



## Taralga Historical Society Inc

83 Orchard Street

Taralga NSW 2580



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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, 2020**

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

### **Outgoing Presidents Report:**

Hello all, what a mixed up year we have experienced, firstly an horrendous drought of the likes some may have not experienced, particularly the lack of groundwater. We have also experienced up and down the eastern states of Australia, horrendous bushfires which could well be Australia's greatest natural disaster.

The Museum and infrastructure are being maintained in a presentable condition with repairs and maintenance being undertaken as required.

The Upper Lachlan Council has addressed the non-compliance of pathways involving the Masonic Hall. (Thanks Council). Many heritage items have been donated during the year and most will be suitably displayed. The major event of the year for the district as you are no

doubt aware was the T200 weekend (a taste of Taralga), celebrating two hundred years of European settlement of the district. A phenomenal achievement by the committee and the community in general.

Mary Chalker produced a book of Chalker History.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the outgoing executive for their tireless work throughout the past year. I would also like to thank all the members and non-members who tirelessly give up their precious time and effort to ensure that the Taralga Historical Society continues to be a major tourism attraction for Taralga.

At this point in time I wish to advise that I am not standing for re-election for the position of President or any other executive position. However, I have enjoyed my reign immensely and trust that I may have made a useful contribution to the organisation.

I am not going away and look forward to undertaking works and maintenance as required.

Kind regards

Michael Chalker

**ELECTED EXECUTIVE FOR 2020**

**PRESIDENT: Maureen Long**

**SECRETARY: Chris Ainsworth**

**TREASURER: Judith Matthews**

**VICE PRESIDENTS: Pat Murray, Tim Dowsley**

**HON AUDITOR: Glenys Wright PUBLIC OFFICER: Bob Blay**

**PUBLICITY: Mary Mooney NEWSLETTER: Maureen Long**

**ARCHIVES: Mary Chalker, Helena Hopkins, Margaret McIntosh, Chris Ainsworth  
Maureen Long**

**CATERING: Judith Chalker, Annette Chalker, Pat Murray, Elaine Connor  
Margaret McAlister**

**GROUNDNS: Matt Chalker**

**GARDENS: Annette Chalker, Elaine Connor**

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**WORKING BEE: - WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - FROM 10AM**

**Please bring tools and cleaning equipment to do outside - and inside buildings**

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**STONEQUARRY CEMETERY WORKS**

**The 187 new plaques have been made for the known unmarked graves, and it is proposed that they be fixed to the cement headstones (already in place) MID MARCH**

**AS MANY MEN AS POSSIBLE NEEDED TO CARRY THIS JOB OUT.**

**Exact date will depend on weather etc - please check on progress with Maureen Long**

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***CHANGES & DIRECTION***

***We would like to hear from all members on what direction you would like our Society to take -***

***Open Days - cosmetic changes etc - functions etc, anything you think is needed.***

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**8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - GENERAL MEETING 2PM MASONIC HALL**

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**GUEST SPEAKER**

**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**Her Excellency**

**Dato Sudah Devi**

**High Commissioner of Malaysia to Australia**

**This will be a social gathering (no meeting) and afternoon tea**

**2PM**

**MEMBERS AND YOUR GUESTS - LADIES A PLATE PLEASE**

**SCHOOL OF ARTS - Goulburn Evening Penny Post Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July 1906**

*(Situated on the corner of Orchard and Court Streets)*

The annual general meeting of the School of Arts was held in the institute on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> instant, and there was a fair attendance of members.

The Rev C. Crane, B.A., vice-president, occupied the chair, and after the transaction of formal business, the treasurer (Mr. R. Sullivan J.P.) presented his financial statement for the past year. This document showed that the receipts for the year were £50.4.4d, and the expenditure £42.17.9d, leaving a credit balance of £7.6.7d.

The secretary's annual report read as follows:- "In submitting the report for the past year, your committee are desirous at the outset to pay a tribute to the memory of one who served the institute for a long number of years, and who died in harness, viz., the late president, Mr. W.H. Whiting J.P., who was prominent in founding the institute in 1898, and who was a trustee and three times president since. Elected to the committee in May, 1898, he held office uninterruptedly in that capacity till his death on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1905. As a mark of respect to the late president, your committee, refrained from filling the vacancy thus created".

"During the year your committee was called upon to accept the resignation of the librarian (Miss Hughes) and Miss Teresa Morris was elected to the position. The change has resulted in a slight saving to the institution".

"During the year a number of books have been added to the library, and several magazines and papers to the reading room".



School of Arts circa early 1950's

Has now been renovated and is a family home

**SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 6 JAN, 2020 - by Richard Glover**

Thank goodness for neighbours in disastrous times like these

The fires leave terrible destruction in their wake, but they also leave deeper human bonds. I know that sounds trite, but I've seen it happen during this terrible week. Maybe you've experienced something similar.

For me, the setting is Wombeyan Caves, and the small community of people who live scattered in the wild hills that surround the caves. The area has been under attack for the last seven days. Yesterday, it stormed through once more.

I was safe in my radio studio in Sydney. It was my neighbours who saved the mud brick house I helped build some decades ago.

Around midnight last night, one neighbour, Simon Chalker, sent me a message: A fire storm went through there. We couldn't believe it when we drove in and it was still there. We stayed for a few hours because the houses were still under ember attack. The shed is still there too. You lost the top of the septic tank so be careful walking around, not a nice thing to step into!"

There are still fires in the area, so the house could burn in the tough days and weeks that lie ahead. But with so much of the landscape burnt, it may have survived its biggest challenge.

You might image that, at a time like this, people would become selfish, trying to protect their own place; worried about how their own sheds and homes and stock will emerge.

I've seen little evidence of that. Instead, every moment seems to be spent worried about someone else.

The fire-fighting volunteers - putting themselves in the way of the flames - are the most obvious example of this spirit of generosity and community.

But other examples abound. Take the example of Andrea Harvey and her brumbies. She's a

vet and has established a sanctuary so she can study their biology and behaviour. There's a motley crew of about 30 animals, including some new-born foals, up in a large paddock, tucked into the hills.

We all walk up there, whenever we can, to marvel at their beauty.

When the fire hit last week, it raced towards the horses. The local Rural Fire Service brigades charged down the narrow dirt road towards them.

There was smoke everywhere and some very panicked animals. The brumbies are wild, but have become habituated to Andrea due to her care and kindness. As she emerged through the smoke and chaos, the horses saw her. Immediately they surrounded her, gathering close. She walked them to safety. The local fire crew drove back the fire front. That night Andrea wanted to sleep in the paddock so the horses would feel secure. The local RFS crews, with greatest respect, suggested that might not be sensible.

She knows them. They know her. She accepted their wise counsel. As of this morning, all the horses are still safe.

In this knot of hills, that's one story among many. I could tell of Peter's police officer daughter, working day and night, putting out flames, drafting her new husband into service.

Or Peter (Davies) himself, helping Andrea to source fresh water for the brumbies after the firefighters were forced to drain her dam.

Or the brigade from Cawdor, more than 100 kilometres away, who came to fight our edge of the fire, when they had their own fire front to worry about.

Or Mick (Chalker) our unofficial mayor, who knows every house and every dirt track and every available water source, and hasn't rested since this thing began.

Or Annette (Chalker), a local born and bred, who accepts the newcomers into her heart. I see her on Facebook, offering supplies, company, reassurance. "I feel better today," wrote Andrea, after a day in which her horses faced new threats, "Annette has given me a pep talk."



Annette even knows how to make us laugh. A few days ago, just as the pink cricket Test got under way in Sydney, the firefighters bombed the area around her house with fire retardant.

“What a great relief”, posted Annette alongside a shot of the reddened landscape. “Pink is my colour, and it was Jane McGrath Day.”

One day the bush will return. One day, the scars on the landscape will heal.

The locals, though, will never be the same. They’ve learnt something about each other. Amid the terror of the smoke and the flame, there’s also love and respect in those hills.



ABC Journalist Richard Glover with wife Debra Oswald (right) sit on a thrown out couch that has provided firefighters with relief in front of their Tallygang Mountain Road weekender. Pictured with Rural Fire Brigade Captain John Sullivan and member Peter Davies.

*Photo: Hannah Sparks*



Mick and Annette Chalker's Wombeyan Caves Sheds still standing after the Green Wattle Creek fire burnt around them.

Mick Chalker stands in the garden at his Wombeyan Caves home of 49 years spared from the fires, with dog Boof and Taralga Rural Fire Brigade Captain



John Sullivan.

*Photos by Hannah Sparks*



Ken Fleming's Shearing Shed that was lost in the fire . Ken built this shed himself.

The house on his property had stood since about 1930. It was built to replace another house that had burnt down, fortunately, this time the house was saved.

## Vale



Jodie (Fitzgibbon) Tremble

14.12.2019 aged 37 years

Daughter of Geoff and Kathleen (Marmont)

Sister of Kellie and Brad

Mother of Olivia

Result of road accident 5 kms north of Taralga



Sam McPaul

30.12 2019 aged 28 years

Grandson of

Beth and Ted (dec) McPaul

Son of Christine McPaul

Husband of Megan

Killed in the Fires near Albury



Sylvia (Connor) Arnett  
11.4.1911 - 6.1.2020 aged 108 years  
Daughter of  
George & Minie(Stephenson)Connor  
Sister of Dolly Gordon(dec)  
and Mary McInnes(dec)



Thelma McPaul  
24.6.1921 - 15.1.2020  
Daughter of  
Jack and May Alders  
Sister of Mary Handley (dec)  
Twin of Ella Menzies (dec)  
Sister of Enid McLean (dec)

Dulcie McAlister

27.12.2019 aged 85 years

Wife of Ted (dec)

Mother of

Shane, Bernadette(dec) Paul

#### GREEN VALLEY FIRE TRADEGY

Samuel McPaul 28, died 30<sup>th</sup> December 2019 after his 10 tonne truck flipped in the blaze near Jingellic, 70 klms east of Albury.

Sam who lived near the Holbrook area had been married for 18 months to Megan, and they

are expecting their first child on May 4.

Sam is the son of Christine McPaul, and grandson of Ted (dec) and Beth McPaul



Sam with his mother Christine and grandmother Beth



Sam with his wife Megan

**LEIGHWOOD** - *Goulburn Evening Penny Post Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1890*

A RELIC OF THE DARK AGES - Mr. T. Grundy, of Boree Creek, has discovered an interesting relic, once a treasured prize of an Aboriginal King, viz., a breastplate of bronze bearing the following inscription: -

**King John Manggamo, Chief of the Guranganlow Tribe, Argyle**

The plate is in the usual half-moon shape, and in the left hand corner is a blackfellow taking aim with a gun at a kangaroo that is sitting in the opposite corner. The plate is of excellent workmanship, and the engraving shows as plain as ever after being cleaned.

It was found in a mound raised by white ants, but some portions of rotten wood show plainly that a large tree once stood on the spot, and it is probable that sixty years have passed since the plate was made, as the oldest resident here has no recollection of a king bearing the above name. The last king that inhabited this part of the district was **Miranda**, chief of the Burra Burra tribe, and he has been dead 38 years.

A great many places in Argyle still bear the names given them by the aboriginals, but Gurranganlow I have never heard of. In the same place with the plate was found a tinder box, a short clay pipe, and several pieces of tin. The tin articles are in a fair state of preservation, and this leads one to the conclusion that the plate was originally in the cavity of a tree. It is possible that the bones of this sable monarch are resting near this spot.

This part of the district was once a favourite resort of the blacks, owing to the great numbers of fish that were once in the rivers and creeks. It was almost an every day sight forty years ago to see a tribe of from 40 to 60 blacks of all ages and sexes, but today we have not one left of any age. The last of the Burra tribe seen in this district were two gins - Charlotte and Jemima. Jemima died at Boree Creek 18 years ago, and Charlotte left the part soon after and I have not heard of her since. Jemima was married to George, the only son of Miranda, but he (George) never bore the title of king for the reason, I presume, that there was so few of his tribe left to govern.



This is NOT that breastplate

but is a similiar one

**TARALGA** - *Goulburn Evening Penny Post Saturday 7 November 1891*

**FIRE-** At about 7 o'clock on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> October, rather a serious fire occurred in Taralga, the whole of the premises used by Messrs, Rodman and Bazzan, storekeepers, as well as the contents being totally destroyed.

The fire originated in the shop, and was caused by the falling and subsequent explosion of a "Dupex" kerosene lamp, which had been suspended from the ceiling.

Mr. Hazzan, who was in charge of the premises during his partner's absence in Sydney, heard the crash of the lamp, and in a few seconds the whole place was enveloped in flames. A large number of people were soon on the spot, but the building being a wooden one, and the contents drapery, fancy goods, being highly inflammable, nothing could be done to stay the progress of the fire, and in a very short space of time everything was demolished, the back buildings alone being saved.

The premises were owned by Mr. P. Mullaney, of Goulburn, and were insured in the Victorian Office for £150, but this will not more than half cover the loss. The lessees Messrs Rodman

and Bazzan, had their stock insured in the Australian Mutual for £725, but they also will be heavy losers by the fire, as they value the stock destroyed at close on £900, and in addition to that they will lose their custom through being unable to carry on their business.

*This building would have been on the southern end of McArthur Street close to Walsh Street*

### **WATTLE DAY AT BANNABY - Goulburn Evening Penny Post 7 September 1911**

Friday last (1<sup>st</sup> September) being Wattle Day and also the monthly "Parents' Day" at Bannaby school, advantage was taken of these opportunities to celebrate in a small way the "birthday of the wattle".

The senior pupils had previously written out and mailed to each parent an invitation to be present, and twelve parents availed themselves of the invitation.

Nature study and correlated lessons dealing with the wattle occupied the attention of the pupils during the week, and poems, etc., were learned for recitation. On the morning each pupil brought a bunch of wattle for decorating purposes, and also wore a spray during the day. At 3 p.m. ordinary lessons were concluded, and after a brief address by Mr. Harris, outlining the Wattle Day movement and drawing attention to his objects, a short programme of songs, recitations etc., was carried out.

The following were among the most noticeable items: - Song, "The Thrush", infants; recitations, "When the Wattles Bloom", Arnold Harris; "The May Time", Alice Carter; "The Heart of the Bush", Redvers Carter; "Planting the Tree", senior class. Several essays on the wattle were read by the elder pupils, and showed much forethought in the preparation.

At the close the company adjourned to the play ground, where preparations had already been made for tree planting. Mrs. Larkin, wife of the president of the Bannaby Parents Association, planted the first wattle tree, others planted by Mesdames Carter, Cordingly, Clack, Whipp, Connor and Stephenson.

The pupils followed the proceedings with great interest, and judging by the cheers which were given at the conclusion of the performance, Wattle Day has made a lasting impression.



After dismissal each child was given a cake, and a scramble for lollies caused much delight. The adults were provided with afternoon tea, which was handed round by members of the Bannaby Cookery Class. From the expressions of pleasure by parents, it seems probable that Wattle Day will be an annual function at this school. The trees planted were kindly donated by Mr. G. Whipp, and Mrs Harris provided the refreshments and attended to the decoration of the school room, which looked extremely nice.



**Bannaby School about 1913**

**Back Row:** (1) Mr J..W.Harris (2) Edna Whipp (3) Myrtle Connor (4) Dolly Connor (5) Ida Halls (6) Muriel Whipp (7) Mildred Whipp (8) Alice Carter (9) Jack Elliott (10) Lionel Stephenson

**Second Row:** (1) Clem Elliott (2) Ern Stephenson (3) Roy Handley (4) Bill Elliott (5) Bill Connor (6) Jack Stephenson (7) Phil Stephenson (8) Albert Connor (9) Mrs Harris

**Third Row:** (1) Hazel Carter (2) Lalia Whipp (3) Mabel Connor (4) Mary Connor (5) Veronica Halls (6) Lilian Stephenson (7) Pearl Whipp (8) Lily Stephenson (9) Clarence Handley (1) Alwyn Stephenson

**On Ground:** (1) Jim Stephenson (2) Athol Cordingly (3) Peter Harris(4) Albion Halls (5) Max Halls (6) Jim Carter (7) Vincent (Tot) Connor (8) Sid Handley (9) George Stephenson (10) Dudley Harris (11) Arnold Harris (12) Ben Cordingly

**We are going to try opening the Museum Saturday and Sundays in April and May.**

**It seems a shame that we have this impressive complex, and it is only open  
once a week.**

**SATURDAY: 10AM - 2.30PM**

**SUNDAY: 11AM - 3PM**

## **Taralga Historical Society Members Museum Duty Roster**

### **February**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Glennis and Max Wright, Mick Chalker, Brian Kelly**

### **March**

**WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> WORKING BEE FROM 10AM**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler, Brian Corby, Judith Matthews**

**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL MEETING 2PM MASONIC HALL**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Peter and Margaret McAlister, Jim Dean, Chris Ainsworth**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray, Elaine Connor**

**Saturday 28 Mick and Annetter Chalker, Tim Dowsley**

### **April**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Bob Blay, Peter Davies, Laurie Halpin**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Chris Ainsworth, Brian Corby, Jim Dean**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Mary Chalker, Helena Keogh, Margaret McIntosh**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Ken Fleming, Graham Lambert, Pat Keough, Alan Robertson**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Elaine Connor, Pat Murray**

**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> GUEST SPEAKER - HER EXCELLENCY DATO SUDAH DEVI 2PM**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Matt & Vicki Chalker, Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Elaine Connor, Pat Murray**

### **May**

- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Jeff & Judy Chalker, Margaret & Peter McAlister
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>** Judith Matthews, Robert Rabjohns, Jason Voorwinden, Sandra Keith
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>** Bob Blay, Brian Kelly, Brian Moloney, Andrew Moore
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>** Glennis & Max Wright, Tim Dowsley
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Elaine Connor, Pat Murray
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>** Mick & Annette Chalker, Mary Chalker, Margaret Lang
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>** Chris Ainsworth, Matt & Vicki Chalker, Tim Dowsley
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>** Maureen Long, Joan Scott Elaine Connor, Pat Murray
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>** Graham & Sue Lambert, Laurie Halpin, Peter Davies
- Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>** Alan Robertson, Bob Blay, Helena Keogh, Margaret McIntosh

## **June**

- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** Jeff & Judy Chalker, Bob Blay, Brian Corby
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>** Mick & Annette Chalker, Peter Davies, Tim Dowsley
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>** Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Elaine Connor, Pat Murray
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>** Graham & Sue Lambert, Brian Moloney, Jim Dean, Alan Robertson

***Please - if you cannot make it when rostered advise someone you are on with or myself. If you are available and your name hasn't been appearing also contact me, we need more volunteers.***

***Maureen***

*Editor - Maureen Long*