



## 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 1, 2017**

**\*\*MEMBERSHIPS DUE\*\***

**Active Members \$20, Associate Members \$25**

**President's Report:**

Well another year has passed us by and I look back and contemplate where it went, however I feel that we have continued to progress the Society.

Grant funding has been critical for the progress and maintenance of the society and included the painting of the exterior of the Masonic Hall, covering of the milk vat (not yet completed), and purchase of audio equipment.

Six glass display cases were purchased and installed in the Museum, they have enhanced and provided security for the displays of early fashions including wedding dresses and other paraphernalia.

Our major event for the year was the October long weekend Open Day which was very well attended.

Our bus trip to the Forbes Parkes district was well patronised and enjoyed by all

Society members ably led by Pat catered a delicious morning tea and lunch for the Tractor Trek participants.

A power supply has been installed to the Settlers Cottage, this will allow for the permanent installation of the audio equipment, provide power for envisaged suitable heritage lighting and cleaning equipment, all of which will enhance the visitor experience.

As previously reported an electric four seater buggy was purchased to assist our visitors, duty officers and members around the complex. The unit is also providing very useful for maintenance.

The Schoolhouse is progressing with the roof section on site. The site has been levelled, and thanks to a generous member who has donated the posts, construction is anticipated to commence the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> February. We are currently seeking grant funding to enable the completion of the works.

The Christmas party was attended by in excess of forty members and guests, in lieu of presents, we decided to donate the equal value to Variety and The Children's Charity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for all your work and commitment over the past twelve months, everybody plays a part whether it be big or small in preserving and presenting the grounds, the exhibits and the past culture and heritage of this special district to the general public.

**Duty Roster:** It is difficult for us to come up with a roster that accommodates all needs, however, should you wish to be included at a particular time please contact one of the executive.

Regards to all

Michael Chalker - President

***With the reconstruction of the Fernbank School in the Society grounds now happening***



**The school was at Mr James Lang's "Fernbank"**



**Fernbank (sometimes known as Wombeyan) School Pupils 1905**

Back row: Lachlan, Charles & Robert Lang, Arthur Fleming, Stanley Lang, Patrick Chalker, William Chalker - Henry O'Neil Teacher

Second Row sitting: George, Annie, Ethel, Cecelie, May, Sally & Roy Lang

Front Row sitting: Hughie Lang, Jack Lang, Eddie Fleming, Angus Lang, Wallace Fleming

Girls: Annie (Mrs S. Pollock) Ethel (Mrs Ted Marmont) Cecelie (Mrs F. Williamson) May (Mrs A. Toole) Sally (Mrs B. Phillips)



**Fernbank School 1939**

Back: Pat Cree, Errol Chalker, Barry Lang, Kevin Cree, Ray Chalker, Melville Chalker, Warwick Lang

Front: Gloria Lang, Bruce Lang, Margaret Lang, Sue Lang, Leila Cree, Val Lang, Noel Lang



**Fernbank School 1944**

Back: Noel Lang, Russell Chalker, Sue Lang, Val Lang, Bruce Lang

Front: Jim Lang, Joan Brown, Cecil Lang

***The world we live in!! Contributed***

For those of my generation (and other generations) who do not really comprehend why Facebook exists.

Presently, I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Therefore every day, I go down the street and tell strangers what I have eaten, how I feel, what I have done the night before, and what I will do tomorrow.

I give them pictures of my family and my dog as well as me gardening and spending time in my pool.

I also ask them about their interests, what little things they have done and I tell them I love them

And it works:

I already have 3 persons following me: 2 police officers and a psychiatrist!

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**Wombeyan Caves 1937**

L to R: Adults: Merrick Loader, Grandma Sinclair "out from Scotland", Ella Stephenson (Ernie's Mum), Akis Whipp, Ron Jeffrey. Kids: Betty Stephenson, John Stephenson, Myra Chalker, Ernie Stephenson, Robert Stephenson.



# Vale



Raymond George Goodhew

21.10.1946 - 29.6.2016

Son of Greg and Helen

Brother of

Dianne, Phillip, Susan



Lucy Isabella Mitchell

10.1.1925 - 18.11.2016

Wife of Doug (dec)

Mother of 3 boys



Patrick Francis Bourke

13.7.1943 - 26.11.2016

Husband of Teena

Mary Hogan (nee Fahey)

31<sup>st</sup> December 2016

aged 94 years

Mother of Denise Croke

Norma Healy

4.1.2017

aged 98 years

Mother of Sandra Keith

Joan Williamson

8.1.2017 aged 52 years

Wife of Tony, Mother of

Reece, Erin and Jarrrod

Daughter in law of

Pat Newman



Len (Lenny) Baines	Rita Margaret Carlon	Lola Irene McDonald
12.1.2017 aged 52 years	(nee Chalker)	(nee Clifton)
Husband of Jeanette	25.1.2017 aged 86 years	14.2.2017 aged 86 years
Resident of Myrtleville	Wife of John (dec) Mother of	Daughter of Charles & Ena Sister of Fay (dec), Mary
	Michele (dec), Anna	Tony (dec) Cecily
	Peter, Paul & Gerard	

### **WILLIAM LOUGHMAN - POSTMASTER AT TARALGA 1910 TO FEB 1914**

Late last year, Steve Muttall from Wollongong contacted Mary Chalker, stating he was a great grandson of William Loughman who was the Postmaster in Taralga from 1910 to February 1914.

Steve said that his family would like to donate to the Society a leather bound "illuminated" address which had been signed by prominent residents of Taralga and presented to Mr. Loughman at his farewell.

William Loughman and his wife Agnes lived in the postmaster's residence with their large family, and the children attended the old catholic school, now the home of Jane Starr.

While in Taralga one of their daughters, Mary Agnes died aged almost 2 years, and is buried in Stonequarry Cemetery. William died in 1956 and Agnes in 1954.

Following is an account of the send off to Mr. W.J. Loughman

*(Many thanks to the people who donate wonderful items to the Society.)*

### **SEND-OFF TO MR. W.J. LOUGHMAN -**

At Taralga on Thursday night, 5<sup>th</sup> inst., Mr. W.J. Loughman, postmaster, who was departing to take up his duties in a similar capacity at Candelo, received a splendid send-off from a gathering consisting of residents from all parts of the district. Mr. J.J.Walsh was in the chair. The Hon. Secretaries to the movement were Messrs H.T.Dawson and C.S.Bradbury.

The chairman, in opening the proceedings, stated that in the pursuit of his calling, Mr. Loughman was one of the best officers, and in this department of his work he was ably assisted by Mrs. Loughman. As a citizen, Mr. Loughman had rendered invaluable assistance in town matters, especially as the secretary of the Taralga Railway League

Councillor Ross, as an old resident, wished the departing townspeople God-speed.

The Rev. A. Crowley, B.A., stated that not only was Mr. Loughman a courteous and kindly official to the public, but the interests of his department were not lost sight of. As a citizen, more especially as Hon. Secretary to the Railway League, he had rendered service that would not be forgotten. He never seemed to lose sight of any detail that could help the railway along, and he believed it was to his foresight the success of the railway before the Works Committee was due. He welcomed their successors, Mr. And Mrs. Johnson.

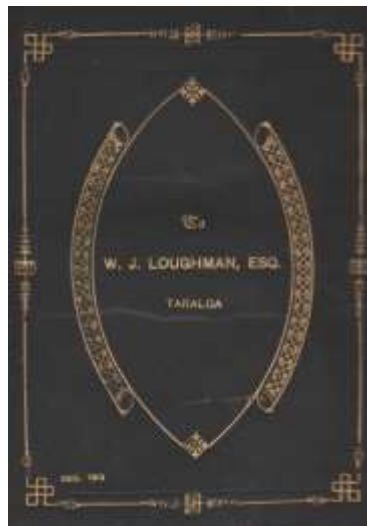
Messrs T.M.Chalker, James Howard, G.MacGuire J.P., C.D.Keith, John Fitzgibbon, O.L.Shipp, C.S.Bradbury, and H.L.Dawson spoke in similar strain. At this stage Mr.

and Mrs Loughman were presented with a beautifully illuminated address, signed by a number of leading residents, on behalf of the people of the district, expressive of the respects and regard that were felt for them, and wishing them every success in their new home. In addition to the address, a purse of sovereigns was also handed over to enable the recipients, the chairman said, to purchase a memento of their own choosing of their stay in the district. The address was in album form.

Mr. Loughman having suitably responded, the chairman introduced Mr. Johnson, successor to Mr. Loughman, who was warmly welcomed. Mr. Johnson briefly acknowledged the compliment.

On the motion of Mr. Loughman, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Hon. Secretaries, who suitably replied.

The following ladies and gentlemen contributed to the evening's programme: Song, Mr. C.McKenzie; musical items (violin and piano) Misses Wood and Bunker; song, Mr. V.H.Wilkins; bagpipe selection, Master R. Chalker; Highland Fling, Misses M.Milne, M.Fitzgibbon and A.Byrne. Mr. T.M.Chalker accompanying on bagpipes; song, Mr.V.McKenzie; Sailors Hornpipe, Misses J.Byrne, M.Milne and M.Fitzgibbon. A verse of "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the King" brought the proceedings to a close. The refreshments provided were distributed by a large number of the ladies present.





**ILLUMINATED ADDRESS PRESENTED TO MR WILLIAM LOUGHMAN**

**LEFT: HAS A PICTURE OF THE POST OFFICE SET IN BOXED AREA**

*(Have a look at it displayed in the Museum, a really lovely piece)*

**JACK WALSH knew town of old: by Maree Bensley** *Goulburn Post circa 1970's*

Well known Taralga identity, Jack Walsh, who turned 80 recently, can remember when the town was a thriving community but believes it has taken a backward step in recent years despite an increasing number of hobby farms.

“I can remember, along with many others in the Taralga district, when the town supported many stores and pubs”.

There were five shops, two grocers, two butchers, and, for a time, two bakers, two vegetable merchants, two saddlers, two barber shops, tea rooms and a tailor”.

“There was also a resident doctor and chemist, a weekly published newspaper called the Taralga Echo, two policemen, a daily train to Goulburn via Roslyn and Crookwell, a butter factory, freezing works, a band and town orchestra”.

“Fortnightly stock sales were held on a regular basis under the hammer of Mr Charles Bradbury whom I consider one of the most successful auctioneers in the district”.

“He was also a councillor on the Mulwaree Shire Council for many years and when he died, was sadly missed by many”.

“We had regular dances and silent movies. The old Federal Hall, which was opposite the Argyle Hotel, was a meeting place for the young blades”.

“And 10 bob (\$1) went a long way in buying grog”.

Jack, who says he is just an ordinary bloke, was born in Goulburn but has lived all his life in the Taralga area.

He is the son of Stonequarry dairy farmers who moved to Burra Creek and then Richlands. He lived with his family on property now owned by Mr and Mrs Max Keith.

After marrying his childhood sweetheart, Mary Moloney, the couple set up housekeeping at Richlands, a place where Jack's grandparents lived.

In 1942, while still at Burra Creek Golspie, Jack and Mary were burnt out from a blaze which started from the open fire. "We lost everything - even our wedding presents," Jack said.

The couple have four children, Frank, Walter, Irene and Barbara, who were educated at Burra Lake School and when it closed, finished their education at the Sacred Heart School in Taralga.

Jack started his education at Burra Lake which was a one teacher school like many which dotted the rural districts during the 1920's.

"Things were hard but we suffered no greater hardship than many others living off the land in those times," Jack said. "I walked three and a half miles across the wet flats of Burra Lake to school and, although I had shoes, I used to take them off. I didn't think it was such a hard life. It was the way in which we were brought up. That's the way it was".

"Us kids got up at six and helped with the milking and left for school around eight o'clock. There was no dairying in the winter so that helped".

Jack left Yalbraith school which was later moved to Burra Lake when he was 14 years old.

"It was a good school, very well attended and, at one time, had 40 pupils. Harry O'Neil was the teacher when I was there".

Jack said he was just an average student and, when he left school, he helped on his parents' dairy farm. "We milked by hand and the heavy work on the farm was done with help of horses, not tractors like we have today. Potatoes were sown by hand and dug with a fork".

"Money was not too plenty, but I think we had more entertainment than we have now".

“There were regular card parties, wool shed dances, particularly on a Saturday night and the town supported two football teams”.

“Other sports included tennis, cricket, fox shooting, hare drives and horse racing There were three race tracks in the Taralga district - Wowagin, Golspie and Richlands”.

The social event on the calender was the annual agricultural show, which everyone in the district attended. It was a family day, one for meeting people. Everyone polished their sulky, brushed down their horse, and packed a picnic basket and spent the day at the show. That is providing you could catch the horse early enough”.

“Cars ruined Taralga, everything is now so automotive. In the early days, Bill Spicer operated a hire car service and regularly drove people to Goulburn”. According to Jack, the township of Taralga has gone backwards in some respects.

The installation of electricity made a big impact on rural life and the sealing the Taralga to Goulburn road was a big improvement. Before this road was straightened, sealed and a good bridge constructed over the Tarlo river, it was a little more than a horse and sulky road.



But the population has slowly increased in recent years and many new homes have been built in this area. New settlers who operated hobby farms have arrived and land sales have reached record prices.

“But there is nothing to keep the young people here now, no industry” Jack said.

Now at 80 years of age, he thinks he might retire soon take his leisure time seriously.



## ***Jack and Mary Walsh***

### **JAMES THOMAS MENZIES - a pioneer of the Cookbundoons**

*From Goulburn Post 1971*

One of the early and successful settlers of the Myrtleville and Cookbundoon areas was the late James Thomas Menzies who died on November 6, 1971 at the age of 91 years.

Mr Menzies started his pastoral career in a modest way in the shadows of the Cookbundoons at a place that is now generally known as The Poplars, as several of those trees are the only remaining sign that there had once been the pioneer's first home.

He later married Katherine Amelia Mabley who had been born in Walgett. Katherine's father was a bank manager and he had moved from Walgett to Wheeo.

While they continued to live in The Poplars, every Sunday the family would climb into the family sulky and make the long hard drive up out of the Cookbundoons for the 11 miles to church in Taralga.

Near the turn of the century James Menzies moved his family to a small house in Taralga - a house that still stands today in Macarthur Street.

Over the years James worked hard and prospered. He branched out from The Poplars and bought Dollarvale at Myrtleville and also leased a large area of Brisbane Vale, then owned by the Barry family.

Eventually his land interests stretched from Myrtleville through to Blink Bonnie in the Cookbundoons, as well as a lot of country in the Cookbundoons itself.

Blink Bonnie is still in the Menzies family and is now run by his grandson Trevor Menzies.

James and Katherine's family: Ollie (Mrs Bill Goodchild, Goulburn), Lesley Menzies who died at the age of 19, J.T.(Robert).Menzies Taralga and Dorothy, who died as a young child.

One of James Menzies last purchases was Wooragee, eight miles from Taralga on the Bannaby Road. He bought the property in 1951 and rebuilt the present homestead the following year.

Wooragee is an old property with a history extending back over 120 years. It is thought it was settled about 1850-60 and was a 10,000 acre grant given by Governor Macquarie. The Pearce family settled it and the last of this family lived there until it was bought by James Menzies. The last of the Pearces in the district were three spinster sisters who lived on Wooragee and seldom, if ever, left the property, as they were entirely self-supporting. The only memory to these early settlers is an old gravestone in a paddock near the house, protected from stock by a picket fence. On it the inscription reads "In memory of Matthew Pearce died 6<sup>th</sup> Sept., 1892 aged 57 years" and "Mary Anne Pearce died 6<sup>th</sup> Jan., 1913 aged 73 years"

At Wooragee and Blink Bonnie the members of the Menzies family are carrying on the tradition founded by James Thomas Menzies of the Cookbundoons.



The late James Thomas Menzies moved into this old house in Macarthur St Taralga shortly after his marriage to Katherine Mabley near the turn of the century



This is the old Blink Bonnie homestead once owned by J.T. Menzies in the Cookbundoons. Now run by Trevor Menzies the old house is still used as an out-station during shearing



J.T. (Robert) Menzies left, and Dave Goodchild of Goulburn look at all that remains of the Pearce family who once owned Wooragee, Bannaby.

The headstone marks the burial place of Matthew Pearce and his wife Mary Anne in 1892 and 1913 respectively.

(Article written 1970's)

## Programme

**March 19** General Meeting, 2pm Masonic Hall

**Saturday April 29 - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May:** Bus trip to Braidwood and the South Coast

**see flyer included**



## Museum Duty

<b>March</b>	<b>5</b>	Max & Glennis Wright, Jim Dean, Brian Kelly
<b>March</b>	<b>12</b>	Graham & Sue Lambert, Judith Matthews, Sandra Keith
<b>March</b>	<b>19</b>	Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray, Mary Chalker
<b>March</b>	<b>26</b>	Mick & Annette Chalker, Peter Davies, Tim Dowsley
<b>April</b>	<b>2</b>	Max & Glennis Wright, Alan Robertson, Marg Balfour
<b>April</b>	<b>9</b>	Jeff & Judy Chalker, Brian Kelly, Brian Moloney,
<b>April</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY - ANY VOLUNTEERS?</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>23</b>	Graham & Sue Lambert, Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler
<b>April</b>	<b>30</b>	Ken & Joyce Fleming, Marcus Harstein & Nicola Young
<b>May</b>	<b>7</b>	Mick & Annette Chalker, Gill & Marion Pfitzner, Margaret Lang
<b>May</b>	<b>14</b>	Max & Glennis Wright, Andrew Moore, Ray Shiel

**May**      **21**      Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Jason Voorwinden, Jim Dean  
**May**      **28**      Graham & Sue Lambert, Matt & Vicki Chalker

**June**      **4**      Ken & Joyce Fleming, Judith Matthews, Robin Alders  
**June**      **11**      Jeff & Judy Chalker, Brian Moloney, Peter Davies, Tim Dowsley

**If your name doesn't appear on the roster and you wish to be included we will welcome you with open arms!!**

**If you wish to be removed from the roster or can't make a particular day please let our President or Secretary know, this will help with reallocation of adequate staffing for that day**

**Everyone is welcome every day to assist with our visitors and to help maintain and learn more about this valuable resource.**

*Editor: Maureen Long*

## Clyde River Cruise THS Weekend Bus Trip

### Saturday 29th April

Taralga	8.00am	
Goulburn	8.30am	
Braidwood	10.00am	Morning Tea Park in Braidwood
	10.30am	Braidwood Historical Society Museum
	12.00pm	Lunch in a Braidwood Café of your choice
	1.30pm	Braidwood Showground for Reenactment of Clark Brothers capture
	4.00pm	Afternoon tea
Batemans Bay	5.30pm	Araluen Motor Lodge Dinner and Breakfast

### Sunday 30th April

	9.00am	shopping in Batemans Bay
	10.00am	MOGO /MOGO ZOO
	2.30pm	
	4.00pm	Clyde River Cruise (includes fish and chip dinner)
	7.30pm	Araluen Motor Lodge includes breakfast

### Monday 1st May

Wolongong	8.30am	Travel to Kiama Blowhole for morning tea
	11.00am	Breakwater Military Museum
	1.00pm	Lunch at seascape Café
	2.00pm	Illawarra Museum
	3.30pm	Bald Head lookout
	4.00pm	Seacliff sea bridge
Goulburn	4.30pm	
Taralga	6.00pm	

\$330 / head (includes Bus ,Evening meals beds and cooked breakfasts)  
 MOGO ZOO add \$25

Single supplement add \$110

RSVP Graham Lambert 48438187 by 20th March

If we get 40 people going lunch will be provided on last day

