

Welcome to our July 2015 Conference Newsletter

Countdown.... only 8 weeks till the Conference. It's all go, go, go here! We hope that you are creating your own positive expectations in advance of the Fair and Conference and that you are scheduling in extra time to visit some of the things that the Port Macquarie area has to offer in springtime.

Here at PM Conference HQ, we would like to share with you the remarkable effort that our Model Member Richard Grimmond, is making to manufacture 20 model lighthouses representing our iconic Tacking Point Lighthouse at Port Macquarie, to decorate each table at the Conference Dinner.

Richard's model making skills date from his boyhood – if you are into "I remember when" that's when young boys were making balsa wood model aeroplanes, not playing with their iPads!

Right is a photo of Richard and his production line of the various parts used to make each lighthouse (complete with flashing light). The photo below that is of Richard filing one of the scores of tiny supports for each walkway

Richard has made many models over the years:

- Early Port Macquarie with the three sailing ships of our "First Fleet" coming into Port Macquarie (now in PM Maritime Museum)
- A model of 1831 Port Macquarie with the position of each building taken from an early surveyor's drawing (model in PM Museum)
- A model of the shingled roofed mansion and elaborate stables that Major Archibald Innes built at Lake Innes in 1840 (displayed at Lake Innes Shopping Centre for many years, but now at the National Parks Office at Blackbutt Road, Port Macquarie)

Richard has also written numerous articles and conducted many tours of historic Port Macquarie ... and our hard working model maker is a young 88 years old!

Of course, having these model lighthouses means we need to set the scene, so there's been a flurry of activity to make table runners, collect certain decorative objects ... but wait, let's not spoil the element of discovery on the night where we will also celebrate our Society's 30th anniversary!

The Early Bird discount has ended but there's still time to register for the Conference as the cut-off date for booking is 28th August. Check out the website often for more information.

There will be lots to enjoy at the Fair – we love that many of our Exhibitors (commercial and family history societies) are booking their spaces with requests to be next to "so and so" because they are friends and can help each other out when one needs a wee break. Wonderful – everyone is enthusiastic.

During Friday Fair day, there are a number of options for light refreshments. There is a café and a bistro on the ground floor of Panthers. Adjoining Panthers there are a number of outlets in the food court (Coffee Club, Gloria Jeans, Subway and others) and a Woolworths supermarket.



*Jennifer Mullin (Conference Convener)
On behalf of the 2015 Conference Committee*