



NISSEN HUT WAR RECORDS

Taralga Historical Society Inc

83 Orchard Street

Taralga NSW 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, 2021

Presidents Report: Thankfully, this year has got off to a much better start!

In March we had a visit from members of the Austin Martin Car Club, in April members of Blue Wren Campers, and also in April, the Majura Ladies Probus Club who were so very impressed with our complex. One of these ladies also had a friend who is an ex-Taralga 'girl'!

Then we had ex-Taralga lady Beth (Francis) Peidom who Tim showed through on Sunday 23 May and also the group of five who are photographed on 27th.

Thank you to all the volunteers who manned these openings by appointment to suit various bookings.

On Anzac Day we opened the complex with emphasis on the Nissen Hut. We did have some interested visitors, but disappointingly not many 'locals'. I really don't think they realise just how much information our Society has to offer on Taralga and District individuals who enlisted in all Wars.

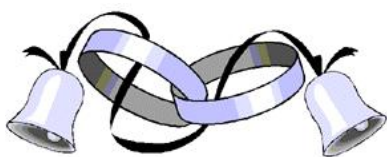
If any of our readers would like to see us include any historical information that may interest all members, please contact me, and hopefully I can research it for you.

JUNE LONG WEEKEND - SATURDAY 12TH JUNE

We are holding an afternoon tea for our members to reconnect and socialise. Please bring a plate.

Museum complex will be open on SUNDAY 13TH JUNE ALSO

DON'T FORGET - IF YOU HAVENT PAID YOUR SUBS \$20 - SEE BACK PAGE



Congratulations to Mary and Russell Chalker who celebrated their 63rd Wedding Anniversary on Tuesday 24th May. They have been members of our Society since the very early days in the 1970's, and have worked tirelessly for nearly 50 years supporting our local history.

Vale

Russell Humphries
22.2.2021 aged 84 years
Husband of Vonnie (Lang -dec)
Father of:
Sue, Michael, Kim

Malcolm Peden
27.2.2021 aged 74 years
Son of Keith Peden of Tarlo
Husband of Fay
Father, Grandfather, Brother



Graham Halls (Mick)
8.3.2021 aged 77 years
Son of Alby and Willa
Husband of Maureen who
recently died also
Father of a Son and daughter



Pauline Keough
1.4.2021 aged 86 years
Wife of Bill (dec)
Mother of:
Mireen, William (dec) Rosalie
Nan and Great Nan



Cheryl Bowerman
16.4.2021 aged 73 years
Wife of Robert (Gopher) dec
Mother and M-I-L to
Jacinta and Shane Elliott
and Timra and Joshua Moloney



Jacqui Corby
24.5.2021 aged 77 years
Wife of Geoff



ANZAC DAY 25 APRIL 2021



Bob Blay lays the wreath on behalf of the Taralga Historical Society



Inside of the Nissen Hut which houses Soldier enlistments and memorabilia



*The Majura Ladies Probus Club
April 27th Visit*



*On Thursday 27th May we had a visit
from an independent disability support group
Craig Whiting, Denise, Paul, Carmel Whiting and Jay*

Albert Whipp



Extract : Goulburn Post 29 January 2003

"Albert Whipp, one of the Citizens of the year, 2003 tells us he was born on October 18, 1918 and was educated at Bannaby School. Albert worked on district properties on leaving school and he joined the 7th Light Horse Regiment in 1939. He with other Taralga Light Horsemen enlisted in the AIF but did not get called up until July 18, 1940 when they went into camp at Goulburn then were moved to Walgrove and Ingleburn and completed their training at Bathurst.

Albert said, "we left Bannaby, January 1941 to embark on the Queen Mary for our trip to Malaya and Singapore where we arrived in late February. After getting off the Mary we got on a train and arrived at our camp at Seremban in Malaya. We trained in Malaya at various camps till the Japs invaded on December 7, 1941. Our battalion went into action at Muar but after weeks of heavy fighting we were forced to withdraw to Yong Peng, then finally down to Johore, then across to Singapore Island. The Japs crossed over the causeway and after heavy casualties on both sides secured a landing on Singapore Island. We fought them for a week on the Island but were forced to surrender on February 15, 1942.

The next day we marched out to Selarang Barracks when we started our three and a half years as POW's. I, along with 200 Australian prisoners were sent back to Singapore where we worked building roads and a shrine to the Japanese. We worked there until the end of November. Then we were sent to Japan, arriving there about a week before Christmas 1942, which is the middle of winter in Japan. We felt the cold very much as we were hungry and had no warm clothes. We started work at the Kawasaki shipyards building ships, soon after we arrived and this went on until March 17, 1942 when the Americans destroyed the shipyards and most of Kobe where the shipyards were.

After a couple of weeks cleaning up the mess after the bombing, we were moved to a coalmine town, name unknown, where we worked digging coal. I was working on the mine when the roof collapsed resulting in me being injured, fracturing an ankle, shoulder and back. My mates got me back to camp but there was no treatment available. I lay on my back for a couple of days, but the Japs decided that I was fit enough for light work - their view was that if you could not work you were no good to them. My mates, who like me were injured or sick, assisted me to where our job was. We had to walk about a mile where they were building a new camp. We had a hand cart which we loaded up with timber and the strongest man acted as a horse in the shafts, the rest of us did our best pushing to where the camp was being built, after unloading we returned to get another load. This went on for

a couple of weeks till one morning when we arrived on the job we noticed a large mushroom cloud. We didn't know what it was but we found out later it was the atom bomb, which the Americans had dropped on Hiroshima. We went to work as usual the next day but soon after American bombers started to fill the sky. The Jap guards got very nasty and started bashing anyone looking up but they soon got sick of that as in no time the sky was full of planes flying over in formation. No bombs were dropped. The next day work went on as usual and the guards were more friendly and when we went back to camp that evening we learnt that no night miners were going out and there was no work for us the following day. Next day we were told that numbers 1 to 200 (that was our name, you had a number, mine was 191) were to get on a train, we travelled a long way to another POW camp.

There were a lot of prisoners there but they didn't know what was going on. There were no more bashings and the guards were more friendly and didn't worry us. This went on for over a week until a Japanese Sergeant informed us that England and America had come to terms with Japan and we were no longer at war. We took over the camp and the guards disappeared. We obtained a wireless from somewhere and we were told to stay where we were and they would be dropping food

After about a week we were put on a train and arrived at Nagasaki. We saw where the second bomb had been dropped. We were put on an American boat where we were transported to a troop ship at Okinawa then sailed to the Philippine Islands.

We stayed there for a few days and had a complete medical check and were issued with clothing. I flew from there in a Catalina flying boat to Darwin and after more medical checks, I flew to Mascot on an Australian bomber arriving about 5.30pm. Next day we were issued with a 28 day leave pass, money and a rail ticket to Goulburn where I arrived on October 12, 1945."

Albert went shearing on his return and was able to take up a very productive block at Carrabungla where he raised merino sheep.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT HONOURED: Taralga's Australia Day Ambassador Mary Moody with Kit Swan and Albert Whipp at the Australia Day celebrations

Goulburn Herald and Chronicle, Wednesday 11th September 1878

The spring has set in, and the earlier kinds of fruit trees are now out in blossom - the surest sign of an early spring; the grass is fast springing up, and the fine fall of seasonable rain today is sure to have a beneficial effect, as crops are in many places in a backward state.

Stock are in fair condition, except where over stocking has occurred.

Orchard Street is being improved as the principal thoroughfare. Messrs. Cunningham Brothers are carrying on this work, and judging from the quantity of stone carted to the street and being broken, a really good piece of work will be done, which was much needed. The distance to be formed and metalled is twenty five chains; a few chains more were needed to bring it nearer to the post office.

Mr M. Donohoe's new store is finished and opened for business.



This is Donohoe's Butcher Shop - The Hannaford family home now stands on the same site

The vigilance committee has requested Mr. Davies to use his influence with the government in reference to the furnishing and opening of the new court house and to the erection of a new lockup, the old one being totally unsuitable.

The Taralga Vigilance Committee has been agitating through their late member, Mr. Butler, for a telegraph line between Goulburn and Taralga, also through their present member, Mr. Davies M.P. Mr Davies moved in the house in April last for telegraphic communication for Taralga, in reference to which the following communication has been received from Mr. Butler

Sydney, 26th June, 1878

Sir, - with reference to your letter forwarded through the works department in August last, on behalf of the vigilance committee at Taralga, for the erection of a telegraph line between Goulburn and Taralga. I am directed to inform you that the quotation of expending sums of money not to exceed £6500 for the erection of a line between Bathurst and Goulburn, which will include both Crookwell and Taralga has been noted for consideration when the estimates for next year are in course of preparation.

A meeting of the Free-selectors' Association was held at Mr. M. Tynan's Hotel on the 7th instant. Present - the president, Mr. J.J. Lynch; the vice president, Mr. L. Ross; the secretary, Mr J Walsh; the members of the committee, and a few selectors.

The president was chosen as a delegate to represent the Taralga Free-selectors Association at the forthcoming conference of free-selectors in Sydney. Mr P. Mooney, treasurer, has the sum of £4.17/6 on hand from last year. A subscription list was opened in the room to defray the expenses.

The Taralga vigilance committee recently sent a communication to the postmaster-general through their member, Mr. W. Davies, showing that the present mode of conveying the mail to Taralga is unsatisfactory to the inhabitants of this locality, and urging the postmaster-general to cause the mail to be conveyed in future by coach tri-weekly instead of as at present. No answer has yet been received.

A STORY OF A CONVICT

By Albert Lang - March 2002

I have been asked to relate a story told to me many years ago by John Keough. This tale was passed to him by his father who lived with his family not far from where it happened.

A convict was brought from Hillas' at Bannaby to Taralga to be flogged for something he had done. It was common to take convicts to Taralga from various properties to be flogged - it was considered 'proper'.

In Taralga there was a tree that was called the 'flogging tree' where the offenders were tied to receive their punishment.

This convict, after being flogged, was in the process of being taken back to Bannaby when he collapsed and died about 2½ miles out the road.

Now, rather than take him to Bannaby or return to Taralga, they decided to bury him just off the side of the road.

Many years ago I was shown a spot which was close to where he was buried.

Where he died, or as was believed, was about half up the south eastern side of what is J. Corby's cultivation paddock.

The road in those days crossed the gully about 200 metres above where the road is today. It then proceeded up over the top of the hill travelling east. On close observation one can see where the original road crossed over as there is a small cutting.

This area of land was used as a cultivation paddock in late years back then.

John Keough said his father often spoke of ploughing over the convict grave.

In those days a convict upon his death was considered no better than the death of an animal when his heart stopped.

The spot pointed out to me was about half way up the hill from the gully, and about 20 yards north of what was the then road.

BANNABY SCHOOLS

Exert from Taralga and District Schools - a publication of the Taralga Historical Society by Pat Williamson

The first school we know of in the Taralga District was the Hillasmount Homestead School. In Thomas Taylor's memoirs, he says that he attended this school in 1838 when Mr Barnabas Rix was the Teacher. Mr Taylor Snr paid two shillings per week to the Teacher but it seemed the bulk of Mr Rix's salary was paid by his employer, Mr Hillas. Mr Rix died in 1845 and his headstone still stands in the valley below old Hillasmount homestead. Verbal reports are that he was a clerk in Mr Hillas' Sydney office before coming to Hillasmount as Teacher. Thomas Taylor describes it as a 'private school'.

In 1878 there were two main centres of population in the vicinity of Bannaby, one at Gracemount, and the other about six miles away at Bannaby, and to cater for these two groups, a half-time school was established at each place. This situation existed until November 1883 when Bullio School was included in the itinerary. This was in Phillip Handley's property about three miles south of the junction of Guineacor Creek and Wollondilly River, so the house-to-house group of three meant that the teacher had a six mile ride from Gracemount to Bannaby, then eight miles further to Bullio School and twelve sliprails to take down and put up! That Bullio School was called Bullio Roadside School and old residents tell of an even earlier school situated about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile further along the road to the Wollondilly River towards the White Camp, a pile of atones near the old fence marks the spot

A long letter from Mr Ambler (an applicant for position of Teacher in 1892), describes the problems associated with teaching at the Bannaby, Gracemount and Bullio house-to-house schools. He tells of the riding he would have to do, then says that the Bannaby School was a 'bark hut with half the roof off and two scholars, sometimes only one. There was no teacher's residence, the former teacher boarded with Mr Whipp, a free selector, but Mr Ambler rejected the idea of boarding because his wife was in poor health, and their board would cost more than the salary of the three schools anyway. We see from this that the Bannaby teacher would need to be a very resourceful person with a stout heart.

In June 1890, a local resident complained to the Department that the school had been closed since April of that year when the teacher, Mr Sharman had been removed. At that time there were 14 children under 14 years in the district. The request was made for another teacher. Miss Sarah Ann McDonald was posted there for a short time, but she found the long rides too arduous and applied for reposting to Curraweels and Guineacor house-to-house schools, There appears to have been some underhanded arrangement because Mr Ambler (mentioned above) had been appointed to Curraweela-Guineacor but when he arrived to take up his appointment, he found Miss McDonald already established there. Her grandfather, according to Mr Ambler's letter, was a member of the local school board and he refused to allow Mr Ambler to take his rightful place in spite of the document he carried announcing that he was permanently appointed to that area. He complained that, had he not had such difficulty with transport, he would have arrived in time to prevent her taking over his appointment. Mr Ambler went back to Laggan and wired the Inspector, Mr Murray, who took the easy way out by telling him to take over the Bannaby area which Miss McDonald had just left. Mr Ambler was by now very irate, and had been to considerable expense with the travelling, but he sent home for more cash and hired a horse to take him to Bannaby. When he arrived he found the conditions described above, and he was so disheartened that he tendered his resignation in March, 1892. He was over 60, deaf, and in poor health. In the absence of a teacher, the Bannaby area schools were closed for a time until the appointment of Victor Long in July 1892. He had previously taught at Bunnan.

Gracemount closed in 1893 due to the fluctuation in the population, and in 1898 the building there was removed to Bannaby and placed on a rise just northwest of where the Adavale Road crossed Bannaby Creek, In August 1899, the Bullio School also closed and Bannaby became a provisional school still with Mr Long as the teacher. In November 1900 Mr Long applied to have the Bannaby School declared a Public School as for two quarters the average daily attendance had been 20.6 and 20.1. Inspector Thomas Walker endorsed the application and the school became a public school in February 1901 until it closed in December 1938.

A well known teacher at the Bannaby and Bullio half-time schools was Mr Adrian McDonnell, who boarded three days with the Halls family at Bannaby and remaining two days of the week with the Handley family at Bullio. Later Mr McDonnell taught at Myrtleville and Burra Lake.



Bullio School Bannaby in 1905 when Mr Albyn Edwin Williams was teacher.

**2nd Row from front: 5th child is Laurie Whipp, 6th is Irene Stephenson and 8th is Lalia Whipp
3rd Row from front: 6th child is Cora Whipp, (who is Bob Blay's mother) 8th is Agnes Whipp**

In 1901 a new school was built at Bullio, on Hanworth Station (Formerly Bogaduck) near Ted Menzies new home. In 1905 Bullio - or as it was known at the time, Hanworth School - became a provisional school. Teachers there included Messrs Cuthbert, Geo Tickner, Benjamin Gough (from Bega) and Mr J.W Harris who moved to Bannaby in 1911 when Bullio closed. Also, in 1901, a new school was built at Bannaby by the Department, about a quarter of a mile from the previous site. It was near the Adavale Road on the western side in Geo Whipp's land. This was a

weatherboard building properly designed, and the contractor, Mr Arthur Allen, received one hundred and four pounds for the work. The school room was 20' x 16' and had a scillion at the end, 7' in width. It had a large fireplace to warm the occupants in cold weather, a 400 gallon tank for rain water and a holland blind at one of the two windows. Quite luxurious by previous standards.

In 1902 a new teacher, Mr Albyn Edwin Williams arrived. He married during his time at Bannaby and after the birth of his first two children, he found that it was too expensive to continue boarding with local families and, as there was still no teacher's residence, he left in 1909. In 1908, Mr George Milne (undertaker of Taralga) was given the contract to enlarge the school as it had been found to be too small.

Mr Carsom was the teacher for a year then in 1910 Mr JW Harris came to Bannaby from Hanworth School where he had been teaching. At this time there was an enrolment of 62 so Mr Harris had a difficult task teaching so many on his own, but former pupils testify to his capability. Mr John Stephenson provided the Harris family with a house on his property - the Harris couple had five children,; Arnold (later Archdeacon), Peter, Reg, Meg and Dudley. Dudley died while they lived at Bannaby; he choked possibly with whooping cough or may have swallowed a date seed. He was rushed to Taralga where Dr McCarthy Snr came from Crookwell every Thursday to attend patients at McNeilly's Boarding House in Macarthur Street.

Surnames of some pupils during Mr Harris' time were: Elliott, Harris, Carter, Goodchild, Menzies, Fletcher.

Names in earlier books were: Whipp, Stephenson, Connor, Halls, Alders, O'Connor, Bailey, Larkin, Kelly, Godfrey, Horne, Clark, Potter, Tobin and Cordingley.

Later came Stephenson, Clifton, Goodchild, Chalker, Keogh, Lang Beven, Vincent, Sillis, Horn, Bryant, Gordon, McInnes and Addison.

In 1924 a new teacher Mr George Rohan, came and lived in a house provided by Mr Phil Jamieson. The Rohans had four children but the enrolment had been falling steadily and was less than half what it had been in Mr Harris' time. Mr Noel Riley taught there for a year or so in the early 30's, then in 1933, came Mr M V McGrath whose brother was teacher at Taralga Public School in 1935. The attendance continued to fall; 1936 - 14, and in December 1938 it closed.

Meanwhile a third school had been built at Bullio (called the 'Bullio Road' School), situated about a mile and half south of the 'Hanworth' School. This provisional school functioned from June 1924 until May 1929 catering mainly for Handley, Menzies, Stephenson and Whipp families. Following the closure of Bannaby School in 1938, the nearest school was Taralga and after about eleven years Mr Brereton started a bus service to take the Bannaby children to Taralga. Mr Brereton had the commercial store in Taralga opposite the Argyle Inn. In the years between 1938 and 1949 the few children who lived in the Bannaby-Bullio area either had correspondence lessons or were sent away to school. The next bus driver was Mr Ray Horne of Taralga.

About 1946 the 'new' school building at Bannaby was removed to another district, and the only reminders left there now are two very nice trees and a round slab of concrete which taught the pupils the points of the compass and how to use a sun-dial.

A final note on Bullio School Sites.

The old Bullio 'Roadside' School referred to in the early part of this article was definitely not the first school at Bullio. There was an earlier school situated about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile along the road to the NE of it towards the Wollondilly River, and it appears now that this very old school was the one mentioned in Mr Ambler's letter.

While the Hanworth School was the one in use for Bullio, there was also one three miles along the road to Bannaby from there. It was on the eastern side of the old road, in the corner of Hillas' paddock, These two schools operated together as half-time schools with the same teacher, one being Mr Adrian McDonnell.

To ease the confusion, here are the Bullio school sites in order according to their age.
(map references for Hanworth 1.25000 Topographical map)

1. 1880's - about 1½ miles NE of 'Hanworth' present homestead (308-899)
2. Late 1890's - old Bullio Roadside School - about one mile NE of 'Hanworth' homestead. (305 - 897)
- 3&4. Early 1900's - both operating together as half-time schools, one at the corner of the road near Ted Menzies new home just south of 'Hanworth' homestead, and known as Hanworth School (293-894) and the other three miles along the Bannaby Road from there. It was on the southern side of the old road, in the corner of the Hillas paddock (261-852)
5. 1924 - Bullio Road School, situated about half-way between 3 & 4 on the western side of the road (268-872)



BULLIO ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL 1925

The last of the five Bullio Schools

Back Row: Aubrey Whipp, Eric Menzies, Les Handley, Ern Whipp, Hodge Whipp

Front Row: Ian Menzies, Ivy Whipp, Edith Stephenson, Mavis Handley, Valma Stephenson, Lila Stephenson, Jean Whipp



Museum Duty

Saturdays 10am-2.30pm

MEMBERSHIPS DUE \$20

DIRECT BANKING:

Taralga Historical Society Inc

BSB: 062 545 ACC: 1004 0942

June

Saturday 5

Chris Ainsworth, Danielle Thomson, Martin Walsh, Tim Dowsley

Saturday 12

Matt and Vicki Chalker, Brian Corby, Brian Moloney,

Saturday 12

AFTERNOON TEA MASONIC HALL 2PM - Please bring a plate

Sunday 13

Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Elaine Connor, Karen Fishburn

Saturday 19

Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray Elaine Connor, Karen Fishburn

Saturday 26

Chris Ainsworth, Danielle Thomson, Tim Dowsley, Brian Corby

Saturday 26

MEETING 2PM MASONIC HALL

July

SATURDAY 3

COMMEMORATION - LAMP - MARY ROBERTSON ANNIVERSARY

Saturday 3

Mick & Annette Chalker, Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler, Peter Davies

Saturday 10

Graham Lambert, Peter and Margaret McAlister, Judith Matthews

Saturday 17

Jeff and Judy Chalker, Bob Blay, Peter & Jenny Haigh, Andrew Moore

Saturday 24

Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray Elaine Connor, Karen Fishburn

Saturday 31

Chris Ainsworth, Glennis & Max Wright, Tim Dowsley, Martin Walsh,

August

Saturday 7

Matt & Vicki Chalker, Jim Dean, Pat Keogh, Brian Moloney

Saturday 14

Chris Ainsworth, Danielle, Thomson, Helena Keough, Margaret McIntosh

Saturday 21

Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray Elaine Connor, Karen Fishburn

Saturday 28

Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler, Bob Blay, Tim Dowsley, Brian Corby

September

Saturday 4

Jeff & Judy Chalker, Mick & Annette Chalker, Martin Walsh

Saturday 11

Graham Lambert, Helena Hopkins, Margaret McIntosh, Jenny Haigh

Saturday 18

Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray Elaine Connor, Karen Fishburn

Saturday 25

Mick & Annette Chalker, Peter Davies, Vlad & Galina Balashov

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

If all the stars align, we are hoping to place a heritage pole light in the grounds of the museum surrounded by plaques placed on rocks to acknowledge past original members of the Society, who are responsible for the wonderful complex we have today.

It is also significant as the Society turns 50 next year (2022)

As it is Mary Robertson's anniversary on 3rd July we are hoping it will happen then.

Pole which is being crafted by the Wagga Foundry (and majority gifted by a member donor) is being freighted mid June.

(Can be checked online or Facebook)