



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

**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 2, 2022

Presidents Report:

We have had some museum tours over the past couple of months:

April 6th Alinga Tour bus of 21 people to tour the Museum and the Town, they then lunched at the Taralga Hotel.

April 21st Goulburn View Club paid us a visit, 13 members attending. A few of these visitors having ancestors from Taralga and District.

May 1st Southern Cross Lunch Trip Club from Canberra visit, 46 in all. They also lunched at the Taralga Hotel.

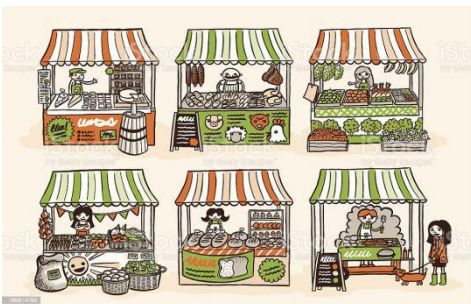
A Grant application has been submitted to the Taralga Wind Farm to obtain heating for the Church Museum, which is bitterly cold in the winter for the volunteers.

After over two years of COVID we are now facing the winter's flu. Stay warm and well.

Calling all Members:

**Please submit your ideas for our 50th Anniversary Celebrations on
Sunday 2nd October of the long weekend**

MEETING SATURDAY 18TH JUNE 2PM MASONIC HALL



CURRAWEELA POST OFFICE Opened - 1872; closed - 1924

Extract from THS Publication - Guinecor to Bubalahla by Pat (Williamson) Newman

Walter Bradbury (1805-1875) was the first Postmaster from 1872 at Curraweela and was still recorded in that capacity when he died in 1875. His residence and the Post Office premises were on portion 38 of Parish of Yalbraith. It was on land which is now part of 'Grathawai', not far from the boundary between that portion and the present day property of 'Curraweela'.

After Walter's death his son, William Henry (1843-1934) took over the Post Office and it was moved over to his residence which is still there on the property known as 'Curraweela'. William Henry Bradbury and his wife Johanna (nee Ross) then conducted the Curraweela Post Office, probably with the help of some of their family, until 1924 when it closed. After that time the mail was delivered from the Taralga Post Office.

The present residence at 'Curraweela' was built about 1920 close to the site of the original house, the old kitchen being extended, about seven metres down a path from the back verandah of the new house. This kitchen was a slab building, a big room with a pantry and laundry all together, The Post Office was in a room on the end of the verandah in a slab room which was there until the end of the 1950's when it was removed and replaced by a guest room.

There are also records which mention a 'Posting House' there when Walter Bradbury was the Postmaster, the term 'Posting House' sometimes meant that relays of horses were able to be procured at a place, but we have no details of this at 'Curraweela'. It was however, considered a 'half-way house' between Taralga and the Abercrombie, every caller was offered the hospitality of the house, more than often with an over-night stay. After Walter's death, his widow Mary, had lived in the 'Posting House', it was quite small slab building about a hundred metres north west of the homestead, it was demolished in the 1920s.

The Bradbury family still have in their possession a notebook where Walter Senior recorded some Post Office transactions and the list of names from that book has many of the local residents included, as well as some residents from Abercrombie and Yorkborough area.

In the book there are many Bradbury family references, others include - William Stilwell; David Ross; Alex, B. and D.D.McDonnell; Alex, John, Ken and Charles & Mrs McKenzie; Robert Neels; John and Margaret McKinnon; James Casey; Michael Purcell; Francis North; James Loder; John McIntyre; M. McKay; Alex and J. Cameron; Michael, Thomas & Ellen Croak; Charles Johnson; Mary Stark; Patrick Murdoch; Patrick Mullaney; Thos. G. Austin; George McPhail; William McCullough; D. Hennebury; Charles Lang; George Maynard; J.G. Webster.

The mail was brought early in the morning by a mailman on horseback from Taralga's Official Post Office, it was resorted at Curraweela and the mailman then continued on round the Paling Yards and Jerrong areas but we have not been able to establish his exact route. It is thought he used a bridle track crossing over the Abercrombie River at a place called McKenzie's Crossing which would be north-east of the P.O., towards Stilwell Hill, but whether this was on his outward or return trip still remains a mystery. After completing the circle (whichever way) he returned to Curraweela P.O. where mail was prepared for him to carry back to Taralga P.O.

The local newspaper reported in 1924 that funds has been approved for construction of a telephone line from Curraweela to Mt. Defiance but it seems it was many years before some of those residents were connected.

Vale



Monica Croke (Moni)

9.1.1946 - 10.3.2022 Late of Goulburn

Parents:

Henry Vincent Croke and

Eileen Agnes Croke nee Clarke

Sister of: Coral (dec), Bernard (dec) Carmel

Mother of:

John, Aaron, Anthea, Rebecca (all dec)

Aunty, Great Aunty and Great-Great Aunty

Taralga Historical Society member for many years

Geoffrey Jury

5.12.1957 - 10th April 2022

Husband of Tracey (Cooley)

Father and Father in law of:

Jessica and Anthony, Todd and Emma

Grandfather

Tracey is the daughter of:

Terry and Leonie (both dec)

and sister of Jason



Gordon Baxter

Died 22.4.2022

Husband of the late Jenny (Lang)

Father and father in law of:

David, Veronica and Fred

and Kathy and Graeme

Grandfather and

Great Grandfather

Rosemary (Toole) Healey

23/09/1951 - 05/05/2022

Aged 70

Wife of John

Mother of Sarah and Emma

Daughter of Mac and Margaret Toole

Sister of Jane Harris



Maxwell Bastin

13.5.2022 Aged 86

Husband of Lynn

Father, stepfather, and father in law of:

Bruce (dec) & Julie, Diane & Alan,

Ken & Jeannie Kim & Dave,

Joanne & Stephen, Natalie & Nicholas

Joanne & Stephen, Natalie & Nicholas

and Mathew & Kellie

Grandfather and great grandfather

Kit (McAlister) Swan

21.5.2022 aged 96

Wife of Ted (dec)

Mother and mother-in-law of:

Verlene and Graham, John and Sandra

Donald (dec) Michael (dec) and

Debbie

Grandmother of 6

Great Grandmother of 3

Kit was a member of THS since 1970's

Vale Kathleen (Kit) Swan nee McAlister

On a bitter afternoon midst gale force winds and driving snow a small group of family and friends gathered at Stonequarry to farewell a much loved and respected Taralga community member. Known to all as Kit, Kathleen Swan was the fifth born of ten children of Patrick and Lillian McAlister of Strathaird, Myrtleville. She grew up surrounded by a loving family all of whom have predeceased her with the exception of her sisters Joan Fitzgibbon and Maureen Harris. Post war she married E A (Edward) Swan of Taralga and settled into a happy marriage which produced four children - Verlene, John, Donald (decd) and Michael (decd).

Kit was a stalwart of the Taralga community being involved in Red Cross, Returned Soldiers League, Taralga Garden Club to mention a few of her interests. She was renowned for her cooking and her generosity of spirit. Kit cooked for the shearers on their property and there was never a shortage of willing workers when they knew she would be the "shearers' cook". She cooked and delivered meals, cakes and slices to various community members in need and often just for the sheer joy of cooking and giving. She welcomed many to her home for a cuppa and a cake and a good chat. She could talk the leg off the proverbial iron pot and was never short of interesting topics for discussion.

She had spent all 96 years of her life in the area until a fall in late 2019 and subsequent ill health saw her move into care in Canberra nearer her children. She passed away on 20 May 2022 in Canberra Hospital. Kit will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know her and remembered with much love.

Early Historical Member Kit Swan' paternal family



Children of Paddy and Lillian are:

Leo Joseph b.1916 m. Daphne Saville
Catherine M. Williamena b. 1917 m. Albion Halls
Ellen M. Patricia b.1918 m. John Fitzgibbon
Joan Mary b.1920m. William Fitzgibbon
Patrick Alphonsus b.1924 m. Betty Handley
Kathleen Mary Coleta b.1925 m. Edward Swan
Thomas Kevin (twin) b.1928 m. Peggy Page
William Michael (twin) b. 1928 died aged 3 months
Allan John Kenneth b.1929 m. Phyllis Murphy
Maureen P. b.1936 m. 1. Wally Marmont 2. Bruce Harris



The family of Paddy and Lillian McAlister pictured about 1960. Back row from left -1. Phonse, 2. Leo, 3. Ken, 4. Kit (Swan), 5. Ellen (Fitzgibbon), 6. Joan (Fitzgibbon). Front row - 1. Kevin, 2. Paddy's sister (Aunty Lim), 3. Paddy, 4. Lillian, 5. Maureen (Marmont), 6. Willa (Halls)

MYRTLEVILLE POST OFFICE

Taken from THS Publication, **More About Myrtleville** by Patricia Blay and Pat (Williamson) Newman

On 1st May 1861, the first Post Office and mail service was established in Myrtleville, a facility which served the residents until 1979. By today's standards the Myrtleville Post Office would be described as 'non-official'.

The first postmaster was Mr Charles Capon, who at that time was also the Teacher-in-charge of the newly opened school. We assume that the affairs of the Post Office were conducted from the school house residence, south of Myrtle Creek, opposite Blays. Mr Capon had previously complained to the Education Department that he considered his salary to be insufficient so no doubt the additional income of £12 p.a. for his duties as Postmaster was most welcome. By June 1863, Mr Capon again complained he was having "increased difficulties in providing for his family" and wished to be transferred to a better teaching position at Marulan.

Following the departure of the Capon family, Mr. Blay was appointed Postmaster on 16th June, 1863 and so the Post Office was 'moved' to the Blay residence a short distance away. George Blay continued as Postmaster (as well as miller) for the next 11 years at a salary of £12 p.a. until 1874 when he moved to Binda and purchased the Royal Hotel.

On 1st July 1874 William McAlister took over duties as Postmaster, and the site moved once again, no doubt to William McAlister's residence. Mrs McAlister (nee Murphy) was school teacher at the time.

The Postmaster following William McAlister was Innkeeper licensee, Alexander McGilvary. From then until C.J.J. Miskelly's time the Post Office business was conducted in a room at the Strathaird Inn. About 1894 the Innkeeper at that time, William Price, relinquished the licence but continued as Postmaster, living at the Inn until he moved to Richlands about 1898. Mrs Eliza Dobson also resided at the old Inn during her time in charge of the Post Office, and it was Charles J.J. Miskelly who moved the office to its twentieth century site a short distance south of the Inn where it continued until its closure in 1979. The building still stands by the roadside and is now a private residence.

During Miskelly's time the Post Office became much more than just somewhere to post and receive mail, for many years it was the general store and newsagency as well. An impressive advertisement from 1907 reads -

C. J.J. MISKELLY
Newsagent and General Store
Gives the best value for money in the Country!
POST AND TELEPHONE OFFICE
MYRTLEVILLE N.S.W.

Sometime during Charles Miskelly's term as Postmaster, the operation of the Myrtleville General Store was taken over by Thomas Williamson, and later by his son, George Williamson. Goods for sale included groceries, haberdashery, some items of clothing, nuts, bolts, nails etc.

The Vaughan family, who took over the running of the Post Office and store in the 1920's and who served the community well over more than sixty years, were the last to conduct a store at Myrtleville, closing it about the mid 1920's when it became more economical for residents to shop at the larger centres.

For 118 years the Post Office had been the 'lifeline' of the community, but the old ways must make way for the new, and the Myrtleville Post Office closed its doors for the final time on 30th November 1979.

One early mail contractor who ran the mail coach between Goulburn and Taralga was Myrtleville resident, Maurice (Mon) Hoare who later married Grace Cecilia Barry of 'Hillcrest'. In later times the Moran family conducted the mail run and will be remembered by my local people.

MYRTLEVILLE POST OFFICE

The names, date appointed and salaries of Postmasters are as follows:

Charles Capon	1 st May, 1861	£12 p.a.
George Blay	16 th June, 1863	£12 p.a.
William McAlister	1 st July, 1874	Not available
Alexander McGilvary	1 st June, 1876	£13 p.a.
Catherine McGilvary	18 th October, 1881	£13 p.a.
Jno. Patrick Stephenson	16 th December, 1885	£15 p.a.
James Bates	16 th July, 1886	£15 p.a.
Edward Confoy	1 st June, 1888	£15 p.a.
William Price	1894	£15 p.a.
Mrs Eliza A. Dobson	1 st August, 1898	£15 p.a.
C.J.J. Miskelly	Not available	£15/10/- p.a.
A.J. Rigg	1 st January, 1918	Not available
Mrs C.M. Vaughan	1 st September, 1922	Not available
George Lloyd Vaughan	1 st March, 1951	£267/15/- p.a.
Mrs Helen Mary Vaughan	15 th September, 1964	not available



Myrtleville General Store and Post Office about 1920 or a little earlier.

Post Office Directory of 1867 with the names of Householders who resided in Myrtleville Postal District

BARRY, John, Patrick, Thomas - Farmers	MARSDEN, James - Squatter
BLAY George, Thomas - Millers	MILLER, John, M., Mill, Robert - Farmers
BROWN, James Snr & Jnr - Sheep Owners	MOOR, Martin - Farmer
CAMERON, John - Farmer	MURPHY R.B. - Teacher & John - Farmer
CONFOY, Edward, Thomas, T.B., - Farmers	MIMBLEBY, William - Farmer
DUNBARRY, Lewis - Carpenter	NORRIS, Thomas - Farmer
DUNN, Patrick, James - Farmers	POLLACK, Collan - Farmer
GOODWIN, Rev Adam - Clergyman	PURCELL, John, Robert - Farmers
HARTLEY, Henry - Farmer	QUINN, John, John P., J. - Farmers
HOLLEY, John - Farmer	ROSS, Alex - Farmer
JARVIS, William - Farmer	TOUHEY, Michael - Farmer
KELLY, Mrs Henry, Joseph - Farmers	WELLS, William - Farmer
McALISTER Charles - Innkeeper, William - Farmer	
McDONALD, Malcolm - Farmer	
McDONNELL Charles, Donald - Farmer	
McCALLUM, Archibald - Farmer	
McGRAIL, James - Farmer	
McLENNAN, William - Farmer	

MUSEUM VISITORS



Goulburn Day View Club visited
Thursday 21st April
A few of the ladies had
Taralga and District Ancestry



Canberra's Southern Cross Club
Luncheon Trips - Organiser Carol
46 Visitors also visited on Sunday 1st May
and afterwards for lunch at Taralga Hotel

Congratulations

RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Members received a National Service Medal for their efforts in fighting the Green Wattle bush fire last year



New WWII Memorial in Goodhew Park



STONEQUARRY CEMETERY



ULSC Mayor Pam Kensit and Deputy Mandy McDonald made a visit to the Cemetery during one of the working bees on Thursday 28th April to inspect the works. Some of the volunteers are pictured. L to R: Margaret and Bruce McGregor, Brian Moloney, Pam Kensit, Mandy McDonald, Laurie Chalker

Stonequarry Cemetery 355 Committee held AGM on Saturday 30th April which was also attended by Nathan McDonald, ULSC Councillor, who took some problems back to the Council on Committee's behalf and these were solved very quickly!

Working Bees were also held 2nd and 3rd May
Laurie and Tim back on the tools during some sunshine





Celebrating 20 years
Taralga Art Show 2022
11th - 13th June
Taralga Memorial Hall

Mary and Russell Chalker celebrate their 64th Wedding Anniversary 24th May

**Lunch with six of their children and their spouses on Sunday 22nd at K & G's Goulburn
Allison and Peter, Tess and Bill Hedley, Richard and Debbie, Daniel and Peta,
Katie and Robert Latham, Joanne and Stuart McKenzie**



Mary was a previous long serving President of the Taralga Historical Society

THE SWALLOWTAIL - THS publication A Patchwork of Bannaby by Pat Williamson

Most students of Taralga history would be familiar with the Memoirs of Thomas Taylor which describe the 1822 expedition of James Macarthur, Lachlan McAlister and John Hillas from Camden through Bong Bong to a spot near the site of the present Tarlo Bridge. At this place they left one of the servants, Thomas Taylor Senior, to establish a base for supplies while they continued on to look for good grazing land in the Taralga area.

From 'Arthursleigh' they would have followed the surveyed road to Greenwich Park and over the Cookbundoon Range across Wild's Pass which had been named after Joseph Wild, the overseer of the road construction party. After crossing the range that road continued on to the south but our party left the surveyed road and proceeded to set up their base camp near the Tarlo (Cookbundoon) River before heading north.

Following this expedition John Hillas' father successfully applied for a land grant at Bannaby and there were soon two more crossings over the Cookbundoon Range, the main one at the Swallowtail and another called Tipperary Pass between The Swallowtail and Wild's Pass.

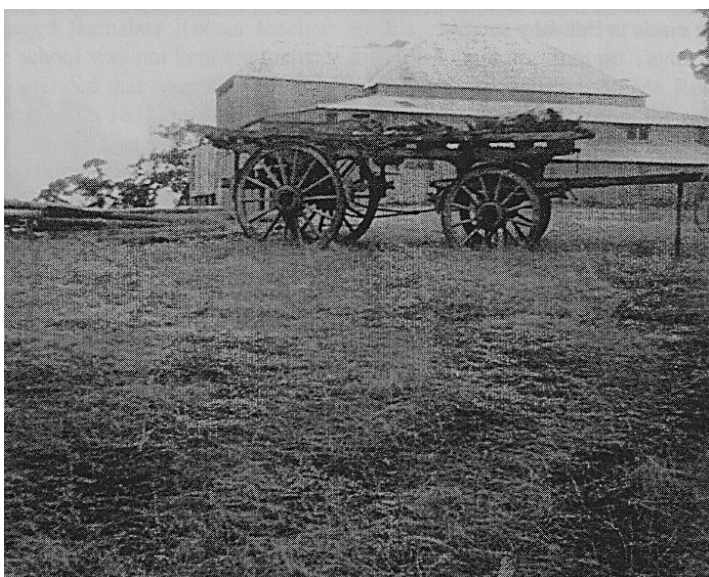
The road through The Swallowtail quickly became the main route from the Great South Road to stations north west of the crossing and until the demise of the bullock-wagons it was a very important link, even after the road from Richlands to Goulburn through Tarlo was being used.

BULLOCK WAGONS

The approach to that first Swallowtail crossing was further south than the present one and the descent from the western side was even more steep, very difficult for the loaded bullock wagons to negotiate. The drivers had to cut down a tree at the top of the approach and tie it to the back of the wagon to assist the brakes in holding the wagon on the way down. On the return trip half the load would be taken off and left at the bottom while half was dragged up, they they would return for the remaining goods.

In the 1800's the establishment and successful operation of isolated stations relied heavily on bullock wagons to deliver supplies and transport the wool and skins to Sydney and 'Bunnaby' was no exception. Generations of Clack men were skilled in the management of bullock teams and for many years that was their responsibility at Bannaby. There were other teams travelling the road from further up but Hillas always employed the men of the Clack family to manage his wagons.

At one time there were as many as four bullock wagons in the wagon shed below 'Hillasmount' homestead but they were not all in working condition at the same time. The shed was situated on portion 7 on the western side of the Hanworth Road before the turnoff to Hillasmount leaves the right-hand bend. This shed also contained the other trappings connected with the teamster activities. The only wagon which has survived spent far too long out in the open beside the shearing shed, but not before it had made many trips across The Swallowtail.



Wagon now at Museum



Hauling an empty timber wagon up The Swallowtail Pass

LAKE BURRA BURRA - Guinecor to Bubalahla by Pat Williamson 206

About 1876 someone tried to drain the lake from the northern end which is where the natural drainage would be. The drains were hand-dug by convicts but had not been completed to reach right up to the lake before they were stopped by Rev. Lang's intervention.. The shape of the drains can be clearly seen running into the paddocks to the north of the lake. During the 1950's when the lake was full the drains were still a long way from draining the water.

During the drought of 1901 Lake Burra Burra was very dry and in 1940 it again died up but when the wet seasons returned in 1954 it was six to eight feet deep and the circumference was three or four miles. The lake is dry at present but there is still water under the lake bed. The wild swans make big nests when the lake is full, they do not come in a dry season but return within about 24 hours when the water is high enough. Their nesting time is September-October and it is possible to predict the season from their habits.

In contrast to the rough, steep hills further out the flat nature of the land at the lake has provided an escape for at least two aeroplanes forced to land in separate incidents. The first landing was in William McPaul's paddock during the 1930's.. then about 1944 a plane came in from the north, circled the lake and made a forced landing in Ned Cusack's paddock. There were no casualties in either case but they aroused a great deal of interest, particularly among the children of the area.



BURRA LAKE SCHOOL

First opened in 1881, moved in 1916, finally closed in 1955



Museum Duty

Saturdays 10am-2pm

MEMBERSHIPS DUE \$20
DIRECT BANKING:
Taralga Historical Society
Inc
BSB: 062 545
ACC: 1004 0942

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,

July

Saturday 2 Mick & Annette Chalker, Lindsay Benfell, Peter Davies
Saturday 9 Tim Dowsley, Margaret McIntosh, Helena Hopkins, Alan Robertson
Saturday 16 Maureen . Joan , Pat, Elaine ,Karen, Penny
Saturday 23 Chris Ainsworth, Danielle Green, Brian Moloney, Robert Rabjohns
Saturday 30 Judith Matthews, Margaret & Peter McAlister, Pat Keough

August

Saturday 6 Bob Blay, Jenny & Peter Haigh, Martin Walsh
Saturday 13 Graham Lambert, Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler, Jim Dean
Saturday 20 Maureen, Joan, Pat, Elaine, Karen, Penny
Saturday 27 Judith Matthews, Judy & Jeff Chalker, Emily Purser Laurie Halpin,

September

Saturday 3 Tim Dowsley, Mat Chalker, Mick & Annette Chalker
Saturday 10 Chris Ainsworth, Danielle Green, Jenny & Peter Haigh
Saturday 17 Maureen, Joan, Pat, Elaine, Karen, Penny
Saturday 24 Jenny & Peter Haigh, Graham & Sue Lambert

**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**

Reminders

****2022 MEMBERSHIPS DUE** \$20**

Meeting 18th June 2pm Masonic Hall