

**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 3, 2021

Presidents Report:

The Society thanks:

Annette Chalker for organising rose planting for Jacqui Corby, and having the garden in great shape. Also to Bob Blay who helped with the making of the plinth and organising signage.

Grounds are looking great thank you to Matt and Mick

Jeff Chalker and Tim Dowsley and helpers for

Lopping the huge tree near the hall and getting rid of the mess.

Pest management of the complex

Fixing entrance door and doing sign

Removal of Holly bush in front of museum to make way for Lamp

Taking delivery of the Lamp and sorting out construction.

Construction of Lamp

Joan and ladies

Rearranging and securing paperwork and maintaining files.

We need more Volunteers to open the Complex on Saturdays. Members who haven't been rostered and are able to attend please contact us.

For members who haven't paid their membership fees yet:

Online banking details appear on the last page.

Postal payments addressed to our Treasurer, Judith Matthews.



**SATURDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER
10AM WORKING BEE
2PM MEETING**

CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITTING



Vale



Veronica (Stiff) Alders died on 12th June 2021 at Tenison Apartments, Goulburn.

Loved mother and mother-in-law of Tanya and Shane, Clinton and Renee, Craig and Sarah, Marc and John. Loved grandmother of 16, and great grandmother of 1

Loved sister of Ken Stiff.

Aged 67 years



Wilma (Lang) McKenzie died 15th June, 2021 at Gill-Waminda Aged Care, Goulburn.

Dearly loved mother and mother-in-law of Vicki and Neil Day, and Warren.

Cherished Nan of Amy, Haylee and Justin.

Treasured sister of:

Gloria (dec), Valance (dec), Bruce (dec), Cecil and Veronica (dec).

Aged 79 years



Myree (Chalker) Zehenter daughter of George and Ethel Chalker, sister of Phyllis Walsh, Aub and Leo and Rita Carlon (all deceased)
Loved wife of Erwin and mother of Alistair and Marcus.



Bede Fitzgibbon (son of Paddy Fitzgibbon) b.18.12.1925 d.19.6.2021 aged 95 years in Queensland Nursing Home.

Husband of Carmel (dec), Father of Ashley

Robert Cheney (known as Bob) passed away peacefully in Elkhorn Ave Ballara Queensland, age 73 years.
Loved husband of Phyllis, daughters Nicole, Renee, Charmain Grandfather and Great Grandfather.

A lot of us remember the Cheney family who had the Commercial Cash Store at the North end of Orchard Street.

Mum and Dad: Frank and Betty

Children: Janice Halls, Judith Walsh, Jeffrey, Robert and Barry

James Stephenson, 18th July 2021 at Warrigal Care Goulburn, Husband of Judy, Father of Jodie, Kerrie and Scott, Grandfather and Great Grandfather.
Brother of Ernie, John (dec), Robert and Betty. Aged 79 years



Vale

DR DICK BEDINGFIELD



Dr Dick Bedingfield died 10.8.2021 aged 95 years at home in Woollahra. He is survived by his wife Audrey and 5 children.

He was in residence after Dr Ettie Lyons and the last Doctor to practice in the Orchard Street stone House.

Our much loved Dr pictured in 2010 at Richlands Open House.

LAURIE SADLIER



Laurie passed away 16th August 2021 in Scarborough Qld with his family by his side. He will be greatly missed by his 3 children Jann, Paul and James, Grandfather to Daniel, Sarah and Genevieve, Great Grandfather to Isabel.

His wish was for his ashes be returned to his beloved Taralga

Pictured in 2017 with Jan and James

ORCHARD STREET

on the southern side of our Taralga General Store stood an original shop, a slab cottage with verandah, built by a Mr Walsh

There: Spicers had a fruit and vegetable shop

Other occupants: Saunders, a Bootmaker, Mr Penti, a shop

Miss Lia Leggett was a hairdresser, and also sold ribbons, pins, cottons and trinkets

Mrs Charlie Ross: home and second hand store

Harry Turner - home, Peters - home, PMG men camped there

In 1960 Bruce Foxtan demolished the building to built a new home. He had the Store.

Margaret and Geraldine Wylie and unknown girl - photo showing the original building c.1952. The Wylie sisters are the daughters of Joe and Jac (Mooney) Wylie who managed the Taralga Hotel for a long time for the Mooney family.



MACARTHUR STREET



Police Station on left, and St Ignatius Church on the right,

HERITAGE LAMP

To mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Society next year 2022, we decided to place a lamp at the front of the museum .

We were very lucky to obtain the lamp from the Wagga Foundry who moulded it heritage style. They have done a wonderful job.



We had intended to mark the first anniversary of Mary Robertson's death with a plaque near the lamp, but due to the usual problems that didn't happen.

Ground works will be done to beautify the area.



ORCHARD STREET

Taralga Historical Society had an interesting enquiry:

Grand daughter of a Lands Department Surveyor has photos he took in the **1930's** in different towns.

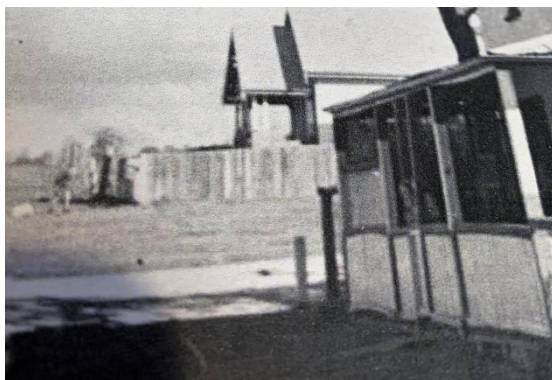
She asked if this photo was of Taralga - yes it is, and some of us can remember the building.



"From the Collection of William H. McNeice. Copyright Wendy E, Nunan."

20 ORCHARD STREET TARALGA

On the corner of Orchard and Bunnaby Streets



In the background is the home built by Gundy Webb, and occupied by the Webb family until recent years.

There is a little boy there, perhaps Peter coming home from school!

Owners: 1860 Howard
 1916 Goodhew

Australian Arms Inn

This was a two storey building built of random rubble (stone).

The building was only licensed as a Hotel for a short time from 1881 to 1886. It was also known as Robertson's Hotel.

The sole proprietor was Robert Robertson. Securing his first license in 1881, he remained the landlord until 1885, after which there was no renewal of the license, Robertson preferring to operate it as a temperance hotel in subsequent years.

W. Martin had a produce store here – he also had the Laggan Mill.

Then it was a private residence.

Ted Alders worked in the Produce Store and lived in the home.

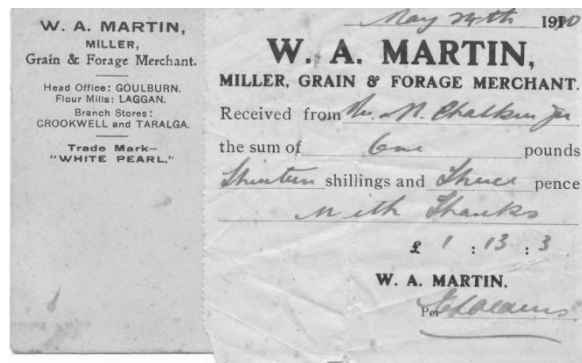
This building was the home of Ted and Vida (Goodhew) Lee for many years.

The Donald Lang family came to live in this house, after Fernbank School at Wombeyan Caves closed in 1947. They lived here until 1951 so the children could go to School.

The building was demolished in 1954.

Goodhews had a timber shed in the right back corner of the block for a storeroom.

2011, the land is now owned by the Phillip Chalker Sunset Lodge.



Dated 24th May 1920

IF CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT:

The Anglican Bishop of Canberra - Goulburn will unveil a plaque at St. Luke's on Sunday 3rd October in recognition of all Anglican Women who have served this parish since 1931. The service will commence at 10am & will be followed by a light lunch in the

Jamieson Hall.
Glennis Wright



AROUND WOWAGIN by Pat Williamson 2004

All efforts to establish the origin of the name Wowagin have failed. The Parish of Wowagin was named after the Wowagin Creek which flows through that parish and portion 20 which is 640 acres in the shape of a square and has been known as 'Wowagin' since the earliest days, always with the same spelling. Was it the first owner, Charles Green who called the place Wowagin? Perhaps there is a place with that name in the British Isles? Perhaps it was the aboriginal name for the place?

The 1828 Census is the first available mention of Currabungla as a place, David Rees is described as having land at Curobungee, that was portion 3 in the parish of Tyrl Tyrl, 100 acres a short distance south-west from where the present Taralga-Laggan Road crosses Currabungla Creek. The name Currabungla has been spelt in several different ways, but always with the same pronunciation.

In his memoirs, 'Old Pioneering Days in the Sunny South;', Charles McAlister gives us the earliest available insight into what it was like at 'Currabungla', when he and other members of his family lived on the 'old cattle station of Currabungla from 1846-1850 while it was part of Captain Lachlan McAlister's holdings. He said that 'Currabungla' is the aboriginal term for 'big stone in the water', and there has been none to prove him wrong, so we will accept that explanation. It may originate from the waterfall on Currabungla Creek a couple of miles north of the present crossing on the Laggan Road.

Charles also refers to 'The Irishmen's Station' about four miles from Currabungla, he recollected that in the 1840's it belonged to two brothers named Barclay from the North of Ireland. He said they left the place after they mistakenly shot and killed a shepherd, and it was twenty-five years before the place was again occupied. It has since been determined that 'The Irishmen's Station' was on the property now known as 'Ferndale' which was later purchased by Lachlan McLean.

BEFORE 1850

Ann Hogan, daughter of Michael and Catherine Hogan was born at Currabungla in 1834 and the Morgan family had their Commissioner's Creek property before 1845. We also know that McLeans and Rankins had been establishing their holdings during the late 1830's and early 1840's, and many others such as McDonnells and Camerons were there soon after.

THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS

The earliest homes were built of slabs on round bush timber framework with large stone fireplaces, there are very few examples remaining and most of these have been covered with ripple iron. By 1870 and onwards, the settlers had become more innovative and stone homes became common, usually with mortar made from a mixture of sand and lime with water. They picked up stones lying on the ground for rubble stone construction at first, then a neater style of random stonework developed where they selected stones of a suitable shape to set in layers inside boxing, about two feet high at a time allowing a few days for the mortar to set before the next layer went up. The interior walls were often neatened with white pipe clay watered down and painted on with a brush made from dry tussocks. Later buildings had the interior walls plastered with a sand and lime plaster.

WORKING TOGETHER

Dairy farming was most common on the small farms at Stonequarry, Redbank and Strathaird, potato growing being an important cash crop during the winter when the cows were dried off, Those settlers who were further away from the collective Butter Factories relied on grazing sheep and cattle with less emphasis on grain crops and potatoes where the country was not so suitable for intensive agriculture. Nevertheless each farm had its own milking cows and potato paddock so that they were largely self-sufficient in what was used in the farm kitchen.

THE BRUMBIES AT CURRABUNGLA

Horses played a major part in the early development of the country and the mobs of

brumbies which roamed the hills around Tyrl Tyrl were an easy target for those who could not afford to buy extra horses. Arrangements would be made in secret for the hunt, then a group of men would wait on a suitable evening for the thirsty brumbies to come down from the hills to the flat country where the water was accessible, south-west of where the present homestead is at 'Bolong'. Heading south from there about two miles up Currabungla Creek there is a deep gorge with a high waterfall forming a natural trap for the brumbies when the men surprised them and ran them into it from below. The cliffs were high enough to prevent them from escaping to the side and once they were in the ravine the men could trap the best looking horses and let the others go.

In the 1800's the brumbies were often well-bred station horses which had been allowed to run in the hills and multiply there. The owners of the big stations maintained that they belonged to them so there were some very heated encounters with station owners if they discovered the brumby hunters in action. Quite a few of the arrests and Court appearances of the settlers were for 'horse stealing' as a result of some of these hunting expeditions.

SOCIAL LIFE

Handed down stories of the very early days round Wowagin happily recall the companionship that existed between the families who were neighbours in the district at the time. They thought nothing of riding twenty miles a couple of times a week to attend country dances and bush parties at each other's homes, even the 'country wake' could have a happy ending.

There was a horse racing track at 'Ferndale', and more recently at 'Cloverdale' where the race meetings were popular outings for the local people. There was no A.J.C. to oversee the conduct of the meetings and some trainers used special 'liquid supplements and other methods of improving the staying power of the horses that would be frowned upon today but did not dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd in attendance at that time. The horse events at 'Ferndale' would be followed by a night of music and dancing at the homestead.

Tennis at Wowagin courts near the Strathaird School had a good following and for some time there were regular cricket matches on the cricket ground at Albert Corby's place.

THE ROSLYN TO TARALGA RAILWAY LINE

Originally there were three stations between Roslyn and Taralga, they were Willigam, Mount Rae and Strathaird, a few years later an additional loading stop was installed at Hinkler where there was no station building, just earthworks and sleepers positioned to make loading easier. This was a convenient place for a stop being situated at a high point between the climb from Willigam and the run down to Mt. Rae. In order for the steam train to make that climb when there was a frost and snow, the guard sometimes needed to walk in front sprinkling sand on the rails to help the wheels gain traction.

Once the rails had been laid and the different railway stations finished, the people along the line were able to benefit from easier access to Taralga and even Goulburn. The railway brought a taste of the outside world to the isolated farms along the more remote sections of the route. Those who lived near the stations had their groceries delivered from Taralga, and as the line ran very close to some hones a friendly driver would often slow down and allow passengers to alight near their own place.



The school children at Strathaird School looked forward to the day that their regular box of library books and school magazines came, and they could go down to Strathaird station to pick them up.

Mr Bezer - School Teacher

SCHOOL



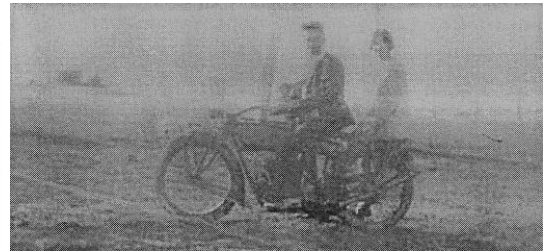
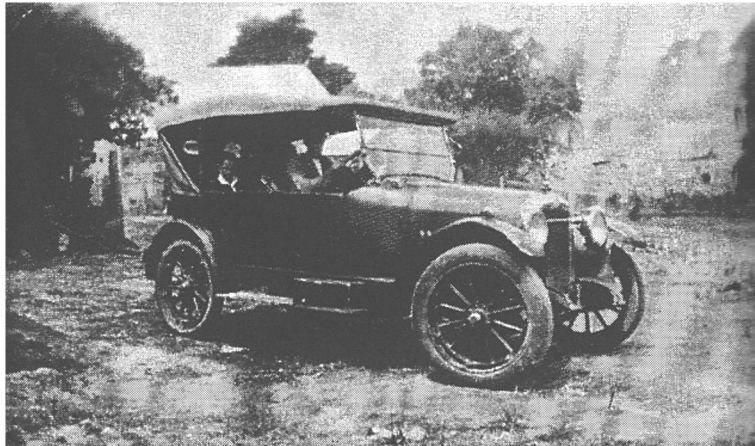
Wowagin School C.1904 The teacher was Mr. Bezer
Back Row: 3rd left Elsie Bee (McLean) 4th Lizzie Hearley, 5th Maggie Baxter
Middle Row: 2nd Ernie Baxter, 3rd Ella McKinnon, 6th Isie McKinnon
3rd Row: 2nd Colin Sinclair, 5. George Baxter, 6. ? Baxter, 7. Ivan Scott 8. Neil Sinclair -
Front Row: ?



Wowagin School about 1909 – The teacher was Mr. Bezer
Back Row: Mr Bezer, children 1. Maud Baxter, 2. Tiny Scott, Grace McKinnon,
4. George White, 5. Ted Scott, 6. Neil Sinclair
Second Row standing: 1. Jessie Pearce, 2. Harvey Bezer, 3. Lily Pearce,
4. Hector Sinclair, 5. Florrie Horne
Seated on stool: 1. Frank Bee 2. George McKenzie, 3. Bill Bee, 4. Albert Baxter,
5. Frank Hearley, 6. Ivan Scott
On ground: 1. Unknown, 2. Rachel Baxter, 2. Bill McKenzie, 4. Maggie Fitzgibbon,
5. Jack Fitzgibbon, 6. Ethel Hearley, 7. Elsie Corby, 8. Ernie Hearley



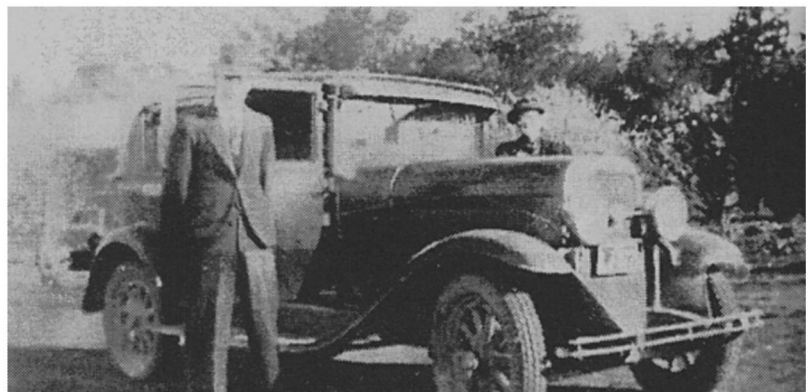
Horse and Dray: Harold Cox, Colin Inman, Colin Robertson, Allan Robertson, Bettina Inman



Percy McKenzie and sister Mary

Driver of the car thought to be George White at 'Willow Grove' But the boy in the back seat has not been identified.

Phonse Corby with his father's red Oldsmobile. The man on the other side of the car has not been identified.



The first settlers at Wowagin brought their belongings on bullock drays over the Swallowtail Pass at Bannaby, and soon others were coming from the north across the Abercrombie River. It was only when the railway line from Sydney to Goulburn was built in 1869 that the majority of goods were transported through there. The bullock wagons still carted the goods between Taralga and Crookwell and sometimes there would be five or six teams travelling the road through Laggan at the one time. An old story says that one teamster was carrying a load of 'sly grog' from his own still, hidden under other merchandise. He got word on the 'grapevine' that the police were coming to search his wagon, so he asked if he could drive someone else's wagon. When the police stopped that wagon and searched it, no rum was found, they had to reload the wagon for him while he smiled with the knowledge that his own wagon with the precious cargo was still travelling on ahead.



Museum Duty

Saturdays 10am-2.30pm

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

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

October

- Saturday 2, 3, 4 LONG WEEKEND**
- Saturday 2 Chris Ainsworth, Danielle Thomson, Martin Walsh, Tim Dowsley
- Saturday 9 Matt and Vicki Chalker, Brian Corby, Brian Moloney,
- Sunday 16 Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray Elaine Connor, Karen Fishburn
- Saturday 23 Max & Glennis Wright, Peter & Jenny Haigh, Tim Dowsley
- Saturday 30 Robyn Alders, Bob Blay, Peter Davies, Jim Dean

November

- Saturday 6 Mick & Annette Chalker, Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler. Peter Davies
- Saturday 13 Graham Lambert, Peter and Margaret McAlister, Judith Matthews
- Saturday 20 Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray Elaine Connor, Karen Fishburn
- Saturday 27 Jeff and Judy Chalker, Bob Blay, Peter & Jenny Haigh, Andrew Moore

December

- Saturday 4 Matt & Vicki Chalker, Jim Dean, Pat Keogh, Brian Moloney
- Saturday 11 Chris Ainsworth, Danielle Thomson, Helena Keough, Margaret McIntosh
- Saturday 18 Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray Elaine Connor, Karen Fishburn
- Saturday 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**

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

**AT THE MOMENT THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED DUE TO ONGOING COVID RESTRICTIONS
IF YOU ARE UNCERTAIN OF BEING REQUIRED, PLEASE CONTACT SOMEONE
WHO IS ON DUTY WITH YOU OR PHONE MAUREEN**

