known solicitor, Daniel McKellar a lithographer, and James Bennett, a rate collector.

The Judge passed judgment at the end of April 1886. Included in his statement of judgment was 'the important question of the case was, was he of sound mind on the morning when the Will was undoubtedly signed and executed at Gympie ... he bequeathed everything he possessed to his mistress and illegitimate children-not even showing that he remembered his legitimate son by "cutting him off with a shilling" as the saying is. There is no doubt in my mind that the defendant, his lawful son, looking into the habits of his father's life, and the peculiar relations with the plaintiff, and the fact that he bequeathed to the absolute exclusion of himself, might very well regard the Will with suspicion.'<sup>687</sup>

Edward Bytheway was, among all the other guises he had, a money lender.<sup>688</sup> In this guise, he gave evidence in 1886 in the Police Court in respect of an engineer of the Widgee Divisional Board. The report read 'At the Police Court this morning, Giles Chippendoll, engineer of the Widgee Divisional Board, was charged with the larceny of certain money, amounting to £218/5/- [equivalent to \$31,329 in 2016<sup>689</sup>], the property of the Board. The evidence of J.G. Kidgell, clerk of the Widgee Board; of J. L. Cantwell, teller of the Queensland National Bank; J. Sorrenson, and J. Angel, road contractors; and Edward Bytheway, money lender, was taken, and the accused was then committed for trial, bail being allowed, himself in £200 [equivalent to \$28,709 in 2016<sup>690</sup>], and two sureties of £100 each [equivalent to \$14,355 in 2016<sup>691</sup>].'<sup>692</sup>

The issue of alleged cancerous cows being milked and their cream being supplied to the Gympie Dairying Factory brought Edward into the Police Court in November 1898.<sup>693</sup> The matter concerned a Mr. F. Schollick, a dairy farmer at Serpentine Creek at Kilkivan. The Gympie Dairy Company refused to take his cream supply based on the alleged

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<sup>686</sup> The Brisbane Courier 16 March 1886

<sup>687</sup> The Brisbane Courier 23 April 1886

<sup>688</sup> The Brisbane Courier 26 July 1886

<sup>689</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>690</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>691</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>692</sup> The Brisbane Courier 26 July 1886, page 5

<sup>693</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 November 1898

condition of one cow, about which he felt aggrieved. Subsequently the cow was examined and found not to be cancerous, and in addition, Mr. Schollick had stopped milking the cow when he thought she was so unwell after being horned.

In mid-September 1902, E. Dowling a shop assistant working at Bytheway and Son reported a pair of boots being stolen from the rack outside the shop. Sometime later Frederick Anderson was arrested wearing the blucher boots which had the stamp of E. Bytheway on the soles. Anderson before the Police Magistrate 'didn't know whether he bought them or stole them.'<sup>694</sup> The Police Magistrate ascertained that Anderson did steal the boots, was the worse for liquor at the time and sentenced him to 14 days imprisonment for the boots which were worth 10s 6d (equivalent to \$75 in 2016<sup>695</sup>).

In 1904, workplace disputes were handled in the Petty Debts Court before the Police Magistrate, and so it was when Mr. H. F. Wallman, a teacher and geologist, brought a case against Members of the School of Arts and Mines Technical Classes Committee, Messrs. E. Bytheway, R. Rankin, and F. G. Woodward, for the non-payment of wages of £24/10/- (equivalent to \$3,517 in 2016<sup>696</sup>) between 1 August 1901 and 5 January 1904. Here was yet another demonstration of how adept was Edward Bytheway in settling many matters that affected life in Gympie. His role at the School of Arts demanded much more than watching over the number of subscribers and collecting their fees; he had matters of human resource management to address, that is to say staff matters. Mr. Wallman won his case.

Edward taught his children well about their rights under the law; presumably he also taught them to be good losers. While in Brisbane in September 1884, his son, Thomas, had licensed cabman John Miller summoned to the City Police Court in Brisbane for allegedly charging him an excessive fare. John Miller, who pleaded not guilty, was defended in Court by Mr. Bruce Baxter. In the event the 'case was dismissed as the Bench were not satisfied that it was not after 11 o'clock at night when the fare was demanded in which case the defendant [John Miller] was entitled to double fare.'<sup>697</sup>

### **Gympie Chamber of Commerce**

Edward Bytheway was an active member of the Gympie Chamber of Commerce from its inception in 1888 and while ever it was operating as an active Committee.

The Chamber consistently examined infrastructure matters for Gympie, like the relocation of the powder magazine, the railway to Noosa, the overhead bridge over the railway line at Horseshoe Bend, the completion of the road from the overhead bridge to Cootharaba Hill, and suitable timber for road paving.

He was present at its first annual meeting on 19 November 1889, with other members Mr. W. Ferguson (Vice President); Messrs. F. I. Power, L. Williams, W. Brown, A. L. Wall, W. Pilcher, G. J. Lewis, H. M. Maloney, G. Perry, J. G. Kidgell, J. S. Cullinane, E. Pope and A. Hutchinson. Major Ferguson (President) was unable to attend that meeting.<sup>698</sup>

In 1889, Edward Bytheway's insight came through at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce as extensive discussion occurred on the opening of the railway line to

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<sup>694</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 September 1902

<sup>695</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>696</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>697</sup> The Brisbane Courier 6 September 1884

<sup>698</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 November 1889

Cooran. He sought pressure to be placed on the Queensland Minister for Railways because 'the Gympie market had never been properly supplied with produce and it was their duty [the Chamber of Commerce] to get it properly supplied if they could.'<sup>699</sup> His colleague Mr. J. G. Kidgell made it clear to the meeting that pressure needs to be sustained on the Government because for Gympie's increasing population there had 'to be something in addition to mining to look at ... in view of the splendid resources awaiting development up the Mary Valley.'<sup>700</sup> Bytheway gained the agreement of the Chamber for action to be taken for more timely postal deliveries after the train had arrived; and the construction for a waterworks for the town. The Chamber then approached the Queensland Government to reconsider the loan for this project as 'it is of the utmost importance to the welfare of the goldfield and district.'<sup>701</sup> It is clear from historical sources that when Bytheway was involved, the Chamber worked effectively to have major developmental issues for Gympie implemented. When the Waterworks were established, he, as Chairman of the Waterworks Sub-Committee, rendered splendid service in connection with the management of that important section of Gympie's public works.

Edward Bytheway attended the 19 meetings held during 1890. Many topics relating to the development of Gympie were discussed, with the more prominent being the district railway extension (a subject he was passionate about); mail communications and postal reform; mining regulations; mining companies legislation; licensing of gold miners; land tenure on the goldfields; slaughtering of diseased cattle; and water supply. The postal issue was always one that brought passionate debate to the extent that residents lodged petitions to the Chamber like the 'large petition received from the residents of Cootharaba, Ashford's, and Rifle Range Hills asking for the local postal delivery to be extended to those localities.'<sup>702</sup>

In 1890, delegates of the Gympie Chamber of Commerce, the Amalgamated Miners' Association, the Mining Manager's Association and the School of Arts, met to discuss the issue of the proposed School of Mines. Edward Bytheway was present as a delegate of the School of Arts and member of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Horace Tozer MLA had succeeded in his negotiations with the Minister for Mines, Mr. Macrossan to have £750 provided 'towards a composite School of Arts and Mines, provided a portion of the new building was set apart exclusively for technical instruction in connection with the School of Mines ... and that £750 [could] be raised locally ... by the sale of the School of Arts freehold.'<sup>703</sup> Mr. Smyth MLA was of the view that 'the miners had a right to expect, in view of the fact that Queensland had become the leading gold producing colony of Australia, that £5000 should be granted for two proper Schools of Mines, one at Gympie and the other at Charters Towers,'<sup>704</sup> and that the School of Mines and the School of Arts should be separate institutions. Edward Bytheway, being the School of Arts delegate referred 'to an insinuation about the activity of the School of Arts Committee in the matter, said their only idea in trying to secure the £750, had been to prevent it being lost to the field. Personally he would prefer the larger scheme if there was any possibility of their getting it by agitating for it, and backing up their members. As to the

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<sup>699</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 March 1889

<sup>700</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 March 1889

<sup>701</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 March 1889

<sup>702</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 March 1897

<sup>703</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Gazette 23 January 1890

<sup>704</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 January 1890

School of Arts Committee wanting to manage the School of Mines, he could state that all they wanted was cooperation of the other bodies to get the building, and when it was erected, the School of Mines could take one half, and the School of Arts would take the other.<sup>705</sup>

That meeting resolved to put the issues to a public meeting to be held on 6 February 1890. Edward Bytheway and Messrs. Kidgell, Wallace, and Morrison would form a sub-committee to make arrangements for the public meeting. Edward Bytheway was Mayor of Gympie at this time.

Under Edward Bytheway's chairmanship of the meeting of 27 May 1890, the meeting discussed in depth the impact of the transfer of the registration of companies from the Limited to the *No Liability Acts*. The *No Liability* issue came under the *Mining Act*, and it was felt that the issue could be better dealt with under that Act. The proposed *No Liability Act* 'provided for most of the things set forth in the Mining Acts of Victoria and South Australia.'<sup>706</sup> The Brisbane Chamber of Commerce had been examining the issue and sought the view of the Gympie Chamber of Commerce. In respect of the *No Liability Act*, the Gympie Chamber of Commerce recommended that 'the deposit to be made prior to registration of any such company, should be reduced from 5 to 2½ percent of nominal capital, 'as the deposit to be made by *No Liability Companies* was that 5 percent induced companies to register with too small a capital ... and a deposit of 2½ percent would not be objected to.'<sup>707</sup>

There was a hint of excitement at that meeting as the Diamond Drill ordered by the Queensland Government for prospecting purposes would be first used in Gympie; excitement because the Drill was capable of drilling to a depth of 3000 feet (915 metres). The Chamber would work with the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce to amend anomalies of the customs tariff to be beneficial for the whole colony. In the 1890s the Gympie Chamber of Commerce became known as the Gympie Chamber of Commerce and Mines. The other outcome of that meeting would be a letter to the Minister for Railways to resume the trial of the branch line to the coast at Noosa.

Edward was also instrumental in the work done by the Gympie Chamber to cooperate with other Chambers such as Brisbane, Maryborough and Bundaberg on critical and often vexatious matters that affected the goldfields and development of industry there. Often the Miner's Association could be difficult to work with, even though the Chamber always had their best interests at heart. It was also fortunate to have as part of the membership Mr. F. I. Power, a highly competent and knowledgeable lawyer to deal with the many legislative matters always before the Chamber. The Chamber needed reviving in 1905, having not been totally active to the extent that in 1902 'Senator A. Dawson sent a telegram from Melbourne to Mr. Vaughan [who had been long the Secretary of the Chamber] asking what opinion Gympie Chamber of Commerce had about the duties on mining machinery. Unfortunately there is no such Chamber or any local body analogous to it on Gympie, but there ought to be.'<sup>708</sup> The meeting of 16 February 1905 in the Town Hall was held to reestablish the body with 'much depending on giving the body a good start.'<sup>709</sup> This was just some eight months before Edward's death. Right up

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<sup>705</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 January 1890

<sup>706</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 May 1890

<sup>707</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 May 1890

<sup>708</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 August 1902

<sup>709</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 February 1905

until June that year it was not receiving much support, but doing better by the end of the year. The Chamber continues now as a very successful body.

Edward would never be far from acting upon the issues affecting Gympie. Sometimes he would attend an afternoon meeting of the Gympie Chamber of Commerce, and then go right over to a meeting of the School of Arts. He may also have had a meeting of the other businesses where he was Chairman or Director or had a meeting of the Gympie Agricultural Mining and Pastoral Society.

The Chamber devoted considerable effort to have legislation passed to provide 'a more secure title to the holders of residence and business areas on the goldfields ... [this being] necessary for the welfare and progress of the towns and districts of old settled goldfields that the owner should possess an actual value of land, whilst at the same time the fullest power of resumption (when the land is needed for mining purposes) must be reserved.'<sup>710</sup>

At another meeting attended by Edward Bytheway as Mayor of Gympie, the issue of Land Tenure on the Goldfields and a draft *Parliamentary Bill* which would ultimately give better tenure to people in residence areas and homesteads on the goldfields than that which they had at present.<sup>711</sup> At yet another meeting he also attended in the capacity of Mayor, there was further discussion of better land tenure on the goldfields, and proposed municipal awards to give better distribution of expenditure to ratepayers for necessary items such as roads.<sup>712</sup>

He continued his contribution to the major issues effecting Gympie as discussed by the Chamber of Commerce as years went by. Many of the men who were members of the School of Arts Committee and Alderman of the City Council were also members of the Chamber of Commerce.

### **The Dairying Industry**

A beef cattle and dairy industry had been established soon after the district became a gold mining hub. Following the floods of early Gympie, the beef cattle industry was almost destroyed by 'redwater fever' (fatal disease caused by ticks in cattle), but dairying continued. In 1859, 'there were reported to be not more than twelve dairy cows in Queensland ... [by 1891] the number of dairy cattle in Queensland was estimated at 120,000 ... and before 1900 the dairying industry was confined to the Darling Downs, Moreton and Central Coast portion of Wide Bay.'<sup>713</sup>

The latter two areas took in the Gympie Region which made rapid strides in the industry, especially in 1882, when Edward Bytheway's colleague, Hugo Du Rietz was the first to bring the Alpha Laval cream separator to Gympie. Du Rietz 'was always a firm believer [in the dairying industry]. To his credit he may be placed as the importer of the first cream separator into Queensland, if not Australia.'<sup>714</sup> The separator was the impetus to a successful butter manufacturing industry and 'laid the foundation stone of the dairy industry which brought new prosperity to the district as Gympie's mines

<sup>710</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 November 1889

<sup>711</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 20 March 1890

<sup>712</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 April 1890

<sup>713</sup> Office of Economic and Statistical Research, *Triumph in the Tropics 1959*, Part 2, Chapter XX1 pages 270-275, <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/publications/triumph-tropics/triumph-tropics-1959-pt2-ch21.pdf>

<sup>714</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 August 1908

began to falter.<sup>715</sup> The cream separator was first installed 'on land Du Rietz rented from Thomas O'Brien at Pie Creek. He built a concrete floor dairy on the site of the present Pie Creek Hall and then produced his first butter for the Gympie Market.'<sup>716</sup> Du Rietz also devised innovative 'cool' rooms; his dairy had 'a cement floor with brick, washed with cement drains to carry off the water, walls of lime concrete 2 feet thick (0.61 metres), double ceiling, shingle roof ventilated projecting over and well down the walls, and the whole shaded by trees. The dairy had provision for ice but even without this, the temperature would be as much as 20°F (-7°C) lower than the outside temperature. He inserted large blocks of ice brought by dray from Maryborough, about 60 miles away (97 kilometres), since Gympie did not have its own ice works at the time.'<sup>717</sup> The Gympie District owed much to Hugo Du Rietz and Edward Bytheway in diversifying the industries that sustained Gympie, and helped it to prosper economically.

In 1897, Edward Bytheway was Honorary Secretary to the Gympie Dairy, Ice and Cold Storage Company. He was instrumental in pushing the Government for a new Meat and Dairy Fund. The application for a loan under the provisions of the *Meat and Dairy Produce Encouragement Act* had been made too late to be considered for Government funding. The Government was still quick to submit the application to the Acting Prime Minister so that a dairy factory could be built. Horace Tozer who was by then a member of the Queensland Parliament indicated optimism that the Gympie Dairy Ice and Cold Storage Company would receive the assistance they needed.<sup>718</sup> The *1893 Meat and Dairy Produce Act*, had established subsidies for dairy farmers, and the *1894 Agricultural Lands Purchase Act* also aided commercial dairying.

The first Gympie Butter Factory opened in October 1898, was fitted with the most up to date machinery of the time "The refrigerator is of the well-known "Hercules" type, and is called the No. 5 belt driven duplex machine, capable of turning out 3 tons of ice daily, in addition to the cooling chambers attached to the factory being taken to freezing point. It is driven by a 12 horse power horizontal engine, manufactured in America by the Troy Engineering Works, the steam being supplied by a 12 horse power vertical boiler, manufactured by Evans, Anderson, and Co. of Brisbane. The steel ice tank is 7ft (2.13 metres) by 5 ft (1.52 metres) by 4 ft (1.22 metres), and is to be thoroughly insulated, and fitted with moulds, each of which will turn out a 56lb (almost 26 kilograms) block of ice ... the engine's governors are in the fly wheel, and are automatic in their adjustment. Instead of throttling the steam they regulate with a cut-off in the slide valve, thus giving greater economy of steam and fuel, also doing away with so many wearing parts ... the butter manufacturing room contains a lightening butter extractor, capable of turning out 5cwt (254 kilograms) of butter at a churning, which occupies fifteen minutes.'<sup>719</sup> The factory was well equipped with twenty-four milk testing bottles imported by Messrs. Denham Bros. Care had been taken in the construction of the refrigerator with the valves all made of solid steel, and pipes tested to 350lb to the square inch to minimise ammonia leakage. The butter factory was set to support the dairy industry, bring prosperity to Gympie under Edward Bytheway's guidance. In 1898, he became the Chairman of Directors of the Gympie Central Dairy and Ice Company.

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<sup>715</sup> Pedley, Ian *Winds of Change 100 Years in the Widgee Shire 1979* Gympie Times [for] Widgee Shire Council, 1979.

<sup>716</sup> Pedley, Ian *Winds of Change 100 Years in the Widgee Shire 1979* Gympie Times [for] Widgee Shire Council, 1979.

<sup>717</sup> Pedley, Ian *Winds of Change 100 Years in the Widgee Shire 1979* Gympie Times [for] Widgee Shire Council, 1979.

<sup>718</sup> *The Brisbane Courier* 3 August 1897

<sup>719</sup> *The Queenslander* 1 October 1898

In 1898, Edward Bytheway received public accolades for the success of his enterprise in the dairying industry. Of the Gympie Butter Factory, it was written that 'unprecedented success appears to have attended the enterprise of Messrs. Bytheway, Ramsay, Miller, and White, the promoters of the Gympie Butter and Ice Factory ... the energetic manager Mr. McCormick informs us that notwithstanding the drought, the factory is turning out from 12 cwt to 15cwt of butter daily [15cwt would be around 765 kilograms] which finds a ready sale in Gympie, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Brisbane, Kilkivan and Townsville. In addition to the butter industry, a large quantity of ice is manufactured daily and the by product in the shape of buttermilk (which is usually run to waste in other factories), is eagerly sought after by private householders.'<sup>720</sup> The rest of the report showed that the Company had doubled its business in between the months of October and November in 1898. The predictions at the time were that this trend would continue. The methods of transporting cream to the Gympie Butter Factory was a delicate one as the photo shows cream being delivered to the railway station at Cooran for its later movement to Gympie.

The Gympie Butter Factory had been made all the more successful at the beginning of its operations because an initiative to establish a similar facility in Maryborough fell through, so the Wide Bay dairy farmers were forced to send their cream to Gympie, it being the nearest dairy factory. In addition, Mr. McCormick had been in touch with every farmer in the Wide Bay district ...<sup>721</sup>



Driver of the wagon, Darby Smith collecting Jack Moffat's cream. Believed to be the first cream wagon to take cream from the district to Cooran from where it was railed to the Gympie Butter Factory. (Photo believed to be in 1898)<sup>722</sup>

The two yearly meeting of the Gympie Dairying Company in July 1899 reported that the rosy picture had slightly changed for the worse. It seems that the energetic Mr. McCormick may have not lived up to quite the standard of management indicated in

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<sup>720</sup> The Brisbane Courier 28 December 1898

<sup>721</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle , Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 27 December 1898

<sup>722</sup> Photo courtesy of Local History Section Gympie Regional Library



December 1898. Mr. McCormick<sup>723</sup> had previously held a senior position with the Silverwood Butter Factory and the Silverwood Model Dairy Company, which eventually took over the Gympie Butter Factory. Edward had placed too much trust in Mr. McCormick's management skills.

In May 1899, the trend toward debt was already evident. On 31 July 1899 at the Widgee Divisional Board Hall, Edward Bytheway as Chairman of Directors was reporting a loss of £382/10/6. Thirty shareholders were present to hear the unwelcome news. This financial situation meant that they could not pay out the cream cheques and pay creditors. Edward Bytheway announced that if the creditors could not accept the terms of payment, then the Company would have to go into liquidation. He went on to say that 'he regretted that the Company had not been a success, but there were all sorts of reasons and things that militated against it. There was gross mismanagement to start with, and at the time it was impossible to overtake it; nearly the whole of the money had been lost in the first three months. In regard to the future [he] Mr. Bytheway went on to say that they could realise the whole of their liquid assets and pay as far as they could, but if they did, it would be necessary to get more capital and start again on the soundest lines. There were two main principles that must guide them. They must keep faith with the Government in regard to the £1200 loan and also with the cream suppliers. Another course was that they could rent the factory, and another was that they could go into liquidation. Mr. Du Rietz seconded the motion and showed where the leakage had occurred which caused the losses. These were principally needless expenses of management, loss on shipment of inferior butter, variations in churn and cream tests, and general mismanagement.'<sup>724</sup>

The Company may have been able to avoid the financial situation had they had at least another £300, and in addition 'the farmers for whom the factory had been started, had had the opportunity of taking up those shares, but they had not.'<sup>725</sup> Edward Bytheway left that meeting with it being adjourned for a fortnight, and it being 'left in the Directors hands, with the consent of the Government, to sell or rent the factory to the best advantage in the event of their failing to make sufficiently favourable financial arrangements to keep it going for the benefit of the Company.'<sup>726</sup>

There were more elements of instability and cracks in the harmony of the company as evidenced by the Chief Engineer, Mr. T. H. Cornish, who had been employed there since September 1898. One of the Board of Directors Hugo Du Rietz had challenged Cornish: 'for some extraordinary reason there has been a great waste of ammonia.'<sup>727</sup> Cornish felt insulted by Du Rietz's comments and the fact that Du Rietz had taken the kudos for suggestions he had made about improvements for water storage and the boiler and other operational matters. Cornish took a dim view of Du Rietz's expertise in the kind of refrigeration technology used in that dairy factory. At the same time, he emphatically claimed that Cornish himself had the necessary credentials 'to work with the greatest economy such a small plant as he was at present in charge of.'<sup>728</sup>

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<sup>723</sup> The Morning Bulletin Rockhampton 26 May 1897

<sup>724</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 4 August 1899

<sup>725</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 4 August 1899

<sup>726</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 4 August 1899

<sup>727</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 August 1899

<sup>728</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 August 1899



The Butter Factory on Tozer Road near the then Railway Station, which caused Edward Bytheway the financial heartache. This factory was replaced with a new one in 1925.

**G**YMPIE CENTRAL DAIRYING COMPANY, Limited.

**TENDERS**  
Are invited for the Purchase of the  
**GYMPIE BUTTER AND ICE FACTORY,**  
Situate near the Railway Station, Gympie.

**THE BUILDINGS AND MACHINERY ARE ENTIRELY NEW.**

The Factory is capable of an Output of **TWO TONS BUTTER PER DAY, and ONE of ICE.**

The Refrigerator is a New No. 5 Hercules. We desire to point out that the Factory would command the Gympie Market for both Butter and Ice. The population of Gympie is now 15,000.

The district surrounding Gympie is one of the largest Dairying Districts in the colony, the output for last season being about **30 TONS OF BUTTER PER MONTH.**

£1200 of the amount of purchase can remain on loan from the Government for fourteen years, subject to 5 per cent interest. Further information can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

**TENDERS TO CLOSE**  
At 12 Noon on  
**SATURDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER.**

Tenders to be addressed to the **SECRETARY, Gympie Dairying Company.**  
**E. BYTHIEWAY,**  
Chairman.

**BUTTER AND ICE**

ARE NOW BEING  
**MANUFACTURED**  
AT  
**Gympie Butter Factory.**

**ALL ORDERS WILL RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.**

**Silverwood Dairy Factory Co.**

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By late September 1899, Edward Bytheway, still Chairman of the Gympie Dairying Company Limited, was advertising the sale of the Gympie Butter and Ice Factory.<sup>731</sup> It can be seen from the advertisement just how prolific was the production of butter from the Gympie Region at that time. On the afternoon of Tuesday 10 October 1899, the meeting of the shareholders of the Gympie Central Dairy Company agreed to accept the

<sup>729</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 6 November 1899

<sup>730</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 6 November 1899

<sup>731</sup> The Brisbane Courier 16 September, 23 September 1899, 26 September 1899

tender of the Silverwood Dairy Factory Company for purchase of the Gympie Butter and Ice Factory.<sup>732</sup> Advertisements such as the one shown began appearing in the newspapers.<sup>733</sup> The Silverwood Dairy Factory Company Limited was already a well-established butter and cheese company with its base in the Darling Downs, established by John Reid in 1893, and now Chairman of Directors.<sup>734</sup> Edward Bytheway's name does not appear on the advertisements, and it is not clear what his role was under the new proprietors of the Gympie Butter Factory. By December 1899, the Silverwood Dairy Factory Company was operating the plant. The Company had extensive dairying experience in the region, had a plant in Toowoomba and cheese factories, had products that were highly recognised in the market, and began to supply ice to Gympie.<sup>735</sup>

As the word spread of the state of affairs at the Gympie Central Dairy Company, one of the shareholders publicly requested that 'shareholders ... consider the availability of endowing the Gympie Hospital with any surplus that may be left after paying the Company's debts. The principal could be made as trust, and the interest paid yearly as a subscription.'<sup>736</sup> Such a proposal would now have to fall to the Silverwood Dairy Factory Company to consider such a matter. The Silverwood Dairy operated until September 1906 following the establishment of the cooperative Wide Bay Dairy Cooperative in June 1906. The Cooperative ensured that Silverwood Dairy would not be able to open 'a rival factory within a radius of thirty miles for five years.'<sup>737</sup> The matter was also raised in Queensland's Legislative Assembly on 5 September 1906.<sup>738</sup> Sadly Edward Bytheway had died in 1905 and never got to see just how far his early initiative of the dairy factory had been taken.

A new butter factory opened on 25 September 1925, becoming the Gympie branch of the Wide Bay Cooperative. That factory claimed to be the largest in the world at that time.<sup>739</sup> It ceased processing milk in 1987 as milk collections declined. Edward Bytheway had been strongly instrumental in encouraging the dairy industry in Gympie, so much so that by the 1940's it eventually took first place for milk and butter production in Queensland and its revenue for a time was greater than the gold revenue.<sup>740</sup> At this time, 'Gympie settled down to a solid, though perhaps less sensational basis of prosperity after a hectic mining past.'<sup>741</sup> The old butter factory is now silent, and the dairy industry much reduced.

### **Flood Relief Committee 1890**

During the first quarter of 1890, the miners and residents of Gympie and the surrounding district must have felt that it would never stop raining. The disastrous floods came in January and with more vengeance in March/April. Relief was much needed from the distress caused by the destruction of homes, crops and properties. The

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<sup>732</sup> The Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser 12 October 1899

<sup>733</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 6 November 1899

<sup>734</sup> Crouchley, Betty, John Reid (1858-1919). Australian Dictionary of Biography Volume 11 Melbourne University Press, 1998

<sup>735</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 December 1899

<sup>736</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1899

<sup>737</sup> The Brisbane Courier 25 June 1906

<sup>738</sup> Hansard for Wednesday 5 September 1906 Queensland Legislative Assembly

<sup>739</sup> The Queenslander 7 December 1938

<sup>740</sup> Cooloola Shire ...a golden past Part 1 Cooloola Shire Library Service Published by Cooloola Shire Council 2001

<sup>741</sup> The Queenslander 7 December 1938

distress was extremely serious and people needed immediate relief of food, clothing and shelter. Hundreds of people were homeless and destitute, several mines were under water, and miners were stopped from doing their work. Gympie was fearful of sickness breaking out among those most affected.

By 1 April, the flooding was effecting Gympie's economy, a monthly report revealing that 'the Share Market has been very flat, worse than during the previous dull months. The unsatisfactory state of affairs was largely due to the weather ... the whole of the lowland was flooded ... the river was about 84 feet above the river bed or 4 feet higher than the January flood ... telegraph communication and mail was irregular ... all the mines flooded in January were filled again, and the crushing batteries were stopped ... the aggregate value of the mines is now at the lowest point it has been for years, £162,693 being £56,269 less than last month, and £117,307 less than in April last year, and £216,800 less than in April, 1888.'<sup>742</sup>

The images only give a glimpse of what it was like.<sup>743</sup> Maryborough, the Wide Bay and Burnett areas were equally affected and a flood relief committee was also being established there. The Queensland Government also had a Flood Relief Committee as they had had during the 1887 floods. In Gympie, key personalities had set up a Flood Relief Committee to take donations and provide money to those who needed it most. The Committee was also hopeful they would receive funds from the Queensland Government Flood Relief Committee. Of course Edward Bytheway<sup>744</sup> was a key player in all of this effort, together with his colleagues Major Ferguson, J.L. Matthews, T. McSweeney, C.J. Woolgar, A. Pollock, C.J. Jenkinson, E.B. Davidson, J.G. Kidgell, R.W. Scott. Donations came in from the Gympie Amateur Minstrels, the Ridgeway Family, Women's Christian Temperance Union and many others.



One-Mile, Gympie during 1890 flood taken on 11 March 1890. Looking down Red Hill to Crescent Road towards Monkland over flooded Deep Creek at the One-Mile. Primitive Methodist Church is on the left.

<sup>742</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 7 May 1890.

<sup>743</sup> oai:bishop.slg.qld.gov.au:288237

<sup>744</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 2 February 1890



Commissioner's Gully Gympie during 1890 flood. On left, Court House, Post Office, Drill Shed, Duke Street, Reef Street, and Union Hotel.

### **Wesleyan Interests and Surface Hill Methodist Church**

During their lives in England and when they arrived in Australia, Edward Bytheway and his wife, Emma, had been religious people and brought these Christian values in all they did in Gympie. We know 'that during his youth [he] attended at the services of the Church of England, but joined the Wesleyan Church through the influence of his first wife, a lady whose personality impressed itself upon him, especially in the direction of intellectual and spiritual culture ... he showed great interest in acquiring the present site of the Surface Hill Church, and the erection of the first church and parsonage. When the new church was built in 1890, he was a generous contributor in many ways, and the improvement and maintenance of Church interests were always important to him. Mr. Bytheway filled most of the Church positions during his lifetime. He was at the time of his death Treasurer and Society Steward. For over 20 years he was Circuit Steward. He also took great interest in the denominational affairs of the Church, often representing his circuit at Synod and Conference.'<sup>745</sup>

Emma died in 1871, but Edward Bytheway's second wife, Mary, was also devoted to the work of the Methodist Church, and gave him great support in his work for the Church. His 'religious character had deepened ... especially since the death of his second wife [in 1902], a lady whose influence in church and town was very pronounced.'<sup>746</sup>

His son Edward and his other children obviously adored their parents, Edward and Emma, this being a mark of the character of both of them. Edward Bytheway was particularly strong and active in his devotion to Methodism and his family made a significant contribution to the successful operation of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Gympie. It was publicly said that 'Mr. Bytheway was warmly attached to his church,

<sup>745</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 October 1905

<sup>746</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 October 1905

and was for a number of years Senior Circuit Steward and latterly Society Steward; he was also a trustee and Treasurer of the Gympie Church Trust.<sup>747</sup>

He contributed £200 (equivalent to \$28,709 in 2016<sup>748</sup>) towards the cost of the building of the new church and persevered in getting it built to replace the old bark type building. His friend and colleague, Hugo Du Rietz, had designed and personally supervised building this church between 1889 and 1890. The memorial stones for the church were laid by Messrs. Fairlie and Sons.



Laying the foundation stone at the Surface Hill Wesleyan Church in 1889. Edward Bytheway is pictured in this photograph, shown by the arrow. It could be surmised that the lady to his left may be his second wife, Mary.<sup>749</sup>

No too long before his death in 1905, Edward Bytheway had presided at a Home Missionary Meeting held at the church. There was a social gathering on the same day at the hall of the Surface Hill School 'to give the President's [Mr. Bytheway] many friends an opportunity of meeting him.'<sup>750</sup> He had been at the church with his son-in-law Mr. Sanday, on the night he was stricken with paralysis from the dengue fever.

An example of the kind of activity that Edward Bytheway with members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church gave Gympie was a picnic on New Year's Day 1877 down at Widgee Crossing, 'a level place, grassy and sheltered by trees admirably suited for picnic purposes.'<sup>751</sup> Over forty people went to the picnic. It is a great tribute to Edward Bytheway and his friends Mr. Mellor and Mr. Pack and their community spirit, that such

<sup>747</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 1900

<sup>748</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>749</sup> Photo courtesy Local Historian Beth Wilson Gympie Regional Library Laying of Foundation Stone Wesleyan Surface Hill Methodist Church 1889

<sup>750</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 June 1905

<sup>751</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 January 1877

an extensive event such as this could be arranged. They organised vehicles for people to get there; all the food and refreshments were there when people arrived for three capital meals during the day; a large tarpaulin was hoisted between four trees; games of rounders, twos and threes, croquet and other orthodox amusements were organised; and they broke up and packed up everything including putting the people in vehicles and got everyone and everything back to Gympie safely by 8pm. This was the kind of man Bytheway was and it is no surprise that everyone was 'full of gratitude to Messrs. Mellor, Bytheway and Pack for the munificent entertainment provided.'<sup>752</sup>

In May 1885, the Wesleyan Methodist Church on Surface Hill had successfully celebrated its sixteenth anniversary. It was a major occasion 'with the building decorated with great taste, the tables were laden with a profusion of toothsome dainties, and the ladies who presided at the tables were unremitting in their attentions to the wants of their guests.'<sup>753</sup> A public meeting followed the partaking of the food which was very largely attended. The meeting was opened by the Reverend M.H. Parkinson, and then Edward Bytheway presented the report of the trustees for the church. Mr. Mellor M.L.A. was also closely involved with the Wesleyan Church. In that year the parsonage had to be wholly repainted, the Church made generous donations to Home Missions, and delivered provisions for the Gympie Sabbath School and the One-Mile Sunday Schools and Library. There were choral renditions with Edward Bytheway's daughter singing a solo of 'Children of the City' and then playing the accompaniments to 'Loud Swell the Choral Numbers' 'with her customary ability.'<sup>754</sup> It seems apparent from the report in the *Gympie Times* that the Methodists were a close knit congregation in Gympie, demonstrated by the large crowd that had attended the celebrations and that 'the musical portion of the programme was highly appreciated by the audience, and contributed most materially to the enjoyment of the evening's proceedings. A collection was taken up towards the close, and a very liberal response made, so that from a pecuniary, as well as a social point of view the anniversary was an unqualified success.'<sup>755</sup>

On the afternoon of 30 January 1890, 'the ceremony of laying the memorial stones of the new church now being built by the Wesleyan body at Surface Hill' took place at 4pm. The honor of laying the stones was conferred on 'Mr. M Mellor, MLA; the Mayor (Major Ferguson); Mr. Isaac Bennett, on behalf of local preachers; Ald. Bytheway, Mr. James Mellor, Mr. David Williams, and Mr. T. J. Cox, on behalf of the Sunday School.'<sup>756</sup> Edward Bytheway was held in high esteem by the congregation of the Wesleyan community.

In February 1896, the Wesleyan congregation in Brisbane was holding its fourth annual conference, which was held in the Albert Street Church. Edward Bytheway attended the conference as a lay representative of Gympie<sup>757</sup>. In referring to the infancy of the Wesleyan movement in Australia and the need to have it more widely operating, the Rev. E. Youngman opened the conference to emphasise 'the secret of the great success of Methodism in the United States lay in the adoption of a principle which made provision for opening up new territory and giving it sufficient oversight to the work begun in it. Something of that kind was sorely needed in these colonies. The General

<sup>752</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 January 1877

<sup>753</sup> The Gympie Times and Mining River Gazette 30 May 1885

<sup>754</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 May 1885

<sup>755</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 May 1885

<sup>756</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 January 1890

<sup>757</sup> The Brisbane Courier 27 February 1896

Conference had given permission for the institution of an order of things which would meet this want, and as soon as the way became clear, not a day should be lost.<sup>758</sup> Edward was prominent when it came to the voting for the new secretary. It seems that he was also close to the Rev. E. Youngman as it is shown that together with Reverend Youngman, he responded to the deputation to take interest in supplying regular religious ministrations to the St Helena and Dunwich Missions, as well as other Government institutions.<sup>759</sup>

Also in February 1896 at a lay representative conference, Edward Bytheway with others, endorsed a report that 'the order in which the circuits should receive the married ministers be Gympie, Mount Morgan, Peak Downs, Townsville, Wesley, Croydon.'<sup>760</sup> Edward continued his work with the Wesleyan Conference over many years.

On 17 September 1903, the Surface Hill Methodist Church celebrated another anniversary with Edward Bytheway chairing proceedings. He informed those present that the Church was in a satisfactory state regarding finances, and it had also made some contributions to Townsville's cyclone fund. The focus though was largely on the spiritual benefits of the church to the community.<sup>761</sup> Is it any wonder that at his memorial service held on 22 October 1905, it was 'largely attended, the seating capacity of the Church being taxed to the utmost.'<sup>762</sup> This was a man who in 'his last hours of consciousness had been spent in the House of God, that he loved so much, ... Miss L. Mellor, who presided at the organ [for his memorial service], played the "Dead March in Saul". Edward senior had also donated an organ for the Church.<sup>763</sup>

Edward's son followed his father's strong devotion to the Wesleyan movement. He strongly endorsed Wide Bay and Methodist Synod Sittings to be held at Gympie.<sup>764</sup>

In 1929, Edward Junior, installed a 'handsome pulpit erected in the Surface Hill Methodist Church ... in remembrance of his parents ... the pulpit is of hexagonal design and stands a little over 5 feet high ... wood is beautifully grained cedar with panels of pine ... the marble tablet bears the words in gold lettering: "Erected by Edward Bytheway, in affectionate remembrance of his parents".

Mr. Bytheway took a prominent part in founding the first Wesleyan Church in Gympie. It was then not a pretentious building, but with its bark walls many devoted worshippers gathered week after week. Edward Bytheway and his wife were 'in their early years connected with Wesleyanism in England ... [when they arrived] in Brisbane in 1864, they worshipped in the old Albert Street Methodist Church in Brisbane ... for 38 years until his death in 1905, [he - Mr. Bytheway] was a trustee of the Church and a regular worshipper within its doors. For the greater part of this period, he was secretary of the trust ... [Edward junior's mother, Emma] was an enthusiastic church adherent ... she was especially qualified for church work, as she received her early training in the Westminster Training College, London ... she gave many years of faithful service to

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<sup>758</sup> The Brisbane Courier 27 February 1896

<sup>759</sup> Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald & General Advertiser (Qld. : 1861 - 1908), Saturday 7 March 1896

<sup>760</sup> The Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald & General Advertiser (Qld. : 1861 - 1908), Saturday 29 February 1896

<sup>761</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 September 1903

<sup>762</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 October 1905

<sup>763</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 October 1905

<sup>764</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser (Qld. : 1860 - 1947) Wednesday 26 October 1921



Methodism in Gympie ... [as did his second wife, Mary] who devoted herself to the work of the church until her death in 1902.<sup>765</sup>

Edward 'had attended a Church fellowship meeting in connection with the Surface Hill Church only four weeks before he died and had spoken of the goodness of the Lord, which had been manifest to him during nearly 50 years of Christian experience.'<sup>766</sup>

The photographs taken in 2014 show the Pulpit, and the Organ and the simple but effective stained glass windows in the front of the church. It was in this church where Edward senior saw his last of Gympie. The dengue fever grabbed him there that rainy cool Sunday night of October 1905, a few days before he died.

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The Pulpit in the Wesleyan Methodist Church donated and installed by Edward Bytheway Junior in memory of his parents and the inscription inset into the pulpit.<sup>768</sup>

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Marble Inlay on the front of the pulpit

<sup>765</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 September 1929

<sup>766</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 October 1905

<sup>767</sup> The Pulpit installed by Edward's son in the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the stain glass windows it faces. Photos taken by Linda Atkinson 4 July 2014

<sup>768</sup> Photo taken by Linda Atkinson 4 July 2014

<sup>769</sup> A close up of the inscription on the Pulpit donated by Edward Bytheway Junior in 1929. Photo taken by Linda Atkinson 4 July 2014



In the Surface Hill Wesleyan Church, the Organ donated by Edward Bytheway senior, and the stained glass window at the front of the church

### **Gympie Cemetery**

Edward Bytheway was a trustee for the Gympie Cemetery- he held many offices of Trustee of organisations and companies.

### **Gympie Eisteddfod**

The energy, variety and extent of Edward Bytheway's involvement in the wellbeing of the community seemed to be inexhaustible. As an example, in 1904 he was one of a number of Vice Presidents appointed at a meeting on 26 May in the Council Chambers to gather together people who were going to participate in the holding of the Sixth Eisteddfod in Gympie for Easter 1904. A liberal donation from funds raised from this Eisteddfod would go to the Gympie Hospital some to the Welsh Church and the balance vested in 2 trustees for a future Eisteddfod. Around 80 people attended that meeting, and Edward Bytheway became one of 77 people involved in the holding of this Eisteddfod: sixteen Patrons including His Excellency Sir Herbert Chermiside; a President, the Mayor, Major D. E Reid; thirty-nine Vice Presidents; a Committee of 18 and a Treasurer, Secretary and an Honorary Secretary.<sup>770</sup>

<sup>770</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 May 1903

### **Gympie South African Contingent**

Australia had sent troops to the Boer War to fight alongside others who were fighting for the British Empire. Gympie had sent a group of men and these men were expected to return in January 1901. Edward Bytheway was the acting Chairman of the Committee for the Reception of the Gympie South Africa Contingent, keeping in touch with officials who would inform him when the men were due back in Gympie.<sup>771</sup>

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Edward Bytheway gave unselfishly of himself to this town Gympie almost each and every day of his life here, and he applied his great passion for public affairs through his intellectual and spiritual personality.

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<sup>771</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 January 1901

Plan of Mary Street Gympie Goldfield drawn by the District Surveyor Wide Bay District 6 March 1869  
Clarendon Stuart Licensed Surveyor. Original copy held in Local History Section of Gympie Regional  
Library



## Chapter Six

### The Gympie Hospital

A hospital was urgently needed soon after the discovery of gold in Gympie. As soon as the alluvial gold began to be less available, deep reef mining became the norm for the extraction of gold. With this kind of mining and the machinery required for it, came horrendous injuries that demanded a fully functioning hospital and doctors who also had experience as surgeons- 'when mining assumes something more akin to its name, and diggers have to sink down hundreds instead of scores of feet, the beneficial results of having a well conducted Hospital will be more frequent and patent.'<sup>772</sup>

The momentum for a hospital for the Nashville miners was very strong. A man in Maryborough by the name of Mr. Hyman began collecting subscriptions for the erection of the hospital in Nashville. He was appealing to the Maryborough public for donations and gifts for this purpose. The Maryborough people had the view that 'the sick must be cared for there or here.'<sup>773</sup> By the end of January 1868, Gympie had become regarded as one of the great goldfields in Australia, with its population ever steadily growing, and scattered wherever the mines were established. A hospital had to be built to serve especially the miners, their families and the rapidly increasing population. The people in fact became quite agitated and even sensitive about the set-up of the hospital and the quality of the treatment they received.

By January 1868, a Hospital Committee was in place, and application for funding had been made to the Queensland Government. A.W. Manning, Under Colonial Secretary wrote back to the Committee on 27 February 1868, informing that the application had been received too late, with the Estimates process then being closed.<sup>774</sup> This did not deter the very experienced doctors in town at the time who knew the makings of a hospital could be quickly set up, these being the first in 1867 being Dr. Theodore Edgar Dickson Byrne, and the second in 1868 being Dr. Stephen Burke. Dr. Byrne came up from Brisbane where he was working as a doctor and Dr. Burke gave up his good surgery in Toowoomba to come to Gympie, his wife being pregnant at the time. By 31 January 1868, a Nashville Miners' Hospital was operating from a series of tents up on Commissioner's Hill. In February 1868, the Hospital Committee had agreed to its name of the Miners' Hospital.

The first endowment from the Government came in April 1868- Dr. Byrne and his colleagues had moved quickly and compassionately, applying a range of practical skills to provide adequate medical services. The excerpt from the Nashville Times shows the subscription list in early March 1868. <sup>775</sup>

In the first four months of 1868, and only six months since the discovery of gold, a few responsible, community minded men had established a Hospital Committee and hospital, gained Government support for an endowment, and convinced people to make donations or subscriptions for the hospital's operations. The Committee met almost every two weeks in those early times, and by the end of March 1868, was holding formal meetings to gain more subscriptions, holding elections to form an openly elected

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<sup>772</sup> The Nashville Times 15 August 1868

<sup>773</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 4 January 1868

<sup>774</sup> The Nashville Times 14 March 1868

<sup>775</sup> The Nashville Times 11 March 1868

Committee, and had encouraged members of the community to host various events to raise money.

At the first meeting of subscribers to the Nashville Miners' Hospital at the Maryborough Hotel on 31 January 1868, J. Farrelly and John Barrow Atkinson collected £1500 (equivalent to \$215,318 in 2016<sup>776</sup>) to provide for a new more permanent building. The first Hospital building was built where the Masonic Temple stands on Channon Street in Gympie today.

By February 1868, the enormous Curtis Nugget (weighing around 80 pounds and containing 1000 ounces of gold) had been found. The Manager of the Commercial Bank of Maryborough had it on display, charging one shilling a head for people to view it. A good sum was handed over as a donation to the new Nashville Hospital.<sup>777</sup> The hospital later became known as the Gympie Hospital. The name Nashville, while honouring the discoverer of gold in Gympie, had led on numerous occasions of mail ending up in Nashville in the United States of America, and then having to be rerouted back to Queensland. By September 1868, the push for a name change was evident, and preferred.

John Atkinson was made a life member following his donation of £200 (equivalent to \$28,709 in 2016<sup>778</sup>).<sup>779</sup> The Hospital Committee meeting of 13 March 1868 confirmed that the name of the hospital would be the Nashville Miners' Hospital.<sup>780</sup> Good fortune came the Committee's way in April 1868 when the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Lord reported that '£100 had been received from the Government, the amount of endowment to the Hospital'.<sup>781</sup> Dr. Byrne was doing everything he could for the patients, even lending one of his large tents 'to be used for fever patients of which there were at present four dangerous cases'.<sup>782</sup> The men of the Committee were already

**SUBSCRIPTION LIST for Erecting an Invalid Miners Hospital:—**  
**SECOND LIST.**

£ s. d.]		£ s. d.	
W. Malcolm ...	1 0 0	D. McLean ...	0 2 6
G. G. Muir ...	0 2 6	J. Williams ...	0 2 6
R. F. Drew ...	0 2 6	H. Samson ...	0 2 6
A. Black ...	0 2 6	J. Taylor ...	0 2 6
J. Ramsay ...	0 2 6	A. Tompkin ...	0 2 6
Alex. Black ...	0 2 6	H. Collins ...	0 2 6
D. Whitton ...	0 2 6	T. Myles ...	0 2 6
J. S. Mackinjohn	1 0 0	W. Peters ...	0 2 6
C. Calvert ...	0 2 6	Stranger ...	0 2 6
G. Styles ...	0 10 0	Das Delaney ...	0 2 6
W. Kilman ...	1 0 0	W. Johnston ...	0 2 6
Perkins & Hatch-		G. Hicking ...	0 2 6
ison ...	2 0 0	A. Mann ...	0 2 6
E. H. Booth ...	1 0 0	W. Doonan ...	0 2 6
T. Gray ...	0 2 6	A. Scott ...	0 2 6
L. E. Berriman ...	0 10 0	L. Roberts ...	0 2 6
F. Goodchap ...	0 10 0	W. Brand ...	0 10 0
W. Highfield ...	0 10 0	R. Frawi ...	0 10 0
Geo. Spencer ...	0 10 0	Fred. James ...	0 2 6
R. Morrison ...	1 0 0	J. M'Intosh ...	0 2 6
Dr. Burke ...	1 10 0	M. Began ...	0 10 0
F. Lord ...	1 0 0	John Carnally ...	0 2 6
W. Murdock ...	1 10 0	Fred. Nelson ...	0 10 0
R. Murdock ...	1 10 0	James Hannah ...	0 2 6
G. W. Gaylor ...	1 10 0	Ahern & Daly ...	1 10 0
W. Livingstone ...	1 10 0	S. Began ...	0 10 0
F. Thompson ...	1 10 0	J. Smith ...	0 10 0
Donald Ross ...	0 2 6	A. H. Webster ...	1 0 0
Nell Graham ...	0 10 0	Rev. Father Timot	2 0 0
John Smith ...	0 2 6	Landy Bros. ...	1 0 0
Charles Durwin ...	0 2 6	—, Berkley ...	1 0 0
A. Haverson ...	0 10 0		
			£40 0 6
Amount advertised in Nashville Times of			
February 15 ...			58 12 6
Total ...			£98 12 6

<sup>776</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>777</sup> The Brisbane Courier 12 February 1868

<sup>778</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>779</sup> Hicks, Shauna. From Iron Chains to Gold Bars. The Story of the Walker Family and its descendants including Evans, Potter, Bullen and Atkinson Families, 1814-194. Shauna Hicks Brisbane 1992. Page 75

<sup>780</sup> The Nashville Times 13 March 1868

<sup>781</sup> The Nashville Times 25 April 1868

<sup>782</sup> The Nashville Times 25 April 1868

planning ahead calling tenders for a three month period for the catering of food to the patients. Dr. Byrne was instrumental in a number of decisions at the 22 April 1868 meeting at Mr. George Thrower's Freemason's Hotel, including that an advertisement be placed in the Nashville Times for a paid secretary. Familiar names in the early history of Gympie formed the Hospital Committee at that time: Mr. Charles. J. Clarke J.P. (Chair), Mr. E.H. King J.P. (Gold Commissioner), and Messrs. Thrower, Dunlop, Pengally.

Later when the new Committee was elected, the first men to be formally appointed as officers of the Nashville Miners' Hospital were President (and Gold Commissioner) Mr. H. E. King; Vice-President Mr. J. F. G. Pockley; Secretary F. Lord; and Medical Officer Dr. T. E. D. Byrne. The first Committee consisted of Messrs. C. J. Clarke, M. Donnelly, W. Walsh, F. Sawyer, T. Balding, J. H. Pengelly, W. Kidman, C. S. Hawthorn, F. Goodchap, E. T. Gilbert, and C. P. Smith.<sup>783</sup>

It was imperative for the Hospital to garner subscriptions, or it had difficulty in operating. Even in July 1868 (nine months after gold had been discovered), the Nashville Times was reporting 'with a population of thousands and with gold reefs turning thousands we learn with surprise that the Gympie Hospital will have to be closed for want of funds.'<sup>784</sup> In that same month, the 'Gympie Hospital was threatened with closure on account of no funds.'<sup>785</sup>

Within twelve months, there was still concern about the viability and finances of the hospital when about 100 concerned people attended a public meeting to discuss the 'present conditions of the Miners' Hospital'<sup>786</sup>, which in that month had provided treatment for some 301 patients, gratis from Drs. Byrne and Burke. The mood was that the Hospital must be built quickly. It was not an easy time, but the two doctors were inherently cognisant about the need for a hospital and how well it could be managed for the patients. Money, a soundly functioning and responsible Hospital Committee and good management was the focus and when these began to wane, the Hospital found itself in a lot of trouble, as was evidenced in August 1868. The public concern was expressed this way: 'Although there are now two medical gentlemen who at great sacrifice attend the Hospital and tend most carefully the wants of the patients, they cannot obtain the accommodation for the class of cases which too frequently come under their treatment. Money is constantly being paid in, and yet there is no improvement in the general management of the house, with the exception of a few sheets of bark for a cooking caboose. There is a general indifference prevailing, owing to there not being any responsible head or any orders given by a committee ... let a public meeting be called for the election of others. Above all let there be a statement of receipts and expenditure prepared by the Secretary in order that the public may ascertain what has been the disposal of funds, in some instances most liberally raised ... it would be far more satisfactory if the paid Secretary would once a month enlighten the subscribers upon that very important point-the way the money goes. Whilst according to those gentlemen, who with earnest hearts, were instrumental in founding a home for the sick and maimed, the credit due to them, we are only repeating the wishes of a large number of persons when we urge upon the now somnolent Committee the advisability of their at once meeting and deciding upon the adoption of a mode of procedure better than that in vogue at the present time. This must be done as early as possible, or the Hospital will

<sup>783</sup> Historical Sketch of Gympie page 145

<sup>784</sup> The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 21 July 1868

<sup>785</sup> The Gympie Times 20 July 1918, reprinting newspaper articles from the Nashville Times 15 and 18 July 1868

<sup>786</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 October 1868

soon be in a worse position than it is now.<sup>787</sup> By October 1868, the Hospital's financial situation deteriorated even more and was 'compelled to close the doors of the Hospital to all except very urgent cases.'<sup>788</sup> A crisis had hit Gympie which it could ill abide given the high risk work undertaken by the miners, not to mention other medical demands.

A public meeting attended by one hundred persons on Tuesday evening of 27 October 1868 noted the continuing apathy from the public, and that even then many diggers on the gold field did not know about the hospital until they became ill or injured.<sup>789</sup> This meeting had been initiated by the then Committee 'for the purpose of making arrangements for the maintenance of the Institution on a firmer basis than at present ... the hospital is practically closed for the relief of the sick and suffering on this goldfield ... the Hospital has never been what may be called a popular institution on Gympie.'<sup>790</sup> There had also been a censure of the miners for their neglect and apathy in connection with the Hospital.

Edward Bytheway arrived in Nashville as it was emerging into a great goldfield and the Hospital was experiencing its financial crises. He knew both Drs. Byrne and Burke, and together with them, and others including Gold Commissioner H. E. King, recognised very early the pressing need for a hospital, the serious nature of miner's injuries and the growing population.

He turned his business and financial skills to contribute to improving the operations of the Hospital and its Committee from 1868. The records suggest that Edward Bytheway exercised a listen and watch approach on the Hospital Committee, as well as acting on matters of management, hospital staffing matters, and financial management. With his great skill for management and funding issues, he and his colleagues worked through difficult times with the Committee to seek funding both from the public and the Queensland Government to secure the Hospital's existence into the future. No matter which way funds were to be raised, the hospital was going to have to rely on subscriptions and donations from the public, not only for money, but also for food, sheets, beds, books and so on. To retain community support, the Hospital devised a system so trades people could have turn about when work was required to be done, so everyone got some share of the business generated by the Hospital.

Edward was later to have some unpleasant experiences with Dr. Byrne at public meetings relating to the establishment of the School of Arts, where he was seen as none other than a nuisance. Dr. Byrne was the "*Jumping Dr.*" of Gympie because he was well known for jumping other people's gold claims. Both he and Dr. Burke had been doctors and surgeons in the Crimean War and were well acquainted with the gruesome machinery injuries such as incurred by the miners and other settlers, as well as deaths and injuries caused by the effects of excess alcohol. Nashville was fortunate to have the services of such doctors with expertise.

Dr. Theodore Edgar Dickson Byrne, originally a surgeon apprenticed to a parish doctor at Islington, England, went as a medical officer to the Crimean War (October 1853 to February 1856). He completed further medical studies in Newcastle UK, and later signed up as a Surgeon Superintendent in charge of the immigrant ship *The Light Brigade*, subsequently arriving to Brisbane on 18 May 1863. Sometime before his arrival

<sup>787</sup> The Nashville Times 15 August 1868

<sup>788</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 October 1868

<sup>789</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 October 1868

<sup>790</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 October 1868



into Gympie in 1867 for the gold rush, he published a book '*Lunacy and Law together with hints on the Treatment of Idiots*' in 1864.<sup>791</sup> In 1871, Dr. Byrne, described as a Physician, was called to give evidence before a Queensland Government Committee on a case relating to the Gympie Goldfields.<sup>792</sup> Dr. Byrne was a colourful character who seemed to enjoy a good argument, a good fight and a lot to drink.

Dr. Burke served for four years on *HMS Cordelia* as Surgeon Superintendent before arriving to settle in Brisbane in 1864, then working in his own practice in Toowoomba, before moving to Gympie in early 1868.

When the Queensland Minister for Works, Mr. Hodgson visited the goldfields in October 1868, the people of Gympie responded by ensuring that he knew that 'he will find many requirements among us, more especially ... the speedy completion of our hospital.'<sup>793</sup> In October 1868, the Hospital was still experiencing severe financial problems, so the Committee reluctantly decided to close its doors 'to all except very urgent cases, owing to the funds being exhausted, and no likelihood of their being replenished.'<sup>794</sup> A public meeting of 27 October was attended by around 100 people began the process of resuscitating the Hospital, including agreeing to make an approach to the Queensland Government for funds. A very necessary public institution, it needed the support of its locals, as Dr. Burke emphasised 'not more than a dozen out of the 600 patients at the Hospital had been other than miners, and yet the principal subscriptions had come from the store keepers.'<sup>795</sup> Dr. Burke in his dedication to the Hospital regularly arranged for money collected at the St Patrick's Catholic Church to be donated to the Hospital. In 1879, the Hospital Committee was expecting a handsome sum to be handed over by St Patrick's Church from a Ball being organised by Father Horan. A Ball had just seen the sum of £50 being handed to the Convent and the Hospital Committee was expecting the same.<sup>796</sup>

The deputation of the Committee that met with Mr. Hodgson on Friday 30 October 1868, came away enthused because the Government already had action in place to find a new site, and to provide funds of £500 for the present hospital or the building of a new one, and in addition the Government 'would supplement any amount raised by subscription with a similar amount.'<sup>797</sup> A Miners' Accident Society was established in 1869 and a kind of complement to the treatment available from the Hospital.

In 1870, the Queensland Government provided the grant of £250 to the Hospital, which was one half of the annual sum promised.<sup>798</sup> Fortunately, by 1870, the Committee had established the Gympie Hospital Subscription Fund, to encourage subscriptions from miners and the public. Work had to be undertaken to ensure subscriptions were collected. The Treasurer, Mr. Cullinane and the Secretary Mr. Ballard signed off on the large number of honorary collectors for subscriptions from<sup>799</sup>:

Aurelia Prospect Claim:

Mr. C. Hopf

Bristol Prospect Claim:

Mr. William Skinner

<sup>791</sup> <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Lunacy-together-hints-treatment-idiots-x/dp/B000WR8MRY>. Unknown binding 1864

<sup>792</sup> [http://fhr.slq.qld.gov.au/committees/bru\\_by.htm](http://fhr.slq.qld.gov.au/committees/bru_by.htm)

<sup>793</sup> *The Queenslander* 28 November 1868

<sup>794</sup> *The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette* 22 October 1868

<sup>795</sup> *The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette* 22 October 1868

<sup>796</sup> *The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette* 8 October 1879

<sup>797</sup> *The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette* 31 October 1868

<sup>798</sup> *The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette* 9 April 1870

<sup>799</sup> *The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette* 23 July 1870

Caledonian Prospect Claim:	Mr. Edward Mount
Caledonian No.9 south:	Mr. G. Marshall
California whole line:	Mr. G. Marshall
Elworthy and Mellor's Establishment:	Mr. M. Mellor
Enterprise Machine:	Mr. G. Hay
Hamburg whole line:	Mr. T. Jackson
Hilton whole line:	Mr. T. Jackson
Jones' Nos.3 and 5 south:	Mr. G. R. Linklater
Lady Mary No.4 south:	Mr. George Matters
Lady Mary No.5 south:	Mr. A. Thomas
Louisa whole line:	Mr. S. F. Robinson
London Prospect Claim and Nos.1 and 2 south:	Mr. William Skinner
Monkland Nos.1, 2 and 3 south:	Mr. Denis Butler
New Zealand Prospect Claim and No.1 south:	Mr. A. Cherry
Nichols' Prospect Claim and No.1 north:	Mr. Nichols
Otago-Prospect Claim and Nos.1 and 2 north:	Mr. G. R. Linklater
Perseverance whole line:	Mr. W. L. Smith
Rose of Australia Prospect Claim:	Mr. G. R. Linklater
Royal Standard Prospect Claim:	Mr. G. R. Linklater
Smithfield Tributors of No.2 south:	Mr. E. P. Morris
Victoria Machine:	Mr. W. Holliman
Warren Hastings whole line:	Mr. Joseph Malloon
Imbil Goldfield Breakneck Creek:	Mr. James Sweeney; Mr. William Smith
Imbil Flat:	Mr. H. Whinefield and Mr. James Smith
Imbil Town:	Mr. James McGrath and Mr. Harris

Public criticism about the lack of activity by the Hospital Committee was rife in 1871, even extending to accusations of negligence. Also by now there were more doctors in Gympie to tend patients in addition to Drs. Byrne and Burke, Drs. Benson and Mondelet, who had replaced Dr. Burke after his resignation from the Hospital. Dr. Burke M.R.C.S. (Eng) L.K.Q.C.P. (Ireland) relocated to Melbourne and worked there in his own practice and at the Royal Women's Hospital as a Medical Practitioner, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. He died aged 63 years on 24 November 1898.

While the Committee had the power to conduct the business of the Hospital, it continued to have quite a bit of mediating to do between the doctors in order to have patients attended, and between the doctors and the Committee.

Dr. Byrne was aggrieved because some time ago he had been sent a letter to say that the Medical Officer had no voice on the Committee and therefore could not attend Committee meetings. He needed to attend Committee meetings to make suggestions for the running of the Hospital; Dr. Benson was having difficulty working with Dr. Byrne whom he believed was not really undertaking the full program of his work and leaving a lot to Dr. Benson; Dr. Benson wanted the Committee to rule which Doctor was running the Hospital and Dr. Byrne said he would perform his full duties provided Dr. Benson's voluntary services were retained so he had someone upon which to call for second opinions. Dr. Byrne's rambunctious, vexatious behaviour was quite something to contend with as he saw he had the right to set his own agenda for his working hours and tending to outpatients. He wanted to see outpatients at his house and not be wasting time sitting at the Hospital waiting for them to turn up. To see them at the

Hospital he would demand £300 per year! With such resolutions and mediations occurring, one Committee member simply pointed out that the one thing the Hospital needed was painting!<sup>800</sup>

These management issues were being exacerbated by suppliers of medicine discontinuing their supply, while others agreeing to continue at £25 per month, and new tenders would be called for the supply of drugs.<sup>801</sup> Committee members felt the Hospital was trending toward the bad as this and Dr. Byrne's unreasonable behaviour began convincing the Committee to advertise for a new resident surgeon and to pay that person £150 per year.<sup>802</sup> 1871 continued to be the year when the poor working relationship between Dr. Byrne and Dr. Benson continued to plague Committee business, as did subscribers who were interested in the business of the Committee and the Hospital.

The first rules for the management of the Hospital were adopted at a public meeting of subscribers on 8 February 1872. Some of those rules for engagement had been drawn up by Dr. Byrne. Edward Bytheway with others became life members of the Hospital by donating personal amounts, in Edward Bytheway's case this being £10/10/-.<sup>803</sup> By 1874 Dr. Byrne had departed Gympie permanently for England and Scotland to take possession of his inheritance left to him by his father. The Hospital Committee and Gympie heaved a sigh of relief to see him gone.

At the same time as Edward Bytheway was part of the major efforts being made to obtain funds for the Gympie Hospital, he was also busy establishing the Gympie Gas and Coke Company, which provided gas and electric light to Gympie from 1881 although gas was available, including to the Hospital from 1870.

Edward Bytheway earned a reputation for being one of the hardest workers in the establishment of the Gympie Hospital, and held a seat on the Committee for thirty-seven years, either as its Chair, its Treasurer, or as a Committee Member. He was a member of the Committee up to the time of his death.

As Chairman and Committee Member, he played a significant role in the management of the Hospital, and in motivating the Government to continue providing its endowment; in driving the collection of subscriptions from the citizens of Gympie; in implementing the Hospital Sunday contributions from the churches; and encouraging donations from organisations such as the Roman Catholic Church, Church of England, the Salvation Army, and the Amalgamated Friendly Societies, directors of the mining companies, business houses, the Municipal Council, companies such as the Gympie Gas and Coke Company, and the Rugby Football Union. The Committee became innovative in raising funds from events such as Balls, Shoots, Band contests, concerts, and visits from the Maryborough Naval Brigade. The Committee would also urge the mining companies and business houses to convince those in their employ to contribute a weekly amount from their wages to the Hospital, something like threepence per man. It was a great community effort, driven by the very community focused on by Edward Bytheway.

One other important event which was held every year specifically in aid of the Gympie Hospital was the shop assistants procession, 'once a year the streets of Gympie are lined

<sup>800</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 April 1871

<sup>801</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 May 1871

<sup>802</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 April 1871

<sup>803</sup> Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927. Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927 page 146

with spectators to witness the gorgeous and fantastic procession which the shop assistants of various firms in Gympie organize as an overture to their carnival for the aid of the Gympie Hospital.<sup>804</sup> This very large procession attracted hundreds of spectators and a great interest from everywhere because it was a parade of fun and participants dressing in characters of people like Robinson Crusoe. The procession started on Commissioner's Hill and never halted until it reached the One-Mile recreation ground. It went down 'Mary Street, thence via the Railway Station, Lady Mary Terrace, Apollonian Vale, Crown Royal Hotel, Mount Pleasant, Graham Street and One-Mile.'<sup>805</sup> It included among other parade items, the Monkland Band, Gympie Town Band, Scottish Band, Model Band (all of which participated in a contest on the day), two lorries of child club swingers, Royal Utopian Artillery with British Naval Officers, Ambulance Brigade, and 'De Dark-Town Rugby Union which was fourteen masculine and feminine altered footballers.'<sup>806</sup> The Procession in 1904 had gross receipts of between £140 and £150 'which should leave a substantial sum to hand over to the Hospital.'<sup>807</sup>



Dr. Roderick A. McLeod, Superintendent; Matron Evelyn Cavage and 8 nurses.<sup>808</sup>

Edward ensured that all the organisations in which he was involved, such as the Gympie Gas Company, the School of Arts, or his own store, would make regular donations to the Hospital. He was Mayor on two occasions during his work with the Hospital Committee, 1890 to 1891 and 1895 to 1896, and while his time could be taken up by his Mayoral responsibilities, he never let the Hospital Committee down in his efforts. He was still on the Committee in 1885 when the new Hospital was being built, as the photograph shows.

<sup>804</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 August 1904

<sup>805</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 August 1904

<sup>806</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 August 1904

<sup>807</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 August 1904

<sup>808</sup> Gympie Hospital ca. 1920 shows Dr. Roderick McLeod (Superintendent), Matron Evelyn Cavage and 8 nurses. Photo Courtesy Local History Section Gympie Regional Library. Keith Waser Collection



Committee of Gympie Hospital when being erected in 1885.<sup>809</sup> The Hospital Surgeon in 1885 was Dr. Black. Dr. Black is not shown in this photo. *Back Row: F.J. Bennett, E.B. Barns (Secretary), R.A. Pollock, S. Glasgow, S. Shepherd, E. Stanley, and A.G. Ramsey. Sitting: F.I. Power, E. Bytheway, W. Ferguson (Saw Mill), W. Smyth MLA, M. Mellor, and J. Farrelly. At the Window to the left: C.M. Jenkinson and C. Boase (reporters).*

Built on the site of the current Gympie Hospital and opened on 24 October 1889, it was a substantial brick building. The foundation stone of the building had been laid on 16 October 1888 (the twenty-first anniversary of the discovery of gold in Gympie), after the idea for a new hospital had been mooted since 1885. Edward Bytheway member of the Hospital Committee was there on that day as the Chairman Mr. W. Ferguson informed the 200 present on that Tuesday in 1888 that the current Committee was one of the best ever committees.<sup>810</sup> It could not have been otherwise with the presence of Edward Bytheway's critical financial and management skills. Edward was joined on that Committee by Patron: W. Smyth MLA; President W. Ferguson (of the Union Saw Mill); Vice-President: M. Mellor MLA; Treasurer: J. Farrelly; Committee: A.G. Ramsey, R.A. Pollock, S. Glasgow, G.J. Woolgar, F.J. Bennett, F.I. Power, S. Caston, S. Shepherd; Trustees W. Ferguson (store), J. Farrelly, M. Mellor, F.I. Power; Secretary E. Barnes.

The foundation stone was laid as the past seventeen years of 2,054 patients treated were acknowledged. The Hospital had treated an average of 121 per year from 1871.

The cherished brick building was demolished in 1985 when it was almost 100 years old; '... the wrought-iron verandahs [were] boarded up to provide extra accommodation for the increased number of patients.'<sup>811</sup>

<sup>809</sup> Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927. Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927. Page 145

<sup>810</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 October 1888

<sup>811</sup> The Gympie Times Gympie City Centenary Booklet 1905 to 2004. Page 87

When the Gympie Hospital was complete in 1889, its first Hospital Committee consisted of:

Edward Bytheway, Mr. F. J. Bennett, Wardsman Thompson, Mr. S. Glasgow, Mr. S. Shepherd, Mr. A. Conwell, Mr. E. B. Barnes, Matron Thomas, Dr. Bowe, Mr. William Ferguson, Mr. F. I. Power, Mr. A. G. Ramsey, and the Housekeeper.

Many of Edward Bytheway's colleagues who served on other Committees and the Municipal Council, also served on the Hospital Committee. Such colleagues were Mr. W. Smyth, Messrs. M. Mellor, W. Ferguson (Major), J. Farrelly, S. Shepherd, A.G. Ramsey, R.A. Pollock, S. Glasgow, E. Stanley, F.J. Bennett, F. I. Power, and Hugo Du Rietz.

In those days, items such as eggs, fruit, toys, old linen, plants, flowers and papers were donated to the Hospital. William Smyth 'was noted for his generosity, and amongst his many donations was £500 to the building of the new hospital.'<sup>812</sup> Smyth was a holder of No.1 North Phoenix gold mine which paid considerable dividends. Mr. Mellor was a member of the Gympie Progress Association and there would have been a lot of discussions held between Edward Bytheway and other colleagues as they worked toward the establishment of the School of Arts as well as a properly funded hospital.

Edward Bytheway attended almost all of the monthly meetings of the Hospital Committee from its establishment, right through until his death. He was appointed by the Committee to draw up the annual report of the Committee nearly every year. The annual report would be given to hospital subscribers. In any one week he could attend a number of meetings including those of the Municipal Council, the Hospital Committee, the School of Arts, the Gympie Improvement Association, the Gympie Progress Association, Chamber of Commerce, Freemasons, Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society, or be sitting on the bench of the Police Magistrates Court. He will have been acquainted with each of the resident surgeons of the Hospital such as Dr. W.S. Geddie.<sup>813</sup>

The information published from the monthly meetings shows just how much Gympie needed a new hospital, and provides a window into some of the issues dealt with at those meetings:

**1881** The Hospital Committee arranged the Hospital Ball that 'brought together an assemblage thoroughly representative of all classes of the community, and one of the largest that has ever been seen in a local ballroom, and will result in a respectable balance being handed over to the Hospital.'<sup>814</sup> The Bytheways were there in their splendour, he as a soldier and Mrs. Bytheway in evening dress, where 'fancy dresses were not only numerous but handsome and varied.'<sup>815</sup>

**Thursday 21 January 1886** meeting of subscribers with Mr. W. Smyth MLA voted in as Chair, the Hospital Committee reported for the year 1885 that 222 patients had been admitted; 1,560 outdoor cases treated; 14 deaths had occurred; 201 persons discharged as cured; 28 cases of typhoid had been treated; 48 cases had been treated the year before. As well as the Government grants of £700, £689 3s 7d had been received in subscriptions and donations from the competing choirs at the recent Eisteddfod, members of the Musical Union, the Oddfellows' Band and a lady and gentleman amateurs. A Resident Surgeon's residence had been erected on a half-acre block

<sup>812</sup> The Queenslander 7 December 1938

<sup>813</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 August 1896

<sup>814</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 August 1886

<sup>815</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 August 1886

purchased of land adjoining the Hospital grounds. This land was a very valuable corner block consisting of two quarter acre freehold allotments which are now vested in the names of the Trustees of the Hospital.<sup>816</sup>

**Tuesday 6 September 1887** recorded that the Hospital had had 21 male and 6 female patients admitted during the past month.<sup>817</sup>

Members of the Committee including Messrs. Hodgkinson (Chairman), Ferguson, Woolgar, Crawford, Atkinson, Caston, and Ramsey, considered: processes to obtain ambulance stretchers; an application to the Minister for Education for a grant of a holiday to children attending the local schools on 29 September. Messrs. Ferguson and Bytheway were appointed to the Jubilee Concert Committee.

As well as taking a close oversight of the management and funding of the Hospital, Edward Bytheway was Chair of what was called the Visiting Committee, which entailed his regularly inspecting the Hospital twice a week. In his report to the Committee in 1887, for example, he said he 'invariably found it well attended to in all respects, with everything always in good order, and no complaints made by any of the patients.'<sup>818</sup>

**January 1890**, the Resident Surgeon reported that 'during the month of December, 19 male and 6 female patients were admitted, and 19 males and 4 females discharged; 3 males died; B. Heckscher from injuries to arm and hemorrhage; J. Evans, from fracture of leg, insanity, and disease of liver and kidneys, and Hinton from typhoid fever; admissions included 3 cases of typhoid; and that the out-door patients numbered 64 males and 44 females, of whom 32 of the former and 27 of the latter were now new cases.'<sup>819</sup> At the same meeting, Edward was appointed with Mr. Power to write the annual report for the annual meeting of subscribers.

**30 January 1890** As Chairman of the Committee, Edward Bytheway attended all twelve meetings of the Committee during that year. The twenty-second annual meeting of the subscribers to the Gympie Hospital was preceded by a special meeting on 22 January 1890 at which Edward Bytheway was present. The Committee considered 'the charge made by Mr. P. D. Howe against Dr. Bowe, that he was unjustly expelled from the Institution late at night, and falsely accused of drinking the liquor of some of the patients.'<sup>820</sup> For this meeting, 'the attendance was one of the largest at any meeting of the sort ever held in this district, the Court House being so crowded that standing room only could be obtained.'<sup>821</sup> Edward Bytheway was with familiar colleagues on the Hospital Committee who obviously trusted him: Messrs. W. Smyth, M. Mellor, S. Glasgow, S. Shepherd, J. Chapple (also an Alderman on the Gympie Municipal Council), and A. Conwell. They nominated Edward and Mr. Shepherd to oversight the building additions to the Hospital of a skillion, outbuildings, and a wardsman's cottage.

Patients were moved to the new Hospital on 28 November 1890 'where the spacious and well ventilated wards will greatly contribute to their prospects of recovery from disease or accident.' The Hospital was mainly used by miners and other workers, so this was a great step forward for the mining community. The number of cases treated at the

<sup>816</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 January 1886

<sup>817</sup> The Gympie Times and Mining River Gazette 8 September 1887

<sup>818</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 April 1887

<sup>819</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 January 1890.

<sup>820</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 January 1890

<sup>821</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 1 February 1890

hospital in 1890 had more than doubled from 1889, with 722 attendances, and 680 new cases.

To keep the Hospital clear of debt, the Committee needed a minimum of £900 per annum from public subscribers (equivalent to \$132,023 in 2016)<sup>822</sup>. Ever the business man, Edward Bytheway, at the Hospital Committee meeting of 3 June 1890, considered information from the Townsville and Charters Towers Hospitals on the salaries paid to Resident Surgeons and Resident Medical Officers and other conditions for these respective positions. Edward spoke to the donation of £36 (equivalent to \$5,280 in 2016)<sup>823</sup> from the Gympie Amateur Minstrels, as well as following up on the offer from the Maryborough Amateur Dramatic Club for entertainment at the hospital.

### **Tuesday 1 November 1892**

Matters discussed related to an increased tariff affecting the cost of certain contracts at the hospital, such as the grocery contract and the bakery contract. Edward was effective with others present in resolving that both contracts be allowed an extra amount to reflect the increased tariff.<sup>824</sup> The

Committee was ever concerned to raise funds, such as the suggestion for a band contest for Christmas 1894. Edward Bytheway, happy to

do almost anything, cheerfully took on the task with his colleagues Messrs. Pack, Shanks and Mulcahy to make it happen. The Gympie Oddfellows' Band was there to lend their assistance.<sup>825 826</sup>

The Committee was never without its challenges. In 1890, it suffered a series of disputes, being accused of gross neglect; in particular Dr. Bowe, the Resident Surgeon was alleged to be guilty of inhumanity in the treatment of a miner. The Committee was called to censure Dr. Bowe for heartless and unprofessional conduct.<sup>827</sup> Within a couple of years, though, successful working relationships existed between the Committee and medical staff. Both parties extended this to consulting with each other on the reports prepared. In 1892, Dr. Hume was the Resident Surgeon and in 1895, Dr. W. S. Geddie was the Resident Surgeon.



<sup>822</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>823</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>824</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 3 November 1892

<sup>825</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 July 1894

<sup>826</sup> [Blogs.sq.qld.gov.au](https://blogs.sq.qld.gov.au) The Oddfellows' Band

<sup>827</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 November 1890



Ever vigilant on financial matters, and aware of the low state of finances of the Hospital in 1897, Edward Bytheway made a follow up on the Committee's request to the Member for Wide Bay for an endowment for the Hospital. As the request had been declined, he stated to the Committee that he thought 'the Committee was being treated with discourtesy and it was desirable for attention to be drawn to the matter.'<sup>828</sup> The Hospital Ball Committee was able to provide bread, tongues and biscuits to the Hospital in winter 1897.<sup>829</sup> At that December monthly meeting in 1897, Edward was appointed with Mr. T. Baty on the Visiting Committee of the Hospital for the month of January 1898 to follow up on issue relating to the allocation of fever wards at the Hospital and the costs of gas at the hospital. Another matter which was discussed in his presence in the November 1897 monthly meeting was the acquisition of X-ray equipment which would cost in the vicinity of £55. On 27 November that year the Committee held a Hospital Saturday event, and who else but our Edward was responsible for the arrangements in connection with the event. He would be assisted by Messrs. Shepherd, Davies, Brennan and Donovan.

Edward Bytheway was a man who liked to ensure the truth was transparent in his public work.<sup>830</sup> Whenever he wrote letters to the Editor, it was always in the spirit of putting the matter into a truthful framework, like the accusation made of him for 'shirking his work' and work being done at the Hospital.<sup>831</sup>

The Hospital Grounds and its back yard were described as the dirtiest in Gympie in 1899 by Municipal Inspector Mr. Bennett. Immediate attention was necessary to deal with what revealed itself to be a complex situation, no less complicated by the fact that there were dairy cattle in the gully just away from the hospital. Concern was over the fact that any drainage of slops and other material from the hospital would end up in that gully for the cattle to consume which would in turn affect the dairy milk available for public consumption. While one part of the Committee attended to rectify the sanitary problem of the hospital grounds, another section dealt with chasing up the ever needed subscriptions: lists to go to mines; Mary Street Messrs. Shepherd and Stewart; Channon Street to Two Mile Messrs. Jamieson and Hood; Apollonianvale Messrs. Baty and Donovan; Horseshoe Bend Mr. White; Monkland to Deep Creek Mr. J. B. Atkinson.<sup>832</sup>

**A REJOINDER TO DR. BOWE.**

TO THE EDITOR "GYMPIE TIMES"

SIR,—The senseless rignarole of words called Dr. Bowe's reply is a tissue of misstatements from beginning to end. The charges have been evaded. As to the doctor's charge against the visiting committee of shirking their work: when Mr Dovey came to me I sent him to the sawmill to look out the timber and to confer with Dr. B we about the site. The doctor never referred to the visiting committee in any way whatever, but showed an anxiety from the first to ignore their position and order everything himself. I can point to my record since I have been a member of committee as the best answer to the accusation of shirking my work. The visiting committee did not break the law re the £10 limit, but a number of the General Committee—of which I was not one—met one evening on receipt by the secretary of a telegram from the Colonial Secretary; saw Mr. Paterson, instructed him to communicate with Gibb and proceed with the tent early next morning. The statement in reference to the shelves in the kitchen, and the remarks to the carpenter "don't do anything that that doctor tells you" are untrue. The statement that by having the chamfer boards put on "I left an unpleasant misunderstanding to be settled by my successors—Messrs. Shepherd and Nicholson," is also untrue. Both these gentlemen acted with me in the matter, and Mr. Shepherd gave the instructions to the carpenter equally with me in Mr. Conwell's presence. If Dr. Bowe had assigned as his reason for his insulting behaviour towards me, my taking the chair at the public meeting he refers to, it would have been a sufficient explanation for his subsequent conduct.

**E. BYTHEWAY**

<sup>828</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 December 1897

<sup>829</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 15 July 1897

<sup>830</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 March 1891

<sup>831</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 March 1891

<sup>832</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 January 1899

From 1899 at least to 1901 Edward Bytheway could say that business at and about the Hospital was going satisfactorily and smoothly until in 1902 the delicate matter of whether old people were paying or non-paying patients. Old people had been supporting the Hospital for some 20 or 30 years, but now the new doctor Dr. Ryan and the Matron were asking patients directly if they were to pay or not.

Edward Bytheway was not impressed that such discussions began leading to the notion that old people who could not pay would be moved to Dunwich, which the Colonial Secretary prohibited without the proper authority of the Immigration Officers. Edward was concerned about all of this and said 'Really patients should only cost 5s a week or £1 a month to keep, but lately their expenses have been £200 a month, and the patients less than 20, so that was £10 a month'.<sup>833</sup> The Committee had quite an issue on their hands especially where cases were chronic and the patients did not have anyone at home to care for them; the Committee had now to be concerned that the Hospital did not become a home for old-aged pensioners.

Edward Bytheway was re-elected Treasurer of Gympie Hospital Committee at the ordinary monthly meeting on 16 April 1905. His fellow Committee members were:

Patron Mr. F. I. Power

President Mr. J. B. Atkinson

Vice-President S. Shepherd

Members of the Committee: Messrs. M. Caldwell, G. Garrick, J. M. Pack, Major D. E. Reid, D. Seally, C. Stewart, T. H. Sym and V. H. Tozer (son of Horace Tozer MLA)

Auditors Messrs. J. J. Jackson and H. Daunt

Edward Bytheway's Treasurer's Report, dated 7 April 1905, for the year ending 31 December 1904, which was presented to the Annual Meeting of the Subscribers of the Gympie Hospital on the night of 17 April 1905, showed that the Hospital had 'commenced with a credit balance (to Current Account) of £243 1s. 10d (equivalent to \$34,917 in 2016<sup>834</sup>). Our receipts (which include £50 (equivalent to \$7,182 in 2016) from the executors of H. L. Nathan, deceased) were £1885 16s. 3d (equivalent to \$270,870 in 2016<sup>835</sup>.) The expenditure for the year was £1876 4s 0d. (equivalent to \$269,489 in 2016)<sup>836</sup> and £50 (equivalent to \$7,182 in 2016)<sup>837</sup> has been placed at fixed deposit, leaving a credit balance (to Current Account) of £202 4s. 5d. (equivalent to \$29,046 in 2016) on 1 January 1905. Fixed Deposit: We have £396 (equivalent to \$56,880 in 2016<sup>838</sup>) at fixed deposit, £200 (equivalent to \$28,727 in 2016) in the Government Savings Bank and £196 (equivalent to \$28,153 in 2016<sup>839</sup>) in the Queensland National Bank.'<sup>840</sup>

The Honorable Mr. F. I. Power (solicitor and owner of what is now Gunnabul Homestead designed and constructed by Hugo Du Rietz) and Mr. S. Shepherd could not attend the meeting of subscribers as they 'were laid up with dengue fever.'<sup>841</sup> Both of these men would survive the disease, whereas Edward would succumb to it in October 1905. Other

<sup>833</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 December 1902

<sup>834</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>835</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>836</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>837</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>838</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>839</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>840</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 April 1905

<sup>841</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 April 1905

members of the Committee, Mr. Pilcher and Major Reid had also been laid up with dengue fever during the early part of 1905.

This may have been his last meeting for the Committee of the Gympie Hospital; he had worked for thirty-seven years with his colleagues to give Gympie a fully functioning hospital that could meet the needs of its population. In 1868, the Hospital was in danger of closing, but by 1905, the Gympie Hospital could boast the following statistics<sup>842</sup>:

**'Accommodation:** Number of Wards 10; number of beds: males 33, females 20; children 6: total 59. Number of cubic feet contained in wards, 57,315.

**Admissions:** Remaining in the Institution on 1 January 1904: males 13; females 3; total 16. Admitted during the year: males 216; females 119: total 335. Total number in the Institution from 1 January to 31 December 1904: males 229; females 122: total 351.

**Discharges, removals and deaths:** Discharged (cured or relieved): males 200; females 105: total 305; discharged (incurable or at their own request) none. Removed to Lunatic House, Reception House or other public institution: males 3; females 0: total 3. Died: males 13, females 6: total 19. Total: males 13, females 111: total 327.

**Remaining in the Institution 31 December:** males 13, females 11: total 24. Total males 229, females 122, total 351. The number of Indoor Patients treated last year was 337.

**Out Patients:** the number treated during the last year number 717-404 males and 308 females, as against 514, 281 males and 233 females for the previous year.'

The Hospital Committee was having another Monthly Meeting on the day Edward died, 12 October 1905.

The Hospital continued to receive a subsidy from the Queensland Government and it was in a healthy financial situation, although the Government would always retain a tight control over subscriptions and donations going to the Hospital. One that Edward became involved in was in 1893 when the Government's Colonial Secretary questioned £10 that had been received by the Hospital. His response to the Colonial Secretary was that this was a donation from Mr. Dugworth who had been a patient in the hospital for considerable time and was now deceased!<sup>843</sup> The meeting of subscribers recorded in relation to the figures that 'the figures speak volumes for the liberality of our citizens and friends of the Institution in the district, to whom we tender our best thanks, especially to those who organized entertainments and performances and in other special ways assisted in raising funds.'<sup>844</sup> The Resident Surgeon at that time was Dr. F. Hamilton Kenny.

At the ordinary monthly meeting of the Committee of the Gympie Hospital held on 12 September 1906, the Committee was finally resolving the appointment of a Trustee following Edward Bytheway's death almost twelve months before. The replacement was reported in this way 'From the Government Savings Bank with reference to the appointment of Mr. T.H. Sym, as Trustee, stating that Mr. E. Bytheway's resignation must be forwarded before the appointment is registered. The Secretary stated that a reply had been sent that Mr. Sym had been appointed to the position on the death of Mr. E. Bytheway.'<sup>845</sup>

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<sup>842</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 April 1905

<sup>843</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 4 May 1893

<sup>844</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 April 1905

<sup>845</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 September 1906

Edward Bytheway could be proud of his thirty-seven years of effort to give Gympie such a good hospital, and obviously the citizens also thought the same as they continued to be generous with their subscriptions and donations, although in 1906 the Hospital was still urging the public to do what they could to support the Hospital.<sup>846</sup> The Hospital went on to be supported by 'very generous contributions received from the public, and it continued as a contributory hospital until 1926, when it was taken over by the Government [of Queensland] and is still controlled under the *Hospitals Act*.<sup>847</sup>

Edward's work on the Hospital Committee focused on the proper management of this most valuable of Gympie's institutions. His work on so many other Committees including the Gympie Municipal Council, gives us a picture of a man who had a range of diverse interests, a range of diverse skills in community management, and the ability to encourage wise decision making in a range of areas from building and construction works, to hospital management, to agricultural and pastoral industries, transport matters, township infrastructure, diverse store and hotel management and involvement in Christian matters, while he was busy bringing up his children and running his own business.

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<sup>846</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 April 1906

<sup>847</sup> The Queenslander 7 December 1938

## Chapter Seven

### Mayor and Alderman of the Gympie Municipal Council

The results achieved by Edward Bytheway had great influence on Gympie and the surrounding district. His business management and governance expertise was prominent and well respected. Gympie benefitted immensely from the work he undertook in so many areas of industry and with various committees and associations. The town, the street layout the number of stamper batteries, the supporting industries and infrastructure grew so very quickly, and at the same time so did the demands of its population. He kept pace with the ever occurring changes, especially as gold production began to diminish.

Edward was Mayor of Gympie twice and served on the Municipal Council as an Alderman for many years, being 'first elected to the Gympie Council in 1888, and so well did he serve the ratepayers that two years later he was elected to the mayoral chair.'<sup>848</sup> His first appointment as Mayor came about twenty-two years after he had been living in Gympie, and it came with a great respect and recognition of his public qualities and the hard work he had put into the town and its development. It was said of him that 'he was well adapted by a character of the highest integrity and most genial disposition. At the end of his term as Mayor, he retired from Council, but was returned again in 1893.'<sup>849</sup> His contributions were as significant as they were long lasting.

He worked hard for the Council and its Committees, and kept a wise eye over the works programs and expenditure of Council. His attendance at all meetings of Council including the fortnightly ones was diligent and constant. By the time he was elected Mayor, due in great part to his efforts and initiative, the town had a gas works which provided light for buildings, houses and streets, and gas for cooking and heating. Edward's active interest in the efficiency of all Gympie's infrastructure and that of the surrounding district, earned him the respect of the townspeople. They came to trust and rely on his judgment in so many areas of their town. In 1893, he was conferred with the distinction of the first magistracy.

As the town developed, he dealt effectively with such matters as the relocation of houses which were sited on roads that had not had been properly surveyed; the condition and plan of roads and traffic flow as economic growth occurred; transportation of supplies and postal services; ease of travel for residents; and public utilities. He made roads such a high priority, that the Council implemented regular inspections of the roads.

A fine example of roads and the surveys thereof occurred in May 1890 when it became necessary for Council, with the aid of their solicitors, to pay a resident (Mr. W. H. Walker) £100 compensation (equivalent to \$14,355 in 2016<sup>850</sup>) for the removal his premises from the One-Mile Road because it had been built on the road, before the survey of the road had been undertaken.<sup>851</sup> There were other similar cases.

<sup>848</sup> Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men. Compiled by the Alcazar Press Brisbane . W.H. Wendt & Co Printers Edward Street Brisbane, 1900 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-36615454> Page 116

<sup>849</sup> Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men. Compiled by the Alcazar Press Brisbane . W.H. Wendt & Co Printers Edward Street Brisbane, 1900 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-36615454> Page 116

<sup>850</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>851</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 May 1890

When today's Gympie residents look up at the Town Hall Clock, they should acknowledge Edward Bytheway. Pressure by him on the Council when he was Mayor in 1890, meant that it was requisitioned and later installed. The Queensland Government Department of Works had been asked several times over a period of many months to supply Gympie with a clock for its Town Hall, with no success. The Queensland Government Department of Works, had originally wanted to provide a clock which would be 'silent without dials, but made to carry dials three feet in diameter; and that it had three pairs of gault hands to suit the 3 feet dials, with other things in proportion, but could be made to carry 5 feet dials etc., the cost of which alterations would be about £27, which would be borne by the Department.'<sup>852</sup> The Council agreed that such a clock would not be suitable and told the Minister for Works, it was absolutely necessary for the Town Hall for have a striking clock. The Post-Master General's Department had also been approached for a striking clock.

Finally in October 1890, the Colonial Secretary had approved to 'supply a three-faced clock for the Town Hall at once if the Council would accept it. He believed it was the same clock as was rejected recently by the Bundaberg people ...'<sup>853</sup> The Council would have preferred a four faced clock, but it had taken so long already to get a clock, and if they did not accept this offer there was going to be another delay of around twelve to eighteen months.

The clock became and still is a significant landmark. It is doubtful though if today's Gympie residents might know to attribute the clock to Edward Bytheway and his Council of Aldermen, as Edward Bytheway's name has slipped into the amnesiac side of Gympie's local history.

The chronology that follows, although not exhaustive, provides evidence of Edward Bytheway's consistent, and enormous contribution to the improvement of Gympie.

### 1873

The matter of Gympie's being a municipality was discussed on many occasions before it became reality. On Thursday night of 13 February 1873 at the School of Arts in Mary Street, about sixty householders, including Edward Bytheway, gathered to discuss forming Gympie into a Municipality. This matter had been discussed for some three years by the Gympie Progress Association, of which Edward Bytheway was a member.

Addressing the group, Mr. J. G. Kidgell pointed out that *'this question was not merely one of making the roads; there was the proper drainage of the town to be attended to, and there was the question of water supply to the town, the latter subject being especially important considering that the Mary River Mining Company were said to be about to carry out their operations on a grand scale, and that it was not improbable that a long dry season would occur at some future time. There was also the sanitary condition of the town to be considered. Even taking the question as merely one of making roads, he would point out that we could not depend on the Government to make the main road; for they had promised only to repair it ... he moved "That it is desirable to take steps to form the town of Gympie into a Municipality."*<sup>854</sup>

Edward Bytheway's response to Mr. Kidgell's proposal was that he thoroughly agreed with the view, *'pointing out that we greatly needed some organisation for the purpose of*

<sup>852</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 November 1890

<sup>853</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 October 1890

<sup>854</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 15 February 1873

effecting improvements. He referred to Mary Street as being at once the main thoroughfare and the main sewer of one of the most progressive towns in Queensland. It might be argued that it was the main duty of the Government to make the roads, but there were other matters to be dealt with; besides he believed the Government did not wish to interfere with the levels of the streets as, it rendered them liable for actions for damages. It was only a Municipality that could deal with this properly. One argument brought against this movement was that there was not sufficient rateable property in the place; but compare Gympie with such small towns as Drayton, Gayndah, and Dalby, which had municipalities. Had we made an earlier start we should have had the benefit of land sales and other sources of revenue, which we did not enjoy under the Town Police Act. Another important advantage we would gain by the establishment of a municipality would be the final settlement of the site of the town; the business people ought to endeavor to fix the business centre of the goldfield of Gympie. Again, a municipality would lessen the risk of loss by fire; there would be very few buildings insured here, and it was a very serious thing that every holder of property had to take his own risk. One of the first things that should be taken in hand after the formation of the streets should be the establishment of a Fire Brigade; the existence of a fire engine in the hands of an organised brigade would be the means of lessening the premiums for insurance by half. He felt convinced that the proposal to establish a municipality was a good one, and he would therefore cordially second the motion.<sup>855</sup>

A number of other speakers spoke to the motion, including Edward Bytheway's colleague, friend and architect Hugo Du Rietz. Hugo had been in Gympie six years now and had taken over the reconstruction of many buildings and facilities since the 1870 major flood. He was closely connected with the operations of the town and the problems it faced. It was estimated by the meeting that Gympie had around 220 ratepayers and that the number who had attended the meeting was a fair representation of all of those ratepayers. When the vote was taken on the motion for a municipality, it was 27 for and 21 against, with some people voting neutrally.

Edward saw that the Progress Association was going to have to meet in the near future to take the notion of a municipality forward.

It may be said that Gympie was 'fast tracked' to a municipality in 1880. When the Governor of Queensland, the Marquis of Normanby was visiting Gympie in 1873, he was hurt in a buggy accident on a bad piece of road in the One-Mile. He saw just how badly needed was maintenance and how dangerous the roads really were. This incident 'apparently' influenced the creation of the first Gympie Divisional Board. Strong public support for a municipality continued until Gympie was finally gazetted as a borough, which then allowed the first elections for Council and Mayor to be held in August 1880. Mr. Matthew Mellor became Gympie's first Mayor.<sup>856</sup> The Governor's influence meant that the Queensland Government relinquished the responsibility for the actual maintenance of roads and bridges: all the Government had to do now was provide the necessary funds and people like Edward Bytheway and others could argue for these funds and set the priorities of the capital works programs.

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<sup>855</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 15 February 1873

<sup>856</sup> The Queenslander 7 December 1938

## 1881

Edward and his brother Benjamin were highly respected members of the Gympie community. They were invited with others to a complimentary supper at the Northumberland Hotel on Friday 4 February 1881, given by 'Messrs. Ferguson (sawmill) and Ferguson (store) two of the successful candidates in the recent municipal election.'<sup>857</sup> The Fergusons had invited those who had been members of the Committee who had worked for their return, and others who were friends of the candidates. Those present included the Mayor Matthew Mellor, and Messrs. J. Hamilton MLA, Henderson (Engineer of Waterworks), Compigne, Wall, Thomas, Power, Woodrow, Kidgell, Schwabe, Marcus, E. Bytheway, Cuffe, B. Bytheway, Rohde, D. Morgan, Crawford, O'Connell, Ambrose, and Finney. Along with the cold collation for supper, there was a toast to the Queen, and one to the successful candidates drunk with musical honours.<sup>858</sup>

## 1882

In 1882, Edward Bytheway nominated for a seat in the Municipal Council rendered vacant by the death of the Alderman D. O'Brien. The other nominee was Mr. J. B. Atkinson. Polling day was April 11th, and a pretty close contest was anticipated, but he failed to be elected to Council.

## 1885

The support for William Ferguson had continued on since 1881. Edward Bytheway was part of a group of 133 people to endorse William Ferguson as a candidate for the forthcoming election. There seemed to be a strong sense of community in Gympie at that time as might be drawn from those listed.<sup>859</sup> Edward Bytheway quietly ensured good outcomes from this meeting for the governing and managing of Gympie. His commitment and interest just never seemed to flag.

Ferguson accepted the invitation for candidature. As a Council member, William Ferguson had been a strong supporter, with Edward Bytheway, of having a proper supply of pure water for Gympie. There had been typhoid suffered by many on the gold fields as a result of the Mary River being a reservoir of scum and refuse of the town and residue from the crushing machines.<sup>860</sup>

The names in this list were involved on the numerous committees and groups in which Edward was involved. They must have been a fairly close networked group who consistently shared interests for the best possible development of Gympie.

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<sup>857</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 February 1881

<sup>858</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 February 1881

<sup>859</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 March 1885

<sup>860</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 March 1885



## REQUISITION.

TO W. FERGUSON, ESQ.

**S**IR,—We, the undersigned ratepayers, request you to allow yourself to be Nominated as a Candidate in the forthcoming Municipal Election, and hereby pledge ourselves to do our utmost to secure your return.

Oscar W. Hayles  
Robert Potter  
Richard Brewin  
J. O. Hanlon  
James Meredith  
A. G. Ramsey  
Sydney Francis  
J. D. Davies  
Thomas J. Cox  
G. Patterson  
Erank Itzstein  
Joseph Bates  
James Crawford  
Edward Bytheway  
J. M. Cavaye  
H. T. Niemann  
Daniell Hendry  
Keeran Kenny  
Ellen Corry  
Charles Glegg  
J. H. Bennett  
E. P. Cordaiy  
August Soblusky  
John Duff  
Thomas Harrison  
Arthur D. Hughes  
John M'Alpine

A. J. Ayers  
Walter Shove  
Hamilton Neilson  
F. B. Ukens  
M. Millerick  
William Davies  
W. S. Quinton  
Alfred R. Ranson  
F. Bunny  
Chas. Cuffe  
E. C. Ardern  
Hamilton Nelson  
Wm. Byers  
Joseph Jew  
James Overton Hill  
Abraham Colles  
John Campbell  
W. McDonald  
J. C. Whittingham  
F. Chas. Walker  
C. J. Woolgar  
O. G. H. Day  
Mary Edwards  
Robert Gibson  
W. Eddington  
J. J. E. Stewart  
R. L. Pring

J. Myles	Matthew Mellor
W. H. Kelly	Geo. Gordon
Charles Bunworth	William Shanks (senr.)
Thomas Shanks	Thomas Dowling
John Slattery	Thos. Lindsay
J. Corrigan	W. McNutt
Joseph Irwin	James Blaik
Richard Moore	Isaac Heideman
James Dwyer	James O'Donohue
L. Finselbach	John Cork
Thos. F. Mills	Joshua Gambling
W. H. Loosemore	G. Kleuver
Thomas Hunter	W. E. Platt
Chas. Lloyd	James Watts
L. De Caux	George Iann
H. W. Duriets	H. Grant
James Mortensen	H. Gregg
T. Williams	H. P. N. Juhl
John Johns	W. Hiller
William C. Drew	W. J. Ford
David Morgan	John Langdon
C. W. Adams	William Cunningham
Stephen Trueman	W. Cochrane
Woodrow and Son	B. Boan
J. Besserer	James Webber
Joseph Hughes	A. Ernest
David McLaren	Walter Scott
G. Hay	Robert McFarlane
George Argo	Arthur Farr
John Neill	John Pilkington
Sarah Hampson	Richard Meddleton
Thomas Broadfoot	G. Butler
Alfred Lister	Carl Cortesi
J. A. Roberts	Henry Treloar
James Foster	Thomas Hanlon
W. Wickham	William Greenwood
J. Goldberg	E. Armstrong
E. B. Barns	T. Andrews
Wm. C. Jones	H. Holland
Jeremiah Tracy	

1888

The first time Edward was elected to Council was in 1888. He was one of three candidates who were elected as Alderman to the Municipal Council in that year. The other two were Messrs. Alexander Pollock and James. L. Matthews. No other candidates had been received for three vacancies available.<sup>863</sup>

So in his first year of being an Alderman on Council, Alderman Bytheway consistently found interest in matters relating to road works, effective drainage of Mary Street and the reports of the Finance Committee. During one meeting, he strongly supported a certain Mr. J. Dumphy, who had taken upon himself at his own expense to fill up Smyth Street, was deserving of compensation of £15. Councillors felt this was setting a dangerous precedent, so in the event the amount was reduced to £10, which Edward continued to prefer £15 as a just and appropriate amount.<sup>864</sup> Edward's interest was ever in good outcomes for the well-meaning people of the town and effective financial management of Council business, which was done on behalf of the people of the town. These were matters which gained him the high respect he earned in Gympie.

<sup>861</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 March 1885

<sup>862</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 March 1885

<sup>863</sup> The Brisbane Courier 21 January 1888

<sup>864</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 2 June 1888

During 1888, the dust in Mary Street was causing all sorts of problems, especially to shop keepers who claimed the dust was ruining their goods, so there was a lot of discussion about what to do other than damp it down with water. When he became Mayor, the ever alert Alderman Bytheway would have recalled the discussion relating to the Queensland Lands Department issuing deeds of grant for a portion of the old cemetery reserve, and for the town hall reserve whereon the town hall was to be erected. In this case the rate payers had vetoed a town hall being erected and instead wanted the Council Chambers to be built there.

He also had a penchant for a well-run and balanced meeting with robust discussion and opportunity for all to have a say. At one meeting he said 'if Alderman Shields is going to have all the talk, none of the other Aldermen will be able to do any, and very little business will be done.'<sup>865</sup>

Edward Bytheway carried out his role as Alderman with a serious commitment and an avid interest in all matters. This is clear from the minutes of the meetings of Council. One matter related to the recouping of moneys by Council for a £3,000 loan which was outstanding. He had support in Council in a matter related to Rates, when it was agreed 'to strike a separate rate of 4d in the £, to be called the lighting rate ... a loan rate of 2d in the £ on the rateable value of the properties within the municipality, be levied to provide the annual repayment on the £3,000 loan.'<sup>866</sup>

## 1889

In May 1889, the Mayor of Gympie, Mr. W. Ferguson and Alderman Bytheway were appointed delegates to attend the Maryborough Conference on the *Financial Districts Bill* on 11 May 1889.<sup>867</sup>

Gympie's Horace Tozer MLA was there as a representative of the Government to promote the Government's decentralisation case. Mr. J. Kidgell and Mr. Flood also attended from Gympie, and spoke out with many of the other 40 delegates against the Bill, ultimately gaining the Conference's agreement that unless the *Financial Districts Bill* divided the state into two districts only, they would vote against the *Bill*.<sup>868</sup>

When the Colonial Treasurer introduced the *Bill* into the Queensland Parliament in December 1889, he explained that logic was 'to divide the colony into three financial districts, northern, central, and southern ... revenue and expenditure were to be of two distinct kinds, local and general, to be administered by a board appointed by Parliament ... the *Bill* would be a means of placing the country on a more satisfactory footing than as at present and would go a long way in removing the grievances the north was suffering under'.<sup>869</sup> In the event the opposition was too strong and the Government was defeated by a majority of one when the vote was taken on the *Bill*.

After his return to Gympie from the Maryborough Conference, Edward Bytheway had a letter published to inform the residents of Gympie about the business that transpired at the Conference:

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<sup>865</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 August 1888

<sup>866</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 July 1888

<sup>867</sup> The Morning Bulletin Rockhampton 3 May 1889

<sup>868</sup> The Week 18 May 1889

<sup>869</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 December 1889

*"THE DECENTRALISATION BILL TO THE EDITOR "GYMPIE TIMES"*

Sir,

*As was expected, the Decentralisation Bill was condemned in toto by the conference held in Maryborough, its supporters being compelled, by the close reasoning of the opponents of the measure, to abandon the Bill altogether and retire to the amendment proposed by Mr. Kidgell, affirming the principle that financial separation is desirable. The retreat won them but a scant victory. Financial separation, however plausible and attractive in theory, in operation would be found clumsy and impracticable. The most vulnerable points of the Bill are its preamble, the proposal to call Customs local revenue, and the 19<sup>th</sup> clause, which admits of differential duties. The solution of the problem was indicated by Mr. Tozer, who said, "extend the powers of the local governing bodies you have." In this sentence we have the key to the position. Legislation cannot make a community prosperous, but the energy and genius of a people may be relied on to work out its political destiny and to adopt laws suitable to its requirements; the people will decide for themselves what is within the range of practical politics and what is not. In the order of Government there are (1<sup>st</sup>) the State or general (2<sup>nd</sup>) the municipal and divisional boards, and (3<sup>rd</sup>) the harbour and rivers, which could be managed by boards or trusts. The State governs all as supreme. The municipal and divisional bodies administer all local government, including even matters like water supply and other important local undertakings, without reference to the State. The Harbours and Rivers Trusts are to have control and management of each port. The whole of the machinery of government is included under the above heads. The State revenue is to include customs, railways, postage, telegraphs, etc.; that of the municipal and divisional boards-rates, sale of lands, rents, leases, miners' rights, licenses, and other local revenue; and that of harbour and river trusts—all port and river dues.*

*The State provides for the interest and the principal of the National debt, education, defence, postal service, railways, telegraphs, police, gaols, and asylums; the municipal and divisional boards are to provide roads, water supply, and manage all matters of local administration; and the harbour and rivers the improvement and maintenance of rivers, etc the State providing dredges and survey vessels.*

*As one who has closely followed the Conference, I merely indicate the lines, viz., the extension of our present local governing bodies. The genius of the statesman secures the admiration of the people-will some member of the House extend the lines?*

*I am, sir, etc., E. BYTHEWAY'<sup>870</sup>*

Edward Bytheway did firmly believe that 'land sales, rents, leases, miners' rights and licenses should be treated as local revenue ... [and Mr. Kidgell wrote that he expects] that Bytheway will offer some not unworthy contributions on a subject of general importance'.<sup>871</sup>

Matters of railway connections were of great importance to Edward Bytheway, as were matters of having a Town Hall and a new building for Council Chambers. He almost always took the lead with important capital works such as these and ensuring that progress did not stand still, and certain financial management issues and amounts were in order. A loan for £1,500 [equivalent to \$215,318 in 2016]<sup>872</sup> had been sought from the Treasury Department for a new Council Chambers Building, and now the

<sup>870</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 May 1889

<sup>871</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 May 1889

<sup>872</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

Department was looking for the plans designed by the Colonial Architect for the Council Chambers, and the plans for the Town Hall which had been drawn up by architect Hugo Du Rietz.<sup>873</sup> As Alderman in Council, with the Mayor and others, he strongly endorsed that the deputation that were going to Brisbane to urge the Government to approve the extension to the Kilkivan Railway, be firmly informed that this extension was critical 'for the betterment of the district ... the present line to Kilkivan be extended without delay.' He further ensured that a letter to all Members of the Government from Gympie, be sent in forceful terms.<sup>874</sup>

A good many critical issues came forth in Council for discussion and decision during 1889 that he was involved in, that prepared him very well for becoming Mayor in 1890. Up till now he had had so much experience in twenty three years, and grown even closer to the politics of the Queensland Government, and the development issues of Gympie and its surrounding districts.

### 1890

1890 was a significant year for Edward Bytheway. He was appointed Justice of the Peace<sup>875</sup>, and elected Mayor of Gympie. He succeeded Mayor Lieutenant-Colonel William Ferguson and was followed by Mayor John. L. Mathews in 1891.



Mayor Edward Bytheway 1890<sup>876</sup>

<sup>873</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 4 May 1889

<sup>874</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 August 1889

<sup>875</sup> The Queenslander, Saturday 3 May 1890

<sup>876</sup> Gympie Goldmining and Historical Museum Collection

The path to Edward Bytheway's becoming Mayor is an interesting one. The 5<sup>th</sup> of February was a busy time for Council as it met to receive the Alderman Mathews' Report as Returning Officer, with the key item being the election of Mayor for the ensuing year. At that meeting apart from Alderman Mathews being Chairman, others present were Aldermen Tyrrell, Chapple, McSweeney, Pollock, Kennedy, Bytheway, and Woolgar. The meeting equivocated as to who should be Mayor, with the discussion wavering between electing Alderman Pollock, Edward Bytheway and Major Ferguson as Mayor. Alderman Ferguson was absent from the meeting, and Aldermen present at the meeting had no formal information that he wanted to be put forward again for Mayor. The Aldermen were left to consider Ferguson pretty much on the basis of a statement made by Alderman Mathews that 'Alderman Ferguson had told him that if elected, he would act for another year'.<sup>877</sup>

Alderman McSweeney nominated Alderman Pollock for Mayor on the basis that he 'had been a member of Council for a long time ... [and] he was well entitled to the honour of sitting in the Mayor's seat for the next year.' Alderman Mathews noted that Alderman Pollock 'had sat on a rail ... and had not taken any position on the committees.'<sup>878</sup> Of Edward Bytheway, Alderman Mathews felt strongly that he should be elected Mayor, noting that 'since he had been in the Council Alderman Bytheway had been a good worker, and was always willing to assist the other aldermen in every way he could, and never refused to be placed on any Committee.' Alderman Chapple wanted Major Ferguson to retake the position because he wanted it said of Gympie that the Mayor of Gympie had been elected five times, in order to outdo other places where mayors had been elected four times in succession.

Edward Bytheway thought that this was a good idea, so he withdrew his nomination, and gave hearty support to the proposition for the re-election of the previous Mayor, 'than whom he thought there was not a more generous, liberal, or just man to be found on Gympie'.<sup>879</sup>

After more terse discussion across the room, the Aldermen appeared to reluctantly agree to Alderman Ferguson resuming the position of Mayor (this was his fifth term as Mayor), especially as Edward Bytheway had withdrawn his own nomination for the position. Despite Edward Bytheway's stated view of Alderman Ferguson, that 5 February meeting was seen as one better forgotten. Then the situation suddenly changed.

Immediately following his re-election, Alderman Ferguson lost the confidence of the Council, which opened the door for Edward Bytheway to become Mayor. Alderman Ferguson committed a misdemeanor unacceptable to Council. Alderman Ferguson failed to be present for that Council meeting on 5 February when Aldermen were electing the Mayor. He gave his explanation for failing to appear that he had simply decided to go to Noosa to spend a few days with his wife and family. Adverse comments circulated about his actions, but Alderman Ferguson felt he did not have to consult with anyone as to when he might visit his wife and children. Overall, his actions were deemed by Council to be inexcusable, and he should not have been elected as Mayor at that meeting. Alderman Ferguson's return to Gympie had been 'hastened by the news that he had been elected Mayor of Gympie, and that according to the report in the newspaper 'he

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<sup>877</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 February 1890

<sup>878</sup> The Gympie Time and Mary River Mining Gazette s 6 February 1890

<sup>879</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 February 1890

will positively decline to accept the office for the current year, although he esteems it a high honour to have it conferred upon him unanimously after holding it for four years. He feels that were he to accept it he should be doing an injustice to both Alderman Bytheway and Alderman Mathews, who have worked hard on the different committees during the past year, and are each, in his opinion, fully entitled to any honor the members of Council can confer'.<sup>880</sup>

Another special meeting was held on 11 February 1890, those present being the 'Mayor (Ferguson) and Aldermen Woolgar, Bytheway, Kennedy, Pollock, Mathews, McSweeney, Chapple, and Tyrrell, and an unusually large number of ratepayers'.<sup>881</sup> Alderman Ferguson subsequently resigned as Mayor for 1890.

Alderman Mathews proposed Alderman Bytheway for Mayor, and Alderman Kennedy seconded it: 'the rate payers recognised [both Alderman Mathews and Alderman Bytheway] as good men, and it was for that reason there was no opposition to their election'.<sup>882</sup>

Alderman Woolgar proposed Alderman Pollock be appointed, because he was the oldest member of the Council, and he had been 'elected by a majority of rate payers and he was the best man to fill the chair'.<sup>883</sup> Alderman Pollock nominated himself for Mayor as a rival to Edward Bytheway. Alderman Pollock suffered from a lack of credibility by his fellow aldermen. Alderman Pollock, it seemed, had 'preferred almost throughout his Municipal career to play the easy *role* of a fault finding critic, and it is therefore not to be wondered at that the older members of the Council should have viewed his candidature for the Mayor's chair with disfavour.' In addition, during that 5 February meeting, 'the manner and delivery of his speeches were, in fact, so bad that even his personal friends must have secretly felt somewhat ashamed at the exhibition'.<sup>884</sup>

Edward Bytheway no doubt took into account the qualities of other of the Aldermen as views about them were expressed that day by Alderman Ferguson and others. The views expressed included that immediately after Alderman Woolgar was elected, he went home, stayed away nine months, and had only recently returned; Alderman Kennedy had been there in the early years of the Council, and would probably continue to contribute with hard work; Alderman McSweeney was new to the Council and had yet to prove himself; Alderman Chapple and Alderman Tyrrell were young members of Council; Alderman Pollock had flatly refused to sit on any of the committees, apart from a few times on the Finance Committee with Aldermen Patterson and Potter; Alderman Mathews and Alderman Bytheway were the only ones entitled to fill the chair of Mayor; Aldermen needed sound experience of sitting on committees 'to acquire a knowledge of the work that had to be done, and [needed to have] everything at [their] fingers' ends'<sup>885</sup>; Alderman Crawford had been chair of the Works Committee during 1889; Alderman Mathews had been chairman for some six months since Alderman Crawford's term.

Finally, Edward Bytheway won the vote to be Mayor saying that 'he held no greater honour that could be conferred upon any citizen of that Council ... they all desired the

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<sup>880</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 February 1890

<sup>881</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 February 1890

<sup>882</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 February 1890

<sup>883</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 February 1890

<sup>884</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 February 1890

<sup>885</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 February 1890

prosperity of the Council, town and district'.<sup>886</sup> The gracious, professional and all-embracing style of Edward Bytheway prevailed as he invited the aldermen to 'join him in a glass of wine, and hoped that over it they would settle any little differences that had cropped up that day'.<sup>887</sup> Nevertheless Alderman Pollock left the meeting that day in a state of total rage saying at one time 'that he would not recognise him [Bytheway] as Mayor ... [and] that he would rather have seen a blackfellow from Widgee placed in the Chair, and he would never have his respect or assistance.' He seemed to have overlooked the fact that only very recently in response to a request from the Colonial Secretary's Department, Edward Bytheway (with the support of Alderman Tyrrell) had appointed Alderman Pollock to sit on the Licencing Branch as a Licencing Justice, representing Council for 1890.

Edward Bytheway may have inherited Alderman Pollock as his enemy, but generally the Aldermen were of the view that 'enough is now known to justify the assumption that had he [Alderman Ferguson] remained [i.e. been present at the meeting], Alderman Bytheway would have been elected there and then; there would have been no complication, no fresh election would have been necessitated, and only a passing soreness of feeling would probably have been felt ... the choice that the majority of the Aldermen have made will ... be endorsed as a judicious one by the great majority of the ratepayers. Alderman Bytheway has been an estimable townsman during the twenty years that he has lived on the field, and since he has had the leisure to take a more prominent part in local affairs has shown that he has both the capacity and the will to work, and that he possesses those indispensable qualifications in a public man—a strong fund of common sense and a calm temperament. He has merited the distinction that has been conferred upon him and we doubt not will sustain it with credit.'<sup>888</sup>

Alderman Bytheway was hard at work in January 1890, just prior to becoming Mayor, as the Works Committee of which he was a member approved the following accounts for work undertaken: Monkland Road, £19 1s; Crescent Road, £21 17s 8d; Elizabeth Street, £5; River Road, £12 2s 6d; Watts Street, £12 2s 6d; clearing rails and debris from Channon Street Bridge, £8 4s 6d, half chargeable to the Glastonbury Board; clearing side drains, £17 14s; night soil service £10 14s; general account, £9 13s 4d; Overseer's salary, £18; T. Standen, £8 3s 9d; J. Long, £5 16s 3d; total, £148 9s 6d, adopted on the motion of Ald. Matthews, seconded by Ald. Bytheway.<sup>889</sup>

At that meeting the Council was also debating and discussing a number of mining and general infrastructure matters such as the 'Ellen Harkins Co. asking permission to build a wall 30 ft in length and 18 inches (9.6 metres) over the low water level of the bed of the Mary River, as the mullock heap of the No.1 of the South Ellen Harkins had diverted the water from the right bank and it was desired to throw it back into its original channel so as to enable the company to get a sufficient supply for their pump, which is supplying their own and two other batteries on the field with the water necessary to enable them to carry on crushing operations.'; 'the repair of Nicholls Road from the No. 1 South Great Eastern mine.'; 'plans and estimates for the bridge across Deep Creek near Ingelwood'; the dangerous holes in Spicer Street; the cutting at Lady Mary Terrace; the cab stand at Monkland; deviation of John Street through the One-Mile school

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<sup>886</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 February 1890

<sup>887</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 February 1890

<sup>888</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 February 1890

<sup>889</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 January 1890

reserve; widening of Mellor Street right up to the Railway Station; and clearing of debris etc. from Normanby and Channon Street Bridges.<sup>890</sup>

In addition, the municipality was between £3,000 and £4,000 in debt. (equivalent to between \$421,665 and \$526,219 in 2016<sup>891</sup>) When the issue of an allowance for the Mayor was raised at the beginning of that meeting, and then later at the 5 February 1890 meeting, Edward Bytheway moved that no allowance be made to the Mayor for 1890. Edward impressed his wisdom on the Council that this was not the time to be discussing the implementation of an expense allowance for the Mayor, whoever he may be. His sound view prevailed as he emphasised that 'the time was inopportune for bringing the matter forward.'<sup>892</sup> He also emphasised that the municipality of Gympie had been in existence for about ten years, and up until this point no allowances had yet been paid to a Mayor. He got agreement to there being no allowance for the Mayor at that 5 February meeting and it lay as it stood when the Minutes of that meeting were confirmed.

And so Edward Bytheway began his first term as Mayor of Gympie.

One of the first major challenges which faced him as Mayor in February/March was the flood and extremely bad weather being faced by Gympie. This major flood had caused considerable damage that needed immediately rectification. Deep Creek had been over the bridge and in an impassable state; there were heavy losses in the agricultural and pastoral areas; the main road to Gympie was completely blocked by fallen trees and branches; it was proving very difficult to get any farm produce to the railway; storm waters had created unsafe and dangerous pathways in the city and in other places such as the eastern and western sides of Mount Pleasant Road; River Road from Monkland Street to Scrubby Gully was impassable; additional lamps were needed to be placed along the roads, especially near the culverts; and rum was one of the only 'emergency' medicines available!

The 19 February 1890 Council meeting echoed the deep concern by residents about the dangerous and unsafe conditions with petitions having been received from residents by the Aldermen. Gympie residents take for granted these days the good condition of Monkland, Mary and Nash Streets, but in February 1890, it was the residents who had written in their petitions to Council about the dangerous state of footpaths on the eastern and western side of Mount Pleasant Road; the bad state of Monkland Street between Mary and Nash Streets, needing urgent repair; one of the streets on the Monkland side of Deep Creek being impassable; and that Monkland Street to Scrubby Gully was impassable.

Another task he undertook in 1890 was presiding over a meeting of the Saturday Night's Concession Committee in the office of a certain Mr. Windley. Consistent with Edward Bytheway's way of doing things and his high level of social conscience, an initiative was agreed to at this meeting for a petition to be made 'setting forth the differences existing between the working hours of this end and other goldfields in the colony, and praying the directors of the various claims here to consider same, with a view to their removal at the earliest opportunity.' The meeting agreed that this was the

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<sup>890</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 January 1890

<sup>891</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>892</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 February 1890



best way to proceed as is likely to elicit thorough expression of opinion on the subject.<sup>893</sup>

Edward Bytheway comes across as a man who always keenly observed events, and wisely, calmly, analytically, and thoroughly objectively examined them. He used facts to place his points of view rather than emotion or opinion. In the same week as the to be forgotten 5 February 1890 meeting, and a week before he became Mayor, he was responding to Alderman Chapple's discussion on the outstanding loan debts of the Council, 'Gympie at the present time was the lowest in the list of municipalities that were indebted to the Government for loans, and he [Alderman Chapple] strongly urged that the Council should make greater use of their borrowing powers'.<sup>894</sup> Mayor Bytheway pointed out to the Council members that 'there was one thing apparently lost sight of, namely, that the works left undone one year were on the programme for the following year, and should be placed first. In reference to obtaining a further loan, he [Bytheway] thought it would be a great advantage, for they were now paying 8 or 9 percent for their overdraft, and they would only have to pay the same amount of their liability if the money were got as a loan at 5 percent from the Government.'<sup>895</sup>

A resolution of the Council meeting of 5 March 1890, appointed Mayor Bytheway and Alderman Kennedy to represent the Council on the newly formed School of Mines Committee.<sup>896</sup>

The position of Mayor was always attended by a round of issues relating to infrastructure, with roads and bridges being always high on the list. Mayor Bytheway and his Aldermen (Chapple, Tyrrell, Mathews, Pollock, Ferguson, McSweeney, Woolgar) were naturally facing numerous and diverse municipal matters. Early in his term as Mayor, he had Council addressing various matters such as capital works for roads and bridges; surveys of land; valuation of the properties in the municipality by the Valuer-General; and the diversion of flood waters from Six Mile Creek. In February 1890, Council was informed by the Colonial Secretary that "it does not appear any land has ever been reserved for cemetery purposes in King Street"<sup>897</sup>, so work began to have the King Street Cemetery reserved and vested in Council. Another resolution gave authority to the Inspector of Nuisances to impound stray cattle and horses, but he needed a gun to deal with the nuisance goats in town.<sup>898</sup>

At this stage, Gympie was still without proper clean reticulated water. This was a project in the forefront of the Mayor's mind, but the challenge still lay to convince the Colonial Treasurer of the imperative to get a waterworks for the town and district. Road closures related to No.1 South Phoenix Co had to be resolved; a retaining wall and kerbed footpath outside the Wesleyan Church was badly needed; the flow of water in Mary Street was a critical issue especially for the businesses and store keepers. All decent towns have a Town Clock, but ten years after being declared a municipality, Gympie did not have one. Gympie had in 'the Postmaster-General ... a very good fellow', so the time was ripe for him to be approached to supply Gympie with a striking clock. It was proving a bit difficult to have all agree to the need for a Town Clock. The Council

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<sup>893</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 20 December 1890

<sup>894</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 February 1890

<sup>895</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 February 1890.

<sup>896</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 March 1890

<sup>897</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 20 February 1890

<sup>898</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 March 1890

was about to set a lighting rate based on 4d. in the £ on the annual rateable value of property set in 1885.<sup>899</sup>

A letter to the Council in April 1890 from the Queensland Treasury closed down any further consideration of the diversion of the waters of Six Mile Creek. The advice was that 'the preliminary report of the engineer was so little favourable as to the practicality of the scheme that the Colonial Treasurer does not consider he would be justified in seriously considering the matter, or in expending public money in the surveys which would otherwise be required.'<sup>900</sup> At the same time, action was underway to have the slaughter yard located on Chatsworth Road removed from municipal boundaries following the Council sustaining innumerable complaints about the slaughter yard. The Council then turned its attentions to River Road, Hilton Road and the Yandina to Cooran Road. The Mayor had a matter of the absence of fencing in dangerous places to be dealt with, in addition to ensuring the asphaltting of the pavement at the lower end of Mary Street and a petition from residents for gas lamps on the streets of the town, the most immediate being at Calton Terrace.

Probably the most notable decision from the perspective of Gympie residents and one to be celebrated, was that the Colonial Secretary's Department provided notice to the Council meeting of 28 May 1890 that 'Monday 9<sup>th</sup> of June, the second day of the Gympie Turf Club's annual races, had been proclaimed public holiday in Gympie.'<sup>901</sup>

Mayor Bytheway continued the Council's efforts to have a high level bridge over the Mary River, cooperating with the Queensland Government in having the flood levels measured so that a suitable construction could be considered. This also brought on the consideration of how responsibility for the maintenance of the Mary River Bridges would be addressed between the Gympie Municipal Council and the Glastonbury Divisional Board; repairs to Louisa Street and the north side of Channon Street; the payment for the construction of the Yandina Road.<sup>902</sup>

At the end of 1890, the issue of the clock had been progressed with the Queensland State Department of Works informing Council that it would be obtaining a clock for Gympie from London. Now all that was needed was 'the exact dimensions of the local tower as soon as possible together with the number of dials and their size.'<sup>903</sup> The task of furnishing the Council with a 'proper sketch plan showing the necessary measurements of the town clock'<sup>904</sup> was passed to the architect of the new Town Hall.

The relocation of the Black Street Cemetery raised strong concerns from the Gympie Cemetery Trustees about possible high cost of litigation involved in this relocation.

With all this came concerns about scarlet fever in the town and the fact that the Council's general account was over drawn by £3,090 16s 3d (equivalent to \$434,429 in 2016<sup>905</sup>). However, in Edward's wise judgment he did not see the financial situation as a concern at that time, because this was a reduction of about £534 from the beginning of 1890. On the positive side, Mayor Bytheway and his Aldermen would attend the Agricultural Conference in Maryborough on 15 and 16 January 1891, and this financial

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<sup>899</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 July 1890

<sup>900</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 17 April 1890, Council meeting of 16 April 1890

<sup>901</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 May 1890

<sup>902</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 May 1890

<sup>903</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 December 1890.

<sup>904</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 December 1890

<sup>905</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

situation had fluctuated throughout the year being at an overdrawn amount in April of £2,297 12s 10d; May at £2,486 11s 11d; November £2,780 2s 8d (equivalent to \$390,761 in 2016<sup>906</sup>).

Mayor Bytheway achieved a significant amount, and his influence in other matters, such as that of the Hospital and the School of Arts was unceasing. Edward Bytheway's Mayoral duties ceased on 31 December 1891, with John L. Matthews being elected in February 1892.

Edward Bytheway retired from Council during the mayoral terms of John L. Matthews 1891 and 1892, and Abraham Hutchinson 1892 to 1893. He returned to the Council as an Alderman in 1893.

### 1891

As Mayor Bytheway's term was coming to an end with the February 1891 elections looming, he emphasised to Council that 'good solid work had been done,'<sup>907</sup> while Alderman Matthews reminded 'how impossible it was for Aldermen, as well as others to please everybody. Even when Councillors, individually and collectively were trying for everybody, they invariably came in for hard knocks from dissatisfied ratepayers.'<sup>908</sup> This must be a mantra every politician in the world is familiar with! Nevertheless Mayor Bytheway played a significant role in the decision of the location of the new Council Chambers.

A decision was made by 6 votes to 2 for the location of the new Council Chambers, to request the Governor-in-Council to declare those allotments ... fronting Mary street [*sic*] from Monkland to Channon street [*sic*], a first class block ...<sup>909</sup>

Mayor Bytheway's priorities during 1890 were road and bridge works and water supply. Just under £2,000 had been expended on Jane, Duke, Clematis, Violet, Wickham, Channon (Reef Street to bridge), Monkland, Mary, John, Graham, Union, James, Elizabeth, Mellor, and Henry Streets; Hall's Lane and Nelson and Tweed Lanes; River, Brisbane, Station, and Horseshoe Bend Roads; and Inglewood Bridge. The major expenditures had occurred for Graham, Monkland and John Streets; River Road and Inglewood Bridge. River Road, as it is today, was one of Gympie's most important thoroughfares and a main artery for traffic. The Mayor wanted Inglewood Bridge to be assured of solid construction. Elizabeth and Mellor Streets, and Station Road were still receiving attention.

During Edward's time, in his words, the Council had had 'laid on them the responsibility of being guardians of the public health and the necessity of taking every precaution against life, also the unimaginable blessing of obtaining a plentiful supply of pure water.'<sup>910</sup> Edward had been successful in having the Queensland Government's Chief Hydraulic Engineer now drawing up plans and estimates which would be considered by Council and the rate payers. The insurance component which Gympie rate payers incurred when buying their houses was five shillings more than that in Brisbane, Maryborough and Rockhampton. Edward was hopeful that a reduced rate with the

<sup>906</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>907</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 January 1891

<sup>908</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 January 1891

<sup>909</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 January 1891

<sup>910</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 January 1891

introduction of a permanent water supply for Gympie would be attractive to the rate payers.

Edward closed his address to the Council with his view that Gympie needed a tree planting plan because he wanted Gympie to be an attractive town, just like those inland towns in Victoria. In other words he was instilling into Council a sense of civic pride. The question to be asked now has this legacy of civic pride been continued?

## 1892

At beginning of February Alderman Hutchinson was elected Mayor.<sup>911</sup> The Municipal Council however, suffered a number of retirements in early 1892, causing elections to be held to fill the vacancies. In January Aldermen Chapple, Tyrrell, and Woolgar retired causing three vacancies.

On 4 March 1892, nominations were being put forward to fill a vacancy caused by the retirement of Lieutenant Colonel Ferguson, which meant a Municipal Election had to be held. Messrs. Henry Llewellyn and C.J. Woolgar were nominated, with Llewellyn being the nominee for the Workers' Political Organisation. Henry Llewellyn, a miner who lived in Elizabeth Street was nominated by H. Grennan, G. Ryland, A. Pollock, C. Stream, and A. Grimshaw. J. H. Carodus, J. Rutkin, J. S. Fullerton, J. Todd, J. George, I. Schwartz, J. E. Bonney, and J. Gibb. Mr. Woolgar was persuaded to be renominated, while others nominated were John Flood, a journalist, prominent member of the Widgee Board and a man totally conversant with government matters; William Pilcher, a storekeeper and one of the oldest residents on the goldfield; miners, representatives of the Workers' Political Organisation and prominent members of the Labor Party, George Ryland, and Abel Stancombe.<sup>912</sup>

Edward and his son Edward junior placed their faith in Charles James Woolgar, a saddler of Mary Street. Others who joined the Bytheways to nominate Mr. Woolgar were Messrs. S. Trueman, F. C. Walker, N. Jensen, G. Patterson, J. W. Squire, A. McDonald, W. F. Ferguson, Newbury and Shambler, A. G. Sudbury, O. K. Soblusky, J. Lawson, W. Henderson, W. Richardson, J. S. Cullinane, P. Donovan, J. Woodrow.<sup>913</sup>

It would be of much concern to Edward Bytheway that 'a distinct political and party bias had been given to the election owing to the action of the Workers' Organisation in deciding the candidates that they nominated for the recent annual election [February 1892] should be required to leave their resignations as Aldermen in the Organisation's hands to be used whenever a two-thirds majority at two meetings of the party resolved that they had not adhered to the platform of the party ... the thing strikes at the very root of sound and just Municipal government, and we think has been very properly challenged ... to acquiesce in it would be equivalent to admitting that the direction of local Municipal affairs may with propriety be delegated to irresponsible heads meeting in caucus.'<sup>914</sup> In late 1892, such a situation in relation to the Workers' Organisation emerged as Alderman Grennan was struck off the Electoral Roll and the Mayor sought his resignation from Council. Alderman Grennan resisted action in relation to his resignation and the Mayor taking further action to have his resignation.

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<sup>911</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 February 1892

<sup>912</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 January 1892

<sup>913</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 March 1892

<sup>914</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 15 March 1892

In May 1892, Edward was busy with the Mayor and his other Alderman colleagues wishing Police Magistrate and Goldfields Warden, Phillip Frederick Sellheim Esq. farewell from Gympie as he departed for Brisbane to take up his new position in the Queensland Government as Under Secretary for Mines. Edward had joined his fellow magistrates to wish the best for Sellheim, who like Edward had gained a high level of confidence of the community, and been given a high level of support by the Gympie Magistrates.<sup>915</sup> The needs of Gympie as they were as the great mining town it was, Edward was keen to retain Sellheim as a well-respected contact, more especially in his role as the Under Secretary of Mines.

Still associated with politics, Edward was present with some of his colleagues on Thursday 6 October 1892 to help facilitate the Quarterly Revision Court to revise the electoral rolls for the Gympie and Wide Bay Districts. He stayed there throughout the day. Andrew Fisher, then President of the local branch of the Australian Miner's Association watched on behalf of the Labor Party and the Worker's Political Organisation. For Gympie, of 88 applications received, only 70 were approved.<sup>916</sup> By November 1892, there were 2747 registered on the Gympie Roll, with the process almost complete. Around 674 names were being rejected for registration for various reasons. The Patriotic League mused over what injustices were being committed by such a number being rejected for the Gympie Roll.<sup>917</sup>

The Clock Tower, the project initiated by Edward Bytheway when he was Mayor, underwent the necessary alterations and additions in late 1892. All that was required was the delivery of the clock expected sometime before March 1893,<sup>918</sup> for the clock to be fitted.

During his time as Alderman of the Municipal Council of 1892, he was a strong advocate for the constructive work that occurred in Gympie's public recreation areas, for example Queen's Park, to have them in constant good order, making them attractive for cricket clubs and other athletic and sporting clubs. The caretaker was also very strong on keeping out 'evil-disposed persons' and 'larrikins'<sup>919</sup> who seemed to incur their vandalism on Sundays. The grounds would have fences and signs indicating the penalties for those causing damage. The upkeep of the grounds would help to be covered by having the Clubs that used the ground pay remuneration and that picnickers pay £1 deposit which would be returned to them provided they could certify with the caretaker that the grounds were free of rubbish and there had been no damage done to the trees.

### **1893**

In 1893 Council meetings were held in the Town Hall. As usual there were always the many infrastructure matters to deal with. There was strong concern about the dangerous state of the drain and associated rubbish on the eastern side of Mount Pleasant Road. Directors from the No.1 North Great Zealand mine were asking to place the mullock heap from their new engine shaft in Black Street. Submissions for improvements in a house located in Spring Street were being received. Concerns to prevent construction occurring in Hyne Street under the flood mark were being voiced

<sup>915</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 3 May 1892

<sup>916</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 October 1892

<sup>917</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 17 November 1892

<sup>918</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 December 1892

<sup>919</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 December 1892

as No.1 North Halls Lease had been abandoned to make it a reserve. The Registrar-General was looking for the receipt of Council's 1893 returns.<sup>920</sup>

## 1894

In early November 1894, Gympie's Horace Tozer now a Member of the Queensland Government Legislative Assembly, and a close colleague of Edward Bytheway, visited Gympie. Bytheway kept up his networking and friendship with Horace Tozer, who now could have some influence over matters in Gympie. Tozer took deputations from a number of people about pertinent matters relating to the District, including one from Mayor Alderman Suthers and Aldermen Bytheway and Mellor in relation to water supply for Gympie. Edward Bytheway did most of the talking explaining the proposed plans. He had some influence on Tozer who said he would do what he could if they would submit a detailed proposal to the Government seeking an amount of £25,000 for the works. The issue of water supply appeared to be a constant challenge for Gympie's Councillors.<sup>921</sup>

Alderman Edward Bytheway presided over the meeting of Council on 7 December 1894, the Mayor having influenza! How easily he slipped back into the role of Mayor and of course he had the trust and confidence of the Councillors to carry out the role.

## 1895

Edward Bytheway returned to the Municipal Council as an Alderman in 1893. In 1895, he became Mayor again; William Suthers became Mayor again in 1896. Of Bytheway it was said that 'Again in 1895 he was elected Mayor of the town, which office he was well adapted for by virtue of his equable disposition and his character of highest integrity.'<sup>922</sup>

The Salvation Army was moving their premises from Calton Hill to a piece of land opposite the School of Arts and Mines in lower Mary Street. The new building was opened on 12 April 1895 with Mayor Edward Bytheway being part of the special group that participated in its opening. Brigadier Jeffries who was a member of the State Salvation Army Group, had arranged for Mayor Bytheway 'to fix one of the memorial blocks of the building. The block had on it the inscription "this block was laid to the glory of God by Edward Bytheway Esq., Mayor of Gympie. 12 April 1895. T.B. Coombes, Commissioner. William Booth, General."

The Mayor drove in two screws, after which the Commissioner handed him a screw driver with an ebony handle, on which was a silver plate, with the inscription "Presented to E. Bytheway Esq. on the occasion of his fixing the memorial block of Salvation Army Barracks Gympie, April 12 1895."<sup>923</sup> Commissioner Coombes said to Mayor Bytheway 'I hand you this in memory of our little ceremony in which you are now taking part, and may God bless you'.<sup>924</sup> Edward Bytheway was known to be quite eloquent when giving speeches and this occasion was no exception. Mrs. Bytheway had accompanied him to this event. A large number of people had attended the opening, filling the barracks to capacity.

This must have been quite an event for Edward as Mayor to honour the progress of the Salvation Army in Gympie and to set an example for the locals in the way of Christ.

<sup>920</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 December 1894

<sup>921</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 April 1894

<sup>922</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

<sup>923</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 April 1895

<sup>924</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 April 1895

Gympie had resisted the Gympie Salvation Army right from the time Captain D. Buckingham set up in Gympie on 3 October 1886. From 'a history written for the Gympie Salvation Army centenary in 1986, Gympie historian Alisa Dawson recorded that:

"As in many other places, heckling and abuse was followed by actual violence, but, in a gold town over-supplied with hotels and drinking problems, Gympie was a rewarding field in which to work and in three weeks, 167 converts were pointed to Christ".<sup>925</sup> Mary Street was known to have forty-eight pubs in those early gold mining days.

A monster afternoon tea followed the ceremony at the Theatre Royal in the Royal Hotel (then known as the Varieties Hotel). The name was changed to the Royal Hotel in 1885 and rebuilt into a two storey timber structure designed by Hugo Du Rietz in 1882). The Theatre had been extremely popular from 1868 onwards as a new social venue for people of the town. The new Theatre was again hailed as the most popular venue in town, successfully attached to a building at the back of the Hotel.<sup>926</sup> An image of the Royal Hotel designed by Hugo Du Rietz and built in 1882<sup>927</sup> follows:



At the end of May/early June 1895, the anniversary of the One-Mile Wesleyan Church was celebrated. Edward presided at the public meeting of the celebration. Tea was served and 'eight tables were provided, each laid out with a quantity of excellent provisions and presided over by several lady members of the congregation. The attendance was so large that the tables

had to be laid out thrice ... the present anniversary was the best that had ever been held, and it was hoped that after this evening the debt would be lowered to £80 from £164 4s 5d.'<sup>928</sup>

As His Worship the Mayor, September 1895 gave Edward Bytheway a number of diverse matters to consider for approval in Council. Loose stones were causing horses to stumble and fall on Watts Street, with repairs being needed urgently; he was pushing for Gympie to have a proper water works so that residents could have a reliable source of water to their homes; plants and trees were needed for the municipality; Mount Pleasant Road needed asphaltting; Monkland and Spicer Streets had to be re-engineered to be made fit for traffic; the night-soil system was in an unacceptable state, with improvements being a priority together with a need for a review of prices charged for the service and the provision of a suitable van for the service; the lower end of Monkland Street needed a drain. On this matter Mayor Bytheway stated that the idea

<sup>925</sup> <https://www.questia.com/newspaper/1G1-426133363/gympie-resisted-the-salvos-in-1886-the-gold-town-s-Gympie-Times,-The-Qld.-Gympie-Resisted-the-Salvos-in-1886;-the-Gold-Town's-Drinking-Problems-Made-It-a-'Rewarding-Field'>

<sup>926</sup> <http://www.rvwarehouse.com.au/store/news/106#sthash.yoASL1Rm.dpuf>

<sup>927</sup> <http://www.rvwarehouse.com.au/store/news/106#sthash.yoASL1Rm.dpuf>

<sup>928</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 1 June 1895

was to 'cut a straight drain from the back of the sawmill, Mary Street, to Nash's Gully, and it was not intended to timber it. There was £152 credit in the Health account at present and there was very little else on which the money could be spent.'<sup>929</sup> The meeting approved that he and Alderman Henderson would attend the Local Authorities Conference in Brisbane on 25 September 1895 as representatives of the Council.

For both Bytheway and Alderman Henderson this conference was a big event, not only in its purpose but also in the number of representatives that attended from municipalities and shires and divisional boards. Bytheway's colleagues Messrs. M. Chippendale and M. Miller from the Widgee Divisional Board also attended.

One hundred and eleven representatives from twenty municipalities and shires and fifty-four divisional boards came to debate and assist the Chairman and Colonial Secretary, ex Gympie Horace Tozer MLA, in the 'settlement of the matter and the arrangement of a differential scheme of endowment.'<sup>930</sup> Such schemes were already in existence in New South Wales, Victoria and New Zealand. Horace Tozer told those present that 'the endowment had been reduced, till now the small amount available was divided among the weaker authorities, and cities and towns were excluded from participation in the endowment ... in the past Brisbane and suburbs had absorbed two-fifths of the money voted to aid the local authorities.'<sup>931</sup>

The scheme being proposed was based on population; it 'divided the local authorities into four classes: Class 1-from 7,000 upwards, 3s per capita; from 3,000 to 7,500, 3s 6d per capita; from 1,500 to 3,000, 4s per capita; under 1,500, 4s 6d per capita.'<sup>932</sup> Horace Tozer proposed a committee to consider the scheme and come up with a report, and who other than Gympie's own Mayor Bytheway was appointed to the committee to represent the shire councils and municipalities. There were to be two committees each comprised of seven men, with the second committee to represent the divisional boards. The differential endowment issue to be decided by the Conference was a critical one. Mr. R.J. Forrest (Townsville); Mr. H.B. Black (Mackay); Mr. F.H. Macarthy (Mt Morgan); Mr. H. Wyman (Ipswich); Mr. O. Lewis (North Rockhampton); Mr. D. McConville (Bundaberg); Mr. W. Wallace (Warwick) were on Edward Bytheway's committee.

In between consideration of the endowment question, the delegates to the Conference were given a great time and a sumptuous feast aboard the Queensland Government's Steamer *Otter*, which went out into Moreton Bay and back to Brisbane.<sup>933</sup>

The report presented to the Conference by Edward Bytheway's Committee was adopted as presented and the report from the Divisional Boards was adopted with some minor amendments. For the Municipal and Shire Councils, the Committee had recommended that the 'amount of endowment should be in proportion to the general revenue of the colony, and that endowment should not be less than 6d in the pound of general revenue ... the best scheme for differential endowment for local authorities is one based on population; and that provision be made for funding the bank overdrafts of local authorities, in order to relieve them from the heavy interest now paid by them.'<sup>934</sup>

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<sup>929</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 September 1895

<sup>930</sup> The Week 27 September 1895

<sup>931</sup> The Week 27 September 1895

<sup>932</sup> The Week 27 September 1895

<sup>933</sup> The Telegraph 28 September 1895

<sup>934</sup> The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 28 September 1895



Mayor Bytheway would surely have been proud of the contribution he had made, and which would be adopted by the Queensland Government.

On 19 December 1895, Mayor Bytheway opened the bazaar in aid of the Organ Fund for St Patrick's Church at Gympie's Theatre Royal building. He referred to the 'handsome church erected by the Catholics ... a credit to them as a community but also an ornament to the town ... it had been in their mind for some time to add to the completeness of the structure by the erection of a pipe organ ...'<sup>935</sup>

Edward did not give up his other many responsibilities when he was Mayor, for example he was still a Director of the Gympie Gas and Coke Company and presided over shareholder meetings. His role as Director had been continuous for some 15 years by this time. His work in his other Gympie organisations and committees remained unceasing.

### 1896

In May 1896, a ratepayer berated Edward Bytheway for not acting in the full interests of the ratepayers. It was implied that he had knowledge of 'questionable practices being carried on by ... Council servants ... [and it was his] duty not only to disclose them, but also to bring the delinquents to book'.<sup>936</sup> As Alderman, Edward Bytheway had brought forward at the meeting of Council on 16 August 1893, a matter related to the town clerk Mr. Kidgell 'having a large amount of cash' in his hands.<sup>937</sup> Mr. Kidgell angrily asked that he be dismissed if the Council, especially Alderman Bytheway, did not have confidence in him. Despite the matter being brought forward by Alderman Bytheway, the public believed he had not gone far enough in questioning the work practices of Mr. Kidgell, and that the Council had protected, screened the town clerk, 'and even though he is not now indebted to the Council, his occupation and reputation are lost.'<sup>938</sup> Alderman Bytheway also received criticism from the author of the letter of his not being diligent in having the Council's auditors make available to the public printed reports of the matters relating to the management of cash by the town clerk. This issue of a lack of faith in the credibility of the Council's auditors by the public versus Alderman Bytheway's praise of them as being the 'best auditors to be found'<sup>939</sup> persisted through to 1896. Another letter to the editor accused the 'new ex-Mayor Bytheway' of crooked practices as far as the auditors are concerned. Still the reporting by the auditors was being done verbally, and still no written reports were available.<sup>940</sup>

January 1896 was his last month as Mayor before the February elections. Gympie was experiencing a serious depression in the mining industry. After considering matters such as giving the Police Magistrate responsibility for the burial of a Chinaman who had died in River Road as a pauper; proposed repairs to Rodney's Road; the financial reports; locations and venues for polling booths including the Masonic Hall, and the One-Mile Institute, Edward Bytheway dealt with his Mayoral Statement highlighting achievements of the past year.

His leadership had made remarkable achievements. His oversight had greatly improved the careful management of the corporation's finances and reduced the overdraft

<sup>935</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 December 1895

<sup>936</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 May 1896

<sup>937</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 May 1896

<sup>938</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 May 1896

<sup>939</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 May 1896

<sup>940</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 2 May 1896

liability by over £500. His dedication to Gympie is demonstrated in some examples cited here. He turned the endowment due to the Council into the formation of attractive public parks and gardens and their maintenance. Various tennis, cricket and other athletic clubs began to make donations to improve the maintenance of the grounds. Land rates had been set to a lower price. The Municipality gained a portion of Glastonbury in the knowledge that the area needed a lot of money to be spent on the formation and repair of roads. Disinfectant for the Municipality was being supplied free of charge. Drainage works from Monkland Street to the Mary River had been completed. Charges for the Night-Soil Services had not increased and a new suitable van for the job was under consideration. A suitable water supply system for the township had been installed. The last item depended somewhat on the revival in the mining industry for wider installation to the town.

The commendations articulated by the Aldermen at that meeting to Mayor Bytheway are a true testament to the character of this great man of Gympie, and give that special insight into the man he really was and his dedication to and foresight for the community. Alderman Mellor said 'he hoped the Mayor would come back to the Council and occupy the same seat again. The Mayor deserved the highest thanks of the Council for the creditable manner in which he had carried out the duties during the year.' Alderman Suthers said 'the position of Mayor was an onerous one and a deal of work was required of the occupant of the chair. The Mayor had been very patient with them during the year and although there had been times when they were not all of the same opinion things had gone smoothly ... [Alderman Suthers said] 'he was pleased all the Aldermen had worked so well and this he thought was due to the fact that all were trying to do their best for the Municipality.' Alderman Henderson said 'the Mayor had filled the office with dignity and tact. Mr. Bytheway had acted in various capacities and he filled his duties with ability. He was pleased Mr. Bytheway was coming forward again to serve the ratepayers and if he was not returned the ratepayers did not recognise what he had done.' Alderman Ryland said 'the past year had been successful and a great deal of that was due to the Chairman. There had been no fireworks and although there had been some differences they agreed to differ.' Other Aldermen made similar comments. In his usual humble manner, Edward Bytheway responded 'that he felt very glad at the very flattering testimony accorded him. The position of Mayor was no sinecure; it brought work and worry but it had its compensations and one of these was the knowledge that he had gained approval of his colleagues. The Mayor could do nothing with the assistance of the Aldermen and if he had been a success it was mainly due to that. Whatever differences they had had, he was of opinion they all worked for the good of the Municipality.' Edward Bytheway assured them that if elected again, he would as he had done in the past, do his best for the benefit of all.<sup>941</sup>

In the Gympie Municipal Elections held on 5 February 1896, 'Messrs. Ambrose, Bytheway and Suthers had offered themselves for re-election ... Messrs. Jer. McSweeney, M. Kearney Jnr aspired to seats on the Council.'<sup>942</sup> That year William Suthers won the position for Mayor, but as ever humble in his loss Edward Bytheway 'thanked all the ratepayers who had voted for him that day and said he was not a bit disheartened at being left out in the cold. He had no doubt that those who had voted against him had proved his best friends. There was one thing and that was that the Aldermen who took a position in the Council now, did so when the finances were in a better condition than

<sup>941</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 January 1896

<sup>942</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 February 1896

ever they were. He had faith that the Councillors would look to the finances and attend to the work as in the past.

The rate payers had consigned him to mind his own business and he would do that, but if at any time they desired his services he would be forthcoming. He would never shrink a citizen's work and no one could say that he ever took a position and did not fulfil it'.<sup>943</sup> There was applause after he made this speech and again after Mr. Mellor made the comment that 'Mr. Bytheway had always come forward in the interests of the Municipality, and he was sure he had their interests at heart.'<sup>944</sup> The speech made by Edward Bytheway and Mr. Mellor provide an honest summary of the personality of Edward Bytheway when it came to doing the very best for the town he lived in. One of the great priorities in his life, either when he was Mayor or otherwise, was the sound and forward looking development of Gympie. He may be regarded to have been one of the most astute business men in Gympie, but he spent his life devoted to making it great place to live. His industriousness gained him immense respect, and gave the younger men in the town a wonderful role model to follow.

### 1897

Another area of activity and community interest for Edward Bytheway was the Widgee Divisional Board which consisted of three subdivisions. The Widgee Division was one of the original divisions incorporated on 11 November 1879 under the Divisional Boards Act 1879 with a population of 1609.<sup>945</sup> In January 1897, Edward was part of a group of men who nominated Mr. James Fraser, a farmer, to No.1 Subdivision.<sup>946</sup> For the annual elections of the Board in 1901, Edward was part of a group who nominated Daniel Martin, described as a planter, to Division One of the Board.<sup>947</sup> Edward, a member of the Widgee Divisional Board, had a close liaison with the Widgee Divisional Board, and would have been a greater colleague to William Chippindall.<sup>948</sup> Edward was instrumental in ensuring that there was always close cooperation and discussion between the Widgee Divisional Board and the Gympie Municipal Council, and especially so when he was Mayor. This was especially critical to the municipality of Gympie because the Municipal Council and the Widgee Divisional Board often had to share costs for the maintenance of roads and bridges; Gympie was its own borough but the Widgee area was on its border, the Widgee Divisional Board having status as a shire council and extending in area from north of Eumundi to north of Gympie and also included a strip along the coast from Peregrin to the mouth of the Maroochy River.<sup>949</sup>

The *Local Authorities Act 1902* transitioned the Widgee Division to be the Shire of Widgee on 31 March 1903.

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<sup>943</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 February 1896

<sup>944</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 February 1896

<sup>945</sup> Proclamation [Widgee Division]". Queensland Government Gazette. 11 November 1879. p. 25:1000

<sup>946</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 January 1897

<sup>947</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 January 1901

<sup>948</sup> Shire of Widgee [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shire\\_of\\_Widgee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shire_of_Widgee)

<sup>949</sup> Roads and bridges led to divisions 19th Mar 2016 <http://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/news/roads-and-bridges-led-to-divisions/2968802/>



William Tatlock Chippindall, nine times chairman of the Widgee Divisional Board



Map of Widgee Division and adjacent local government areas, March 1902

## 1898

1898 saw Edward continuing his hard work as Alderman for the Municipal Council. He spent considerable time with Mayor Mulcahy at various events. It might be said that Gympie does not have the level of sophistication that existed in 1898, because believe it or not Gympie had a Gympie Philharmonic, and in support of the Gympie Philharmonic, Edward Bytheway, amongst some others, gave £1 1s [equivalent to \$151 in 2016<sup>950</sup>] for the Prize associated with Singing at Sight. The night was chaired by the Mayor Alderman Mulcahy and a number of items were adjudicated followed by a concert.<sup>951</sup> There is no doubt that Edward Bytheway's interests in the town of Gympie covered its every heartbeat. At the same time Gympie also had an Operatic Society.

He was there with Mayor Mulcahy for his first public duty to chair the annual meeting of subscribers of the Gympie Ladies' Benevolent Society at the Town Hall. Edward's wife was elected President of the Society at that meeting. During 1898, the Society had distributed and given away to 100 families, including 283 children, a range of second hand clothing and other articles, 4 pairs of sheets, 15 pairs of boots and shoes, 2 pairs of trousers, 4 shirts, 59 yards [45 metres<sup>952</sup>] of galatea (a material generally used for children's sailor suits), 49 yards [45 metres] of flannelette, 49 yards [45 metres] of flannel, and 33½ [30 metres] yards of calico.<sup>953</sup>

Edward was among a group of his colleagues and others who gained the agreement of Mayor Mulcahy for a meeting to be held on 30 May 1898 in the Masonic Hall to discuss and agree to the best form for the reception of Premier James Robert Dickson when he visited Gympie.<sup>954</sup>

<sup>950</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>951</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 April 1900

<sup>952</sup> <https://www.bing.com/search?q=converting+yards+to+metres&q=SC&pq=convert+yards+to+metres&sk=SC5AS1&sc=7-23&sp=7&cvid=89BD10585B4D4EE698B8715F4A3588FA&FORM=QBRE>

<sup>953</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 February 1898

<sup>954</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 May 1898

## 1899

For elections being held on 11 March 1899, Edward Bytheway was appointed Returning Officer with polling places being Gympie, Brisbane, Deep Creek (Cootharaba Road) Monkland and the One-Mile.<sup>955</sup> Edward almost always was a Returning Officer for the Local, State, and Federal Government elections.

## 1900

While on the Municipal Council in 1900, Edward Bytheway with his colleagues were managing a great, spreading rat plague in Gympie. Council offered a reward for freshly killed rodents to be brought to Council Chambers. There was a plea to the public not to bring in the rodents after they had been hoarded for some days, as their presence could be felt immediately, though they were lifeless. The Council had the rodents destroyed in Edward's Gas Company's retorts!<sup>956</sup>

## 1901

1901 was the year of Australian Federation, but Mr. Bytheway was a politician in another level of government, the Gympie Municipal Council. In the 5 February 1901 elections, from six candidates who stood, he was returned with 623 votes, while Mr. G. Garrick received 548; Mr. D. Dowling 515, Mr. Stewart the retiring member was defeated.<sup>957</sup> Immediately prior to Edward Bytheway to his election, he withstood attacks made on his candidature.

In current terminology he was being accused of having a conflict of interest relating to his chairmanship of the Gas Company. A letter he wrote to the *Editor* of the *Gympie Times* in his own defence makes lucid points and reiterates for history the eminent contributions he made to the quality of life for this town of Gympie, and his high standards of business ethics and morals:

*'Sir by your permission, and through your paper, permit me to reply to the attack on my candidature for Municipal honours, made by your contemporary "Truth Limited". The facts are these. A very large body of ratepayers waited on me with a request that I would allow myself to be nominated for the Council; as first I refused, but on their renewing and urging me I consented; my colours were then nailed to the mast, and I shall only strike them when summoned to do so by ratepayers. Your contemporary says that I command his "respect", I have "many good points", I am "eligible in many respects", "Mr. Bytheway is an honourable man." For this testimony I bow my respectful acknowledgements. Yet it makes a dead set on my candidature. My great crime is, I am Chairman of the Gas Company.*

*I was Chairman of the Gas Company from 1892 to 1895, and during those years I was both Alderman and Mayor, and never voted on any question where the Gas Company was concerned. Ask Ald. Ryland and Ald. Burchill who sat with me the whole of that time, what they think of this influence of aldermen on aldermen. Surely I am too modest. I never claimed to possess the ability your contemporary credits me with, of casting a spell over aldermen. But really, Mr. Editor, should the fact that I am Chairman of the Gas Company be a bar to my performing a citizen's duty or fulfilling a citizen's obligations? Were Col. Ferguson or the late Mr. M. Mellor worse aldermen or Mayors because they were Chairman of the Gas Company. For 33 years my public life and private character have*

<sup>955</sup>The North Queensland Register 17 February 1899

<sup>956</sup>The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 10 May 1900

<sup>957</sup>The Brisbane Courier 6 February 1901

*been before the citizens. Am I not to be trusted? Is it fair that I be called on to defend my character against these insinuations? Do honourable men do the things your contemporary insinuates? Is this community sinking morally? The Gas Company has a contract with Council that cannot be touched for two years. The question of municipalising the Gas Company, a scheme I have always favoured, may have to be considered, but of course on lines which are equitable, just and right.*

*Your contemporary puts forward an argument which he believes will prove a clincher. I will quote it in full: "We want men in the Council who can conscientiously vote on every question of importance that comes before it. Mr. Bytheway could not do that. We defy him to say he could." This is my answer "If elected, I shall conscientiously vote on every question before it, and the day I cannot do that, I shall resign, whatever my position. Finally, Mr. Editor, let me draw attention to the fact that two or three shareholders in "Truth Limited" have sat in the Council and assisted me to pass the accounts of that Company. I have never said nor do I now say that this is an improper interest and influence to have in the Council, but "Truth Limited" and the Gas Company are both incorporated companies and I fail to see why my connection with the one company should be singled out as a disqualification. I am etc.*

*E. Bytheway*

*Gympie, 31 January 1901*<sup>958</sup>

By 1901 Gympie had its own Water Works. Alderman Edward Bytheway was present with the Mayor, Aldermen Burchill, Garrick, Dowling, Lister, on Thursday morning of 11 April 1901 'to take over the Works as arranged previously, the Mayor signing the necessary papers on behalf of the Council.'<sup>959</sup> The Waterworks syphon was to be handed over some three months later.

By August of 1901, Edward was Chair of the Water Works Sub-Committee of Council, and among his other responsibilities on this Committee, he had been dealing with some staff trouble at the Water Works, to the extent that Council called a special meeting on 23 August 1901 to inquire into the matter between the engineer, Mr. Murdock, and the fireman Mr. Harry Walker. Apparently Harry Walker had resigned. Edward reported to Council that the situation had reached a stalemate. Ever the mediator and conciliator, and wanting to give good men a fair go, he beseeched the Council to hold over Walker's resignation until the Council had taken evidence from them both. Walker had approached Alderman Bytheway on 17 August about the matters occurring at the Water Works between these two men, and following his discussion with Alderman Bytheway had gone into work the following Monday only to find a temporary fireman in his job.

Walker found it impossible to work with Murdock; while Alderman Bytheway had observed that neither of the men was working together. Alderman Bytheway impressed on Council that he could find no fault with the workmanship of either Walker or Murdock. Following evidence taken at the meeting from Walker and Murdock, both men were sent back to work with certain provisos that: Murdock must see Walker as a second engineer; Murdock should not bolt the door to the engine room, so that Walker work in there to carry out his duties properly; and if there was any further trouble both

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<sup>958</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 2 February 1901

<sup>959</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 April 1901

men would be dismissed immediately.<sup>960</sup> By 1903, these two men were again having difficulty working with each other!

In January 1901, Mayor D. Mulcahy had announced that the financial position of Municipality of Gympie was reasonably sound, and it was grateful to Andrew Fisher, who by then was in State Parliament, for securing £100 toward the expenditure incurred by the Council for securing contingency facilities on 40 acres on the old Maryborough Road and a trained nurse, in relation to the threat of the spread of the bubonic plague present in Brisbane. This was seen as a serious issue as there was daily communication to Gympie of the traffic of goods and other materials.<sup>961</sup>

Federal elections were being held 30 March 1901 after Federation occurred. Edward Bytheway continuing in his responsibilities to his beloved Gympie, was appointed Assistant Returning Officer for the Gympie Electoral District, with polling places that year being in Gympie, Deep Creek (Cootharaba Road), Monkland, One-Mile, and Red Hill. At that time the Wide Bay Division was comprised of Bundaberg, Burnett, Burrum, Gympie, Musgrave, Maryborough, and Wide Bay.<sup>962</sup> These days we are used to polling booths closing at 6pm, but that year the booths closed at 4pm because of the extensive nature of the different electorates in Queensland and the large number of returns.

## 1902

During 1902, the Gympie District had faced bush fires and drought, and the twenty-second annual Show of the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society had faced certain difficulties in managing aspects of the Show. Nevertheless the Governor Sir Herbert Chermiside who was visiting Gympie and its Show for the first time was given an appropriate welcome. Edward Bytheway had been there on the platform at Gympie Station on 17 September with Mayor Dowling to meet the Governor, Premier Philp and other members of the Legislative Assembly when they arrived as part of the vice-regal party on the special train. Gympie ensured that the Governor knew of its 'continued loyalty and attachment to the throne and person of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII.'<sup>963</sup>

This was also an important day for Edward as his son Edward was a Lieutenant in the company of soldiers inspected by the Governor at the Show.

In August 1902, the Council formed the view that the Widgee Divisional Board had treated the Gympie Municipal Council 'scurvily', as it had refused to pay an account for the removal and cremation of a dead beast from the Mary River. Edward Bytheway stated that the Council 'should retaliate and retaliate very severely' to have the Board pay the account.<sup>964</sup> The matter of getting the £10,000 loan from the State Government for the waterworks for Gympie was still an ongoing issue, the State Government having rejected the request for this amount of money, on the basis that 'the amount applied for by the various Municipal Councils and Divisional Boards throughout the State, far exceeded the money placed on the estimates.'<sup>965</sup> It was Edward Bytheway again who constantly 'fought' for the best for Gympie, who ensured that an urgent request go back to the State Government for 'the money, or as much as it was possible to get ... the

<sup>960</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 August 1901

<sup>961</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 2 February 1901

<sup>962</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 February 1901

<sup>963</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 18 September 1902

<sup>964</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 August 1902

<sup>965</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 August 1902

Government were treating the Council very scurvily. They had promised to lay 15 miles of reticulation pipes and only 4½ miles had been laid.

He was always vigilant when it came to the Council's financial situation. That year it was carrying a debt of £4,534, with a number of water rate payments outstanding, and the watering of the Gympie streets used 24,000 gallons of water per day, or 7,200,000 gallons per annum costing the Council £360 per annum. He was ensuring that the outstanding rates be pursued for payment and that action be taken to recoup some of the costs for watering the streets.

### 1903

In 1903, federal elections were being held. Edward Bytheway's social conscience was at work again as he was appointed an Assistant Returning Officer in Gympie for the Wide Bay Electorate. As the only Returning Officer for Gympie, he had a challenge to deal with in as much as the 'Wide Bay roll, according to the returns of the Electoral Office, contains 26,429 names or 807 more than the number collected by the Police.'<sup>966</sup>

Edward Bytheway was still on the Municipal Council in 1903; the Mayor was Mr. D. E. Reid. The Council continued to meet fortnightly. Alderman Bytheway, the oldest and most experienced member of Council, was present for its usual fortnightly meeting on 18 February 1903, when a number of issues were at hand including: improvements to the new entrance of the Nashville Railway Station; approaches that had been made to the Congregational Church asking for repairs; repairs to the Tozer Park Road from a mining company (Messrs. Caston and Davison) between the company's mine and Cootharaba Road; filling in holes and removing stumps on Brewery Road; and a petition relating to Mount Pleasant Road and lane off it. In October 1903, the Council, with Alderman Bytheway present, agreed to Widgee Council's request to call for tenders for the position of ferryman at the Channon Street and Normanby Bridges.<sup>967</sup> Mayor D. E. Reid as previous Mayors before him had the ongoing concern of the progress of work and maintenance on roads and bridges. Petitions were being received week after week about the "dangerous" state of the roads. The Works Committee noted this together with the fact that work authorized six months ago was still not complete, and by October, only half of the Works Program had been complete. Alderman Bytheway in his usual concerned way 'said it was no use for the Works Committee to ignore the recommendation of the Finance Committee, who cut them down as regards expenditure. The overseer had not now many work to work with.'<sup>968</sup>

The Works Committee gained an extra item of workload when the interesting case of Hannah Bell was discussed. For the past twenty years, Mrs. Bell had occupied a particular tenement embracing the Residence Area in Pine Street. Her late husband had bought the tenement in 1888. She had been paying rent on it since that time. Now she was applying for Miners' Homestead No. 3878 because following the ground being surveyed, it emerged that the greater portion of the tenement was situated on Woodbine Street. Her request was now to Council to permanently close off Woodbine Street between Oak Street and Pine Street. The Works Committee agreed that the ground around Woodbine Street was no good at all, but that an inspection would be undertaken by the Committee to determine an outcome.

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<sup>966</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 November 1903

<sup>967</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 15 October 1903

<sup>968</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 15 October 1903





The Aldermen and Officers of the Gympie Municipal Council 1902 (framed photo held at Gympie Goldmining and Historical Museum)

The \$10,000 loan requested from State Treasury was still under consideration, the State Government noting that it was unprofitable for the extension of reticulation of the town to remain incomplete, but that Gympie was competing with many other local authorities for loans for justifiable purposes.

As Chairman of the Water Works Sub-Committee Report, Alderman Bytheway read out the Committee's report. The Engineer Mr. R. Murdock reported having pumped 3,326,902 gallons of water for the month ending 18 February. Now the Council had already sent Mr. Murdock a letter asking him to resign, and this became the serious matter of discussion at the meeting. The request had emerged from the constant friction between men working together at the Waterworks and the fact that the Chief Engineer and the Fireman, Harry Walker had punched each other's heads. Murdock had refused to resign. Edward Bytheway spoke in favour of Murdock being dismissed. The matter had been with Council to resolve for twelve months. What is interesting about this meeting is that Bytheway had pointed out that Murdock's letter to Council about his refusal to resign was not clear in its meaning, and Murdock was demanding reasons for the Council's wishing him to resign. The Mayor had interpreted that as Bytheway's not being in favour of the man's resignation or dismissal, accused him of being childish. Naturally, Edward retorted and emphasised that he was not childish. The matter had been referred to Alderman Bytheway. In the first instance Murdock would be provided with reasons of the Council's wish for him to resign.<sup>969</sup>

<sup>969</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 February 1903

The matter later was cause for a special meeting of Council on Saturday 28 February for Edward Bytheway to present his report. From the time of the last meeting some odd staff appointments had been made: Murdock replaced himself with a temporary engineer (Oswin), and the other gentleman (Walker) who had resigned because he would not work with Murdock, was reinstated, none of which the Mayor was informed about!

Bytheway stated he had had nothing to do with the matters of employment of either Oswin or Walker. He read out his report. 'I have to report that the trouble at the Waterworks ended, I believe, permanently. The clean cut issue of the result of the enquiry, as I take it, was that both men had to go, and their wives and families had to be evicted from their homes. I considered this treatment harsh from a public body who are but servants themselves. I have had to suffer considerable abuse the last three days for trying to do a kindly act. I have heard a lot about the drastic dismissal and want of backbone. These people ought to know better; they generally, yes always, have comfortable homes themselves, in no fear of decimation. A wild beast can destroy. I should like to ask these people to open their eyes and their hearts, and by acts of kindness make mankind happier and better. These are the problems to be confronted. Mrs. Murdock and Mrs. Walker will not abuse me for what I have done. I should like to say a word for Harry Walker; he has had a rough time amongst his friends, I sympathise with him. A more manly, honourable, straightforward man I have never met. One remark he made struck me. He said "I would give way a great deal for Mrs. Murdock." Murdock has repeatedly urged Walker to come back. I append Murdock's resignation, and I will now ask the Mayor to kindly reinstate the men.'<sup>970</sup> He moved the adoption of the report.

The contents of that report again exposes him to be a man of compassion where it was justified, highly articulate with incredible ethics and morals. How could this man who gave so much to the city of Gympie be forgotten?

The ensuing debate was intense and the Members of Council sought to quarrel with Bytheway about his attitude and his report. He had been the one charged by the Council to resolve the matter. His judgment was that both Walker and Murdock could work well together and that the Council was fortunate to have such steady men, they were the best obtainable in the field, and that he had sought to be even-handed and do the right thing. In accepting and adopting his report, he asked the Council members to deal kindly and fairly with the men as they were now working well together. The Council rejected Edward Bytheway's Report and called for applications for the position of Chief Engineer. The tone of this meeting would have been a great disappointment to him.

Edward Bytheway rarely wrote letters to the *Gympie Times*, but on the rare occasion that he did, it was always to express issues of truth or matters in the interest of the community.

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<sup>970</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 3 March 1903

One such letter on the valuation of land in Gympie is such an example, and this letter reads:<sup>971</sup>

**MR. DOWLING'S MIS-STATEMENTS**  
(To the Editor "Gympie Times.")  
SIR,—At the Theatre Royal on Thursday evening in his address to the ratepayers Mr. Dowling said: "Ald. Bytheway with a 42 feet frontage was valued at £324, but J. Lyons with 33 feet was valued at £354." This is not true, Mr. Editor. The facts are these: Ald. Bytheway with 40 feet is valued at £324 and J. Lyons with 33 feet frontage to Mary street and freehold allotment with 66 feet fronting Nash street, is valued at £354. Mr. Dowling did not give the whole of my frontage here; I have another allotment of 43 feet, valued at £348; and an allotment fronting Nash street, not freehold, valued at £84 or a total valuation in this spot of £756. I took occasion when at the Town Hall to examine other valuations in this section. I can only say the whole of the valuations are just and fair and reflect the highest credit on the Municipal valuator. I do not like to see the officers of the Council slandered as they have been recently. It is well known they can only reply to the Council, and it is cowardly beyond degree when their own mouths are closed against these attacks. The question before the ratepayers is not valuations but decent and creditable behaviour or the alternative pandemonium.—Yours truly,  
**E. BYTHEWAY.**

1904

A comment made by Edward Bytheway at the Council's fortnightly meeting of 20 January 1904 is indicative of his upright character. The comment was made in relation to Gaslight Sports. Alderman Garrick indicated that 'financial adventurers were allowed to come and establish themselves and he considered them a menace to the community.' Continuing 'he contended that the meetings were not conducted in the interests of sport, and that they had the effect of sapping the finances and the morals of young people. He would be prepared to go before the ratepayers on the subject as he thought this black spot should be wiped off the face of the earth. In seconding the motion which was carried unanimously, Alderman Bytheway said that the sports in question had a damning and demoralising effect.'<sup>972</sup> The sports being discussed was running on the Calton Hill Track. The 8<sup>th</sup> Sheffield Handicap of £15 being held under the gaslights in January was very popular and attracted a lot of competitors.

Alderman Bytheway was resigning from Council at that meeting. Mayor Des. E. Reid said of him 'he could only express sincere regret that they were to lose the services of such an old and capable member. He would however convey the hearty thanks of the Council

<sup>971</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 19 May 1903

<sup>972</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Gazette 20 January 2004

to Alderman Bytheway for his valuable services.<sup>973</sup> Alderman Bytheway humbly replied that 'he had been 9 years in the Council and gave as his chief reason for withdrawing his desire for a rest from municipal labours. He had at the present time an extensively signed requisition in his desk asking him to stand again, and he was thankful to feel that there had been the confidence of the people. There was no question of his being returned if he so desired at some future time, if he lived, he might be with them again.'<sup>974</sup> This was only about a year before he died.

Even though he had retired from Council he was far from idle. He continued to work with Alderman Burchill for the arrangements of Sir H. Chermiside, Governor of Queensland, to attend the Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society Show that year. The Mayor and Alderman Burchill thought that this might cost £10 or £100. He was still held in very high regard as the Mayor (Alderman G. Garrick) stated at the Council meeting of 20 July 1904 that he would 'consult with Mr. Bytheway upon the matter of suitable arrangements, and saw no difficulties in the way, as Mr. Bytheway was one with whom he could work. In regard to the expenditure he could not think they could exceed the sum of £10 and not even that amount could be expended with the consent of Council.'<sup>975</sup>

Not only was he undertaking the arrangements for the Governor of Queensland's visit to Gympie, in his role as President of the School of Arts, he was defending a case which had been brought against the School of Arts, Mines and Technical Classes by Heinrich Wallmann, a teacher and geologist, who had been employed in tuition by the School. Wallmann was seeking £24 10s being for wages commencing 1 August 1901 to 5 January 1904. It was a case that took more than a couple of days of Edward's time in court to resolve. Other members of the School working with him on the case were Messrs. R. Rankin and F.G. Woodward. The decision by the court was in favour of the School of Arts, Mines and Technical Classes as there was no evidence to support Wallmann's claim.<sup>976</sup>

On another matter, he had cause to write to the *Gympie Times* about Smithfield Street, to put the facts right.<sup>977</sup>

Edward was also highly respected and trusted in his role as Returning Officer for both State and Federal Authorities during elections over many years. The work accomplished by him during his municipal career left a lasting impression upon the town and district. The town of Gympie and its surrounding district were the better for the hard work and commitment he applied during his 30 years as a resident of Gympie. His accomplishments were many, noting that during his term of office the Town Hall was built; the Waterworks were established to provide a better water service for the goldfield. He was Chairman of the Waterworks Sub-Committee, rendering 'splendid service of that important section of the goldfield's public works.'<sup>978</sup>

Edward Bytheway's terms as Mayor of Gympie were relatively short, but consistent with all else he did for Gympie, he effectively made improvements for the town of Gympie. It is a sad indictment on Gympie's Municipal memory that he has not been

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<sup>973</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Gazette 20 January 2004

<sup>974</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Gazette 20 January 2004

<sup>975</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Gazette 21 July 1904

<sup>976</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Gazette 20 January 2004

<sup>977</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Gazette 26 January 1904

<sup>978</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

acknowledged for 30 years of unbroken dedication to Gympie. It must be heavily emphasised that 'the work accomplished by him during his municipal career, which ended with the close of his second term as mayor, has left its impress upon the town and district of Gympie. Amongst many achievements, he combined with others to keep the scheme for a better water supply constantly before the public, and it was during his term of office as Mayor that the erection of the present town hall was commenced. With nearly every movement for the advancement of the district in which he lives, the name of Mr. Bytheway has been associated.'<sup>979</sup> He did everything with a high degree of special care.



Edward Bytheway—photo taken in 1900 and printed in *Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men*.

**SMITHFIELD STREET.**

(To the Editor of the "Gympie Times.")

SIR,—Mr. W. E. THOMAS has impugned my veracity re my statement that Smithfield Street had been before the Council for the last three years. He says, "The first proposal to do the work was brought before the Council less than two years ago and by myself, and not three years ago as Ald. Bytheway stated." Everyone knows that Mr. Thomas was not in the Council at the Annual inspection, 1901, or just three years ago. On that occasion there were present, the Mayor (Ald. Mulcahy), Davidson, Garrick, Ashford, Burchill, Bytheway, Dowling, and Lister. The Town Clerk took the following minute:—Smithfield street, top part very bad, decided to do a little levelling up in front of Mr. Whittingham's house, and cut side drain at top side. It was suggested to put about 3 feet of asphalt on footpath on south side from Young street to Calton Terrace." With respect to the other complaint of Mr. Thomas's letter, no one is more sorry than I am that this should have been overlooked. I am sure this is equally felt by the Mayor, and the other Aldermen of the Council. I can only assure Mr. Thomas that he enjoys the personal esteem of every member of the Council.—I am, etc.,

**E. BYTHEWAY.**

**January 25, 1904.**

<sup>979</sup> Queensland 1900: a narrative of her past, together with biographies of her leading men. Compiled by the Alcazar Press Brisbane . W.H. Wendt & Co Printers Edward Street Brisbane, 1900 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-36615454> Page 116



The Mayors of Gympie from 1880 to 1904 are captured in the image which has been generously provided by the Gympie Goldmining and Historical Museum. Edward Bytheway is pictured-see arrow

## Chapter Eight

### Death of Edward Bytheway

Edward died on Thursday morning 12 October 1905 aged sixty-five, within four days of the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of gold in Gympie on 16 October 1867, the very pull that had brought him to Gympie all those years ago-‘the end came peacefully ... after long weary hours of anxiety on the part of his relatives.’<sup>980</sup> It was also his 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being in Gympie. Certainly his work to continue to improve Gympie ended too soon. A large number of the Gympie population held very high respect for him.

His unceasing contribution to the life and industry of the town gave it prosperity and a future to look forward to. Edward had lived in Gympie since early 1868, and became known as a man of ‘genial disposition, and one who, if he had any prejudices of his own, was quite willing to make large allowances for the prejudices of others. His invariable courtesy make him liked and respected, and his integrity of character was recognised by all who came in contact with him.’<sup>981</sup> He was deeply civic and community minded and had an enormous social conscience.

His first wife, Emma died in 1871 after they had been married for eight years. Seven years after Emma died he married Mary who died in January 1902. Both were solid and loving marriages. Edward and Mary were married for twenty-four years. She was honoured with a memorial service at the Surface Hill Methodist Church on Sunday 26 January 1902. The service was conducted by the Reverend H. Youngman, with a solo by R. Hand, and anthems by a choir and other suitable music.<sup>982</sup>

Edward had been one of those ‘young men seeking an outlet for their energies ... and Mr. Bytheway’s name had been a household word since Gympie was Gympie and as a public man he succeeded in playing an honourable and crucial part. His business capabilities were such that he was not able to manage an extensive establishment of his own but to assist with his advice and oversight most of the public concerns of the town. Though not a plunger in regard to local mining speculations he had great faith in the field and made no hesitation in assisting to develop it.’<sup>983</sup>

Edward Bytheway had a close relationship with architect and business man Hugo Du Rietz, a man who has also been overlooked as a ‘father’ of Gympie. Both deserve the kind of recognition that should have entered automatically into the psyche of those who live in Gympie, as men who left an amazing heritage and set the foundations of the city as it is today. Visitors to the town should also be led to discover who its founding fathers really are, other than John Nash, who basically just discovered the gold.

At the time of his death, the Scottish Gympie mine was the leading gold producer<sup>984</sup> with some 33,290 ounces of gold produced for the first three quarters of 1905. Scottish Gympie also headed the dividend list. A total of some 155,000 ounces of gold for the first three quarters of 1905 came from Scottish Gympie; No. 2 South Great Eastern; No. 1 North Oriental and Glanmire; Smithfield and Phoenix Golden Pile; South Glanmire and

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<sup>980</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Saturday 14 October 1905

<sup>981</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

<sup>982</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 25 January 1902

<sup>983</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

<sup>984</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 5 October 1905

Monkland; Australasian Tribute; No. 1 South Oriental and Glanmire; East Oriental and Glanmire; North Smithfield; Columbia Smithfield; Eastern No.2 and No.3 Smithfield Tribute; and No.1 North Home Rule. A total of £146,954/13/0 (equivalent almost \$10 million dollars in 2016<sup>985</sup>). Gympie had also experienced some stagnation at that time, but Edward Bytheway never lost faith in the strength of the city to survive its crises saying that things 'would yet look up on Gympie ... I have seen them as bad and they have got better, Gympie is not done yet.'<sup>986</sup>

He contributed extensively to the significant growth of industry in Gympie. In 1905 its population of 13,500 'was creating prosperity for Queensland as it had done since 1867. Gympie was then at its peak of both its gold production and its population ... timber-getters were working in the surrounding forests, providing building material and fuel for the mines, shops, and houses. Recognising that the gold would not last forever, far-sighted community leaders such as the *editor of the Gympie Times, Jacob Stumm*, were encouraging dairy farmers to clear land and produce milk and butter. The wealth of the town was sourced in its gold, timber and butter (dairy) industries. It was a lively community, with a great deal of confidence and civic pride.

Ideas that were to change Australia were fiercely debated among its citizens, whose voice was the Scottish immigrant Andrew Fisher, a former Gympie gold miner who became Prime Minister in 1908 ... views taken around 1905 show huge mullock heaps and the head frames (poppet heads) and machinery sheds of great mines, dotted around with timber miners' cottages. In the mining days, wealthier citizens lived high with the breezes, along Channon Street and Lady Mary Terrace, and on Red Hill and Mount Pleasant-or across the river at South Side, away from the incessant thump of the crushing batteries. The miners lived close to their jobs, on the slopes of ridges and down in the gullies.'<sup>987</sup>

In the early part of 1905, there was a dengue fever epidemic in Gympie. Edward Bytheway contracted a particularly severe bout of it, and was never again completely well. The disease took hold of him slowly, as he was still well enough in March 1905 to be a visitor at Lennons Hotel in Brisbane.<sup>988</sup> He was also still attending a number of committee meetings. Those who knew him very well 'noticed that during the last months he was not his old self.'<sup>989</sup> On 10 October 1905 he was described as 'a prominent resident of Gympie (Q) seized with a paralysis stroke while returning from church on Sunday night. He had not regained consciousness up to last night.'<sup>990</sup> He experienced the sudden paralysis even as he was 'proceeding home after the service on Sunday night in company with his son-in-law, Mr. R. G. Sanday and [he] had to be conveyed home in an unconscious condition, from which he never rallied.'<sup>991</sup>

Medical attention 'was procured when it was found that a severe paralytic stroke had seized upon the patient. Yesterday Doctors Cuppaidge and Ryan were called in for a consultation and pronounced the case to be one of great severity.'<sup>992</sup> He had lain in an

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<sup>985</sup> <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>986</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

<sup>987</sup> City of Gympie 100 Years of News, Gympie Times January 1905-December 2004. Edited by Neville McHarg, and compiled by Pat Towner pages 4 and 5.

<sup>988</sup> Queensland Figaro 16 March 1905

<sup>989</sup> Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Saturday 14 October 1905

<sup>990</sup> The Sydney Morning Herald Tuesday 10 October 1905.

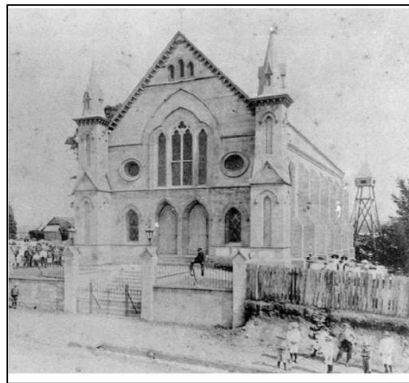
<sup>991</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

<sup>992</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 October 1905



unconscious state at his home on Calton Terrace for five days before he died. Getting Edward Bytheway home that Sunday night would have been quite difficult given that on that Sunday 'light rain had been falling ... in connection with an electrical storm ... [and] in the evening the rain was heavier ...'<sup>993</sup> He would not have known it but it was showery and overcast with some intervals of clearing skies. The weather was unseasonably cold for that time of the year having been showery for a couple of days, cleared a little on Tuesday, being quite chilly on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, and 'almost reminiscent of winter.'<sup>994</sup> The inside of the church may have been the real last sight of his adopted home of Gympie he saw. As a true man of God, it was ironic that he should have spent his last conscious hours in his beloved Surface Hill Methodist Church. He had been associated with this Church since its inception, having donated £200 towards the cost of building it.

At the time of his death, the four children from his first marriage with Emma were all married and living in Gympie. These were Messrs. Edward and Thomas Bytheway, and Mesdames Sanday and Ellison (Fanny and Mary); the husband of the latter at that time was the Minister of the Methodist Church on Surface Hill. All of Edward's children were living in Gympie at the time his death.<sup>995</sup>



The Surface Hill Methodist Church in 2014<sup>996</sup>, where Edward Bytheway's funeral service was held on 13 October 1905 and the Surface Hill Methodist Church as it was when it was completed under the guidance of Edward Bytheway and Hugo Du Rietz.

The funeral took place on Friday 13 October 1905. It was largely attended, and the cortege left Edward's home in Calton Terrace Gympie at 11am 'and travelled via Calton Hill, Lady Mary Terrace, Alma Street, Mary Street, to the Surface Hill Methodist Church, where the coffin was taken out of the hearse and removed to the church. Here a short service was conducted by Revs. J. G. Martin and M. Webster. The organ and the pulpit were draped in black, and the proceedings were in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion. The Rev. J. G. Martin, in the course of a brief address referred to the upright character of the deceased and commented upon the suddenness with which the call had come to him. The coffin was again removed to the hearse, the organ meanwhile playing the 'Dead March'. The procession was then reformed for its journey to the cemetery.

<sup>993</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 October 1905

<sup>994</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 October 1905

<sup>995</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 October 1905

<sup>996</sup> Photograph taken on 4 July 2014 by Linda Atkinson

The employees of the Gas Works acted as pall bearers. There then followed on foot, a number of the male employees of the deceased, the employees of his gold mines No. 7 Lady Mary and No. 6 North Phoenix, and a number of members of the Methodist Church holding official positions. Following in vehicles were relatives and friends, female employees of the deceased, the Mayor and Aldermen, Hospital Committee, School of Arts Committee, Cemetery Trustees, Directors of the Gas Works, and many others.

The Revs. Martin and Webster officiated at the graveside. Wreaths were sent in large numbers, there being fully a buggy load. Amongst others who forwarded tokens of respect were the Gympie Gas Company, the Municipal Council, the School of Arts, the Hospital, and the Cemetery Trustees.

Edward Bytheway's sickness and death was reported in at least ten Queensland newspapers and the *Sydney Morning Herald*:

***The Sydney Morning Herald Tuesday 10 October 1905, page 4:*** 'Mr. Edward Bytheway, a prominent resident of Gympie (Q), was seized with a paralytic stroke while returning from church on Sunday night. He had not gained consciousness up to last night.'

***The Northern Miner Wednesday 11 October 1905, page 5:*** Gympie October 10 'Mr. Edward Bytheway, who was seized with a paralytic stroke on Sunday night is still unconscious, and his medical attendant holds out very slender hopes of his recovery.'

***The Northern Miner Wednesday 13 October 1905, page 4:*** 'Mr. Edward Bytheway, a prominent resident, was seized with a paralytic stroke, while returning from church last Sunday night, died this morning.'

***The Brisbane Courier Friday 13 October 1905, page 7:*** 'Mr. Edward Bytheway, who was seized with a paralytic stroke on Sunday night is still unconscious, and his medical attendant holds out very slender hopes of his recovery.'

***The Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Friday October 13 1905:*** Gympie October 12: 'Mr. Edward Bytheway, a prominent resident, was seized with a paralytic stroke, while returning from church last Sunday night, died this morning.'

***The Capricornian Saturday 14 October 1905, page 26:*** 'Mr. Edward Bytheway, a prominent resident, was seized with a paralytic stroke, while returning from church last Sunday night, died this morning.'

***The Queenslander Saturday 21 October 1905, page 9:*** 'Mr. Edward Bytheway, a prominent resident of Gympie, died there on Thursday week. Mr. Bytheway arrived in Australia in 1864, and after carrying on business for a time in Brisbane, he took out one of the earliest business licences on the Gympie goldfield, and made his home there. In addition to the many public positions filled by him in connection with local government and other bodies, he was Director of No. 1 North Glanmire in its most prosperous days, and acted in the same capacity in connection with the No. 7 Lady Mary, No. 6 North Phoenix, and many other gold mining companies.'

The banner shows off one of Edward Bytheway's key and most successful mines.<sup>997</sup>



During a residence of a little short of forty years he had been associated with nearly every movement for the advancement of the district, including the establishment of the first butter factory and the promotion of the dairying interest in other ways. He was 65 years of age at the time of his death, and his loss will be keenly regretted not only in his own family circle, but by all interested in the welfare of the town and district.

***The Brisbane Courier Saturday 28 October 1905, page 4:*** 'On the 12<sup>th</sup> October, at "Calton", Gympie, Edward Bytheway aged 65 years.'

***The Queenslander Saturday 4 November 1905, page 12:*** 'On the 12th October, at "Calton", Gympie, Edward Bytheway aged 65 years.'

After his death, his estate had to be settled. So instead of his name featuring so much in the *Gympie Times* as a person working in the various roles he undertook, such notices as the calling on creditors to seek any part of his estate that they have felt legally entitled to, were posted.<sup>998</sup> He had invested widely in land allotments which indicates he made provision for his family's financial security after he died.

<sup>997</sup> Copy of banner held by Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum

<sup>998</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 21 December 1905

**Re Edward Bytheway, deceased**

PURSUANT to the provisions of the Trustees and Executors Act of 1907, notice is hereby given that all Creditors and other persons having claims against the estate of EDWARD BYTHEWAY, late of Gympie, in the State of Queensland, Merchant, deceased, who died on the twelfth day of October, 1905, at Gympie aforesaid, are hereby required to send in in writing particulars of their debts or claims to the undersigned, the solicitor for the Executors, Mary-street, Gympie, on or before MONDAY, the 5th day of February, 1906. And notice is further hereby given that after the expiration of the last mentioned day the Executors of the will of the said deceased will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the persons entitled therein, having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have had notice, and that the said executors will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed, to any person of whose debt or claim they shall not have had notice at the time of such distribution.

Dated at Gympie this 19th day of December, 1905.

VIVIAN H. TOSER,  
Solicitor for the Executors,  
Mary-street, Gympie.  
Town Agents—Stephens & Toser,  
Queen-street, Brisbane.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND.

In the Will of EDWARD BYTHEWAY, late of Gympie, in the State of Queensland, Merchant, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that after the expiration of fourteen days from the date of the publication hereof application will be made to this Honourable Court that Probate of the Will of the above-named EDWARD BYTHEWAY, deceased, may be granted to EDWARD BYTHEWAY, of Gympie, aforesaid Merchant, and the REVEREND TOM ELLISON, of the same place, Methodist Minister (in the said Will described as of Toowoong in the said State Wesleyan Minister); the son and the son-in-law respectively of the said deceased and the executors named in the said Will. Any person interested who desires to object to the application or to be heard upon it, may file a CAVEAT in the Registry at any time before the grant is made.

Dated this seventeenth day of October, 1905.

VIVIAN H. TOSER,  
Solicitor for the said Executors,  
Mary-street, Gympie.  
Town Agents—Stephens & Toser, Queen-street, Brisbane.

The *Gympie Times* published information from Edward Bytheway's Will, clearly indicating that his Estate was to be granted to his son, Edward Bytheway and his son-in-law, the Reverend Tom Ellison.<sup>999</sup> Therefore, in respect of his Estate, his son Edward, and his son-in-law, Tom Ellison, were the claimants:

*Name of Deceased Proprietor.- Edward Bytheway, late of Gympie, merchant.*

*Date of Death- 12 October 1905.*

*Names of Claimants- Edward Bytheway, merchant, and Tom Ellison, Methodist Minister, both of Gympie.*

*Description and Situation of Land.-Allotments 22, 23, 24 and subdivision 1 of allotment 21 of section H, allotments 17, 18, subdivision 1 of allotment 6, and subdivision 2 of allotment 5 of section B, allotments 9, 10, and 11 of section C, and allotment 2 of section O, town of Gympie; resubdivision 5 and 6 of subdivision 2 and resubdivision 1 of subdivision 1 of allotment 2 of portion 9, county of Stanley, parish of Toombul; allotments 10, 11 and 12 of section 11, town of Noosa; portions 3 and 4, portion 1282, subdivision 2 of portion 2, and subdivision 2 of portion 245, county of March, parish of Traveston.*

*Estate Claimed to be Transmitted- Fee-simple*

*Particulars of Will or Otherwise-Will dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1901.*

<sup>999</sup> The *Gympie Times* and *Mary River Mining Gazette* 19 October 1905

*Date within which Caveat may be Lodged. - 27 February 1906.*<sup>1000</sup> Edward junior was a Trustee of the Estate of his father after he died.

On 13 March 1919, one of the assets of Edward senior, a home on Brisbane Road at Kybong, was burned down and totally destroyed. Florence Augusta Fraser and her husband, James, were living in the home. Fortunately neither they nor their four children were home at the time, so none of them were injured in the fire. The home was insured with Atlas Insurance for £100, while it had been valued at £100. Edward junior had visited the scene of the fire and learned that the Frasers had none of their assets inside the house insured. Senior Sergeant Bell was in charge of conducting the inquiry into the fire.<sup>1001</sup>

Edward Bytheway was given a worthy farewell, but since then Gympie has not taken any effort to remember, commemorate or honour his significant and substantial contribution, apart from the well-used but small meeting room named after him at the Gympie Regional Gallery. There is not even a street named in his honour.

The Regional Gallery of the Gympie Regional Council hopes in the writing of this history on Edward Bytheway, his memory as a 'father' of Gympie may be reawakened and celebrated, as he richly deserves. While the Mission Employment participants were undertaking the oral histories at the Cooloola Shire Public Gallery in 2003, they discovered that Edward Bytheway had been neglected when it came to public commemoration and felt there was a need to address the remission. Nothing has happened even since that time. Edward Bytheway left behind him a tremendous legacy, and the citizens of Gympie should become informed of it.

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<sup>1000</sup> The Brisbane Courier 22 January 1906

<sup>1001</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 12 April 1919

<sup>1002</sup> One of the stained glass rosettes in the front of the Surface Hill Wesleyan Church –perhaps one of the last beautiful things Edward Bytheway saw before he died. He had donated £200 toward the building of that church–photograph taken by Linda Atkinson 4 July 2014

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Grave number: 23720 Gympie  
Cemetery Grave of Edward and Mary Bytheway  
Methodist Select B Number 67 and 66

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<sup>1003</sup> Photograph of grave taken by Linda Atkinson in 2014

## Chapter Nine

### Edward Bytheway Junior Continues the Work of His Father

When Edward Bytheway senior died, he left a strong legacy and strong role model for his son Edward. There was a high level of respect for the Bytheways of Gympie, which had begun with Edward Bytheway from 1867. Edward junior honoured his father's eminent achievements by being extremely active and devoted to the community and in public matters of Gympie, and like his father, he was extremely popular and highly regarded in all areas as a hard and honest worker. He had come to Gympie with his parents barely twelve months old, and was amongst the first students in the 1870s to attend the National School on Palatine Hill.<sup>1004</sup> He gave willingly of his time and professional input in all he could do for the town of Gympie. Here is what Edward junior's family tree looked like<sup>1005</sup>:

- *Birth* 1 January 1865 Queensland Australia *Age 1* Birth of Sister Mary Emma Bytheway (Sanday) Miss (1866–1943) 20 May 1866 Queensland, Australia
- *Age 3* Birth of Sister Fanny Bytheway (Ellison) Miss (1868–1953) 24 March 1868 Queensland, Australia
- *Age 5* Birth of Brother Thomas Owen Bytheway Mr. (1870–1953) 20 Sept 1870 Queensland, Australia
- *Age 6*-Death of Mother Emma Owen (Bytheway) Miss (1841–1871) 1871 Queensland, Australia
- 1897 Marriage to Annie Percy in New Zealand<sup>1006</sup>
- *Age 40* Death of Father Edward Bytheway Mr. (1840–1905) 12 October 1905 Queensland Australia
- *Age 70* Death 19 August 1935 Queensland

Like his father, he was able to undertake responsibilities in a number of varied community and professional organisations and still ensure the success of his business. The high levels of drive of these two Bytheways to meet their personal and professional commitment to civic and community duty must be deeply admired.

He prominently emulated the contribution of his father in so many spheres to Gympie<sup>1007</sup>, continuing active contribution to the Chamber of Commerce; the Surface Hill Wesleyan Methodist Church; the volunteer military forces; the Gympie City Council; as a long term member of the Committee of the School of Arts; and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Gympie Gas Company. In 1906 he was elected to the Gympie Fire Brigade Board by the Fire Insurance Companies.<sup>1008</sup> He continued to make donations to the Gympie Hospital from Bytheway and Son. The generosity from Bytheway and Son continued while ever Edward Junior was alive. He made donations to the Jubilee Picnic in 1917.<sup>1009</sup>

He was a very strong supporter of the Methodist Church like his father before him, and for some years acted as Trustee to the Surface Hill charge. He had also responsibility to

<sup>1004</sup> The Brisbane Courier 2 September 1927

<sup>1005</sup> Ancestry.com Bytheway Family Tree

<sup>1006</sup> Ancestry.com New Zealand Marriage Index 1840-1934

<sup>1007</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 August 1935

<sup>1008</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 March 1906

<sup>1009</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 October 1917

manage and report on the Trust Fund of the Church.<sup>1010</sup> Another challenging job he had was Secretary of its Sunday School. His father used to give out the annual prizes to the Sunday School children, and Edward would support his father when he gave such encouragement to the teachers and the children by saying 'good progress has been made in scriptural knowledge which to a large extent was attributable to the praiseworthy efforts of the teachers to induce their scholars to study the catechisms, which would in future be productive of very gratifying results.'<sup>1011</sup> The Sunday School was popular and well attended with around 236 students enrolled and an average attendance every Sunday of 193 students. In addition the Sunday School's library contained upwards of 1,000 volumes by popular and distinguished authors. Edward and his son were in large part influential that the Church so flourished in its instruction and attendance.

Edward played the violin well enough to give solo performances such as the one he gave in the Sunday School Room one Thursday night at the Surface Hill Wesleyan Church when he was thirty three years old. He was helping to raise funds for the Surface Hill Wesleyan Choir. At such events, funds were raised by means of a collection, which formed substantial additions to the funds for the Choir.<sup>1012</sup> Here we have another example of Edward senior's immense devotion and input to the raising of his children as decent members of the society in Gympie. Edward junior would have been also like his father, going to meetings most nights of the week, for by this time he was providing his contribution to the Gympie Chamber of Commerce and Mines and other community Committees and Associations.

Edward senior had encouraged him to be part of his work with the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines. In 1896, when his father was President of the School of Arts and Mines, Edward junior acted as a scrutineer of the ballot process for membership of the Committee, there being more nominees than there were places on the Committee.<sup>1013</sup> He continued in this kind of support work with his father here and in other organisations.

Like his father, Edward junior was a Freemason. He was a member of the Lord Dufferin Lodge, while Lodge records indicate that Edward senior was a member of the Prince Leopold Lodge. From the Lodge records<sup>1014</sup>, Edward junior joined the Lord Dufferin Lodge in 1894 when he was almost 38 years old. Within two years of joining, Edward was Secretary of the Lodge.<sup>1015</sup> In 1896, the Masonic Hall was in Duke Street. He became Master of the Lodge between 1900 and 1901. He resigned from the Lodge in 1912; Lodge historian Mr. Shearer could not provide a reason for this resignation.

Edward junior was very close to his father, having also worked with him from an early age, and being trusted to take on quite considerable levels of responsibility in their store, E. Bytheway and Son. He was so devoted to his father and mother that he had installed the pulpit that still sits in the Surface Hill Wesleyan Methodist Church as a dedication to Edward and Emma Bytheway and Mary Bytheway (the dedication simply reads '*to my parents*'). Until May 1935, he successfully managed and operated the business of the store so carefully and enthusiastically established by his father in 1868.

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<sup>1010</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 17 September 1904

<sup>1011</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 February 1900

<sup>1012</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 27 February 1897

<sup>1013</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 January 1896

<sup>1014</sup> Lord Dufferin Lodge records per Mr. J. Shearer 7 September 2015 in discussion with Linda Atkinson

<sup>1015</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 3 March 1896



By 1919 the store appears to have gone away from the business of making those well-known hand-made boots that Edward senior was so proud of and has diversified into products that suit the development of the area. So it becomes a little clearer what the store is actually stocking at this time.

The issue of the boots is revealed in a 1922 description of the store. An article provides a detailed description of what the shop was like then. The 'store is as old as Gympie itself ... but has kept pace with development of the district ... it has a front of 80 feet on Mary Street.' Edward junior revamped the shop in the early 1920s and the 'spacious interior is correctly departmentalized, and contains large stocks of boots of every description, hardware, machinery crockery, cutlery numerous other lines. This firm is an agent for Atlas Assurance Company, and the Orient Line of steamers ....'<sup>1016</sup> The store described as 'E. BYTHEWAY & SON Footwear and Hosiery Specialists'<sup>1017</sup> was one of 102 sponsors that came from the Gympie district and Brisbane for the Royal National Show in Brisbane in 1928.

<p><b>E. Bytheway and Son.</b></p> <p>WE ARE FULLY STOCKED UP —IN—</p> <p><b>CRACKERY, CHINAWARE &amp; GLASSWARE</b></p> <p>FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON. ALL BRITISH AND ALLIED GOODS.</p> <p>—</p> <p>ENGLISH DINNER SERVICES— £3 and £4/10/.</p> <p>ENGLISH TEA SETS—from 25/.</p> <p>TUSCAN CHINA CUPS and SAUCERS—27/ dozen.</p> <p>JAP CUPS and SAUCERS (Gold Lines)—15/ dozen.</p> <p>JAP FLOWERED CUPS and SAUCERS—15/ dozen.</p> <p>JAP WHITE and GOLD CUPS and SAUCERS—11/ dozen.</p> <p>ENGLISH PLATES (White Granite)—70 dozen just landed.</p> <p>VEGETABLE DISHES, MEAT DISHES.</p>	<p><b>GLASSWARE.</b></p> <p>—Comprising—</p> <p>TEA BELLETS, CARET STANES—(1/ each), SALAD BOWLS, JAM DISHES, BUTTER and SWEET DISHES, WINE GLASSES, GIGGS HOOKS, JELLY GLASSES, CUSTARD GLASSES.</p> <p>—</p> <p>ORNAMENTS—in various varieties, VASES, JARDINIERS, FLOWER STANDS.</p> <p>—</p> <p><b>English Cutlery.</b></p> <p>—IN—</p> <p>DINNER and HENSCHUT KNIVES, E.P. FORKS, SPOONS, CARVING SETS, STEELS, BUTCHER KNIVES,</p> <p><b>DROP HEAD SEWING MACHINE £9.</b></p> <p>TERMS CASH.</p>
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For the 1918 Christmas season just after the end of World 1, the Bytheway and Son advertisement emphasises the store being 'fully stocked up'. No mention is made of the hand-made boots and shoes it was once so well-known for.<sup>1018</sup>

<sup>1016</sup> The Daily Mail Brisbane 20 June 1922

<sup>1017</sup> <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/s/t/e/lan-Stehbens/FILE/0052text.txt> (accessed 12 January 2015)

<sup>1018</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 7 December 1918



In 1919, the store is described as being General Merchants, while the advertisement shows only implements and machinery.<sup>1019</sup>

By May 1935, Edward junior was suffering from ill health, which gradually became more serious. It was only three months after he could no longer manage the store that he died on 18 August 1935. The Bytheway store had been agents for the Orient Shipping Company for over 40 years. The Company forwarded to Gympie the Orient flag to be flown at half-mast on 30 August 1935, in honour of Edward Bytheway junior. He was 70 years old and was survived by his widow, Annie. She lived another twelve years until September 1947. The store and the premises remained in Bytheway's name until 28 April 1948 when it was sold to John Joseph Carey, Douglas Audley Coote, and Moya Mary Hutchinson.<sup>1020</sup>

Like his father, he was an Alderman on the Gympie City Council and was still on Council when he died in August 1935. He was so highly respected that the Gympie City Council office closed from noon on 30 August 1935 as a tribute to him. Members of the Council were requested to attend his funeral. As one of the original members of the Ratepayers and Occupier's Association, he became a member of the Gympie City Council in April 1930, as a representative of that Association.

When Edward junior's death caused a vacancy in the Gympie City Council, he was replaced by Mr. P. H. Bundesen, President of the Australian Labor Party. This occurred

<sup>1019</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 20 March 1919

<sup>1020</sup> Gympie Valuation Register 1940

during a special meeting of the Gympie City Council, when he and '... Mr. G. H. Mackay, late Speaker of the House of Representatives, was nominated to fill the vacancy on the Council caused by the death of the late Alderman E. Bytheway. A majority vote resulted in the selection of Mr. Bundesen.'<sup>1021</sup>

Edward junior had been 'an ardent supporter of the old volunteer system of military training and rose to the rank of Colonel in this element of the Australian Army, receiving the Victoria Decoration for long service. He had been in the volunteer military forces in Gympie since around 1898.

He was a popular man amongst his fellow military colleagues, and like his father was recognised for his hard work. Dedication to C Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was a high priority for Edward Junior. Down at the Drill Shed in November 1912, a large muster had gathered to see Major Bytheway presented with a pair of Territorial held glasses, 'the occasion being the final severance of his direct command of the Company which was handed over to First Lieutenant I. Jackson, and his promotion to second in charge of 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Both Jackson and Adjutant Holloway were impressed with their colleague, Jackson saying publicly 'ever since he had known Major Bytheway he had retained a keen appreciation of the work done by that officer and it was in a great measure down to the Major's work that B Company was always looked up to in camp as the "daddy" company.'<sup>1022</sup> Holloway said that 'he had worked with the Major, and they had camped together when in camp for 8 or 9 years in succession and he knew what kind of man Major Bytheway was.'<sup>1023</sup> Edward responded graciously, with his main measure to those there, 'especially the trainees, urging them to cultivate the soldierly feeling and instinct and to fit themselves by study and drill to rise from the ranks.'<sup>1024</sup>

Citizens gathered on Sunday 9 August 1914 in Queen's Park, Gympie. Queen's Park now is the location of the Gympie Caravan Park and the Queen's Park Tennis Centre.

Edward junior was in one of the groups marching to support the preparatory measures for mobilisation for World War 1. The Mayor, Peter Green opened a list for those who wished to enlist in the event of mobilisation (Bytheway's name has been bolded):

*'The Mayor (Peter Green) has opened a list at the Town Hall for the names, addresses and particulars of those who have previously served in the forces, and who would be willing to enlist in case of the mobilisation of the local troops.'*

*By Sunday, August 9, support from the Gympie region was shown in a public way by a patriotic demonstration at Queen's Park.*

*The Gympie Times reported: "The response of the citizens to the call for a patriotic demonstration and church parade in Queen's Park on Sunday afternoon met with a very hearty recognition.*

*A record crowd assembling in the Queen's Park to show the patriotism of Gympie, and support of the Empire in the present war, it continued. A procession was formed up at the Town Hall, and from there marched to Queen's Park. Large numbers of people viewing the*

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<sup>1021</sup> The Courier Mail 7 November 1935

<sup>1022</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 November 1912

<sup>1023</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 November 1912

<sup>1024</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 November 1912

marching troops and citizens from various points of vantage, and then following on to the Park.

The Union Jack, Australian Flag and other national flags were flying from the flag poles and hanging from balconies. At the head of the procession marched Staff Sergeant-Major Cole just in front of the City Band, which played martial airs en route.

Next in order came **Major E. Bytheway, VD**, Major D.E. Reid, DSO, and Captain S. Holloway, who were followed by 50 troopers of the C Squadron, Australian Light Horse, under command of Capt. A.W. Nash and Lieutenant A. Chisholm. Also included in the march was the Monkland Band, the Boy Scouts, the Mayor and Aldermen as well as city officials and the Ambulance Brigade, members of the Royal Society of St George, the Caledonian Society and members of the public in vehicles. Upon arrival at the park, the troops formed in a hollow square round a lorry draped with the Union Jack, on which were seated the Reverends A.T. Craswell, J.J. Gee, R. Collins-Davis, J. Prowse and Adjutant Watterson. While the demonstration showed the local support of Britain's part in the war, it did not defend war.

"Rev. J. Prowse said he was very glad that there were times when they could rise above their creed boundaries and stand on a common platform to express their loyalty to their king, and their sympathy with the struggles of the nation.

It ill became Christian Ministers to fan the spirit of the war, still, there were times when it was right for the church to encourage war for defensive purposes," The Times reported Rev Prowse saying about the "great national crisis. Strong words, reflecting what would rapidly become a global crisis, were spoken in Queen's Park on that Sunday August 9 where the Gympie community was reminded that if Britain fell it would be "nothing short of a world-wide calamity".

Mayor Green said he admired the community gathering and the patriotism it showed.

They might not all be born Britishers but they were all British citizens," the paper reported, before saying the war could be over as quickly as it was sprung upon Australians, many of whom gathered in similar demonstrations across the country.<sup>1025</sup>

Gympie was a patriotic kind of city when it came to England and its Royal Family, and events like the annual dinner for the "C" Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse were popular with a good many of those in the town. Many of the men who attended were Edward junior's colleagues in the voluntary forces. This kind of civic duty had been impressed on Edward from a young age by his father. So Major Bytheway attended this dinner intent to hear the pep talk being given by a Captain Nash on why the men at the dinner and in Gympie should be enthusiastic to go to Europe to fight with the British Army, just as men from Gympie had gone to fight with the British Army in the Boer War. Major Bytheway had by this time received his long service medal and was proud of it, although he volunteered for active service with the Expeditionary Force which was to become the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).<sup>1026</sup>

By 1922 he had reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, but was now 'on the retired list ... his long experience of military camp life in the volunteer forces, covered about 30 training camps, and was put to good use during the war [World War 1] when he was for a period of 12 months serving with the AIF training and organising battalions and

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<sup>1025</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 July 1914

<sup>1026</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 August 1914

infantry reinforcements at Enogerra Camp [in Brisbane] and he volunteered for active service. He was also Commanding Officer of the Wide Bay Infantry Battalion up until around [June 1921].<sup>1027</sup>

**Committee Gympie Chamber of Commerce & Mines.**



Edward junior was one of the early members and a keen supporter of the Gympie Chamber of Commerce.<sup>1028</sup> The print shows Edward Bytheway junior semi-reclined in the fourth row (red arrow) in December 1911 with members of the Committee of the Gympie Chamber of Commerce and Mines.<sup>1029</sup>

There was a Committee in Gympie called the Half Holiday Association of which Edward Junior was President. The Association was aiming for a victory on the half-holiday question.<sup>1030</sup> A number of representatives from Farmers' Associations around Gympie attended this meeting.

Edward junior faced many challenges in business and the committees of which he was a member, just as his father had done, as the nature of business and the needs of the town gradually changed over his lifetime. E. Bytheway and Son was once the pride of Mary Street, competing with John Cass's boot shop up next to the Stock Exchange.

Sadly no members of the family took over running the store when Edward junior died in 1935, so the store was disposed of as part of his assets. In the probate of Edward junior's Will which was granted in the Supreme Court, he 'left an estate worth £17,036, of which £3790 represented realty and £13,246 personalty. He made provision for the distribution of his estate amongst the members of his family and relatives, and bequeathed £100 to the trustees of the Surface Hill Methodist Church, Gympie, to be

<sup>1027</sup> The Daily Mail Brisbane 20 June 1922

<sup>1028</sup> The Courier Mail 24 August 1935

<sup>1029</sup> Provided by the Local History Section of the Gympie Regional Library

<sup>1030</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 6 January 1912

applied by them to the liquidation of the trust debt on the church.<sup>1031</sup> The company was described in that notice as E. Bytheway and Son Footwear and Hosiery Specialists. The members of the family to whom probate was granted were his wife, Annie Bytheway; Tom Ellison, of Killara, Methodist Minister (he was Fanny Bytheway's Husband and second daughter of Edward senior); and Rowland G. Sanday, Gympie Merchant and Husband to Edward senior's first daughter Emma Mary.<sup>1032</sup>

In the 150 years since 1867, it would be unusual if Gympie and its surrounding district had not changed. Yet one could hazard a guess that Edward Bytheway senior and his family would still recognise the "centre" of the town with Mary Street still being its main street and in the same place as when Edward Bytheway and Son was a going concern there for 68 years. A number of the facades of the older buildings still look the same, albeit that many need refreshing on the outside. These days high rents, difficult or negligent landlords and floods have rendered more vacant shop spaces in Mary Street than perhaps there should be.

Edward senior and Edward junior would clearly recognise such buildings as the current School of Arts Building Edward senior worked so hard to have designed and built; various buildings in Gympie which his dear colleague Hugo Du Rietz designed and often supervised the construction of, including the current School of Arts Building (Gympie Regional Gallery) which Du Rietz did at no cost; the Gympie Regional Council Chambers at 242 Mary Street; the Surface Hill Wesleyan Methodist Church in Channon Street; the Royal Bank (later the National Bank until 1922) 199 Mary Street; the Gympie Town Hall Clock Tower; the Goldsworthy Building (Peter Goldsworthy Optometrist and Jeffery, Cuddihy & Joyce Solicitors) 216 Mary Street; a number of hotels including the Phoenix Hotel in Lady Mary Terrace; Assayer and Analyst Mr. E. Burbidge's residence (now Channon and Lawrence Dental Centre) in Channon Street; St Patrick's Roman Catholic School, Calton Hill; Gunabul Homestead built for Francis Isador Power (previously Kittiwah). Most of these buildings were built between 1890 and 1903.

Hugo Du Rietz died three years after Edward Bytheway senior in 1908 on a cold and wet rainy day. Both of them passed away with the climate being cold and wet. Hugo himself was regarded as a prominent citizen, and one can only imagine he would have dearly missed his friend and colleague Edward Bytheway senior. The Gympie Regional Gallery has respectfully placed them back together honouring them with a Gallery space (Du Rietz) and a Meeting Room (Bytheway).

Edward junior was buried at Gympie Cemetery as was his wife Annie who died in September 1947. The family as ever was showing their closeness even with Annie's funeral notice<sup>1033</sup> and the processing of her property and assets<sup>1034</sup>:

Deceased, ANNIE BYTHEWAY, late of O'Connell Street, Gympie, in the State of Queensland. WIDOW. ADMINISTRATORS, EDWARD TRUDGLIAN, of BURN Street, Gympie, LAW Clerk, and DORIS MAY SANDAY, of Lawrence Street, Gympie. EDINER, the Executors appointed by the Will dated 8th August, 1947. Solicitors: VIVIAN H. TOZER & HERSCHELL, Mary Street, Gympie. Town Agents STEPHENS & TOZER, 236 George Street Brisbane.

BYTHEWAY.—The Relatives & Friends of Mrs. F. Ellison and Family and Mr. J. Bytheway and Family of Sydney, and Misses Doris and Elsie Sanday, of Lawrence St., Gympie, are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their beloved Sister-in-law and Aunt, Mrs. Annie Bytheway, late of O'Connell St., Gympie, to move from the Methodist Church, Surface Hill, Gympie, this (Saturday) Forenoon, at 11 o'clock, for the Gympie Cemetery. JACK CORNES, Funeral Director, Gympie.

<sup>1031</sup> The Brisbane Courier 3 December 1935

<sup>1032</sup> The Central Queensland Herald Rockhampton 19 December 1935

<sup>1033</sup> The Courier Mail 6 September 1947

<sup>1034</sup> The Courier Mail 20 September 1947

Annie's funeral service was held in Surface Hill Methodist Church, which had featured so much in the family life of the Bytheways.

When Edward junior died a link with the early life of Gympie was severed. There is no record of their having any children. With the death of Annie Bytheway, the presence of the Bytheway family in Gympie seems to fade, together with the memory of that family and all they had done for the town and the surrounding district.



The grave of Edward Bytheway junior and his wife Annie in the Gympie Cemetery  
Methodist Section Block 283 & 284

In 2011, an advertisement appeared in the *Gympie Times* for a house once owned by the Bytheway family at 34 O'Connell Street, next to the Gympie Regional Gallery rear car park<sup>1035</sup>. This is the last property and connection to the Bytheway family in Gympie as far as records can reveal. Edward junior and his wife, Annie lived here, Edward junior dying there in 1935 and Annie living there until her passing in September 1947<sup>1036</sup>.



**34 O'CONNELL STREET**

- 5 bedroom Queenslander.
- Formal lounge room with cedar doorways.
- Formal dining room with a sitting/eating area.
- Internal staircase leads down to laundry, storage room and workshop area.
- Conveniently situated within the CBD.

**PRESENT ALL OFFERS**

**GREG GILMORE ON 5482 7505 OR 0427 828 409 WEB ID: 427580**



<sup>1035</sup> The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 29 January 2011

<sup>1036</sup> 34 O'Connell Street Gympie on 19 July 2014. Photo Taken by Linda Atkinson 19 July 2014



34 O'Connell Street Gympie on 19 July 2014

In November 2016, the owners made a decision to relocate the iconic house to a property quite near to Gympie, where they intend to extensively restore the house.<sup>1037</sup>

The Regional Library and Regional Gallery staff went on site to inspect the house for any Bytheway relics before it was removed, but with the passing of time, none were evident. The staff took a number of photographs to record various elements of this historic house, three of these have been included<sup>1038</sup>. On Sunday night of 11 December 2016, the house was relocated to its new location at Brooloo Park, the proud owners being Sarah and Bodie Weir. The Weirs 'intend to restore it to its original glory ... and would be opening the house up to the public.'<sup>1039</sup>



View of original fireplace and display cabinets

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<sup>1037</sup> Information provided by current owners to Beth Wilson, Local Historian at Gympie Regional Library

<sup>1038</sup> Photographs courtesy of the Gympie Regional Library and Gympie Regional Gallery November 2016

<sup>1039</sup> The Gympie Times 12 December 2016





View of the inside closed in verandah coming in from the front entrance of 34 O'Connell Street Gympie



View of the rear of 34 O'Connell Street

On 15 December 1871, the piece of land upon which this house stands was purchased by Joseph Buckle for £3, as the purchase of sale shows<sup>1040</sup>.



<sup>1040</sup> The State of Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines



A copy of the Deeds to 34 O'Connell Street shows that the Bytheway's held ownership of it from 1893 until 1948. Following Joseph Buckle's ownership, the property was held by a number of people:

27 July 1880 the first Mayor of Gympie, Matthew Mellor owned the property during his time as Mayor until he died.

14 July 1886 the property passed to his son, James Mellor who held it until he died when it passed to his widow on 20 January 1891.

15 July 1893 Edward Bytheway senior owned the property until his death on 12 October 1905, when it passed to his son Edward and his son-in-law Tom Ellison, who was married to Edward's daughter Fanny. Records suggest that neither Tom and his family or Edward Bytheway senior ever lived in this house, Edward's residence being recorded as Calton Hill. Edward Junior had married Annie Percy in 1897. This became their family home when they returned from New Zealand after their marriage there, and both lived there until their respective deaths in 1935 and 1947. In 1900 when the house was properly built, it had four bedrooms and one bathroom. Its formal description is Gympie Regional Council Lot/Plan 1/RP68123.<sup>1041</sup>

20 June 1906 Tom passed the property to sole ownership to Edward junior. As mentioned, Edward junior died in the house in 1935, when the property was passed to his widow, Annie. Annie lived in the house until 1947 when she died. On her passing, the property transferred to Edward senior's granddaughter, Doris May Sanday, in partnership with Edward Trudgian. Doris was the daughter of Edward senior's daughter, Emma Mary and her husband Rowland George Sanday. Doris, born in 1901, and listed as a spinster on the Deed, was aged 46 when she took ownership of the property, Edward was 57. Edward Trudgian died on 26 February 1948 (Edward whose parents were David Trudgian and Jessie Mary nee Dick, is buried in the Lutwyche Cemetery in Brisbane Queensland)<sup>1042</sup>; Doris died on 19 July 1985. Following Edward's death, Doris parted with the property, it being transferred to Kenneth Henry Lawrence on 24 October 1949. Later it was transferred to Eileen Mary Muller on 12 January 1950.<sup>1043</sup>

Edward Trudgian was a law clerk who had lived in the family home at Harkins Street Gympie with his mother and siblings, David (miner); Janet (home duties); Joseph (miner) and Stuart (bookkeeper) until 1936 when the records show he was living in Bligh Street until at least 1943.<sup>1044</sup>

Doris never moved into 34 O'Connell Street, living all of her life in the family home at 24 Lawrence Street Gympie, with her parents and sister, Elsie Vera. Both sisters never married, never engaged in full time employment, continuing to live there after the death of their father in 1942, and the death of their mother in 1943. When Elsie died in 1979, Doris continued to live there until her death in 1985. So the property at 34 O'Connell Street while part of the Bytheway heritage, had been merely an investment proposition for Doris and Edward.

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<sup>1041</sup> <https://www.realestate.com.au/property/34-oconnell-st-gympie-qld-4570>

<sup>1042</sup> Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc., Collection Title: Lutwyche Cemetery-Index to Monument Inscriptions. Ancestry.com. Australian Cemetery Index 1808-2007

<sup>1043</sup> Deeds of Transfer for the property at 34 O'Connell Street Gympie

<sup>1044</sup> Ancestry.com Australian Electoral Rolls 1903-1980

### Where are the descendants of the Bytheways of Gympie?

In 1892, Benjamin's daughter, Harriet, married a *Taylor*: Henry David Taylor. There are quite a few *Taylor*s listed in the Gympie and District White Pages. There is a *T. Sanday* listed at Noosa Heads in the same telephone book; this could be a lead to relatives of Edward Bytheway's son-in-law Rowland George Sanday who married his eldest daughter Emma Mary on 31 October 1899 in Toowong Brisbane. Recall it was Rowland Sanday who was able to almost carry Edward senior from the Surface Hill Methodist Church to his home on Calton Hill, when the dengue fever struck severely leading to his death. These lines of genealogy have not been pursued as part of this history, however these may be all that is left of any direct "Bytheway presence" in the Gympie district.

The family Sanday, Rowland George Sanday, Edward Senior's daughter Emma Mary, and their two daughters, Doris May and Elsie Vera, are buried together in the Gympie Cemetery<sup>1045</sup>

Gympie has never appropriately recognised, and has all but forgotten its significant founding fathers such as Edward Bytheway. He had a great social conscience and a high sense of civic pride. He set the '*gold standard*' for his family who replicated this in whatever they did in Gympie. He was a man who commanded a high level of respect during his lifetime.

The Regional Gallery hopes that the publication of this book may awaken Gympie to its rich history and the special people that contributed effort beyond the limits of human endeavour to establish a fine city. Some outstanding monument or event to celebrate and honour those like the tremendous Edward Bytheway senior and all he did to leave Gympie the basis of necessary infrastructure that essentially made it a productive and prosperous town, needs to be established without haste.

If Gympie has any respect for its history and heritage, then either the Regional Council or another prominent authority has the responsibility to show it cares about its important beginnings, and those that set the foundation for its future from that time.



<sup>1045</sup>Ancestry.com <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=168973445&ref=acom>



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Edward Bytheway in front of his first store in Mary Street circa 1871. The little girl with him is likely to be Emma Mary, his second child. Image courtesy Local Historian Gympie Regional Library H20 Mary Street

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<http://museumvictoria.com.au/collections/items/250568/painting-the-opening-commonwealth-parliament-charles-nuttall-oil-1901-1902> Painting - 'The Opening, Commonwealth Parliament', Charles Nuttall, Oil, 1901-1902 Reg. No: SH 961775

<http://www.mysunshinecoast.com.au/events/events-display/bizzart-day,18534>

<https://www.questia.com/newspaper/1G1-426133363/gympie-resisted-the-salvos-in-1886-the-gold-town-s> Gympie Times, The Qld. Gympie Resisted the Salvos in 1886; the Gold Town's Drinking Problems Made It a 'Rewarding Field'

<http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Reserve Bank of Australia Pre Decimal Inflation. This has been used throughout this book for the conversion of Australia's Pounds, Shillings and Pence to today's Australian currency

<https://www.realestate.com.au/property/34-oconnell-st-gympie-qld-4570>

<http://www.rvwarehouse.com.au/store/news/106#sthash.yoASL1Rm.dpuf>

<http://www.thehcc.org/backgrnd.htm>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie\\_Court\\_House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie_Court_House) Gympie Court House Entry 600533 Queensland Heritage Register Queensland Heritage Council

<http://www.qldheritage.org.au/state-heritage-listing-for-four-gympie-buildings.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie\\_School\\_of\\_Arts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gympie_School_of_Arts) Gympie School of Arts

<http://oai.bishop.sq.qld.gov.au:288237>

#### **LIBRARY COLLECTIONS AND PAPERS, JOURNALS**

Andrew Fisher from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts 4 April 1898

City of Gympie 100 Years of News, Gympie Times January 1905-December 2004. Edited by Neville McHarg, and compiled by Pat Towner

Cooloolo Shire Library Service. *Cooloolo Shire-a golden past*. Published by Cooloolo Shire Council 2001

Copy of banner held by Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum of No. 1 North Glanmire Mine

Deeds of Transfer for the property at 34 O'Connell Street Gympie

Dr. Elaine Brown Historian Gympie and Beth Wilson Local Historian Gympie Regional Library

Gympie Family History Society Inc.

Gympie Hospital ca. 1920 shows Dr Roderick McLeod (Superintendent), Matron Evelyn Cavaye and 8 nurses. Photo Courtesy Local History Section Gympie Regional Library. Keith Waser Collection

Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927. Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927

Hugo Du Rietz invoice from the original lodged at the Gympie Regional Library by his great grandson Glen Du Rietz. Copy courtesy Local Historian Gympie Regional Library

History of hotels in Gympie held in the Local History Section Gympie Regional Library

Information from Gympie Regional Library Photo Album on the Gympie Gold Field

Information on relocation of the house at 34 O'Connell Street Gympie provided by current owners to Beth Wilson, Local Historian at Gympie Regional Library

Edward Bytheway and Son invoices rendered to Estate of Hugo Du Rietz in 1908. Copy of original provided by Hugo Du Rietz's great grandson to the Gympie regional Library

Map Scale [ca. 1:7 920]. 10 chains to an inch (E 152°40'/S 26° 11') Description Brisbane : Printed at the Govt. Engraving & Lithographic Office, 1881 1 map ; 76 x 57 cm. Notes Cadastral town plan of Gympie showing gold mining leases. Also available in an electronic version via the Internet at: <http://nla.gov.au/-nla.map-rm3097> Subjects Gold mines and mining - Queensland - Gympie - Maps. Mining leases - Queensland - Gympie - Maps. Gympie (Qld.) - Maps. Time Coverage 1881. National Library of Australia

Minutes of a Public Meeting of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines  
September 1899

National Library of Australia Map rm3097 Map of Gympie goldfields showing gold mining leases 1881 [cartographic material]. 1881. MAP RM 3097

<http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/cdview/?pi=nla.map-rm3097-sd&rgn=-0.0465939251,0.3279865395,0.4252432911,0.6869321368&width=800&cmd=pan&y=0>

Noosa Library Service <http://www.libraries.noosa.qld.gov.au/timeline-of-noosa>

One-Mile State School, 125 Years of Education in Gympie 1869-1994

Original Minutes of the meetings of the School of Arts Committee

Original School of Arts and Mines documentation courtesy of Local History Section, Regional Library Gympie

Original Minutes of the Committee of the School of Arts and Mines signed by Edward Bytheway in November 1890

Original Minutes of the Committee for the School of Arts and Mines signed by Edward Bytheway on 7 January 1891

Original Minutes of the Special Committee of Wednesday 22 April 1891 signed by Edward Bytheway on 6 May 1891. Present at the meeting were Edward Bytheway (Chair) and Messrs. Argo, Ambrose, Booth, Conwell. Gayton, Illidge, Koch, Murray and Pack

Original Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Committee of the School of Arts and Mines of Wednesday 22 April 1891

Original Minutes of the School of Arts Committee meeting of 6 May 1891 signed by Edward Bytheway on 3 June 1891

Photograph courtesy of Local Historian Beth Wilson Gympie Regional Library. The photograph of the Gympie Kindergarten is circa 1950

Photographs of Mines and Miners in Gympie. A selection of old mining photos entrusted to the Gympie Family History Society Inc.

Photographs of 34 O'Connell Street Gympie taken in 2016 courtesy of the Gympie Regional Library and Gympie Regional Gallery November 2016

Photo of 34 O'Connell Street Gympie on 19 July 2014. Photo Taken by Linda Atkinson 19 July 2014

Photo of the Pulpit installed by Edward Bytheway junior in the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the stained glass windows it faces. Photos taken by Linda Atkinson 4 July 2014

Plan of Mary Street Gympie Goldfield drawn by the District Surveyor Wide Bay District 6 March 1869 Clarendon Stuart Licenced Surveyor. Original copy held in Local History Section of Gympie Regional Library

Prospectus for Gympie Gas and Coke Company The Brisbane Courier Mail 13 September 1881

Queensland State Library 6041 Walters and Scott Family Albums. Undated photograph of 'a Mrs Bytheway of Gympie'

Sunshine Coast Regional Coast Cultural Heritage Background Study October 2009

The 100 Years 100 Voices + Team: Work for the Dole Project of Oral History

The Gympie School of Arts and Mines. 1899 Rules. Constitution. Management. Duties of the Committee. Trustees. Auditors. Meetings

The Gympie School of Arts and Library 90 years of service 1905-1995

The Gympie Times Gympie City Centenary Booklet 1905 to 2004

The State of Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines

1914 Valuation Register held in Local History Section of Gympie Regional Library

1916 Valuation Register held in the Local History Section of the Gympie Regional Library

The Argus

The Australian Town and Country Journal

The Brisbane Courier

The Brisbane Courier Mail

The Central Queensland Herald Rockhampton

The Daily Mail Brisbane

The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser

The Gympie Times

The Gympie Times Christmas Supplement 1900  
The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette  
The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser  
The Methodist  
The Morning Bulletin Rockhampton  
The Nashville Times  
The North Queensland Register  
The Queensland Government Gazette  
The Queensland Government Gazette. *Proclamation [Gympie Division]* 11 November 1879  
The Queensland Government Gazette "Borough of Gympie — Order in Council" 25 June 1880  
The Queensland Government Gazette, 7 January 1905, p.1905:31. "Agency ID10381, Gympie Town Council". Queensland State Archives  
The Queensland Times  
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The Queensland Times Ipswich 19 June 1937 *Links with the Past 50 Years*  
The Queenslander  
The Rockhampton Bulletin  
The Sunday Mail Brisbane *Guns and Gympie Gold by Clem Lack*  
The Sydney Morning Herald  
The Telegraph  
The Warwick Examiner  
The West Australian  
TODAY.—JANUARY 5. The Brisbane Courier (Qld.: 1864 - 1933) (Qld: National Library of Australia). 5 January 1895. p. 4"GOLDEN BUTTER WORTH.". The Queenslander (Brisbane, Qld.: 1866 - 1939) (Brisbane, Qld: National Library of Australia) 7 December 1938  
The Week  
Queensland Country Life  
Queensland Figaro

## Acknowledgements

Since 2013, Linda Atkinson has been a volunteer at the Gympie Regional Gallery and the Gympie Regional Library. She writes local history for both organisations. Linda retired from a high level senior executive career in Canberra in 2004 with the Australian Federal Government and the ACT Government. Her other career experience has included being deputy President and Council Member of the Australian Institute of Public Administration; a Business Manager for a national company; Head of Secretariat and Researcher for a number of high level Government Inquiries including the writing and delivery of public reports tabled in the Australian Federal Parliament, and the ACT Government. Linda also worked overseas for the Australian Federal Government, and in high level sensitive areas of the Departments of Defence, Treasury, and Prime Minister and Cabinet.

In retirement, Linda served as Secretary for the Murrumbateman Bush Fire Brigade in NSW and was a fully trained and active member of that brigade; Treasurer of the Yass Classical Musical Club, and Assistant to Archaeologists on major archaeological projects in Jordan and Syria; for three years, the Assistant Manager for the Annual National Cool Climate Wine Show in New South Wales which handled around 800 entries for judging; and wrote the first Practice Manual for a Yass Doctor's Clinic where she worked as Practice Manager for 12 months.

Having lived in Gympie since 2012, Linda has undertaken and continues to undertake a range of volunteer positions:

Teacher Aide at the Gympie State High School working with intellectually disabled and autistic children, and more recently working in 2016, with students in years 7, 8, 9 and 11 in literacy and English communications as a paid Teacher Aide. She continues her work at the school in 2017.

Coordinator and Convener for the five annual Gympie Workshops for Cancer Patients as part of the national and international Look Good Feel Better Program.

Chief Researcher, Archivist and Manager for the Troizen Archaeological Project, Greece (the project is ongoing). In June 2013, Linda produced the first information booklet for the Project which was presented to the Greek Prime Minister and other Greek Ministers of the Government and Senior Ephorate Officials later that month. In 2017 the Project will be in its sixth year.

Chief Researcher, Writer and Editor for Sydney author David Hill in the writing of a number of Australian history books (in 2015 he dedicated one of these books to her).

Chief Researcher and Administrative Manager (to October 2016 -David Hill was Chairman until then) for work being undertaken by the International Association for the Return of the Parthenon Sculptures (IARPS) to have these sculptures returned to Greece. Her work continues with the Australian Committee.

Linda has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences.

Sincere thanks to Joolie Gibbs, Coordinator for the Gympie Regional Gallery, and Beth Wilson Head of the Local History Section at the Gympie Regional Library who assisted Linda in the preparation of this history and gave Linda guidance at all times when needed, as well as other Library staff, Geoff Barlow, Karen Sallaway and Lisa Ryan, and the Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum.





## INDEX

- 'Lunacy and Law together with hints on the Treatment of Idiots', 191  
"Dudley" bricks, 108  
1870 flood, 12, 113  
1886 Display of the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, 41  
1893 flood, 12  
1893 Meat and Dairy Produce Act, 173  
1894 Agricultural Lands Purchase Act, 173  
2 and 3 South New Zealand Mine, 18  
2 Great Eastern, 18  
2 North Columbia, Southfield, 18  
24 Lawrence Street, 258  
34 O'Connell Street, 6, 55, 115, 116, 253, 254, 255, 258, 265, 266, 267  
7 Lady Mary Reef, 18, 23, 24, 113, 240  
Adelphi Hotel, 21  
Adjutant Watterson, 250  
Alderman Burchill, 234  
Alderman Bytheway, 6, 7, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 65, 67, 68, 69, 71, 73, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 99, 100, 101, 104, 107, 108, 111, 112, 113, 115, 116, 118, 124, 126, 127, 128, 129, 131, 132, 133, 134, 138, 141, 142, 144, 145, 146, 147, 149, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 173, 174, 175, 177, 179, 180, 181, 182, 184, 193, 195, 196, 197, 200, 201, 204, 206, 207, 208, 209, 211, 212, 213, 215, 216, 217, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 237, 240, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 258, 259, 264, 266  
Alderman Chapple, 58, 67, 68, 117, 144, 211, 212, 215, 218  
Alderman Crawford, 212  
Alderman D. O'Brien, 113, 206  
Alderman Davidson, 57  
Alderman Ferguson, 211, 212, 213  
Alderman Garrick, 233  
Alderman Grennan, 218  
Alderman Mathews, 211, 212  
Alderman McSweeney, 95, 178, 211, 212, 215  
Alderman Pollock, 58, 178, 207, 211, 212, 213, 215, 218  
Alderman Shields, 208  
Alderman Tyrrell, 211  
Alderman W. Suthers, 123  
Alderman Woolgar, 56, 99, 178, 195, 197, 211, 212, 215, 218  
Alma Street, 239  
Amalgamated Miner's Association, 78, 80  
Ambulance Brigade, 194, 250  
Anderson, Mr. J.G., 149  
Angel, Mr. J road contractor, 168  
Argo, Mr. G., 78  
Arts Office and Museum, 107  
Arts Office and Museum Development Program, 107  
Ashford's, and Rifle Range Hills, 170  
Atkinson, Linda, 7, 8, 56, 183, 239, 243, 244, 246, 253, 261, 267  
Atkinson, Mr. J.B., 95  
Atlas Assurance Co., Ltd, 125  
Atlas Insurance, 51, 243  
Auditors Messrs. C. Boase and W. McGhie., 78  
Auditors Messrs. J. J. Jackson and H. Daunt, 200  
Aurelia Prospect Claim, 191  
Australasian Mine, 17, 42, 238, 264  
Australian American Lock Stitch 'Home Shuttle' sewing machine, 129  
Australian Army, 249  
Australian Joint Stock Bank Gympie Stock Exchange Offices and Club, 9  
Bailiff, 28  
Baker, Mr. E., 3, 94, 95  
Balding, Mr. T., 189  
Balmain, 130  
Banks, 28  
Barlee, Mr. C.H., 70  
Barnes, Mr. E., 195  
Barnes, Mr. E.B., 196  
Baty, Mr. T., 199  
Bayliss, Mr. J.C., 78  
Bell, Mr. N.M., 105  
Bell, Mrs. Hannah, 230  
Bennett, James rate collector, 27, 168  
Bennett, Mr. F.J., 195, 196  
Benson, Dr. John Robinson, 63, 64, 66, 68, 153  
Bideawhile, 31, 32  
Bird, Sophia Harriett, 40  
Bizzart Day, 1, 107  
Black Snake Reef, 17  
Black, Mr. H.B. (Mackay), 222  
Black's New Zealand Tribute, 17

Blennerhussel property, 168  
 Bligh, Mr. J. O'C, 68  
 Bobbington, 33, 36, 40  
 Bonney, Mr., 218  
 Booth, Mr. E.H., 78  
 Booths Sale Yards, 21  
 Bostock and Co, 125  
 Bostock and Co England, 125  
 Botanical Gardens, 37  
 Bowe, Dr. the Resident Surgeon, 198  
 Bowen Street, 51  
 Boyd, Anthony Hardy, 51  
 Breakneck Creek, 192  
 Brennan, Mr. J., 68  
 Brigadier Jeffries Salvation Army, 220  
 Brisbane, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 20, 23, 24,  
 27, 29, 30, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42,  
 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55,  
 56, 59, 60, 63, 65, 74, 89, 93, 94, 113, 114,  
 115, 117, 120, 124, 125, 126, 129, 132,  
 143, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 153, 155,  
 156, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164,  
 165, 167, 168, 169, 171, 173, 174, 176,  
 177, 181, 182, 187, 188, 190, 191, 207,  
 210, 217, 219, 222, 227, 229, 238, 240,  
 241, 243, 245, 247, 251, 252, 258, 259,  
 261, 262, 264, 266, 267, 268  
 Brisbane Gaol, 132  
 Brisbane Municipal Council, 38  
 Brisbane Road, 48  
 Brisbane Technical College, 90  
 Bristol Prospect Claim, 191  
 Bromleys, the Brookes of Madeley, and the  
 Foxes, 31  
 Brown, Dr Elaine, 8, 61  
 Brown, H., 23  
 Brown, Mr. W, 169  
 Brown, Nugent, 23  
 Buckle, Joseph, 256  
 Bundaberg, 89, 92, 123, 124, 155, 157, 166,  
 171, 174, 204, 222, 229  
 Bundaberg Agricultural Society, 155  
 Bundaberg Guardian, 89  
 Burchill, Mr. Joseph, 95  
 Burke, Dr. Stephen John, 14  
 Burwah, 130  
 Butler, Mr. Denis, 192  
 Byrne, Dr. T.E.D., 68, 189  
 Byrne, Dr. Theodore Edgar Dickson Byrne,  
 14, 66, 187, 190  
 Byrnes, Premier Thomas Joseph, 90  
 Bytheway and Son, 5, 21, 36, 37, 39, 46, 60,  
 112, 113, 124, 125, 127, 131, 132, 133,  
 134, 138, 141, 142, 156, 169, 245, 246,  
 247, 251, 252  
 Bytheway, Ada, 44  
 Bytheway, Annie, 6, 28, 51, 52, 55, 59, 60,  
 107, 245, 248, 252, 253, 258  
 Bytheway, Annie Elizabeth, 51, 52  
 Bytheway, Edward, 7, 25  
 Bytheway, Edward Junior, 46  
 Bytheway, Edward Junior Trustee of the  
 Estate, 243  
 Bytheway, Elsie Vera, 258, 259  
 Bytheway, Emma, 40  
 Bytheway, Emma Mary, 39, 55, 116, 252,  
 258, 259  
 Bytheway, Ena, 52  
 Bytheway, Ernest, 44  
 Bytheway, Fanny, 46, 252  
 Bytheway, Harriet Bird, 40  
 Bytheway, Mary, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 21,  
 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37,  
 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51,  
 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63,  
 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74,  
 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 87, 88, 89, 92, 94, 95,  
 97, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 105, 107, 108,  
 112, 113, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120,  
 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128,  
 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 138,  
 140, 142, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149,  
 150, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158,  
 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 167, 168,  
 169, 170, 171, 172, 175, 177, 178, 179,  
 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 189,  
 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197,  
 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205,  
 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213,  
 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221,  
 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229,  
 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 237, 238, 239,  
 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248,  
 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 258, 267, 268  
 Bytheway, Mary Emma, 40, 245  
 Bytheway, Miss Fanny, 53  
 Bytheway, Ruby Maud, 51  
 Bytheway, Sarah Gertrude, 40  
 Bytheway, Stanley, 52, 195, 196, 242  
 Bytheway, Thomas, 33, 34, 36, 40, 46, 51,  
 52, 53, 239  
 Bytheway, Thomas George, 40  
 Bytheway, Thomasina Dorothy, 51  
 Bytheway, William Henry, 40, 41, 115  
 Bytheway, Edward, 52  
 Bytheway, Edward junior Will, 251  
 Bytheway, Poppy, 52, 108

Bytheway. Benjamin, 23, 32, 36, 42, 115, 116  
 Caldwell, Mr M., 200  
 Caledonian Hill, 94, 122, 127, 128  
 Caledonian Hotel, 126  
 Caledonian No.9 South, 192  
 Caledonian Prospect Claim, 192  
 Caledonian Prospectors Claim, 23  
 Caledonian Reef No. 1 North., 23  
 Caledonian Reef No. 1 South, 23  
 Caledonian Reef No. 2 South, 23  
 Caledonian Reef No. 8 South Mine, 112  
 Caledonian Reef No. 8 South, 23  
 California whole line., 192  
 Calton Hill, 24, 42, 46, 54, 61, 94, 113, 115, 116, 127, 128, 142, 220, 233, 239, 252, 258, 259  
 Calton Terrace, 115, 116, 216, 239  
 Canadian Prospect Claim, 17  
 Cantwell, Mr. J.L. teller of Queensland National Bank, 168  
 Captain D. Buckingham Salvation Army, 221  
 Carey, John Joseph, 248  
 Carrodus, Mr. J.H., 218  
 Caston, Mr. C.C., 3, 29, 105  
 Cemetery Trustees, 216, 240  
 Chamber of Commerce, 78, 80, 114, 123, 169, 170, 171, 172, 196, 245, 246, 251  
 Channon Street, 66, 94, 95, 98, 142, 156, 188, 199, 213, 214, 216, 230, 238, 252  
 Chapple, Mr. J., 58, 64, 68, 197  
 Charters Towers, 83, 84, 85, 98, 123, 158, 160, 164, 170, 198  
 Chatswood NSW, 55  
 Cherry, Mr. A., 192  
 Chief Assayer of Gympie Mr. Robert Burbidge, 87  
 Chippendale, Mr. M Widgee Divisional Board, 222  
 Churches, 28  
 Civic Centre, 1S  
 sessions, 28  
 Clissold, Matthew Henry, 40  
 Coaches, 29  
 Cobb & Co, 10, 99  
 College of Technical and Further Education (TAFE), 105  
 Collins-Davis, Reverend R., 250  
 Colonial Gas Association, 153  
 Colonial Secretary, 8, 25, 187, 200, 201, 204, 213, 215, 216, 222  
 Columbia Consolidated, 17  
 Columbia Extended Mine, 17  
 Columbia Smithfield Gold Mining Co Ltd, 17  
 Commercial Bank, 9, 188  
 Commercials Team, 58  
 Commissioner King, 11  
 Commissioner's Hill, 64, 67, 68, 122, 127, 187, 194  
 Committee for the Reception of the Gympie South African Contingent, 114  
 Committee of the Mining Museum, 72  
 Committee of the School of Mines and Mining Museum, 72  
 Commonwealth Electoral Roll for the seat of Werriwa, 52, 263  
 Constantine, Alfred and Ernest Moore, alias Morrison,, 132  
 Convent School, Calton Hill, 28  
 Conwell, Miss Isabel, 53  
 Cooloola Arts Society, 107  
 Cooloola Shire Council, 9, 106, 177, 265  
 Cooloola Shire Library Service, 1, 9, 177, 265  
 Cooloola Shire Public Gallery, 1, 5, 106, 107, 108, 243  
 Cooran, 10, 45, 159, 170, 174, 216  
 Cooran State School, 45  
 Coote, Douglas Audley, 248  
 Cootharaba, 169, 170, 227, 229, 230  
 Cootharaba Hill, 169  
 Cornish, Mr. T.H. chief engineer, 175  
 Costin, Mr. W.J., 69, 118  
 Councillors, 27, 207, 217, 220, 225  
 Cowell, Mr. A., 24  
 Cox, Mr. T.J., 181  
 Craswell, Reverend A.T., 250  
 cream separator, 141, 172  
 Crescent Road, 178, 213  
 Crimean War, 190  
 Critchley, Mr. R., 72  
 Crown Lands Ranger, 28  
 Culgoa, 120  
 Cullinane, Mr. J.S., 3, 64, 68, 129, 149, 169, 218  
 Curtis & Co. Pyrites Works at the One-Mile, 18  
 Curtis Nugget, 188  
 Dalby, 65, 69, 205  
 Dalby Herald, 65, 69  
 Daniell, Mr. C., 69  
 Daniell, Mr. W.J., 69, 72, 117, 118  
 Darling Downs Gazette, Queenslander and Wide Bay and Burnett News, 65  
 Darling Street Ipswich, 51  
 Darragh's Hotel in Main Street, 38  
 Davidson, Mr. E.B., 58, 178  
 Davies, Miss Jessie, 53

Davis, Mr. F. R., 142  
 Dawson, Premier Anderson, 91  
 Decentralisation Bill, 209  
 Deep Creek, 12, 94, 122, 178, 199, 213, 214, 227, 229  
 Derwent, 130  
 Dickins Hotel Ann Street, 38  
 Dickson, Premier James Robert, 90, 226  
 Diggers' Bethel, 64  
 Division of Widgee, 29  
 Donnelly, Mr. M., 189  
 Donovan, Mr. P., 218  
 Doomsday Book, 31  
 Drake, Mr. J.G. Postmaster-General and Minister for Instruction, 156  
 Drayton, 205  
 Du Rietz, Hugo, 7, 1, 6, 14, 20, 25, 34, 38, 56, 58, 59, 61, 66, 68, 69, 74, 75, 80, 86, 88, 89, 92, 94, 95, 96, 99, 101, 102, 104, 108, 109, 113, 119, 122, 144, 154, 156, 172, 173, 175, 180, 196, 200, 205, 210, 221, 237, 252  
 Du Rietz, Mr. Hugo, 20, 67, 68, 69, 85, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 102, 117, 142, 144, 172, 173, 175, 252  
 Dugworth, Mr. patient Gympie Hospital, 201  
 Duke Street, 179, 246  
 Dumphy, Mr. J., 207  
 Eaglehawk Gully, 12  
 East Oriental and Glanmire, 17, 238  
 East Ward [of Brisbane]., 38  
 Eastern No. 3 and No. 3 Smithfield Tribute, 18  
 Edward Bytheway, 5, 6, 7, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 14, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39, 43, 44, 46, 47, 53, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 108, 109, 111, 113, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 122, 124, 125, 127, 128, 129, 131, 132, 133, 142, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 190, 193, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 245, 248, 251, 252, 258, 259, 266, 267  
 Edward Bytheway Meeting Room, 6, 1, 4  
 Edward Street Brisbane, 115  
 Egmont, 130  
 Eileen Mary Muller, 258  
 Electric Light Co, 152  
 Ellen Harkins Co., 213  
 Ellison, Alfred Owen, 54, 55  
 Ellison, Dorothy May, 54  
 Ellison, Edward Burnett, 54  
 Ellison, Frank Gordon, 54  
 Ellison, Harold Percy, 54  
 Ellison, Henry, 47  
 Ellison, Ivy Margaret, 54  
 Ellison, Reverend Tom, 47, 53, 116, 242, 252, 258  
 Elworthy and Mellor's Establishment, 192  
 Emilias, 10  
 Enogerra Camp, 251  
 Enoggera 'circuit' of the Wesleyan Churches, 54  
 Enterprise Machine, 192  
 Enterprise Mine, 12, 18, 192  
 Eumundi School of Arts, 45  
 Eurimbia, 130  
 Evans, Mr. J., 197  
 Fairlie and Sons, 180  
 Farrelly, Mr. J., 188, 195, 196  
 Federation, 2, 3, 4, 20, 227, 229  
 Ferguson and Co, 86, 88, 96  
 Ferguson and Co. Ltd, 88  
 Financial Districts Bill, 114, 208  
 Fire Brigade, 121, 205, 245, 269  
 First Lieutenant I. Jackson, 249  
 Fisher, Andrew, 24, 81, 87, 90, 91, 92, 96, 97, 98, 99, 219, 229, 238, 265  
 Fiveways, 21  
 Flood Relief Committee, 114, 177, 178  
 Flood, Mr. J., 95  
 Forrest, Mr. R.J. (Townsville);, 222  
 Fortitude Valley, 37, 38, 124  
 Foster's Orchestra, 107  
 Francis Isidor Power, 14  
 Fraser, Florence Augusta, 243  
 Fraser, James, 7, 25, 27, 28, 43, 45, 90, 122, 128, 155, 167, 168, 181, 192, 207, 217, 218, 225, 226, 243, 258  
 Freemason's Hotel, 44, 71, 131, 189  
 French Charley's Theatre, 64  
 Friday 13 October 1905 funeral of Edward Bytheway, 239, 240  
 Friendly Society Pharmacy, 112, 125  
 Friends of the Gallery, 4, 106, 107

Fullerton, Mr. J.S., 218  
 Gas Working Industry Board, 150  
 Gaslight Sports, 233  
 Gatton Agricultural College, 157  
 Gayndah, 205  
 Gayton, Mr. W., 78  
 Geddie, Dr. W.S. Resident Surgeon, 198  
 Geddie, Dr. W.S. Resident Surgeon, 43  
 Gee, Reverend J.J., 250  
 Geelong, 129  
 George, Mr. J., 218  
 Gibb, Mr. J, 218  
 Gibbs, Joolie, 7, 5, 269  
 Gilbert, Mr. E.T., 189  
 Gimpi-gimpi, 8  
 Gladstone, 7, 86  
 Glasgow, Mr. S., 196  
 Gold Commissioner Clarke, 11  
 Gold Creek Gold Mining and Prospecting Company, 24  
 Gold Creek Gold Mining Company and Prospecting Company, 113  
 Gold Fields Map 1881, 16  
 Gold Mining on Caledonian Hill, 18  
 Goldburgs Menswear, 61  
 Golden Crowns Mine, 24, 113  
 Goldfield leases as at 1904, 18  
 Goldfields Town Land-Gympie Gold Fields Town Allotments, 20  
 Goodchap, Frederick, 23  
 Goodchap, Mr. F., 189  
 Gorton, Sarah, 37  
 Governor of Queensland, the Marquis of Normanby, 205  
 Governor Sir Herbert Chermiside, 229  
 Governor, Sir Arthur Kennedy, 153  
 Graham Street, 142, 194  
 Grannan, Mr. H., 218  
 Great Hibernia, 17  
 Great New Zealand Shaft, 18  
 Great Northern Mine, 17  
 Great Oriental, 17  
 Greenridge, 37  
 Grennan, Mr. Hugh Labor Party member, 218  
 Grimshaw, Mr. A., 218  
 Gubbi Gubbi, 8  
 Gunabul Homestead, 252  
 Gympie, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 138, 140, 141, 142, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 258, 259, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269  
 Gympie Adult Education Organisation, 106  
 Gympie Agricultural Mining and Pastoral Society, 153, 154, 157, 172  
 Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Association, 155  
 Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society, 5, 14, 113, 114, 122, 156, 229, 234  
 Gympie Amateur Minstrels, 178, 198  
 Gympie Branch of the Mutual Improvement Association, 113, 117  
 Gympie Brokers' Association, 29  
 Gympie Butter and Ice Factory, 174, 176  
 Gympie Butter Factory, 114, 173, 174, 175, 177  
 Gympie Caravan Park and the Queen's Park Tennis Centre, 249  
 Gympie Central Dairy and Ice Company Company, 173  
 Gympie Central School, 24  
 Gympie Central State School, 24  
 Gympie City Council, 106, 248  
 Gympie Court House, 24, 45, 64, 97, 98, 99, 123, 179, 197, 265  
 Gympie Creek, 7, 12  
 Gympie Dairy Ice and Cold Storage Company, 173  
 Gympie Dairy, Ice and Cold Storage Company, 114, 173  
 Gympie Dairying Company, 114, 174, 176  
 Gympie District Society Inc., 155

Gympie Division, 25, 29  
 Gympie Divisional Board, 205  
 Gympie Eisteddfod, 184, 196  
 Gympie Electoral District, 229  
 Gympie Family History Society Inc., 51  
 Gympie Fire Brigade, 245  
 Gympie Football Club, 57  
 Gympie Gas and Coke Company, 113, 142, 144, 145, 193, 223, 267  
 Gympie Gas Company, 145, 150, 245  
 Gympie Goldfields, 8, 10, 126, 191  
 Gympie Hospital, 117, 119, 177, 184, 189, 194, 201, 245  
 Gympie Hospital, 29  
 Gympie Hospital Committee, 5, 43, 57, 112, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 200, 201, 202, 240  
 Gympie Hospital Subscription Fund, 191  
 Gympie Lands Office, 98  
 Gympie Municipal Council, 6, 88, 114, 115, 203, 216, 227, 229, 231  
 Gympie Mutual Improvement Association, 69  
 Gympie Philharmonic, 226  
 Gympie Progress Association, 62, 64, 65, 113, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 129, 196, 204, 205  
 Gympie Regional Art Gallery, 78  
 Gympie Regional Council, 7, 243, 252, 258  
 Gympie Regional Gallery, 6, 7, 8, 1, 5, 6, 61, 68, 107, 108, 109, 243, 252, 253, 254, 267, 269  
 Gympie Regional Library, 1, 5, 18, 21, 22, 42, 60, 61, 100, 114, 116, 126, 174, 186, 194, 251, 254, 265, 266, 267, 269  
 Gympie School of Mines and Mining Museum, 74  
 Gympie Town Band, 194  
 Gympie Town Hall, 5, 7, 25, 27, 41, 59, 80, 94, 95, 171, 204, 209, 210, 216, 219, 226, 234, 249, 252  
 Gympie Turf Club, 29  
 Gympie's Technical College, 89  
 Half Holiday Association, 251  
 Hamburg whole line, 192  
 Hamilton, Mr. J MLA, 206  
 Hanner, John, 23, 112  
 Hardcastle's Old Store, 61  
 Hardcastles' Building, 61, 68  
 Harding, Mr. S., 78  
 Harkins Street, 258  
 Harris, Thomas, 23  
 Hawthorn, Mr. C.S., 189  
 Hay, Mr. G, 192  
 Heckscher, Mr. B., 197  
 Henderson and Co, 96  
 Henderson, Mr. engineer of waterworks, 27, 90, 96, 97, 144, 146, 206, 222, 224  
 Henderson, Mr. W., 149, 218  
 Heritage Council (QHC) Chair, Professor Peter Coaldrake, 9  
 Hermitage Experimental Farm, 156  
 Hilton Road, 43, 127, 216  
 His Excellency Sir Herbert Chermerside, 184  
 His Honour Mr. Justice Mein, 168  
 His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII, 229  
 HMS Cordelia, 191  
 Holliman, Mr. W., 192  
 Hollis, Mr. J, 105  
 Holmes, Rev. T.B., 42  
 Home Rule and Hilton Extended, 17  
 Homeward Bound and Hibernia, 17  
 Honorary Auditors  
     G.E. King and, 89  
 Hopf, Mr. C., 191  
 Horace Tozer, 14, 23, 25, 75, 79, 112, 142, 168, 170, 173, 200, 208, 220, 222  
 Horseshoe Bend, 95, 169, 199, 217  
 Hospital Ball Committee, 199  
 Hospitals Act, 202  
 Howe, Mr. P. D., 197  
 Hughes, Mr Hugh, 37  
 Hume, Dr. Resident Surgeon, 198  
 Hunt, F.H., 23, 112  
 Hutchinson, Moya Mary, 248  
 Hutchinson, Mr. A., 155, 169  
 I North Great Eastern, 18  
 Illidge, Mr. J.M., 78  
 Imbil Flat, 192  
 Imbil Town, 192  
 Imperial Dictionary, 70  
 Indooroopilly, 37  
 Ingelwood, 213, 217  
 Inspector of Nuisances, 27, 215  
 Instone, Mary, 53  
 International Harvester Co., USA, 125  
 Ipswich, 8, 24, 48, 51, 65, 69, 74, 76, 153, 177, 182, 222, 268  
 Ipswich Observer, 65  
 Jackson, Mr. T, 192  
 Jamieson, Reverend L., 67, 69  
 Jefferson, Mr. W., 127  
 Jenkinson, Mr. C.J., 178  
 Jensen, Mr. N, 218  
 Johnson, Shannon, 131  
 Jones' Nos.3 and 5 south, 192  
 Justice of the Peace., 111

Kabi Kabi, 8  
 Kangaroo Point Darragh's Hotel in Main Street, 38  
 Kearney Jnr, Mr. M, 224  
 Keilawarra, 129, 130  
 Kellett, Mr. R. Kellett, 30  
 Kennedy, Mr. R., 89  
 Kenny, Dr. F. Hamilton Resident Surgeon, 201  
 Kesteven, Mrs. J., 106  
 Kidgell, Mr. J.G., 68, 72, 117, 118, 119, 121  
 Kidman, Mr. W., 66, 129  
 Kift, Robert, 23  
 Kilkivan, 11, 29, 108, 114, 157, 158, 159, 160, 163, 165, 166, 168, 174, 210  
 King Street, 215  
 King, Mr. E.H. J.P. (Gold Commissioner, 189  
 King, Mr. H.E. and Gold Commissioner, 64, 68  
 King, Thomas civil engineer, 11  
 Kittiwah. See Gunabul Homestead  
 Kybong, 48, 51, 52, 243  
 Ladies Benevolent Society, 59  
 Lady Mary No. 4 South, 192  
 Lady Mary No. 5 South, 192  
 Lady Mary Reef, 12, 23  
 Lady Mary Terrace, 142  
 Land Commissioner and Agent, 28  
 Land Tenure on the Goldfields, 172  
 Landy, Mr. J., 68  
 Lane, Mr. J.J., 89, 91, 94, 95  
 Lawson, Mr. J., 218  
 Leichhardt, 130  
 Lennons Hotel, 115, 238  
 Lewis, Mr. G.J, 169  
 Lewis, Mr. O. Lewis (North Rockhampton), 222  
 Light of Age', 34, 35  
 Lillis, Mr. T., 69  
 Linklater, G.R., 192  
 Llewellyn, Mr. Henry miner of Elizabeth Street, 218  
 Local Authorities Conference, 114, 222  
 Local Government Act, 25, 148  
 Local History, 21, 22, 42, 60, 80, 100, 106, 114, 116, 126, 174, 186, 194, 251, 265, 266, 267, 269  
 Lombard Chambers, Pitt St, 55  
 London Prospect Claim, 17, 192  
 Lonney and Butler, Messrs., 15  
 Lord Dufferin Freemason Lodge, 57, 246, 261  
 Lord Esq, Mr R.S., 73  
 Lord F. Lord, S.and Lord, W, 23  
 Louisa Mine, 18, 192, 216  
 Louisa whole line, 192  
 Lucknow, 18  
 Lunn, Emily Susan Ellen, 44  
 Lunn, George, 44  
 Lyons, Eliza, 167, 168  
 Macarthy, Mr. F.H. (Mt Morgan), 222  
 Mackay, Mr. G. H., 249  
 Major D. E Reid, 184  
 Major E. Bytheway, 250  
 Major Ferguson, 169, 178, 181, 211  
 Malloon, Mr. Joseph, 192  
 Maloney, Mr. H.M., 169  
 Mann, Arthur, 23, 112  
 Manning, Mr. A.W. Under Colonial Secretary, 187  
 Marsden, Mr. James, 155  
 Marshall, Mr. G., 192  
 Martin, John, 23, 112  
 Martin, Reverend J.G., 239  
 Mary River, 6, 7, 8, 11, 24, 25, 27, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 51, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 87, 88, 89, 92, 94, 95, 97, 99, 100, 101, 104, 105, 107, 108, 112, 115, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 138, 140, 142, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 175, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 189, 190, 191, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 237, 238, 239, 241, 242, 243, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 253, 268  
 Maryborough, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 27, 29, 34, 47, 65, 76, 77, 80, 89, 90, 114, 120, 123, 129, 143, 155, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 171, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 182, 187, 188, 193, 198, 208, 209, 216, 217, 222, 229, 268  
 Mason, Dr John Bridges, 11, 14  
 Masonic Hall, 64, 66, 223, 226, 246  
 Masonic Lodges and Friendly Societies, 29  
 Master of the Dufferin Lodge, 246  
 Matron Evelyn Cavage, 194  
 Matters, Mr. George, 192  
 Matthews, Mr. J.L., 178

Maxey, Mr. E., 89, 94, 95  
 Maynard, Mr. J.H., 89  
 Mayor Abraham Hutchinson, 217  
 Mayor Adrian McClintock, 106  
 Mayor Bytheway, 216  
 Mayor D. E. Reid, 230  
 Mayor Edward Bytheway, 215  
 Mayor John L. Matthews, 217  
 Mayor Mick Venardos, 106  
 Mayor Peter Green, 249  
 Mayor W. T. Weller, 152  
 Mayor William Suthers, 220, 224  
 McConville, Mr. D. (Bundaberg, 222  
 McCormack, Mary, 36, 40, 76  
 McDonald, Mr. A, 218  
 McFie, Mr. J.A., 28, 89  
 McGrath, Mr. James, 192  
 McGroarty, Mr. D.C., 68  
 McKellat, Daniel solicitor, 168  
 McLeod, Dr. Roderick A., Gympie Hospital  
 Superintendent, 194  
 McSweeney, Mr. Jeremy, 95, 224  
 Meat and Dairy Produce Encouragement  
 Act, 173  
 Medical Men, 29  
 Melbourne, 1, 2, 7, 8, 152, 153, 164, 171,  
 177, 192, 261  
 Mellor Street, 1, 5, 106, 151, 152, 214  
 Mellor, Miss L., 182  
 Mellor, Miss Lucy, 53  
 Mellor, Mr. James, 181  
 Mellor, Mr. M, 56, 57, 68, 75, 78, 79, 89, 147,  
 192, 227  
 Member of Legislative Council, 10, 14, 166,  
 261  
 Menzies, Mr. J.S and D, 149  
 Miller, John cabman in Brisbane, 169  
 Miller, Mr. M Widgee Divisional Board, 222  
 Mine Managers' Association, 29  
 Miners' Accident Society, 191  
 Miners' Homestead No. 3878, 230  
 Mines Regulation Act, 82  
 Mining Act, 171  
 Mining Acts of Victoria, 171  
 Mining Registrar, 28  
 Minister for Mines Mr. J.M. Macrossan, 78  
 Minister for Mines the Hon. W.O.  
 Hodgkinson, 83  
 Mission Employment, 243  
 Model Band, 194  
 Moffat, Mr. Jack, 174  
 Monkland, 28  
 Monkland Band, 194, 250  
 Monkland Nos. 1, 2 and 3 South:, 192  
 Monkland Street, 90, 96, 104, 147, 214, 221,  
 224  
 Morgan, Edwin, 23  
 Morgan, Premier Arthur, 91  
 Morris, Mr. E.P., 192  
 Morrison, Mr. K, 78  
 Mount Morgan, 54, 182  
 Mount Pleasant Road, 142, 214, 219, 221,  
 230  
 Mount, Mr. Edward, 192  
 Mr. W. L. Smith, 192  
 Mt Pleasant Road, 142  
 Mullaly brothers, John and William, 47  
 Mullen. Patrick, 23  
 Municipal Council, 6, 5, 38, 62, 78, 80, 88,  
 105, 113, 114, 115, 118, 119, 123, 147,  
 193, 196, 197, 202, 203, 206, 207, 216,  
 218, 219, 220, 226, 227, 229, 230, 231,  
 240  
 Municipal Council, 27  
 Municipal Inspector Mr. Bennett, 199  
 Municipality, 5, 25, 78, 113, 118, 119, 120,  
 122, 123, 147, 204, 205, 224, 225, 229  
 Murdock, Mr R. engineer, 231  
 Murdock, Mr. engineer, 228, 231  
 Museum, 71, 72, 73, 74, 76, 107, 122, 141  
 Museum and Scientific Institute, 72  
 Nanango Railway Association, 166  
 Napier Reef, 23  
 Nash Street, 5, 60, 61, 65, 68, 70, 71, 72, 88,  
 101, 102, 105, 108, 115  
 Nash, James, 7, 25  
 Nash's Gully, 21, 94, 126, 127, 142, 222  
 Nashville, 7, 8, 10, 11, 29, 57, 66, 126, 159,  
 187, 188, 189, 190, 230, 268  
 Nashville Freemason's Lodge, 57  
 Nashville Hotel, 126  
 Nashville Miners' Hospital, 188  
 National Bank of Australia, 125  
 National Fitness Council, 106  
 National School on Palatine Hill, 245  
 Natural Resources Department, 106  
 New Dawn Mine, 17  
 New Home Rule and Hilton United Mine, 17  
 New South Wales, 9, 28, 52, 53, 55, 59, 82,  
 167, 222, 269  
 New Zealand, 82, See Zealand  
 New Zealand Junction Mine, 24  
 New Zealand Prospect Claim and No.1  
 south, 192  
 Newman, Esther Maude, 51, 52  
 Newsa, 119, 120  
 Newspaper Proprietors, 29  
 Nicholl's Lease, 18



Nichols' Prospect Claim and No.1 North, 192

No 1 North Great New Zealand, 17

No 1 North Home Rule, 17

No 1 North Phoenix, 17

No 1 North Smithfield, 18

No 1 North Victory Mine, 18

No 1 South Great Eastern, 17

No 1 South Gympie Gold Mines, 17

No 1 South Oriental and Glanmire, 17

No 2 North Great Eastern, 17

No 2 North New Zealand, 17

No 2 North Oriental and Glanmire, 17

No 2 North Victory Mine, 18

No 2 South Great Eastern, 17

No 3 South Great Eastern, 17

No 4 North Phoenix, 18

No 5 North Phoenix, 17

No 6 North Phoenix, 17

No 7 and No 8 Monkland Tribute, 17

No 7 South Lady Mary, 17

No Liability Acts, 171

No. 1 North Glanmire, 24

No. 1 North, New Monkland, 12

No. 1 South Sadowa Mine, 17

No. 3 North Phoenix Mine, 24

No. 1 North Glanmire, 24, 113, 240

No. 1 North Phoenix Mine, 147

No. 1 North Phoenix Mine, 24

No. 6 North Phoenix, 113, 240

No. 6 North Phoenix Mine, 113

No. 8 Lady Mary South, known as the Tribute, 24

Noosa, 10, 20, 45, 106, 113, 115, 123, 169, 171, 211, 242, 259, 266

North Phoenix Tribute, 17

North Rocks, 52

North Smithfield, 18

Northumberland Hotel, 99, 100, 206

Nuttall, Charles, 2, 265

O'Brien, Mr. M.J., 95

O'Connell Reef, 17

O'Connell, James, 167

O'Leary, Bridget, 53

O'Neill's Public House, 167

Oak Hill, 47, 48, 51, 53

Oak Street, 230

Olympic Hall, 107

One-Mile, 12, 15, 18, 24, 28, 29, 37, 65, 66, 69, 70, 71, 78, 85, 86, 113, 121, 122, 123, 126, 127, 134, 142, 178, 181, 194, 203, 205, 213, 221, 223, 227, 229, 266

One-Mile Institute, 78

One-Mile Miners' Institute, 65, 71, 113

One-Mile State School, 125 Years of Education in Gympie 1869-1994, 15, 266

O'Regan, Mr. J.E., 28, 89, 218

Orient Pacific, 125

Orient Shipping Company, 140, 248

Oriental and Glanmire, 17, 237

Oriental Consols, 17, 18

Oriental Extended, 17

Oriental Surprise, 17

Orr, Reverend J.F., 56

Otago-Prospect Claim and Nos. 1 and 2 North, 192

Overli, Edward, 44

Owen, Emma, 34, 245

Oyster Saloon, 41

Pack, Mr. J., 78

Paddington, 52, 54, 262

Paddington Wesleyan Church, 54

Palmer River gold rush, 73

Parents of Edward Trudgian David Trudgian and Jessie Mary nee Dick, 258

Parish of Traveston, 45

Park, Mr. E.L., 105

Patterson Bros, 61

Patterson, Mr. G., 27, 218

Pengelly, Mr. J.H., 189

Penshurst, 52

Perry, Mr. G., 169

Perseverance whole line, 192

Peter and Paul Mine, Two Mile, 18

Pettigrew Esq, Mr William, 38

Philp, Premier Robert, 91

Phoenix Eastern Tribute, 18

Phoenix Golden Pile, 18, 237

Phoenix Hotel, 252

Phoenix Reef Mine, 24

Pilant & Co, USA, 125

Pilcher, Mr. W., 169

Pine Street, 230

Police Department, 106

Police Magistrate, 27

Police Magistrate and Goldfields Warden for Gympie. See Mr. P.F. Sellheim

Police Magistrate Mr. E. Eglinton, 127

Pollock, Mr. R.A, 144, 195, 196

Pomona & District Kindergarten and Childcare Centre, 46

Pomona State School, 45, 46

Pope, Mr. E., 24, 113, 169

Port Dennison Times, 65

Port Hacking, 52

Post Office, 42, 123, 142, 179, 262

Postmaster and Savings Bank Officer, 29

Post-Master General's Department, 204

Poundkeeper, 28  
 Power, Mr. F.I., 3, 94, 95, 96, 100, 195  
 Power, Thomas, 24, 113  
 Primitive Methodist Church, 64, 178  
 Prince Leopold Freemason Lodge, 57, 246  
 Principal Hotels, 28  
 Pugh's Queensland Almanac Law Calendar  
 Directory and Coast Guide 1881, 131, 261  
 Pulpit in the Surface Hill Wesleyan  
 Methodist Church, 183  
 Quarterly Revision Court, 219  
 Queen's Park, 219, 249  
 Queensland, 7, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17,  
 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 34, 35, 36, 39,  
 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 51, 52, 53, 55,  
 56, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 72, 74, 78, 79, 80,  
 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93,  
 97, 98, 99, 102, 104, 105, 106, 112, 113,  
 114, 115, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 123,  
 129, 131, 142, 147, 150, 157, 158, 164,  
 165, 166, 168, 170, 171, 172, 173, 177,  
 178, 182, 187, 188, 190, 191, 200, 201,  
 202, 204, 205, 208, 210, 216, 217, 219,  
 220, 222, 223, 227, 234, 238, 240, 245,  
 252, 256, 258, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265,  
 266, 267, 268  
 Queensland Defence Force, 47  
 Queensland Government, 82, 84, 102, 120,  
 121, 165, 170, 178, 191, 204, 205  
 Queensland Government Gazette, 7, 8, 25,  
 29, 268  
 Queensland Government Royal Commission  
 concerning proposed railway extensions,  
 157  
 Queensland Government's Steamer Otter,  
 222  
 Queensland State Treasury, 231  
 Quinton, Mr. W.S., 69  
 Ramsay, Mr. A.G., 78  
 Ramsey, Mr. A.G., 58, 95, 146, 149, 195, 196  
 Rands, W.H. Rands Assistant Government  
 Geologist, 39  
 Ranson, Mr. Alfred, 146  
 Ratepayers and Occupier's Association, 248  
 Ravenswood Miner, 65, 69  
 Ray Street Mine, 18  
 Red Hill, 94, 121, 123, 178, 229, 238  
 Red White and Blue store owned by Henry  
 Markwell, 21  
 redwater fever, 12, 172  
 Regional Arts Development Fund, 107  
 Regional Galleries Association of  
 Queensland, 106  
 Registrar, District Receiver in, 28  
 Returning Officer, 4, 114, 115, 211, 227,  
 229, 230, 234  
 Returning Officer, 27  
 Reverend Tom Ellison, 47, 55  
 Richardson, Mr. W., 218  
 River Road, 94, 213, 214, 216, 217, 223  
 Roberts, Tom, 2  
 Robinson, Mr. S.F., 192  
 Rockhampton, 7, 54, 89, 127, 128, 153, 156,  
 160, 162, 164, 175, 208, 217, 222, 240,  
 252, 267, 268  
 Rodondo, 130  
 Rogers, Mr. H. Rogers, 69  
 Rose of Australia Prospect Claim, 192  
 Rose Vale, 47  
 Royal Hotel. See Varieties Hotel  
 Royal National Show in Brisbane, 247  
 Royal Standard Prospect Claim, 192  
 Royal Utopian Artillery with British Naval  
 Officers, 194  
 Rutkin, Mr. J., 218  
 Ryan, Dr John P., 14  
 Ryland, Mr. G., 27, 218  
 Ryland, Mr. George MLA, 99  
 Sadowa Mine on Jim Frazer's property, Two  
 Mile, 18  
 Salvation Army, 61, 73, 193, 220  
 Sanday, R.G., 2  
 Saunders, Mr. R., 72  
 Sawyer, Mr. F., 189  
 Schollick, Mr. F. dairy farmer, 168  
 School of Arts, 6, 1, 2, 3, 5, 14, 20, 29, 45, 46,  
 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70,  
 71, 72, 73, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83,  
 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94,  
 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103,  
 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 112, 113,  
 115, 117, 118, 119, 169, 170, 172, 190,  
 194, 196, 204, 217, 220, 234, 240, 245,  
 246, 252, 262, 265, 266, 267  
 School of Arts and Mines, 5, 61, 64, 77, 79,  
 80, 82, 86, 90, 91, 92, 96, 97, 102, 170,  
 246  
 School of Arts and Technical College, 5  
 School of Arts Committee, 14, 68, 70, 72, 74,  
 80, 102, 104, 108, 170  
 School of Mines, 24, 29, 61, 71, 72, 73, 76,  
 77, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85, 90, 92, 93,  
 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 105, 170, 215  
 Schools, 28  
 Schools of Mines and Metallurgical Works,  
 97  
 Schwartz, Mr. I., 218  
 Scott, William, 23, 112, 128

Scottish Band, 194  
 Scottish Mine Gympie, 18  
 Sellheim, Mr. P.F., 24  
 Seven and Eight Claims South Monkland, 18  
 Seven-Mile Hotel, 153  
 Shepherd, Mr. S., 195  
 Shropshire, 31, 32, 33, 36, 40, 263  
 Silverwood Butter Factory, 175  
 Silverwood Dairy Factory Company, 177  
 Silverwood Model Dairy Company, 175  
 Simpson, Mr. A., 89, 94, 95  
 Six Mile Creek, 10, 215, 216  
 Skinner, Mr. William, 191, 192  
 Smith, Mr Darby, 174  
 Smith, Mr. C.P., 189  
 Smith, Mr. James, 192  
 Smith, Mr. W.L., 192  
 Smithfield, 12, 17, 18, 192, 234, 237  
 Smithfield and Phoenix Golden Pile, 18  
 Smithfield Tributors of No.2 south, 192  
 Smyth, Mr. William. MLA, 81  
 Soblusky, Mr. O.K., 218  
 Sorrenson, Mr. J. road contractor, 168  
 South Glanmire and Monkland, 17, 238  
 South O'Donahue and New Zealand Tribute,  
 17  
 South Smithfield and Glanmire, 18  
 Squire, Mr. J.W., 218  
 St Helena and Dunwich Missions, 182  
 St Kilda and Harkins Mine, 18  
 St Patrick's Catholic Church, 114, 191  
 St Patrick's Day Sports Day, 134  
 Stancombe, Mr. Abel, 218  
 State School, One-Mile, 28  
 Staunton's Chess Book, 70  
 Steele, Mr. C.B., 94, 95, 149  
 Stewart, Mr. A., 94, 95  
 Stinging tree, 8  
 Stock Exchange, 9, 10, 29, 96, 251  
 Strakosch Sohn, Austria, 125  
 Stuart, Clarendon Licensed Surveyor, 5,  
 126, 186  
 Stuart, Mr. D.G., 72  
 Stumm, Mr. J. MLA, 89  
 Stupart, Mr. G., 68, 117  
 Sudbury, Mr. A.G., 218  
 Sullivan, Mr. P.A., 94  
 Sultana, 34, 36  
 Sunshine Coast Regional Council, 45  
 Surface Hill Wesleyan Church, 47, 53, 55,  
 56, 184, 243, 246  
 Surgeon Superintendent, 190, 191  
 Sweeney, Mr. James, 192  
 Sydney, 6, 8, 9, 14, 52, 53, 65, 129, 164, 238,  
 240, 262, 268, 269  
 Sydney Morning Herald, 6, 52, 238, 240,  
 268  
 Sykes, Mr. F.B, 105  
 Taylor, Albert Charles, 42  
 Taylor, Henry David, 42, 259  
 Telegraph Operator, 29  
 Temperance Hall, 64  
 Tewantin, 10, 29  
 The Bundaberg Mail, 89  
 The Capricornian, 76, 240  
 The Chess Club, 117  
 The Clock Tower, 219  
 The Dunn-Killans Mine, 18  
 The Encyclopedea Britannica, 70  
 The Gympie Agricultural Mining and  
 Pastoral Society (GAMPS), 153  
 The Gympie Miner, 89  
 The Gympie Musical and Dramatical  
 Society, 117  
 The Hon. A. Rutledge, 100  
 the Hon. A. Rutledge (Acting Premier), 99  
 the Hon. J. Leahy, 99  
 The Hon. J. M. Macrossan, 83  
 The Light Brigade, 190  
 The Manchester Examiner, 76  
 The Northern Advocate, 70  
 The Patriotic League, 219  
 The Queenslander, 9, 29, 38, 40, 43, 46, 47,  
 53, 54, 62, 69, 124, 129, 134, 145, 156,  
 173, 177, 191, 196, 202, 205, 210, 240,  
 241, 268  
 The Toowoomba Chronicle, 89  
 The White Sewing Machine Co, 125  
 Theatre Royal Building, 114  
 Third Annual Royal Queensland Show, 41  
 Thomas Harris, 23  
 Thomas, Mr. A., 192  
 Thomas, Mr. W.E., 94, 95  
 Thrower, George, 64, 71, 189  
 Thrower's Hotel, 71  
 Tiaro Shire, 108  
 Timms, Mary Ann, 44  
 Tinonee, 130  
 Todd, Mr. J., 218  
 Toms, Mr. G., 69  
 Toowoomba, 76, 89, 157, 159, 177, 187,  
 191  
 Town Hall Clock, 204  
 Town Police Act, 205  
 Tozer, Vivian H., 60  
 Traveston,, 10, 20, 113  
 Trinity College London, 89, 90

Trueman, Mr. S., 218  
 Turk, Mr. W.F., 152  
 Two-Mile State School, 28  
 Typhoid fever, 43, 197  
 Union Saw Mills, 88  
 Upper Mary River Goldfield, 7  
 Varieties Hotel, 221  
 Victoria, 8, 12, 17, 28, 82, 99, 122, 171, 192,  
 218, 222, 249  
 Victoria Machine, 192  
 Victoria Prospect Claim, 17  
 Volunteer military forces, 245, 249  
 Walker, Mr. Harry fireman, 228  
 Walker, Mr. W.H., 203  
 Wall, Mr. A.L., 78  
 Wallace, Mr. T.B., 78  
 Wallace, Mr. W (Warwick), 222  
 Wallman, Mr. H.F., 169  
 Walsh, Mr. W., 189  
 Warren Hastings whole line:, 192  
 Water Works Sub-Committee, 115, 228, 231  
 Watts Street, 213, 221  
 Webster, Reverend M., 239  
 Wesleyan Methodist Surface Hill Church, 6  
 Wesleyan Parsonage in Toowong, 55  
 West Coast Hotel, 126  
 West of Scotland Mine, 18  
 Western Oriental Consols, 18  
 Whinefield, Mr. H., 192  
 Wide Bay Amateur Minstrels, 69  
 Wide Bay and Burnett News, 69  
 Wide Bay and Burnett Pastoral and  
 Agricultural Society, 155  
 Wide Bay Cooperative, 177  
 Wide Bay Dairy Cooperative, 177  
 Wide Bay Regional Council, 106  
 Widgee Board, 168, 218, 225  
 Widgee Crossing, 180  
 Widgee Division and the Borough of  
 Gympie, 29  
 Widgee Divisional Board, 114, 123, 168,  
 175, 222, 229  
 Widgee Shire Council, 106, 173, 261  
 Williams, Mr. David, 181  
 Wilson, Beth, 61, 254, 265, 266, 269  
 Wilson, Kevin. Director of the Noosa  
 Regional Gallery, 106  
 Women's Christian Temperance Union, 178  
 Woodbine Street, 230  
 Woodrow, James, 43  
 Woodrow, Miss Agnes, 53  
 Woodrow, Mr. J, 69, 146, 218  
 Woolgar, Mr. W.C. Woolgar, 105  
 Woondum, 44, 45  
 Woondum Rifle Club, 45  
 Workers' Organisation, 218  
 Workers' Political Organistion, 218  
 Works Committee, 212, 213, 230  
 Woronora Cemetery in Sutherland, 52  
 Wyman, Mr. H. (Ipswich), 222  
 Yandina, 216  
 Yangan Cheese Factory, 157  
 Yaralla, 130  
 You Yangs, 129  
 Young Men's Christian Association Hall, 47  
 Young, Mr. J., 69  
 Youngman, Reverend E., 181, 182  
 Zealand, 8, 13, 17, 18, 24, 82, 113, 192, 219,  
 222, 245, 258, 262



