



## **Taralga Historical Society Inc**

**83 Orchard Street**

**Taralga NSW 2580**



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**President: Michael Chalker 4843 5975**

**Secretary: Graham Lambert 4843 8187**

**Treasurer: Glennis Wright 4840 2215**

***Aim: To preserve history of Taralga & District for future generations***

### **Newsletter No 4, 2018**

#### **Presidents Report December 2018:**

Well another year has come and gone and we appear to be progressing along quite nicely.

Since the last newsletter we have had a fairly busy time with the main event being the free open day in October, many visitors came through the gate to enjoy the facility. A sausage sizzle was enjoyed.

The seventies and over photo shoot was well attended, Graham Lambert was our official photographer, framed photos are available to be purchased from the society, please contact Graham. To complete the day, afternoon tea was enjoyed in the Masonic Hall and we were pleasantly entertained by the very talented Taralga Ukulele Group, a special thanks is extended to all the players.

We had a coach visit from the central coast early November, and a Goulburn School has booked in for early December.

General Saturday visitation is quite reasonable.

Society members supplied morning tea for the Tractor Trek at Golspie Hall, and members also combined with the Golf Club and local RFS to run the Heritage rally barbecue at the Showground on the weekend of seventeen/eighteen November. These events although hard work have proven to be financially successful for us.

A big thank you to those members who contributed their labour and expertise so unselfishly ensuring that the events were successful.

The next meeting will be the AGM on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support and effort that you have all offered the Society over the past year, We will keep on keeping on!!!

I wish you all that you would wish yourselves, have a happy, holy and healthy Christmas.

Warmest regards

Merry Christmas

Mick

**TARALGA**

**(From our Correspondent)**

DEATH OF MR T. BARRY- This gentleman, whose illness I recently reported, died at his residence, Brisbane Vale, Myrtleville on Tuesday night. Although his health had not been robust for some time, it was only recently Mr Barry had to lay up, and his death was due to a general breakup of the system. The deceased gentleman was 73 years of age, and was a very old and respected resident of the district. He is survived by a widow and several children, mostly grown up. Among the family is Mrs P.J.Maher of this town, and the late Mrs Kirkby of Goulburn, was a daughter of his. During his illness the deceased was attended by Dr Smythe of this place, and the Rev Father Carroll of Crookwell, was in attendance and performed the last rites of the church. Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs Barry and family in their trouble, as they only recently buried another member of the family. The funeral will take place today (Thursday). The remains will be interred in the R.C. cemetery at Stonequarry.



Thomas Barry Jnr 1824 - 1898

Grandfather of Thomasina (Barry) Craig

G.Gfather of Barry, Wilma and Dianne

This family lived at 'Barrymore' Myrtleville

*(Wilma & Dianne are Society members)*

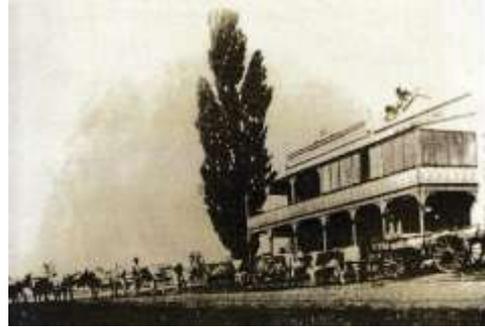
SCHOOL OF ARTS - A special meeting of the committee and trustees of the above was held in Mr Whiting's office on Friday night last for the purpose of considering some business in regard to the proposed site for the School of Arts. The building under offer to the committee is what is known as Mrs James

Burnett's property, and it was ultimately decided to instruct the trustees covenant to buy the property, provided some matters are satisfactorily cleared up. The Rev W.M. Martyn one of the trustees, presided at the meeting.



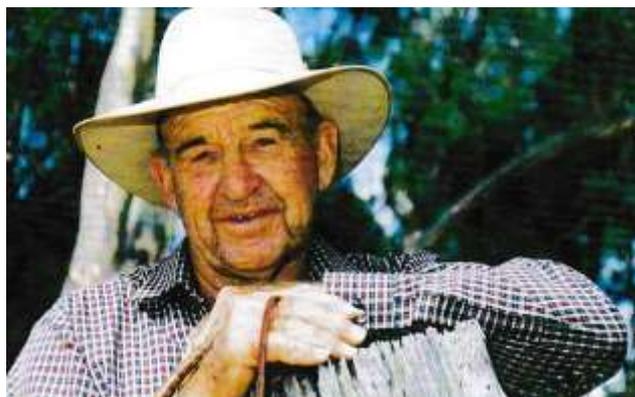
School of Arts

(In a neglected state)



W H Whiting Snr Store

*Vale*



**Reg Willoughby**

**4.9.2018 aged 88 years**

**Husband of Nita (dec)**

**Father of**

**Dale, Craig, Shayne, Scott, Todd**



**Michael Swan**

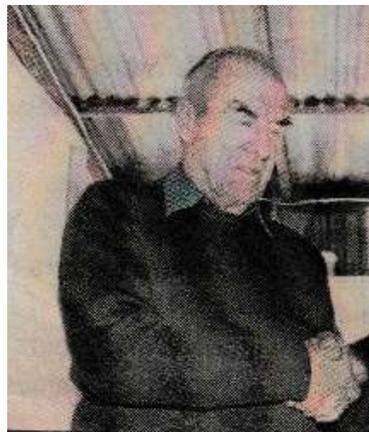
**4.9.2018 aged 61 years**

**Son of Kit & Ted**

**Husband of Deborah**

**Brother of**

**Verlene, John & Donald(dec)**



**John Lang ("Choko")**

**6.9.2018 aged 80 years**

**Husband of Beverly**

**Father of**

**Deborah and Sharyn**



**Christopher Robertson**

**19.10.2018**

**Husband of Miranda**

**Father of**

**Chelsea, Bridie, Hannah**

**Son of Denise and Allan**



**Tom Flood**

**9.9.2018 aged 70 years**

**Husband of Frances**

**Cousin of Mary (Keogh) Connor( dec)**

## **Goulburn Evening Penny Post - Friday 2 December 1927**

### ONE HOME FOR 50 YEARS

The late Mrs Taylor of Taralga who died recently was a native of Sutton Forest, but she came to Taralga at an early age, and resided in the same house for more than 50 years, her total residence here being over 70 years. Her late husband who died 13 years ago, was the first white child born in Taralga. She was the mother of 12 children, nine of whom survive her. The sons are: Messrs Frank (Canowindra), Fred (Parkesbourne) and Robert (Thirroul). The daughters are: Mesdames Muir (Sydney), Copp (Taralga), Sieler (Marulan), Poll (Crookwell), Rumble (Goulburn) and Stewart (British Columbia).

She has 62 grandchildren, 87 great grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

For the past six years the old lady was bed-ridden, though she was in possession of all of her faculties to the last.

During the long period she was laid up she was devotedly nursed by her daughter, Mrs Copp, assisted for the past few months by Mrs Wallace Alders of Bannaby.

## **Goulburn Evening Penny Post - Monday 7 September 1936**

### THE LATE MR WILLIAM CREE

Mr William J.Cree, a well-known resident of "Green Hills" Taralga collapsed and died while working in the garden near his home on Friday afternoon. Mr Cree who was 62 years of age had not enjoyed good health for some years. Lately, however, he appeared to be considerably improved, and on Friday he left the homestead on horseback to look over some paddocks. It was also his intention to do work in a garden situated beyond a hill some distance from the house.

When he failed to return for afternoon tea, Mrs Cree walked to the garden,

where she saw her husband's horse cropping grass. Mr Cree's body was lying nearby. A doctor later certified the death due to heart failure.

Mr Cree was the only son of the late Mr and Mrs W. Cree who came to N.S.W., and settled at "Green Hills" more than 70 years ago. He had carried on grazing and dairying at Green Hills for many years, and also held a grazing property at Tallygang, Wombeyan Caves. In his younger years he took an active interest in all local affairs. He was a keen member of the A.P.& H. Association committee, and was also a member of the Catholic Church committee for many years.

He is survived by a widow, one son Mr Selby Cree (Wombeyan Caves), and two daughters Misses Jenny and Nelly Cree (Green Hills). Mrs P. Elliott (Newfoundland) is a sister.

The burial took place at the Roman Catholic cemetery, Stonequarry on Saturday afternoon, the cortege being one of the largest seen in the Taralga district. Rev Fr O'Sullivan officiated at the graveside.

**CONTINUED FROM LAST 2 NEWSLETTERS:**

## **ADDRESS ON HISTORY OF THE TARALGA AREA**

*From Goulburn Evening Post 1955*

The following address on the early history of Taralga and other parts of the southern districts was read recently to Goulburn Historical Society by Mr Dave Mullaney of Taralga.

It was written by Miss Jean Findlay of Yalbraith as an essay eight years ago.

### **About the Author:**

Robert Scott Craig b.1899 d.1968 was the twin brother of Murdoch, he married Iris Findlay who already had a daughter named Jean. Robert and Iris had one son, Keith Gillies who died aged 37. Robert and Iris had a home at "Cobbodong".

Jean was a devoted horsewoman. She moved to Sydney and married,

Jean Findlay-Gower died 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 87 years and is buried at Stonequarry Cemetery with her Mother, Father and Keith.



**Left to right: Joan Scott and Jean Findlay at Taralga Show**

### **Jean's Story:**

Before I pass onto bushranging I shall tell a little of a very well known old man who died some ten or twelve years ago. His name was "Barry's Black" and he was a native - short, fat and shiny black - and, so I am told, a fearful "fibber". He used to say he was an "American native" - and he hated to hear himself or any like him termed 'blackfelloe", but really he was an Australian one. Everyone knows of 'barry's black" and the famous yarns he used to tell.

*(Editor: Actually he was a Mauritian who at a very young age worked in the sewers of Sydney. He ran away and was on the road when William Connor was returning from transporting wool to Sydney for sale. He picked the poor fellow up and took him home to Bannaby, where he lived with the family. He was known as **Jack Williams**.*

*Years later he left Bannaby to live with the Barry family at Myrtleville.*

*Apparently he had a very funny sense of humour and would send up the Barry ladies. They took it all as good fun!! He was referred to as "Black Jack" by the locals)*

***He appears in this photo in the front row.***



**Pioneers of Taralga 1922**

Of the aborigines, Charles McAlister says a pillar should be erected, bearing these words: "We, the Australian aborigines are no more, civilisation killed us, and dug our grave: may a kindlier civilisation flourish o'er our bones."

### THE BUSHRANGERS

There are a great many people today who carry on the trade of the old time bushrangers, and in a far more brazen manner. Their exploits however, for the most part lack most of the dash and colour associated with bushrangers. Fortunately too, they don't go in for wholesale murder as did some 'rangers.

In the pioneering and carrying days, the bushranging trade was able to flourish at the expense of the settlers and teamsters.

Dad's grandfather, Murdoch McKay, like most other pioneers, took his bullock waggon to Sydney at regular intervals, loaded with cheese, butter, bacon, ham, wheat etc., to sell on the ready market there. On the return journey he brought family supplies from the "city" as well as the money he received for his goods, so he was often chased and held up by the 'rangers. He said that the teamsters used to hide most of their money - sometimes in the collars of the horses or oxen, or in the woodwork of the waggon. They even used to hollow out the shaft poles and stuff their hard earned money in the cavities.

Usually however, the 'rangers did not rob the teamsters - often they were on very friendly terms with those continually "on the road", and often supped and slept with them. This is not hard to understand when one realises that the majority of these outlaws were quite good men with a dreadful grudge against society - especially soldiers and policemen or those responsible for their former sufferings. Against the hard working settlers themselves, they bore no grudge, nor the teamsters to them, as probably they themselves had seen the kind of treatment prisoners received, or had experienced some official "fencing in" and insults.

The majority of 'rangers operating in the argyle district were escaped convicts or "ticket-of-leave" men. There were others of course, who were "born" criminals and robbed for the sake of money etc., attached to robbery and plunder.

There are several notable bushrangers who had their "Stamping grounds" here, and others who just visited, so I shall write a little of those I know of:

## LYNCH

Lynch was I think, one of the most murderous and cold blooded of all bushrangers. He was originally a convict, and until his term expired worked for Matt Hillas, on his property at Bannaby, or Bunnaby as it was then called. He has to his credit a total of nine murders that are known. He had a tomahawk with which he killed his victims - Indian style, and afterwards he usually burnt their bodies. Leaving little or no trace of the murder.

In this ghastly manner he murdered a whole family of four - the Mulligans, who lived near Berrima. They gave him a bed for the night, and the next day he cremated them on their potato patch. Other victims included passing teamsters he fell in with and luckless natives.

A Taralga identity, one John Chalker, and a policeman captured him on the Mulligan's farm (some time later of course) and he was hung at Berrima in 1844.

Lynch's career was one of the most blood thirsty in the whole of the south.

#### PEISLEY, LOWRY, CROOKWELL AND VANE

These bushrangers spent most of their time in the Goulburn, Taralga and Abercrombie areas. They were not very bad men compared with others, certainly not like Lynch, and their careers were fairly short.

Peisley: Was a notorious horse stealer operating chiefly in the Abercrombie area. He shot a man in 1863, and "studied" his trade as an apprentice to that old master Gardiner.

Lowry: Was a "strapping and brave young native" who, it was related, became a 'ranger as the result of a practical joke. He was brave and intelligent and did little but some horse stealing, and one big robbery - that of the Mudgee mail. He was fatally shot in 1864 in a duel with the police at a hotel

Crookwell: Was another Abercrombie bushranger, very clever at "horse lifting", and he had local residents in a constant state of jitters during his two years' reign. In 1866, a traitor, supposed to be a friend of his, told the Taralga police where to find him on a certain night. He was surprised in bed in the Abercrombie on Christmas Day, and he and his mate, "Jack-The-Man" were captured. On his way to Darlinghurst Gaol, Crookwell tried to escape and during the scuffle he shot dead a trooper. For this he was hanged at Darlinghurst, "and so ended the reckless career of a most unfortunate and ill-governed creature"

Vane: Practised horse-lifting and stealing, but surrendered to a priest from Taralga, thus receiving a light sentence on the priest's recommendation for mercy.

There were many other bushrangers, but I have not time to write of any more.

I must add that the famous team of Ben Hall, Gilbert and Dunn paid many (for themselves) entertaining and enriching visits to Goulburn, Binda and surrounding districts. Their headquarters seemed to be about Collector, but they always seemed to be a thought and step ahead of the police, until that fateful day when the members of the gang were surprised during a meal and either shot or captured.

My sympathy always has, and always will be with Ben Hall, who was a misguided victim of circumstances. His good and peaceful nature strove to overcome his other embittered self and showed through the tough exterior in flashes - often to prevent

his rougher associates doing some blood-spilling or injustice. His true story is sad reading.

In those days the only end for a bushranger, good or otherwise, was a hangman's noose. Often they had no choice but to become an outlaw, and certainly no say once they were caught.

## TARALGA AND GOULBURN

Taralga is a very small town, and, I'm afraid, not very lively. Still it has an air of quiet but steady prosperity about it as it is the centre of a large area of thriving grazing and farming land. It has settled down now into a small town that looks dead, but is really very much alive as an important centre for the graziers.

In the early days it sprang up "mushroom style" and thrived so quickly that people thought it would become a large town. It has deteriorated and many say it will fade away. To illustrate this - there were once five hotels and now there are only two. Hotels are usually a sure indication as to the population and wealth.

I don't believe Taralga will fade for there are wealthy station owners in plenty, and the wool grown is of a very fine quality. Potatoes and oats also thrive. A goods train comes each Wednesday to our "metropolis", and it is connected to Goulburn by a twice-daily bus service. Mail arrives from Goulburn each day by mail car.

As I mentioned, it was originally called "Trial-Gang". The main street is called Orchard Street because Macarthur's private orchard occupied most of the present site of the township. The only other streets which have names (to my knowledge) are Macarthur (named after him), and Bannaby and Laggan, because they lead to small settlements of Bannaby and Laggan.

The best and most modern building in the town is the bank, which has two storeys, and was erected in 1938 or thereabouts. Also, there are two large general stores, several cafes, two two-storey hotels, a brick post office, school and four churches.

There is a very attractive show ring and a dirt racing track several miles out. Races are held once or twice every year by the R.S.L.

The ballroom caught fire and was burnt down several years ago and the show pavilion is being used at present. Plans are going ahead to erect a £7,000 War

Memorial Hall which will combine ballroom, library, concert hall etc. It should be finished by the end of 1949.

Goulburn, Queen City of the South, was named after Mr Goulburn, Colonial Secretary in the British Government of Earl Grey. It is now a large, beautiful, well laid out city with wide, tree-lined streets and rows of attractive brick cottages, beautiful imposing churches, a pretty park, and a showground which comprises race and trotting track, greyhound racing track and showground. It is well worth a visit.

Goulburn was actually once composed almost entirely of Jews, who, in the forties ran nearly every shop there. I haven't any doubt that this thrifty race put Goulburn on its feet, for they were very industrious and enterprising.

The first show was held in 1846, the first races in 1849 - the prize money totalled £10. In 1833 there were only about a dozen white women in the whole of Argyle, but by 1836 there were about 1929 people, of whom no less than 1106 were convicts.

To revert back to Goulburn - there is a population of approx. 12,000, and during the past few years several factories have been started, chiefly woollen goods factories. The largest is the Pacific Chenille.

## AGRICULTURAL RECORDS

The men say "the seasons have changed", and I am inclined to believe them, for once wheat, corn and even tobacco was grown. Now, the only "safe" crops are oats and potatoes as the frosts nearly always blacken and kill the others.

In 1836, Argyle held the second place among the wheat growing districts of N.S.W. There were 3828 acres of wheat with an approximate yield of 90,000 bushels under cultivation, also 247 acres of oats which yielded 2012 bushels.

One hundred and twenty two tons of potatoes were produced and the grand total of 1½ tons of tobacco. Hundred of acres of oats is now grown and the district is now a very important potato centre.

People in the early days were almost entirely self-supporting, and in bad seasons they suffered like the natives. They ground their own flour from the wheat they grew,

and in bad seasons they were so short of food that each took their share into the bedroom to eat it. The reason for this - if any travellers came along they would be too kind-hearted to refuse them a meal, and if they gave it to them they went without themselves. This is another hard to believe fact.

## WOMBELYAN CAVES

These beautiful caves were discovered by Mick Chalker, the date being about 1837, for by 1839 only two caves had been fully explored.

Recently we went to the caves and explored the wonders of the most beautiful of all the caves, the Wollondilly. People who have seen there, and the Jenolan declare the Wombelyan to be equal, if not better than the Jenolan, and I heartily agree. I was spell bound.

The Wombelyan Caves could be a fine tourist attraction, but they are not publicised enough, and the two roads leading to them are very bad- especially the one from Mittagong. The state of the road, its narrowness, and "hairpin" bends is enough to make most people have jittery nerves for days. The scenery (if one is well enough to appreciate it) is some of the most breathtaking, wild and vivid anyone could wish to see.

Fine marble deposits have been discovered on the Taralga side and these are being developed rapidly. The marble is almost perfect in quality and is proving a valuable asset to the district.

I have not been able to write all I wished to in my outline of the district's history. In conclusion, I hope it will prove to be interesting, and the information contained therein of some value. - c. **1947**

## **The Goulburn Herald and Chronicle - Saturday 19 February, 1876**

### VISIT TO THE WHOMBELYAN CAVES - BY ONE OF THE PARTY

On Thursday morning last a large number of ladies and gentlemen, of whom the writer was one, started from Taralga to visit the Whombelyan Caves. After travelling about twelve miles we reached the Mare's Forest, the property of Mr John Chalker, and after partaking of some refreshments we went on to the caves, about three miles distant. The first sight we had of them was grand in the extreme. Before us

lay a mountain of limestone penetrated completely through by an immense archway about two hundred yards long, two hundred foot high, and about one hundred and fifty yards wide. After arranging for camping, we entered the cavern adjacent to the archway. The grandeur and majesty of those caverns baffle all description. No pen can give the reader any proper idea of their magnificence. The painter with all his art could not show one iota of the perfection of those wondrous works of nature. The vastness of the caverns, the yawning chasms, the snowy whiteness and beauty of the stalactites form a picture that once seen is never to be forgotten. We returned to camp at eight p.m., and after partaking of the really good things provided by the ladies, dancing and singing were kept up to the small hours when all retired to rest. On the following morning, after ample justice had been done to the good spread neatly arranged by the ladies, we made a start for the new caves about one mile distant. We arrived at the foot of a steep mountain, and after climbing about one hundred and fifty feet we found ourselves at the entrance to the caves, and by means of ropes and ladders we were enabled to overcome all difficulties; up and down the intricate passages, at one time through a small hole, at another time walking through immense caverns, vaulted roofs studded with beautiful, sparkling, and ever-occurring stalactites, and the floor and sides covered with other limestone deposits equally splendid. At length we arrive at what is called the ball-room, and after several sets of quadrilles had been gone through, and songs sung by some of the ladies and gentlemen, we made another start, and had not proceeded far when we found ourselves at what is termed the basins. This is the grandest part of the caves - the most magnificent scenery presenting itself in all its loveliness and grandeur, and as I think it useless to attempt to describe this spot, I will leave it in the hand of some person more able to do justice to the subject than myself. We returned to camp, and after satisfying the inner man, the party amused themselves with songs, dances, recitations and forfeits, after which the health of the ladies was proposed and very ably responded to by one of the gentlemen, who by his antics and mirth provoking powers, kept the whole of the party convulsed in laughter. I cannot conclude without bearing testimony to the very brave manner in which the ladies performed their parts in scaling ladders and climbing cliffs with the agility of cats. I must also mention the kindness of our worthy guide (Mr Robert Chalker) who was particularly attentive in assisting them through any rough place, and his willingness to show the party all that was to be seen in deserving of the greatest praise. Nothing occurred to mar the pleasure of the party, and each and all were highly delighted with their pleasant trip. As for myself, I only wish that I may soon again make one of such a jolly good - natured pleasant party.

## **Success Story For Taralga Pony Club**

*Goulburn Evening Post 1965*

The Taralga Pony Club was originally sponsored by the A.P.& H.Society in July 1959, when Society President Mr. Mick Chalker called a meeting to discuss the formation of a club.

Mr Don McKenzie was elected president, Mr Jim Duncan vice-president and Mrs Mary Mooney as secretary-treasurer.

A committee of eleven was agreed upon and duly elected.

From this inaugural meeting, the club has in six years progressed to outstanding achievements.

At the invitation of the A.P.&H.Society, the club proposed a schedule for the Spring Show and the Annual Show and each year the children have delighted patrons with their horsemanship and skill.

### **AT THE ROYAL**

As well as competing at local shows, the club has been represented at all district shows and this year the distinction of having a club member being selected to represent this zone at the Royal Easter Show.

He is Ian Moloney, son of Mr and Mrs Les Moloney of Richlands.

To finance the trip, the club opened an appeal which resulted in £25/20/- being raised. Ian will shortly leave for Sydney and with him go the best wishes of all of his team mates.

In 1961, the club held an adult camp at Bannaby and six persons sat for certificates. The examination, an oral one, included points of a horse, mounting etc., natural aids to riding and the method of teaching children and their horse to jump.

### **CHILDREN'S CAMP**

The first children's camp was held in 1963 and thirty youngsters attended.

This camp has become an annual event and eagerly awaited in the Christmas New Year period.

Periodically, the committee stages rallies and gymkhanas, particularly before the shows.

This enables the children to give their best performances before the visiting judges.

In 1963, John Corby won the Harry Douven Cup for the most successful junior rider at the Crookwell Show. This and other achievements have paved a path of success for the local club and the committee is confident of continued success in the future.

The original children's membership was 45, and at the present time, stands at 54.

Past presidents of the club have been Mr Don McKenzie, 1959-60-61; Mrs Joan McLennan, 1962, Mr D, McKenzie, 1963-64.

Mrs Mary Mooney has handled the secretarial duties during the past six years, and her untiring efforts have contributed largely to the club's success.

## PROGRAM

**9<sup>th</sup> February 2019 - AGM 2.30PM AT THE MASONIC HALL**



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

**Please note opening hours (unless otherwise advised) are**

**10am to 2.30pm inclusive**

#### **December**

- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>: Annette & Mick Chalker, Helena Hopkins, Margaret McIntosh  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Ken & Joyce Fleming, Jim Dean  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Judith Matthews, Graham Lambert, Tim Dowsley  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> ANY VOLUNTEERS ?

#### **January**

- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Graham & Sue Lambert, Tim Dowsley  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Peter & Margaret McAlister, Laurie Halpin  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> RODEO WEEKEND - any volunteers?, please give me a call

#### **February**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Matt & Vicki Chalker, Alan Robertson, Judith Matthews  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Mick & Annette Chalker, Peter Davies - **AGM 2.30pm**  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Ken & Joyce Fleming, Helena Hopkins, Margaret McIntosh

### **March**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Blay, Marcus Harstein, Nicola Young, Jimmy Dean  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Jeff & Judy Chalker, Brian Corby, Brian Kelly  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Peter Davies, Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler, Brian Moloney  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Annette & Mick Chalker, Robert Rabjohns

**Folks if your name hasn't been appearing on the roster or you would like to change days please let me know. Your attendance at the museum is always welcome, there is always something to do or research.**

**Please phone myself 4843 5975 or Graham 4843 8187 (Mick)**

*Editor Maureen Long*