

Taralga Historical Society

1972 - 2022

50 Years Celebrations



Sunday 2nd October, 2022

Orchard Street, Taralga

8am - 4pm

ALL WELCOME

**TARALGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 NAMES AND SIGNATURES OF MEMBERS
 AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING
 1ST SEPTEMBER 1972**

MARY T. MOONEY

IAN CARLISLE HARTLEY

JOHN JOSEPH CROKER

GREGORY FRANCIS CHALKER

DONALD MCKENZIE

LILLIAN WRIGHT

ANNIE VERONICA CHALKER

*Mary T Mooney -
 Ian Carlisle Hartley.
 John Joseph Croker.
 Gregory Francis Chalker*

*Donald McKenzie.
 Lillian Wright. -*

*Annie Veronica Chalker (Bonnie)
 Therese Hannah McInnes -*

Maxwell George Wright

*John Aubrey Johns
 Joan Audrey Croker.*

Warwick Bradbury

Joan Twynam

Donald Baxter

Marlene Huggart

Ian Ross

Lorraine Ross

THERESE HANNAH McINNES

MAXWELL GEORGE WRIGHT

JOHN AUBREY JOHNS

JOAN AUDREY CROKER

WARWICK BRADBURY

JOAN TWYNAM

DONALD BAXTER

MARLENE HUGGART

IAN R. ROSS

LORRAINE ROSS

INAUGERAL MEMBERS



Mary Mooney



Ian Hartley



Joe Croker



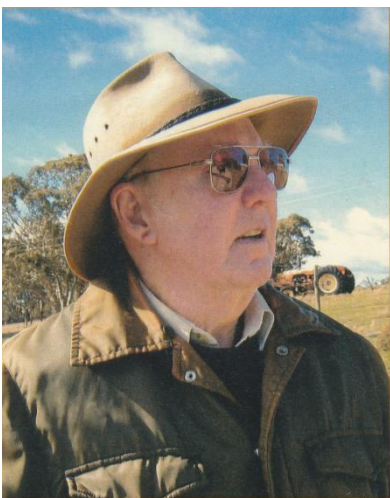
Greg Chalker



Don McKenzie



Lillian Wright



Warwick Bradbury



Ian Ross



Lorraine Ross

INAUGERAL & EARLY MEMBERS continued on further pages



Max Wright



Glennis Wright



Ernie Stephenson



Kathleen Hartley



Amy Hannaford



Heather Bradbuty



Muriel Pirie



Mary Robertson



Margaret Lang



Pat & Ray Williamson



Hilary & Mary Connor



Mary & Russell Chalker



Ken & Joyce Fleming



Pat & Bob Blay



**Back L to R:
Hilary Connor, Mary Connor, Amy Hannaford,
Robyn Chalker, Bonnie Chalker, Mary Robertson,
Mary Chalker
Front L to R:
Jim Marmont, Leslie Croker, Josie Marmont,
Ferguine Croker (3 sisters)**



From our Rose Garden



Back Row:
 Cole & Peg Bradbury, Muriel Pirie, Mary Robertson, Phyllis Walsh, Albert Lang,
 Pauline Keough, Colin Kennedy, Charlie Fitzgibbon, Joan & Joe Croker, Nancy Bradbury, Hilary
 Connor
Middle Row:
 Josie Marmont, Heather Bradbury, Rene Flood
Front Row:
 Jim Marmont, Ferguine Croker, Nita Lang, Jean McIntosh, Amy Hannaford, Merle Wilkins

Saturday 1st October

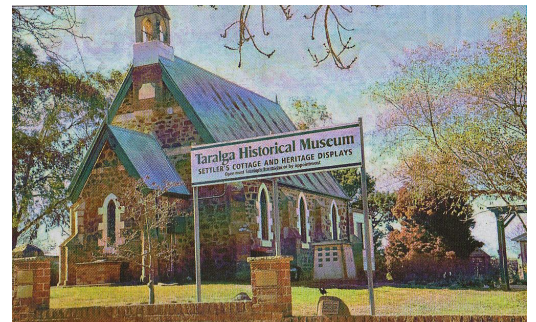
**Taralga Historical Members are invited to
 Afternoon Tea 2pm at The Masonic Hall
 RSVP BY 26 SEPTEMBER PLEASE
 WE NEED NUMBERS FOR CATERING**



Sunday 2nd October

**From 8am
 Market Stalls - sporting locally made products
 Sausage Sizzle
 Steam Engine - Demonstration by Ken Ainsworth
 Shearing - Demonstration by Brian Corby
 Ukulele Group**

**2pm Dedication of Lamp
 3pm Over 70's Photograph**





Memories of Taralga Historical Society

by Max and Glennis Wright 2021

As we approach the 50year anniversary of the Taralga Historical Society, we have been asked to jot down a few of our memories of things we have done since its inception.

Max was a foundation member together with his mother Lillian, and remembers going to meetings at Lorraine Ross' book shop and Mary and Kevin Mooneys and Amy and Bill Hannafords. My early memories come later, I did not attend meetings until the early 1980's and our children had grown up. That was when I became interested in the Society and started to attend meetings. (Meetings were usually held at night). It was about this time that Pat Blay began her long reign as President, followed by Mary Chalker for an equally long term. (What a dynamic duo those two were and a busy and exciting time it was). There were other Presidents of course but a lot of this writing revolves around the times when they were in office.

One of the first aims of the Historical Society was to have a family history section. With hundreds of hours work by dedicated members we now have a library of over 100 folders containing family history and a constant stream of enquiries from people seeking more history about families. Many of these people supply us with extra information and so the collection continues to grow. It would be impossible to mention everyone who helped with the family history but there are a few names that stand out in our minds are Pat Williamson (Newman) for all her research, Pat Blay, Ian and Lorraine Ross, Ella Menzies, Betty McAlister, Mary and Hilary Connor, Amy Hannaford, Mary Robertson, Heather Bradbury, Mary Chalker, Joan Scott and Maureen Long. I know there are others but I cannot name them all.

It did not take long before it was realised that the Society needed somewhere to display their items and family history, however, financially there was no way they could afford to buy or build anything suitable. Two members, Joe Croker and Don McKenzie came up with a plan to buy the Methodist Church. They procured a donor who gave them the necessary funds to purchase the building and so The Old Methodist Church became our home. We are forever grateful to these men for providing the Historical Society headquarters to work from. It was not until years later we learnt that Jack Peden was the anonymous donor.

Before we became the custodians of the Masonic Hall, meetings were held in member's homes including Pat and Ray Williamson, Ian and Lorraine Ross, Pat and Bob Blay, Mary and Kevin Mooney, Don and Beryl McKenzies, Ian and Ella Menzies to mention a few. Following the annual meeting each year a programme would be drawn up for the following 12 months with at least something on each month. There would be a display of some kind every June and October long week end. These displays were many and varied from distilling of Eucalyptus leaves into oil, fine china, steam power tractors and engines. Jim Cock's old organ and musical items, antique clothes, Bill Mitchell's Travelling Organ, a collection of dolls, a blade shearing demonstration. We had slide evenings and guest speakers. We probably didn't have as many meetings as there are today. There was so much going on and we had plenty of activities, we had time for a quick informal meeting when the need arose.

There would be a Christmas Party on the second Sunday in December every year. We would gather at a member's home or a place of interest usually late in the afternoon for a meal provided for by members. Some of the places I remember were at Ainsworths meeting in Ken's steam collection, Blays, and Pat's beautiful garden, Hillasmount using the Cook's kitchen and verandah, Fred and Jean Denham,s home, Wrights yurt, and of course the Masonic Hall, the Taralga Zoo was another venue for a Christmas Party.

There were many working bees, building the Machinery shed, the huge job of dismantling the slab cottage at Big Hill and transporting it to the Museum grounds, cutting posts at Wombeyan Caves and the re-assembling of the cottage in time for its grand opening on 2nd April, 1988 for the bi-centenary project. There were trips to South Marulan for palings for the fence around the cottage. Then there was the Blay Dairy (named Blay because Bob and Pat Blay's dairy was the

last dairy in the Taralga district to close). There were working bees too to gather extra slabs for these buildings. Slabs came from "Summer Lea", "Bright Hill", and "Carne" at Bungonia. We owe so much to members no longer with us, Ian Ross for his expertise in working with slabs etc, to Hilary Connor, Ray Williamson, John Boardman and so many others always there and ready to help. When Aubrey Johns passed away he left two tractors, a British Bedford Truck and other machinery to the Historical Society, these items had to be transported from Myrtleville, the tractors and truck are now housed in the Machinery Shed at the Museum. There was Heather Bradbury's "Dunny" removed from her home to the Museum grounds. One of our volunteers made a dummy person and placed it on the dunny seat to the great amusement of children when they opened the door. A more recent building is the old "Fernbank School" from near Wombeyan Caves transported to the Museum grounds and re-erected and opened by former pupils of the school on 1st October 2017.

Another time when we were running out of room to house our collection we were told there was a cabin for sale at Wombeyan Caves. We purchased that cabin, Bruce McGregor with his tilt truck transported the cabin to Taralga with a convoy of member's vehicles going in front and behind with lights flashing warning other motorists of a wide load ahead or behind. This cabin became known as the "Wombi Room"

The first Grant I can remember THS getting was from Veolia for the Big Shed, Ray Shiel became the project manager and with the help of many volunteers both members and friends the shed was built (Mary Chalker has a motto "ask and they will come", she was right, she only had to make a phone call and volunteers would arrive). The ladies too, they always provided morning tea with Mary Robertson's famous pikelets or scones being a favourite, and a cooked lunch.

There was a Gazebo erected to remember Pat Williamson's incredible Book Research and publications.

We built a Lytch Gate entrance in memory of John's family who settled here early 1900's.

For years the Bullock wagon from Bannaby sat in the museum grounds until Ernie Stephenson decided it was time to have it restored. Ernie generously donated \$5,000 and arranged to have it completely restored. With all that money and hours and hours of work the wagon needed a home, so a shed was erected.

Another pull down put up building was the Nissen Hut, the Society was given two huts that has been used for migrants accommodation in Goulburn. The men took on the task of dismantling and transporting them back to our grounds where they were re-built into one larger building, re-lined and made into a worthy home for all our War memorabilia. This building was unveiled on the 11.11.2011 by Cole Bradbury a WW2 veteran and Neil Croker a Vietnam veteran.

It wasn't all work, there were some wonderful excursions both locally and further afield, sometimes we would hire a bus, other times go by car or 4 wheel drive. Just a few places that come to mind are Bannaby, (where we had a cricket match between Taralga and Big Hill, one of the bats used on that occasion was signed by the players and is in the Museum today), Hanworth, Richlands, Wiaborough, Wombeyan Caves, Yalbraith, Burra Lake, Myrtleville, Wowagin, Mount Rae and Roslyn always looking at ruins of old schools, churches, burial sites, sly grog shops, post offices, shops, the race course at Wowagin. Some folk walked the Roslyn to Taralga railway line. Golspie, we even looked at one of the proposed sites for Australian Capital Territory, (one can but wonder what things would be like if the Golspie-Fullerton site had been chosen). There is so much history in these areas. Sadly it is dying out with every generation because most of the younger generation are not interested. One very interesting 4 wheel drive we went on was through Swallow Tail to Big Hill, Greenwich Park then we followed Wilde's Pass Road across the Cookbundoon Range to Tarlo. We saw what is believed to be the remains of Joseph Wilde's Camp on the Tarlo River, returning to Taralga via Goulburn/Taralga Road. We visited Millthorpe Museum and Rockleigh Burruga areas. All these excursions were very well attended, on a couple of occasions we had to hire two buses. The one to Yerranderie and the other to Hanworth - Hillasmount, there was so much interest in these places.

There were other day trips to places like Batemans Bay where we boarded a boat for a cruise up the Clyde River to Nelligan and return. To Unanderra where we boarded the Cockatoo train to Robertson, Moss Vale and back to Unanderra and our bus. South Marulan and the Limestone Quarries, Captains Flat, Bungonia, Joadja, Lithgow and the Zig Zag railway. We visited Macarthur's "Elizabeth Farm" and "Camden Park" on different occasions. Arthursleigh, where we saw the old convict built Shearing Shed followed by the brand new shed with its raised floor. Nerriga, Sassafras. Another trip was to Abercrombia House at Bathurst. To Junee and Monte Christo House, and to "Bedervale" homestead at Braidwood, and The Tree Top Walk near Robertson. We attended Brigadoon at Bundanoon on another occasion. The Albatross Air Museum at Nowra. We have been to Bowral and Kangaroo Valley. The Woodlawn Mine and a Truffle farm at Tarago, and so the list goes on. On almost all of these trips we were joined by people from Goulburn and surrounding areas. (I would like to mention here that on all our bus trips the THS ladies provided morning tea and lunch for everyone. A few of us would meet the afternoon before to make and pack sandwiches while other ladies would bring slices and cakes. Everyone who had a Thermos flask would fill it with hot water for tea and coffee.

Allan Bradbury was a member of the Society and was instrumental in arranging the first few 2 night excursions away. After Allan left Taralga, Colin Pitt took up the challenge. There were some wonderful trips to places like Tumut and the Snowy River Scheme, Narranderra and the MIA., Mudgee, Gulgong and Henry Lawson country, Bathurst, Hill End and Sofala, Temora and their air show, Dubbo and the Western Plains Zoo, Narooma and those of us that were brave or silly enough to Montague Island, while our old friend Rector Noel Smith entertained the not so brave people to a tour of the town. The remainder of that weekend was spent touring the South Coast and visiting museums. Albury, Beechworth and Bright was another area we visited, West Wylong and the gold mine, Forbes Motor museum, and Ben Hall country and Hay.

1986, the Bannaby Shearing Shed celebrated its centenary, with help from men and women we provided a hot meal for dozens of visitors that attended that day, we were fortunate to have the shearers' huts to keep food hot and make tea and coffee.

With the growing complex and the acquisition of the Masonic Hall, catering became a high priority. We had other Historical Societies approach us for tours of the complex. We would offer them a meal and a tour of the museum and buildings. These folk usually travelled by coach and word soon spread about our beautiful meals. It did not take long for Coach Co's to start contacting us to see if we would provide a home cooked meal for other groups. It became a regular attraction, the coach would arrive about 10am for morning tea of hot scones, pikelets and slices. They would then be taken for a tour of the town with our tour guides Pat and Bob Blay, Ian Ross, Ken Fleming or some other guide, On their return the visitors would sit down to a home cooked lunch. (I don't know how many times we were told that they hadn't had a home cooked meal like ours for years. Especially when we served Corn meat and white sauce and home grown vegetables, followed by apple pie, cream and custard, or steam pudding. Roasted leg of lamb and baked vegetables was another favourite. These menus were often requested by the Coach Co), Before leaving the hall the people would purchase jams and pickles made by Mary Robertson and any other produce that may be on the stall, and of course the obligatory raffle ticket, which usually contained items from Taralga, The afternoon was spent exploring the museum and buildings.

With the opening of the cottage, book launches and other functions, the ladies would provide a hot meal for any number of people up to 100 (not an easy task, casserole would be cooked in member's homes and brought hot to the hall to be served up immediately). On a couple of occasions we had an Irish Band "The Mountain Dew" to perform. We provided the traditional Irish meal on both occasions. Setting up for functions was not an easy task before we bought our own pink crockery, the women would bring extra crockery from home. The tressel tables were very heavy and difficult to move around but the ladies never complained. (I wonder how many people today realise what the kitchen used to be like in the early days, it was less than half the size that it is today, there was no hot water or fridge, not even a stove. The sink was in

the most awkward place you could imagine). It became so much easier to cater for functions once the fire place and wall between the kitchen and cloak room were removed, hot water and stoves installed and a fridge.

Books have been a wonderful source of income. We are so grateful to Pat Williamson in particular for all her books. There were so many book launches in the Museum grounds, I cannot remember them all, Ken Fleming would bring his caravan to store the books in while Pat would sit and sign books for hours. There have been other authors of course including Pat Blay, Pat Hunt, Mary Chalker and Maureen Long.

There is no way I can name everyone who have helped the Society in every possible way, be it working bees, building materials, knowledge and ideas. Many people were members of the Society while others would just come to give a hand. All the work was voluntary and most of the materials were donated, as were the trucks for carting these materials and tractors for moving and lifting things around. We owe a huge thank you to everyone who have given so willingly of their time and talents to preserve Taralga's History for future generations.



MEMORIES FROM MARY CHALKER

In the late 1960's, Ian and Lorraine Ross moved from Myrtleville to a house they purchased in Taralga (old Commercial Hotel). Ian was very interested in the early history of Taralga and district, and he talked to many people about commencing a Historical Society to save and preserve the history.

Ian and Ken Fleming organised to have a display in the Masonic Hall - Ian had so much Ross history, and Ken had a wonderful collection of his own. Allan Pirie loaned history and clothes that belonged to Hillas family at Bannaby.

One morning Allan arrived at my home with boxes of history - I was so thrilled as the Bannaby history always seemed to be a secret, and for Allan to come to my home and leave it here - wonderful! Ian collected the boxes and added it to the display.

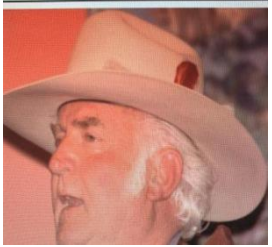
Many years later, the Pirie family gave the collection to the Historical Society, and it is on display in the Museum. Many other people gave items of interest for the display in Masonic Hall.

Ian kept on with his project, talking to interesting people, then in 1972 the first meeting was held at Mary Mooney's home at 'Mooney Vale'. Further meetings were held at people's homes until the Church was purchased.

Many meetings were held at Lorraine Ross' business - her flower shop in Orchard Street, also at her home in Taralga. Meetings also at Pat and Ray Williamson home in Macarthur Street, and at Ken Fleming's museum.

In the early years the T.H.S., Christmas Party and AGM were held in December at member's homes:

Russell and Mary Chalker at 'Greenwood'
Bob and Pat Blay at Myrtleville
Glennis and Max Wright Stonequarry
Ian and Lorraine Ross Taralga
Ken and Joyce Fleming Richlands
Heidi and Ken Ainsworth Bannaby
Jean and Fred Denman Bannaby - and probably others.



Ricky Hopkins
 16th June 2022
 Aged 74 years
 Father and Father in law of:
 Richard, Tanya, Todd and Karen
 Kelly and Ian
 Grandfather

Audrey Dempsey
 18th June aged 87 years
 Audrey Wilson was married to
 Paul Cree whose parents were
 Selby & Pearl of "Tallygang"
 Paul & Audrey also lived there at
 Wombeyan. Following Paul's
 death, Audrey married
 John Dempsey(dec)
 Mother of:
 Wendy, Judith Peter (dec) Ian(dec)
 Wayne (dec), Darryl and Michelle



Heather McLennan
 7.7.2022 aged 96 years
 5 days short of 97 years
 Wife of Doug (dec)
 Mother of: Alan, Helen and Lois



Margaret (Williamson) Scott
 9.7.2020 aged 84 years
 Daughter of Wal & Rita
 Wife of Bernard (dec)
 Mother of:
 Brett, Allison and twins
 Myke and Katherine
 Grandmother



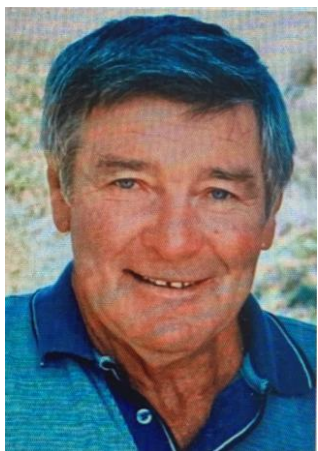
Gertrude Mills
 12.7.2022 aged 94 years
 Wife of John (dec)
 Mother and Mother in law of:
 Robert (dec) & Peg, Greg,
 Sandra & John,
 Trevor & Trish (dec)
 Rhonda & Ken,
 Debra, Wayne (dec)
 Craig & Raymond (dec)



David Bell
 17.7.2022 aged 83 years
 Late of Waeana Qld
 Formerly of Golspie
 Father of:
 Philip, Cameron and Jeremy
 Grandfather of 6



Karen Davies
 19.7.2022 aged 65 years
 Wife of Steve
 Mother of: Kylie & Shaun
 Stepmother of:
 Shane, Josh & Sarah
 Grandmother & GGmother



Gregory Carlton Moloney
"Shunta"
 16.8.2022 Aged 78 years
 Father and Father in Law of:
 Sonia & Brett, Daniel & Ashleigh,
 Alison & Brad
 Grandfather of eight
 Son of:
 John and Hazel Moloney (dec)
 Brother of:
 Allan, Marjorie (dec),
 Ken, Ron and Helen



Museum Duty

Saturdays 10am-2pm

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

October

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Saturday 1st | LONG WEEKEND |
| Sunday 2nd | 50 YEARS CELEBRATIONS |

Saturday 8 Jeff & Judy Chalker, Bob Blay, Andrew Moore
Saturday 15 Maureen, Joan, Pat, Elaine, Karen, Penny
Saturday 22 Mick & Annette Chalker, Ernie Stephenson, Peter Davies
Saturday 29 Judith Matthews, Chris Ainsworth, Danielle Green, Tim Dowsley

November

Saturday 5 Graham Lambert, Brian Moloney, Brian Corby, Tim Dowsley
Saturday 12 Jenny & Peter Haigh, Laurie Halpin, Pat Keough, Jim Dean
Saturday 19 Maureen, Joan, Pat, Elaine, Karen, Penny
Saturday 26 Peter & Margaret McAlister, Mick & Annette Chalker, Tim Dowsley

December

Saturday 3 Judith Matthews, Margaret McIntosh, Helena Hopkins, Bob Blay
Saturday 10 Tim Dowsley, Jeff & Judy Chalker,
Saturday 17 Maureen, Joan, Pat, Elaine, Karen, Penny
Saturday 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE** - Volunteers please
Saturday 31 Mick & Annette Chalker, Vlad & Galina Balashov, Peter Davies

