



**Taralga Historical Society**  
**83 Orchard Street**  
**Taralga 2580**

**Taralga Historical Museum**  
SETTLER'S COTTAGE AND HERITAGE DISPLAYS  
Open most Saturdays from 10am-2pm or by appointment

**President: Maureen Long 0417 042 303**  
**Secretary: Chris Ainsworth 0418 919 357**  
**Treasurer: Judith Matthews 4843 3004**

**Aim: To preserve history of Taralga & District for future generations**

**Newsletter No 1, 2022**

**\*\*MEMBERSHIPS DUE\*\* \$20**

### **Presidents Report:**

Our Christmas get together was held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, at the Sports Club. A lovely afternoon tea was enjoyed by all.

Ashley Fitzgibbon has donated 3 more family ledgers. One is for the Royal Hotel Taralga, Licensee Michael Fitzgibbon dated from 1905, listing a lot of local names.

Member Robyn (Rabjohns) Duncan has presented the Society with a large monetary gift. We can't thank you enough Robyn for your generosity. The money will certainly go to a worthwhile project that is in the pipeline!

Our AGM was held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, with all executive positions remaining the same.

Thank you so much to members for trimming the trees and cleaning up the gardens on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Looking good!!

The Taralga Show was being held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March, now postponed to 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March due to the extreme wet conditions. Our members will be helping to man the BBQ on both days, if you haven't registered to help, please do, we need all the help we can get!! THS will also have a display.

October is fast approaching, the weekend we are celebrating THS being 50 years old! Please everyone make suggestions, what would you like to see at this event. Older members in particular who have been there since or nearly since the beginning!

Membership payments are now due for 2022. Details of direct payments on last page.

## Royal Hotel



1860 this land was owned by McCormack.

Then a stone two storey building.

The original applicant for a licence for the "Royal" at Taralga was John McCormack in 1865.

After holding it for five years McCormack departed and a string of licensees followed:

James Burnett in 1872, John Quinn Junior 1873 - 1874 (related to the Mooneys), William Larkin 1874 - 1875, Robert Weekes 1876 and Thomas Weekes 1878 - 1879.

**In 1880 Michael Fitzgibbon acquired the licence, beginning a marathon term which lasted well into the twentieth century.**

In 1907 John Marmont held the licence.

### AFTERNOON TEA FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS



**Chris Ainsworth, Randall Vlietstra,  
Jason Voorwinden & Mick Chalker**



**Helena Hopkins, Esther Voorwinden  
Vicki Moloney and Annette Chalker**



**Joan Scott, Esma Faucett, Pat Murray,  
and Penny Gordon**



**Tim Fishburn, Ernie Stephenson  
and Tim Dowsley**

## **Kevin and Sue McIntosh**

*Have written a book about James McIntosh and his family titled*

### **THE HIGHLAND SHEPHERD**

*Kevin is a descendent of James McIntosh who is the father of*



**Jessie (Janet) Douglas aka  
GRANNY DOUGLAS.**

**A well known Bannaby resident  
1815 - 1893**

**Jessie married:**

**1. Angus McDonald in 1835**

**2. George Abercromby Douglas in 1840**

**Her daughter Mary McDonald married**

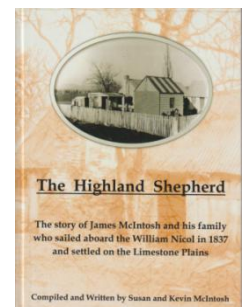
**James Alders., together they had 12 children.**

**Lots of Taralga families descend from this line - Godfrey, Chalker,  
Blay Connor, Barrett, Fleming and McKinnon**



*Kevin and his wife presented a copy to the Society  
None of the McIntosh families now represented in our district are related!  
This McIntosh family settled at Majura near Canberra*

*There are very few copies left - please contact Maureen to order one*



**(These two women lived virtually next door at Newfoundland)**

## **Geoff Heffernan**

*Has written a book on the*

### **HEFFERNAN FAMILY OF GURRUNDAH**

*The story of John, Patrick, Mary and Margaret Heffernan  
from Kanturk in Ireland and their descendants in Australia.*



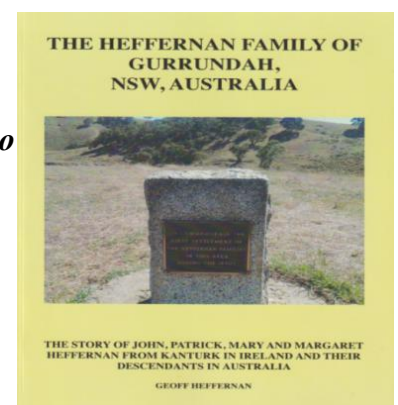
**Another well known resident of Bannaby  
Mary Heffernan  
1847 - 1928**

**Mary married James Connor in 1864**

**They had eight children who married into  
Rhall, Horne, Whipp, Todkill, Elliott,  
Keough and Batten families**

*Geoff has presented a copy to the Society*

*I will check with Geoff if further copies are requested - Maureen*



# Vale



## **Max Keith, OAM**

8.12.2021 aged 75 years

Husband of Sandra

Father and Father in Law of:

David and Donna, Stuart and Anita,

Greg & Gabi, Adrian and Kate

Grandfather of:

Mikayla, Emily, Laura, Sarah, Ella, Jackson and Oliver

## **WITHERS Una (nee Elliott)**

12.12.2021 aged 85 years late of Caboolture and formerly of Goulburn

Daughter of Bob and Sylvia Elliott of 'Wattle Vale' Bannaby

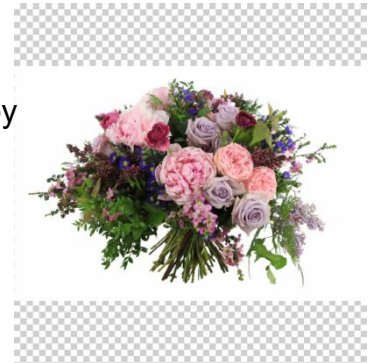
Sister of Lyle, Audrey and Patricia (all dec)

Wife of Alfred John (dec) Mother of

Julie, Phillip (dec), Robert, Patrick,

Mary, Paul, Margaret and partners.

Grandmother of 15, great grandmother of 2.



## **CORBY Daniel**

17.12.2021 aged 44 years

Son of Thea and Graeme (dec)

Brother of Gary and Amanda

Brother in law and Uncle



## **LANG Margaret (nee Webb)**

23.1.2022 aged 81 years

Daughter of Michael and Ena Webb (both dec)

Sister of Catherine, Marie, Brian (dec) Shirley

Wife of Bruce (dec)

Mother of:

Stuart, Michelle, and Merridee

Grandmother of:

Madeline, Lauren, Charlotte, Nicholas,

Zoe, Molly, Charlie, Elsie, Scarlet, Lylah and Cleo

## **BAXTER Allen** of Barrick Heights and formerly of Taralga

28.1.2022 aged 81 years

Third Son of Henry and Ruby Baxter (both dec)

Brother of Noel, Gordon and Neville (all dec)

Husband of Mary (Kelly)

Father of Steven, Debra, Mark and Leanne

Grandfather of eight





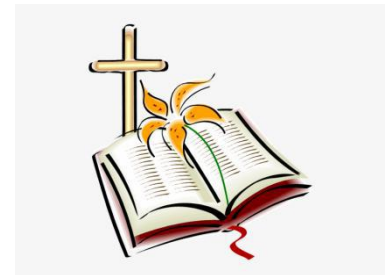
**Margaret (Webb) Lang** lived her whole life in Taralga and district of Wombeyan Caves. She attended Sacred Heart Convent School, and later worked at the Telephone Exchange for many years. The exchange is now proudly displayed in our museum. Margaret was the first Organiser to clean up Stonequarry Cemetery. She and her team removed the fences dividing the Religious sections, cleared all the blackberry vines and general untidiness to present the site in a much more organised and pleasant manner. Her ongoing clean ups made things a lot easier for the current team to clean and restore headstones and graves, and research and place plaques on unmarked graves.

Margaret was a long time member of the Taralga Historical Society.

## CONGRATULATIONS FR MARK



Fr Mark Croker, Silver Jubilee  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination Mass  
at Christ the King Church Taralga  
19<sup>th</sup> February



Fr Mark Croker, Silver Jubilee Celebration 19<sup>th</sup> February  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination Mass at Christ the King Church Taralga  
Son of Joe (dec) and Joan

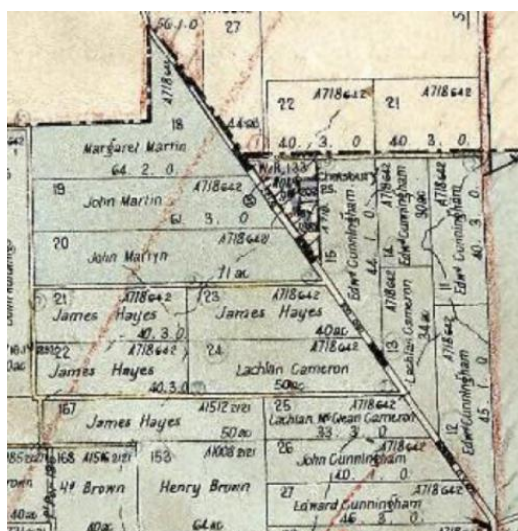
## Chatsbury Hotel and Post Office

Researched and compiled by Penny Gordon

The story of the Chatsbury Hotel starts with the Martin family. John Martin was born in Somerset England in 1807. He received a life sentence, and arrived in New South Wales in 1826 on the "Marquis of Hastings". According to the 1828 Census, he was assigned to Mr MacArthur of Strathaird, Cookbundoon. He received his Ticket of Leave on 26 September 1835. On 5<sup>th</sup> May 1842, he was granted permission to marry Margaret McDonald, they married on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1842. Margaret was the daughter of Donald McDonald and Catherine Cameron. She was born in Inverness Scotland in 1823. The McDonald family arrived in New South Wales in 1839 on the "British King".

John Martin received a pardon on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1843, the pardon was recommended by Charles Cowper. John Martin's occupation at the time of pardon was footman. From baptism records for their older children, John and Margaret's address in 1844, was Tarlow (sic) River, by 1848, they were living at Strathaird, by 1850 they were living at Carrabungla, and by 1855, it was Cotton Valley (near Laggan, now known as Cotta Walla).

In 1857, multiple blocks of land were released in the Chatsbury area, they were auctioned on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1857. John Martin is recorded as purchasing 71 acres. John subsequently bought the adjoining block, and Margaret bought the one next to that. The map below shows the names of other original block owners from this time.



Newspaper reports from the mid-1860s onwards show that meetings and community events were regularly held at Martins. In 1866, meetings were held there to support the establishment of a Public School at Chatsbury. This was subsequently built opposite the hotel, and John Martin was a member of the original school board. Along with other residences in the area, Mass was regularly celebrated there as well. Inquests were also held there regularly, and it was also regularly used as a polling place for elections. Due to the time taken to travel between Taralga and Goulburn, it became a regular stopover for locals travelling there and back.

John Martin died 14 August 1874 at Red Hill, Chatsbury. According to his death notice the procession was "at the River." John's place of burial has not been found.

In May 1878, Margaret Martin was granted a licence for the Chatsbury Hotel<sup>1</sup>. Her address was listed as Chatsbury Hotel, Red Hill, Chatsbury. She held the licence until her death, some 24 years later.

In May 1882, Margaret applied for her licence to be renewed. The Sub Inspector reported that the house did not come up to the standard of the Act, but that it was well furnished and well conducted. The licence was renewed, subject to required improvements being met<sup>2</sup>. In January 1883, Margaret was one of many licencees to lodge a declaration that required improvements in their houses had been made, and for whom the Licencing Court Bench approved the declarations and confirmed their licences<sup>3</sup>.

In March 1884, when Mrs Cunningham who was postmistress at Tarlo resigned, Margaret Martin was appointed her successor, and the Post Office was moved from Tarlo to Red Hill. Red Hill was recommended as a convenient and central location, and no one was willing to take on the role at Tarlo at the salary offered<sup>4</sup>. Sureties for the bond of £200 were posted by Thomas Taylor, farmer of Taralga, and Charles McAlister, Hotelkeeper Auburn Street Goulburn, Mrs Martin commenced duties on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1884<sup>5</sup>. The Post Office was run adjacent to the Chatsbury Hotel.

Many of the Tarlo residents protested the removal of the Tarlo Post Office to Chatsbury. As a result, the Post Office was reinstated at Tarlo, with Mr J Cunningham appointed as Post Master, and the new Post Office to be continued at Mrs Martin's (to be called Chatsbury Post Office)<sup>6</sup>.

In 1891 Margaret's son Ranald was granted a slaughtering licence for the premises.<sup>7</sup> In 1896 it was reported that Margaret had been seriously ill for some time, having been confined to her bed for almost twelve months, was on her way to recovery<sup>8</sup>. This may be connected to a fall she suffered at the Hotel in 1895, when she suffered a fracture of both bones near the ankle<sup>9</sup>. From other news articles, it appears Ranald ran the business on her behalf during this time.

When Margaret applied for the Hotel licence renewal in 1899, initial objections against the application, on the grounds that outbuildings required work on them, these were subsequently withdrawn as the work had been completed.<sup>10</sup>

As well as the Primary School, a tennis court and cricket pitch were also located opposite the Hotel. Many social occasions were held here, frequently catered for by the Martin family.

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1 The Goulburn Herald and Chronicle 15th May 1878 Page 2

2 Goulburn Evening Penny Post 20th May 1882 Page 3

3 Goulburn Herald 27 January 1883 Page 3

4 Goulburn Herald 27 March 1884 Page 2

5 National Archives of Australia Chatsbury Post Office File 1884 - 1917, downloaded 5 November 2011

6 Goulburn Herald 24 April 1884 Page 2

7 Goulburn Evening Penny Post 13 August 1891 Page 4

8 Goulburn Herald 12 August 1896 Page 4

9 Goulburn Evening Penny Post 13 July 1895 Page 2

10 Goulburn Herald 26 June 1899 Page 3

Mary Margaret Martin, daughter of Margaret, was Assistant Post Mistress, and in 1902, applied to take on the Post Mistress' role, as a result of her mother's declining health. She was appointed Post Mistress and commenced duties on 17 June 1902.



*Chatsbury Hotel c.1900. The people in the picture are members of the Martin family. The original photo is owned by Mrs Rita Tyrrell, a descendant of the Martin family*

Margaret Martin died on 15 June 1902 aged 66, and was buried at Stonequarry Cemetery Taralga. Her obituary stated that two other Chatsbury residents had been shipmates with her on the "British King", Ranald McDonald and John McCallum, that all three lived within a radius of a few miles, and all three had died within a few months of each other<sup>11</sup>.

In September 1902 Joseph Müller (Miller), Margaret's son-in-law, applied for permission to carry on the Chatsbury Hotel until the expiration of the current licence, to conduct the hotel temporarily until the hotel was sold. The application was granted on the understanding that the applicant lived at the hotel<sup>12</sup>.

Mary Martin married Edward Michael Hughes on 29 April 1903. In May and June 1903, the Chatsbury Hotel was listed to be auctioned on 13 June, if this auction went ahead, it appears to have been passed in.

An application for a renewal of the hotel licence held by Joseph Müller was withdrawn in June 1903, as the hotel had not yet been sold as per the terms of the 1902 licence, he stated he would make an application for a fresh licence<sup>13</sup>.

In June 1903, the Hotel was again listed to be auctioned on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jul 1903<sup>14</sup>, it was sold to Mrs E M Hughes for £69<sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup>.

In July 1903, Joseph Müller applied for a new licence for the Chatsbury Hotel<sup>17</sup>. Objections lodged by the licensing inspector were: Premises were dilapidated; Licensee resided some distance away and it would not be convenient for him to reside at the hotel; Minimum accommodation under the Act was not provided and

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<sup>11</sup> Goulburn Herald 16 June 1902 Page 3

<sup>12</sup> Goulburn Evening Penny Post 30 September 1902 Page 4

<sup>13</sup> Goulburn Evening Penny Post 22nd June 1903 Page 2

<sup>14</sup> Goulburn Herald 26th June 1903 Page 5

<sup>15</sup> Goulburn Evening Penny Post 4th July 1903

<sup>16</sup> Goulburn Herald 3rd July 1903 Page 2

<sup>17</sup> Goulburn Evening Penny Post 28 July 1903 Page 4



Application was not made in applicant's interest, but in that of Mrs Hughes who recently purchased the property. Evidence at this time stated there were seven bedrooms, four of which were being used by family members. This hearing was adjourned until 13<sup>th</sup> August.

Evidence given at the resumed August hearing stated that there were eight bedrooms in the house, three of these would be occupied by family members (Mr and Mrs Hughes in one, Phillip Martin and Joseph Müller in another, and the Misses Müller in the third), leaving five bedrooms for the public. The other rooms in the house were a front room, a dining room and a bar. A petition signed by over 400 people in favour of the licence being granted had been submitted. The licence was approved, subject to the applicant residing on the premises and required repairs were completed<sup>18 19</sup>.

After the residents of Chatsbury made an application for the connection of Chatsbury to the Goulburn Telephone Exchange in April 1905, approval was granted in June 1905, and a telephone was granted to the Chatsbury Post Office. Hours of operation were 9 am to 6 pm, excluding a meal hour<sup>20</sup>.

When Joseph applied to renew the licence in July 1906, the original hearing was postponed, as an objection against the application had been lodged, on the grounds that he was not on the premises as often as he should be.

Mary Hughes (nee Martin) continued on as Post Mistress until 1907, when Robert Gordon (Sen) took over the licence and took on the role as Post Master. A farewell for Mr and Mrs Hughes and Mr R Martin was held at the Hotel on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1907<sup>21</sup>, prior to their taking up residence at Wombeyan Caves. Robert, his wife Kate (nee Mooney) and their 2 young sons Robert and Kevin moved in soon after.

In the letter approving Robert as the new Post Master, mention was made that the Mrs Hughes "conducts the duties in premises adjacent to, but not under the Hotel roof, and Mr R A Gordon who has purchased the business proposes to carry on the duties of the Post Office in the premises as hitherto"<sup>22</sup>. The annual allowance at that time was £16 per annum plus a "scale rate" for telegrams. The same letter stated that Mr Gordon had resigned his position with the Railway Department "in order to undertake Hotelkeeping and sheep farming with a view of improving his prospects".

Robert became very involved in local sports, both competing and supporting. In October 1908 he hosted a programme of various events at the Hotel, including bicycle races, athletics, quoits, and a foot race handicap with a prize of 30 shillings<sup>23</sup>. It may be that the below photo was taken at this time. From newspaper articles, it appears that he sponsored and hosted similar sporting events for several years

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18 Goulburn Evening Penny Post 18th August 1903 Page 4

19 Goulburn Herald 17th August 1903 Page 2

20 Goulburn Evening Penny Post 15 June 1905 Page 4

21 Goulburn Evening Penny Post 27 June 1907 Page 4

22 National Archives of Australia Letter of approval from Postal Inspector 13 May 1907, downloaded 5 November 2011

23 Goulburn Evening Penny Post 26 September 1908 Page 5



*Chatsbury Hotel c. 1907. The gentleman third from left is Robert Gordon (Sen), the woman next to him is likely his wife Kate. The original photo is held by the Taralga Historical Society.*

In 1911, Robert successfully applied for permission to make improvements to the Hotel. These changes were the erection of a new dining room and kitchen, thoroughly renovating the hotel<sup>24</sup>.

In 1917, Robert bought the adjoining "Glenroy" property from the McCallum brothers. This property had previously been owned by James Hayes<sup>25</sup>. This allowed Robert to expand his farming pursuits. His farming prowess was regularly reported in local papers, regularly harvesting bumper crops, and achieving good prices for the sale of his cattle and sheep. In correspondence from the District Inspector, there were 4 subscribers to the Chatsbury Telephone Exchange in 1917.



*Chatsbury Hotel 1924*

The Gordons purchased the former Prince of Wales Hotel about 1927. The licence for the Chatsbury Hotel was eventually transferred to the Prince of Wales Hotel, after multiple application rejections. The Chatsbury Hotel closed its doors for the last time on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1928, and the new Hotel Gordon opened on 20 March 1928<sup>26</sup>.

The Post Office and Telephone Exchange continued to be run by members of the Gordon family at Chatsbury until about 1966. The last post mistress was Gena Gordon. During the 1965 Chatsbury bushfire, Gena was assisted by her daughter-in-law in running the Telephone Exchange. When Gena was admitted to hospital in Canberra in 1966, her husband Bert, moved into Goulburn, and lived with his sisters Lil Gordon and Jean Bowerman at the Hotel Gordon.

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<sup>24</sup> Goulburn Evening Penny Post 23 September 1911 Page 2

<sup>25</sup> Australian Town and Country Journal 7 August 1907 Page 6

<sup>26</sup> Goulburn Evening Penny Post 21 March 1928 Page 2



*Old Chatsbury Hotel c. 1964  
Gena Gordon (nee Cunningham), Ron Gordon, George Cummins*

The house remained unoccupied until the property was sold about 1992. The new owner, undertook significant renovations to the old hotel, and built a new house set back further from the road. He merged this with his existing property, "Gordonvale". "Gordonvale" was sold again in the early 2000s. The old hotel is now operated as an Airbnb.



*Old Chatsbury Hotel 2008*

#### Martin Family:

The children of John Martin and Margaret Mary McDonald were:

- William J Martin (1843 – 1898)
- Catherine Martin (1846 – 1874) married James Siddons – children: James, Sarah Ann, John and Donald Siddons
- Rebecca Mary Martin (1848 – 1888) married John Murphy – children: Terrence J Murphy
- Phillip Martin (1850 – 1905)
- Flora Mary Martin married Joseph Müller (Miller) – children: John Joseph, Anthony, Julia, Mary Anne, Margaret, Sarah A, Francis Patrick and Rebecca Flora Miller
- Anne Martin (1853 – 1902)
- Mary Margaret Martin (1855 – 1933) married Edward Michael Hughes
- Donald Joseph Martin (1858 – 1921) married Elizabeth Agnes Hughes – children: Mary Genevieve and William L Martin
- Ranald Joseph Martin (1860 – 1925) married Margaret Augusta Byrne
- Sarah Ann Clare Martin (1864 – 1901) married James Joseph Hanly – children: Thomas Patrick and James Harold Hanly



## Museum Duty

Saturdays 10am-2pm

**MEMBERSHIPS DUE \$20**

**DIRECT BANKING:**

**Taralga Historical Society Inc**

**BSB: 062 545**

**ACC: 1004 0942**

### March

**Saturday 5**

Brian Moloney, Robert Rabjohns, Allan Robertson, Martin Walsh, Norm Maroney

**Saturday 12**

Chris Ainsworth, Danielle Green, Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler, Tim Dowsley

**Saturday 19**

Maureen, Joan, Pat , Elaine, Karen, Penny

**Saturday 26**

Mick & Annette Chalker, Graham Lambert Laurie Halpin, Andrew Moore,

### April

**Saturday 2**

Peter & Jenny Haigh, Bob Blay, Peter Davies

**Saturday 9**

Tim Dowsley, Lindsay Benfell, Judith Matthews, Robyn Alders,

**Saturday 16**

Maureen, Joan, Pat , Elaine, Karen, Penny

**Saturday 23**

Judy & Jeff Chalker, Helena Hopkins, Margaret McIntosh

**Saturday 30**

Chris Ainsworth, Danielle Green, Mat Chalker, Graham & Sue Lambert,

### May

**Saturday 7**

Mick & Annette Chalker, Jim Dean, Martin Walsh, Brian Moloney

**Saturday 14**

Chris Ainsworth, Peter & Margaret McAlister, Robert Rabjohns, Allan Robertson

**Saturday 21**

Maureen, Joan, Pat , Elaine, Karen, Penny

**Saturday 28**

Tim Dowsley, Brian Moloney, Vlad & Galina Balashov, Norm Maroney, Peter Davies

### June

**Saturday 4**

Graham Lambert, Bob Blay, Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler, Andrew Moore

**Saturday 11**

Judy & Jeff Chalker, Laurie Halpin, Jenny & Peter Haigh

**Saturday 18**

Maureen, Joan, Pat , Elaine, Karen, Penny

**Saturday 25**

Tim Dowsley, Chris Ainsworth, Danielle Green, Emily Purser, Judith Matthews,

**If anyone has been left off the roster in error, please let us know,  
we need all members possible**

**If anyone has any problems with their days, please change with someone else  
or contact Maureen**

### **March/April Reminders**

**Mar 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Taralga Show**

**April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Taralga Garden Club**

**Mar 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Taralga Show**

**April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Good Friday**

**Mar 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Canberra Day**

**April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter Sunday**

**Mar 17<sup>th</sup>**

**St Patrick's Day**

**April 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter Monday**

**Mar 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Taralga Garden Club**

**April 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Anzac Day**

**April 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Term One ends SCHOOL**

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Term Two starts**

**TARALGA SHOW NOW 26<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

