

**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 4, 2021

Presidents Report:

Last newsletter I omitted to thank Terry Bennett. He removed the huge root ball at the base of the holly bush allowing Lamp works. Thank you Terry, you did a great job as usual!

Members had a working bee on 25th September, and did a wonderful job. The grounds looking perfect.

Ashley, son of Bede and Carmel Fitzgibbon (both dec) has gifted as an ongoing Loan, the Funeral Register of his Grandfather Patrick (Paddy) Fitzgibbon.

Paddy bought the business from G.C.Milne 2nd October 1920.

Mr Milne was Mrs William Bradbury's father.

The Register is quite frail, so a copy is being typed so that it can be handled. The original will be placed in a glass cabinet together with Paddy's Funeral Top Hat.

We are so grateful to Ashley for allowing us to have it in our care.

Jacinta (Bowerman) Elliott and her sister Timara Moloney have donated the Chatsbury School Register .

The sister's parents are Robert and Cheryl (both dec) and her Grandmother Jean (Gordon) Bowerman attended the School. Most of us remember the Bowermans when they had the Argyle Hotel before moving to The Gordon in Goulburn.

Thank you to Jacinta and Timara,we very much appreciate this documentation which adds to our history.

As the weather gets warmer, it would be good if we could open the Museum on Sundays. Could we get some Volunteers to assist please.
Please phone Maureen.

**CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER
TARALGA SPORTS CLUB
TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2PM**



Taralga Windfarm Grant



To Taralga Historical Society for this Timecutter Mower trying it out are Mat Chalker, Ernie Stephenson and Geoff Sieler



AUSTRALIA DAY 26TH JANUARY

Taralga Australia Day Rodeo Committee are holding a Car, Bike and Truck show at Gray Park, also Market Stalls at the Sports Club. There will be activities for the kids with face painting and Jumping Castle.

The Sports Club will be open from 7am for breakfast.

The day is being organised by the Goulburn Street and Classic Car Club and will have a huge raffle on offer.

Proceeds will be going to Beau Cosgrove who has a condition called MPS Type 1V Morquio Syndrome, to help purchase a B-PAP sleep machine.

Come along for a
FUN FAMILY FILLED AUSTRALIA DAY
and
HELP SUPPORT THIS WORTHY CAUSE.
Enquiries: Terry Bennett 0429 131 331

Vale



MARIE HARDING of Bulli
Passed away peacefully on Wednesday 25th August, 2021.
Aged 94 years

Beloved wife of the late John (Jock).
Adored mother and mother in law of Therese, Peter and Tammy, Leo and Annette, Bernard, Chris and Teresa, John and Felicity.

Cherished Grandmother of her 10 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Jock Harding was a very well liked and respected Policeman In Taralga.

HEATHER SINCLAIR

17 September 2021 aged 94 years

Wife of Colin (dec). Partner of Howard

Mother of Robyn, Murray, Kerry, Andrew and Vanessa

Grandmother and Great Grandmother



VIOLET (VI) McQUAID

18 September 2021 aged 84 years

Wife of Peter (dec)

Daughter of Jack and Rita Lawson (both dec)

Sister of Bernie and Daphne (both dec) and John and Pat



Cecily (Clifton) Raynor

Wife of Dennis

Mother of Karen, Lynne and Scott Grandmother to six grandsons

Daughter of Charlie and Ena Clifron

Sister of: Lola McDonald (dec) Fay White (dec)

Mary Lang and Tony (dec) (Twins)



Wanda Kathleen Bradbury

'PEG'

19th October 2021

Age: 93 years

Wife of Cole

Mother of:

Allan, Kathryn and Dot

Mother in Law of: Jan, Peter and Peter

Nanny and Great Nanny

Sister and sister in law of Dougla and Colleen Elliott

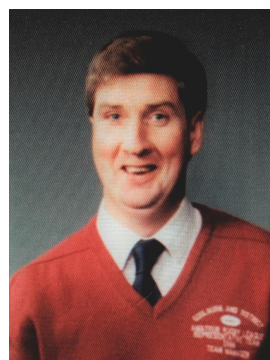
Ashley Craig

27th November 2021 aged 64 years

Son of Ken and Mel (both dec)

Brother and brother in law of:

Maple (dec) Ann and Wayne, and Marita



CHALKER SWORD

by Mary Chalker

Many years ago before I became interested in family history, Joan Twynam asked me if I had seen or knew anything about the **Chalker Sword** -

Joan said when she was younger she used to visit Maria Chalker, who lived at Black Flats Wombeyan. Maria would show her the Sword. Maria died in 1935 and Joan suggested I try to find out the history of it.

Then, recently a sword was found in the RSL Rooms and again I was asked what I knew, so I've jotted down what I know.

Russell remembers a sword on the wall in the back parlour above the bar in Mooneys Pub, The Taralga Hotel. It disappeared from there in the 1950's.

Grandfather Mick ,my,father-in-law told me he thought Clem Chalker took it when Clem and his wife Molly moved to Sydney. I contacted Molly after Clem passed away and she said she didn't know about it..

I also asked Jackie Wylie - owner of the hotel, and she didn't remember who took it.

There are many records of the sword being used to cut cakes - ceremonial and wedding cakes. Also, photos of the sword being carried in processions and always called the Chalker Sword.

There are many swords in the Masonic Rooms used at Masonic meetings. Albert Lang many years ago, took me into the rooms and showed me the swords - many are ceremonial but there was a plain sword there that Albert told me was the Chalker Sword. How did it come to be in Masonic Rooms?

It would have been early 1950's before we were married, when sword disappeared from the hotel.

Another suggestion has been that the (Charker) Chalker family in England in the late 1700's were in the Army and that this first Chalker (William) was sent to Australia as a Convict, but he was on the same Ship as Throsby, and had his sentence reduced, and was in charge of the Cattle, and was a friend of Throsby and Lachlan McAlister, and they arranged for the sword to go to William.

Another story, William was in charge of the cattle and was given the sword for his work with the cattle industry

Ken Fleming's memories:

Ken was told that someone borrowed the sword and returned it to the hotel and left it on the bar, and it disappeared. He remembers the sword.

He has checked all records of the Masonic Lodge and cannot find anything about where the "different" sword came from, and who gave it. Ken has said that they cannot give the sword away, but when the Lodge closes, the sword will go to the Historical Society.

The Fleming family also had a sword - not the Taralga family. Ken had seen it years ago, but it has "disappeared" now.



**Michael Chalker
carrying the Chalker Sword
in the
Back to Taralga Procession 1939**

Bunnaby Street, Taralga

Commenced at Crookwell end of Bunnaby Street

Southern side

No 90: 1860's McDonald
1916 J. Kelly
Joe Clack married Liza Menzies and they lived here
Jim and Ida (Chalker) Kelly (parents of Lindsay)
Lindsay & Mary Kelly

LOVING MEMORIES OF MY FATHER JOSEPH CLACK 1868-1932

I was eight years old when my father died, and lived in a little slab cottage built by my father at Laggan Road Taralga. We also spent part time at our small farm at Bannaby where my father had also built a little farm house.

I remember the kitchen in Taralga had a slate stone floor and a walk in fireplace with hobs on either side where we kids often sat to keep warm. A black iron kettle used to hang above the fire and our mother cooked our meals in a camp oven and black iron saucepans. What hardship it must have been, and washing day must have been an absolute nightmare. There was a spring water running creek just down the paddock from the house, and our mother would take the washing in kerosene cans to the creek and boil the washing. To my younger sister Marge and me, it was a fun day we would play and catch tadpoles in jars.

Apart from running the farm, my father had a bullock team and wagon, and his little pony "Goldust" always on lead at the back. He would haul bales of wool and logs of timber among other things from Bannaby to Marulan and Collector. Can you imagine what a slow and hard trip this would have been, over rough bush roads, he would sometimes be away weeks at a time.

He was a kind and gentle man, and I can honestly say I never heard him raise his voice, but I do remember when I wouldn't eat my vegetables, he would mash them all up and make a cake with a cross –cross top, and when it snowed he would help us make a big snow man. He also put swings under the old pine tree for us.

Even though my name is Amy, he always called me Scott, maybe he wished for a son before I was born. These are memories I will always treasure.

They say hard work never killed anyone, but it certainly helped in his case. When he died Doctors said his body was strained beyond help from heavy lifting. I remember when he became too ill to bring his bullock team home, he stopped at "Worrigeer" (then owned by Pearces) Bannaby, and turned his bullocks out onto their property and left his wagon by the roadside and rode "Goldust" home. This is where his wagon was picked up from and taken to the Museum at Taralga.

I thank the person who made it possible to have his wagon restored.

These are my childhood memories of a father I loved, and only wish he had lived until I was grown up.

Lovingly, His daughter Amy

FOLLOWING PAGE SHOWS THIS HOUSE AFTER MAJOR RENOVATIONS



Randall Vlietstra restored this wonderful house fund under much undergrowth



And, then he added a picturesque garden

GRANNY DOUGLAS

Contributed by Patricia Blay for the Taralga AP&H Centenary Show 1986

From the Scottish Highlands to the mists of Bannaby - would, in the briefest of terms, describe the life of Janet McIntosh.

Janet McIntosh, better known as Jessie Douglas in the Taralga district become a legend in her own right and was a very controversial figure within the local area towards the end of the nineteenth century.

But to fully appreciate the full story of the life and times of Jessie, we must begin at the beginning, which takes us back into Scotland to the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Janet was born in Tain, Rosshire, on 31 October 1816, and was the daughter of Margaret (nee McDonald) and James McIntosh.

True family records have been exceptionally difficult to establish, but it is believed that Jessie had at least one full brother named Donald.

Full proof of Jessie's father is unavailable and we know he was a Shepherd in Rosshire, and so we presume Jessie grew up in the countryside, because on her arrival in Australia, or soon afterwards, Jessie became known as an accomplished horsewoman.

Although details of Jessie's life in Scotland are very scarce at this stage, we know of her arrival in Australia.

Towards the end of 1838, the Scottish Government chartered the Ship "Boyne" to bring free immigrants to Australia. We know now that when the "Boyne" arrived at Sydney Cove on 2nd January 1839, Jessie was one of the passengers.

But, let us digress a little before we continue with Jessie's life in Australia. It must be pointed out at this stage that much of the research into the 'life and times of Jessie' must be credited to one of her descendants, Major W.E. Hughes, MBE, of Toowoomba in Queensland who has recently visited Scotland and obtained first hand information from Parish registers etc., while there. Major Hughes has also now published a book of family history of the descendants of Granny Douglas, titled 'Our Families - past and present' which lists several thousand names.

From Scottish records we know that Janet 'Jessie' McIntosh married a Scotsman named Angus McDonald in Invernesshire on 24th June, 1835. Jessie was 19 years old, Angus was twice her age.

The following year a daughter was born to them and they named her Mary.

That little girl, Mary was later to play an important part in the settlement and development of the Bannaby district.

Two years later in 1838 Jessie and Angus had a son, whom they named John.

Only very recently it has been discovered that Jessie's father James McIntosh and what appears to be his second wife, Christina McIntyre and two young sons (a third child died during the voyage) had arrived in the colony on the "William Nichol" towards the end of 1837. Donald McIntosh is also listed among the passengers on arrival.

Perhaps this then was the reason that Jessie and Angus McDonald packed up their little family, left behind their beloved Scotland and set sail for the unknown.

Upon their arrival in N.S.W., it appears they settled in the Roslyn district in the county of Argyle.

Although the Gold Rush days had not yet begun, news of small strikes drifted in and it is believed Angus got "gold fever" and departed to make his fortune, leaving Jessie and the two small children to fend for themselves. How she managed, we shall never know, but it appears

that she had some contact at this time with her brother Donald.

Jessie waited, but Angus did not return and so she struck up a friendship with another young Scott, named George Abercrombie Douglas who had arrived in the colony on the "Rajah" in 1838.

Jessie wasted no time in deciding that Angus McDonald had deserted her, and so with a special dispensation from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Sydney, she and George Abercrombie Douglas were married in St Peter & Pauls Catholic Church, Goulburn, on 28th July 1840.

George was rich and well educated and a staunch Presbyterian and knew nothing of life on the land. He was in receipt of a goodly sized endowment from Scotland and this must have assisted him in obtaining land at Laggan in the county of Georgiana, and it was there that a daughter Grace was born to Jessie and George on 5th August 1841.

Other research has proved that George was known to John Hillas of Bannaby and it was probably he who persuaded George and Jessie to move from Laggan, and take up a portion of land at Bannaby.

Before their departure from Laggan, a second daughter Margaret was born in August of 1842.

And so George and Jessie and the four little children, Mary and John, Grace and Margaret took up residence at Newfoundland in the Bannaby district.

Today more than 140 years later (1986), the site of their home is still visible, the property now belongs to Mr Bill Alders - a fourth generation descendant.

Jessie became a familiar figure in the district, as did her husband George. Many stories of their escapades have been passed down through the families, but with very few members bothering to note, much more has no doubt been lost forever.

Jessie was noted as a fine horsewoman, and her familiar figure, seated sidesaddle, could be seen charging around the countryside. She hurdled fences and rarely let down a slip-rail.

She is reputed to have smoked a clay pipe, moulding them herself from clay from the creek nearby her residence.

At the first Agricultural Show held at Taralga in 1880 it is understood Jessie was a Judge in the Jams & Preserves section. Some of the competitors objected to her presence, stating that with her smoking habit, she was hardly likely to be able to taste the exhibits!

George Abercrombie Douglas was never happy in the Taralga district, and in later life became an alcoholic. He possessed a beautiful singing voice and could be heard in "full voice" riding home late at night down the Bannaby Road after one of his bouts in Taralga. He is known to have described life at Bannaby as "hell on earth with death being its only relief".

And so the children grew and time marched on. The Douglas family in Scotland well to do in their own right had requested that the two girls, Grace and Margaret return to Scotland to be educated. George would not agree to this and the girls were sent to the Mercy Convent in Goulburn.

When Mary was 17 years old she married James Alders, son of their close friend and neighbour.

It is not known at just what period of time during Jessie's marriage to George Douglas, but her first husband, Angus McDonald DID return.

Finding Jessie married and with two more children it is understood Angus McDonald again departed, taking the son John, a grown lad with him. Nothing was ever heard of them again until very recently when Major Hughes researching the family history discovered the death of Angus McDonald. He died at Liverpool Hospital near Sydney, 1 July 1861. The whereabouts of John still remain a mystery,

The daughter, Grace Douglas married John Barry at Myrtleville in 1862 and went on to have 6 daughters and four sons. Margaret Douglas married John Joseph Hughes and had 7 daughters and 2 sons



Jessie is believed to have spent her married life trying to convert George to the Catholic faith, but he steadfastly refused. But Jessie would not be outdone. When George Douglas departed this life on 28.2.1879 she had his remains interred in the Catholic section of Stonequarry Cemetery - much against what were his final wishes.

Jessie lived on at Bannaby for many more years, finally passing from this life on 18.7.1893 in her 79th year,

Sketch of Jessie from only known photo - by Hilary Connor

D'arcy Kelly

Recollections of a fine Gentleman and Blacksmith Extraordinaire
by Heather Bradbury c.2004

Darcy was our neighbor for 20 odd years until his death in 1947 . I don't recall his arrival in Taralga, but I think he came first to Crookwell in partnership with a Mr. Rowe who was a Wheelwright. The Rowes lived for a short time in the cottage where the Mill now stands. Darcy (I believe) boarded with them for a time. Sometime earlier Darcy had a serious accident, thrown from his horse he sustained head injuries which necessitated his being fitted with a metal plate to his head. As a result he gradually became very withdrawn, and a real loner. Had it not been for his profession – yes it was a profession with Darcy – which kept him in constant communication with people, he may well have become a real recluse. He was a perfectionist, with a great love of horses, and a dedication to his work.

He was well educated and kept abreast of the time through the newspapers and daily conversations with his clients. He always had a dog which was his faithful companion and minder. From the time I remember he lived in the Forge, he was a very independent old fellow, never accepting “charity”.

Other than Christmas dinner, he always was very reluctant to receive “hand outs”. But he fed himself well as evidenced by his daily visits to the butcher, baker and grocer.

He kept a few chooks, and for those he did receive wheat (with thanks) from “The Mill”.

The forge was built of slabs with an iron roof, and was roughly the size of a regular one car garage. The fire box was in the back corner, also built of slabs. It was about 3 feet high and 5 feet square. The large bellows had a pumping arm about 3 feet long. The inside was quite dark, and the walls hung with all kinds of weird and wonderful implements. I only have hazy memories of what went on inside that eerie room, as it was not the place little girls were allowed, but I do remember him heating and hammering the red hot steel into shape. And how it sizzled and steamed when he cooled it in a bucket of cold water, and, those huge bellows in action bringing the fire to life like a dragon breathing fire. It was an awesome experience when I occasionally “sneaked” inside to see Darcy. The forge stood back about 30 feet from the roadway where the big storage shed is now – this space was the shoeing area, and here also stood a large “leg iron” used for adjustments on sulky wagon wheels. When the horses were ridden to town for shoeing, the owners would tie them in this area and go off about their business. Darcy knew every horse in the district, and when each was shod he would bring it out to our yard. That way when an owner returned he knew his mount was ready for home.

Darcy never left town except for his annual working holiday at the Royal Easter Show. For many years he attended as Farrier to Mrs Grimwood's breed of show horses, becoming so well known that he found more stables than he could manage. He was recognized among the best in N.S.W. I remember on one occasion when he was preparing for Sydney, watching him trimming his beard at a small mirror hanging on the wall outside the back door. I knew he was unaware of being watched, he would have been devastated.

EUCALYPTUS OIL PRODUCTION

by Pat Williamson

During the jobless years of the Depression in the 1930's some of the men turned to eucalyptus oil production as a means of livelihood because there was still a good demand on the open market for this commodity. There were five requirements for this industry - eucalyptus trees of types suitable for oil, a reliable creek or spring, an iron ship's tank, a horse and cart and a few common tools such as were found in most farm sheds at the time. The local countryside provided the first two and if a man could not afford a purpose-built boiler he could improvise with a square ship's tank to make up his 'eucalyptus plant'.

Broad leaf peppermint (*E.dives*) and narrow leaf peppermint (*E.radiata*) were the two species of eucalyptus that yielded the best oil. Green trees were cut down with an axe, stumps being left at the correct height to ensure their regeneration. Leaves were stripped with a knife from the fallen trees and the horse and cart then carried the load of leaves to where the 'plant' was set up.

The iron tank had a decking of timber to suspend the leaves and water was heated in the bottom of the tank by a fire underneath. Leaves would have been packed in tightly and the lid replaced with clamps to force the steam through an outlet pipe after it had passed through the leaves to release the oil contained in them. The oil was then carried with the steam through the outlet pipe. This pipe was suspended in a 'pond' of cold water dammed up in the creek so that by the time the steam passed through the pipe it had condensed. The outlet end of that pipe drained into a receiver drum where the oil floated on top of the distilled water.

Men who could afford a separate steam boiler used that to heat water to steam which was carried by a pipe to the bottom of the leaf tank and then steamed up through the leaves as in the previous method.

As the oil collected on the top of the receiver drum it was skimmed off and transferred to a holding container. Twenty four gallons of oil were needed to fill the type of drum that the purchasing agents used, others used a forty four gallon drum.

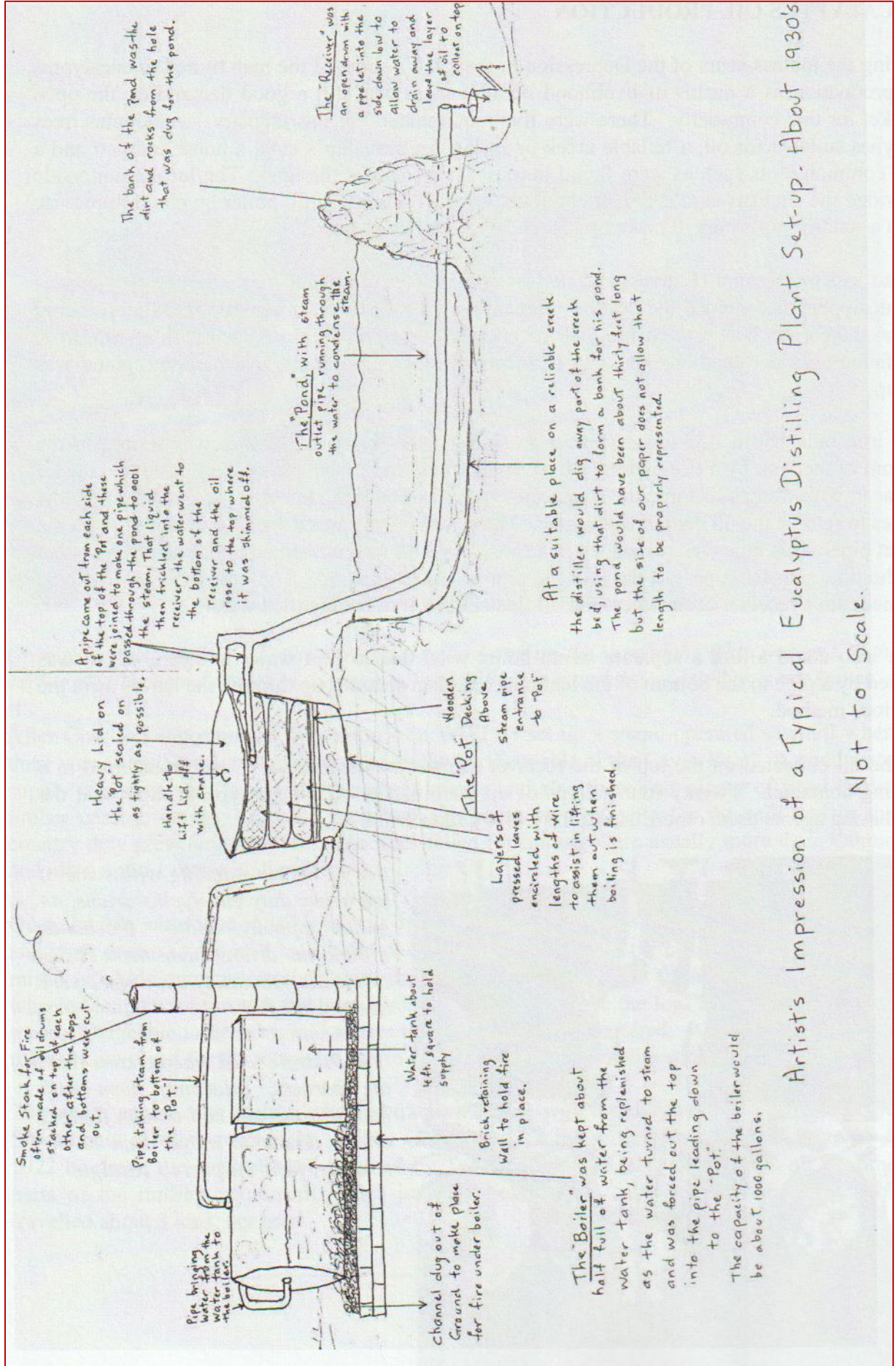
The process of 'boiling' took many hours. Broad leaf peppermint (*E.dives*) leaves were the slowest to yield their oil which at that time was worth more in the market place than narrow leaf peppermint (*E.radiata*).

The price received for top quality broad leafed peppermint oil had increased to about 18d. per lb. By 1940, that would mean about \$60 for a large drum of oil which was at least a month's work for a man on average throughout the year. \$60 a month doesn't seem like a very good income but when there were no other options it did at least offer a subsistence level for a family and eucalyptus oil production was a family occupation with wives and children helping. In some cases it also meant that the family moved from hut to hut or camp as the leaves from certain areas were being cut.

Chemical alternatives became available for use where eucalyptus oil had formerly been used and eventually the public conscience began to reject the felling of natural stands of eucalyptus trees. By the late 1950's all the distilling plants were abandoned.

Some families involved in the eucalyptus industry were -
Cosgrove, Eldridge, Fleming, Kent, Newman, Pilarcik, Poll and Venn

EUCALYPTUS PLANT



Artist's Impression of a Typical Eucalyptus Distilling Plant Set-up. About 1930's

Not to Scale.

Museum Duty Saturday 10am to 2.30pm

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

January

Saturday 1	NEW YEARS DAY
Saturday 8	Chris Ainsworth, Danielle Green, Jim Dean, Tim Dowsley
Saturday 15	Maureen, Joan, Pat, Elaine, Karen Penny Gordon
Saturday 22	Bob Blay, Margaret & Peter McAlister, Judith Matthews
Saturday 29	Graham Lambert, Robyn Alders, Margaret McIntosh, Helena Hopkins

February

Saturday 5	Mick & Annette Chalker, Vlad & Galina Balashov, Peter Davies
Saturday 12	Jeff & Judy Chalker, Peter & Jenny Haigh
Saturday 19	Maureen, Joan, Pat, Elaine, Karen, Penny
Saturday 26	Tim Dowsley, Mat Chalker, Jim Dean, Pat Keough

March

Saturday 5	Brian Moloney, Robert Rabjohns, Allan Robertson, Martin Walsh, Norm Maroney
Saturday 12	Chris Ainsworth, Danielle Green, Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler, Tim Dowsley
Saturday 19	Maureen, Joan, Pat, Elaine, Karen Penny
Saturday 26	Mick & Annette Chalker, Graham Lambert Laurie Halpin, Andrew Moore,

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

