



**Taralga Historical Society Inc  
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, 2015**

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

**Working members \$10, members who just want to receive newsletter \$15  
new members \$20 joining fee plus membership \$10**

**Presidents Report: 2014 in Summary**

As we have come to expect, 2014 was again a busy year. We showed 20 bus loads of people through our complex and around town, a similar number to last year with 22 buses. This must mean that a lot of groups around NSW and further afield now know where Taralga is, and some of these groups have visited us again with new faces on their buses. They think what we have in our museum complex in a small town outstanding, and then to see the bank and our churches as an extra bonus on the town tour, really makes their day special. Thank you to John and Bronwyn and Sister Bernadette Mary.

In March, Margaret Simpson and her husband Phillip, from the Power House Museum, visited the Taralga Museum and photographed all the machinery in our grounds. They thought the dairying equipment one of the most significant collections they had seen around NSW. We now have their report and photos of each item for future reference. This is a good reason why this building should be upgraded to a more secure and dust-proof one as soon as possible.

For the long weekend in June we tried something different, having the markets in our Hall running a BBQ and having our grounds open to the public, while at the other end of town the Art Show seems to get bigger every year.

In August, Graham Lambert organised a trip to Joadja and as I said in a report during the year, what a wonderful valley, hidden away close to Mittagong ..and the history of that area! Remarkable. Thank you Graham for a great day.

October saw the new book on Taralga township by Mary Chalker and Maureen Long, launched by Paul Stephenson, and supported by our Mayor John Shaw with both of their wives present. These books are still selling extremely well. Thank you Mary and Maureen for the years of work and research put in to this publication.

Apart from looking after the buses, during the year we ran a BBQ at Bunnings, we supplied morning tea and lunch to the Tractor Trek out to the hills and Wombeyan Caves, and also ran a stall at the Machinery Day at Taralga.

The rose garden always looks wonderful, thanks to Pat and Bob Blay, the grass is cut regularly by 3 or 4 of our members, a newsletter comes out quarterly, and regular cleaning of buildings is carried out, but one shed at the moment needs a good clean.

Unfortunately we are a bit behind with our maintenance programme, e.g. doing up of our toilets, lining of the dairy and restoration of the leadlight windows. The toilets and leadlight

windows have deadlines to meet because of grants. The grant we received for our WW1 Anzacs has been used to buy a large screen TV, and our Secretary Graham Lambert, has put together a programme on our WW1 Soldiers from Taralga to play on the screen together with their photo (if available) plus their details and if they returned home. Well done Graham, this is looking good.

We still have to work out what we should be doing for Anzac Day 2015. Four more glass cases have been bought for the Nissen Hut, and at the moment there is still some putting together to do.

For our Christmas party this year we had the pleasure of having John and Bronwyn Sullivan come to play and sing for us at the High Tea. What talent we have here in Taralga is surely amazing. It was a great way to finish off our year.

As I said last year, in Taralga we all work together as a team, and this is why Taralga Historical Society is so successful in what we achieve. So thanks everyone for another great year!

**Ken Fleming President.**

**At the AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, due to ongoing commitments Ken stood down and Michael Chalker was elected as our new President with Ken as Vice President, Graham Lambert as Secretary, Bob Blay Asst. Secretary and Glennis Wright as Treasurer.**

**Editor**

## *Vale*

**Richard Kelly**  
died 24.12.2014 aged 67 years  
son of Frank and May  
Brother of Allan, Lloyd, Kevin,  
Mary, Lorraine and Helen

**Peter Mooney**  
died 6.1.2015 aged 64 years  
son of Tom and Kitty  
Brother of Austin

**Warren Cosgrove**  
died January 2015 aged 52 years  
son of Cecil and Kit  
Brother of Tom (dec), Peta,  
Stephen and Trevor

**\*\* see poem written by  
Warren next page\*\***



**Patricia Fay Minshall**  
**6.7.1930 – 14.9.2014**  
**Mother of Peggy Mills**

# Taralga and District - Remains of Old

By Warren Cosgrove



Many old remains are scattered over the place galore  
To remind us of the old timers who lived in this place before  
Many a sight is to be seen in the town and district so grand  
In parts of the now called City or whilst traveling through the land.

Further out, the early pioneers who the land did keep  
And battled on over the years raising mainly cattle and sheep  
Also some crops did sow - potatoes, oats and crops of hay,  
To be able to live off the land was a necessity in that day.

There is little to remain of the homesteads of old  
Which had been sturdily erected to keep the old timers from the cold  
Only the chimneys now remain which were made from stone and clay  
To have a fire for cooking and heating was a known thing in that day.

Also upon every place stood a building so stout  
Where cows were milked with a wooden paled fence all about  
The design, the build, the structure was fixed in the old timers' ways,  
Now mostly weather beaten and fallen away it had come to reality in the pioneering days.

Then from there into the can, onto the horse and dray  
When all was loaded up to the butter factory it's be taken away  
Which now still stands with cracks in the roof and floor,  
The timber nearly rotted away, the hinges falling off the door.

With the butcher's shop set in the midst, kept so placid and neat,  
Their overall duties were handling and selling the meat  
After it came from the slaughter yards which stood out on the hill  
Where the cattle were driven when they were ready for the kill.

Where the bake house once stood they used to bake the bread,  
All has now eroded, the baking industry is now dead  
The garages, the cobblers, the shops, were all of the public best  
But with the advancement of machinery have now been put to rest.

All these early developments have now been slowed to refrain  
As life keeps on progressing, unfortunately never to be used again  
Alas those generations have passed, battling times have gone before  
But Taralga District still stands fast to progress forever more.

December 1987



**Left: John Marmont in his Boer War Uniform.**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> July 1901 at Carolina, under circumstances not known to date, Private J Marmont was captured by the enemy, and after being stripped and relieved of his equipment, he was thankfully released unharmed.

At a subsequent Court of Inquiry, General Plumer considered both Privates Marmont and Desmond were to blame for Marmont's capture and ordered them to pay for the rifle and bandolier taken from John in the incident. The value of the rifle was two pounds two shillings, and bandolier ten shillings and threepence, each having half of this value deducted from their respective pay.

John arrived back in Brisbane on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1902 after serving one year and 58 days in South Africa. Interesting remarks on his medical examination papers on his return, stating he had been convalescing in hospital before leaving South Africa complaining about pains in his knees and

ankles. These pains were diagnosed as Rheumatism. He continued to suffer from this problem upon his return and either as an act of compassion, or perhaps small compensation, he was given two months extra pay when he was discharged on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1902.

Other personal details on his medical sheet stated; Hair – dark brown, Eyes – hazel, Complexion; - dark, Weight – 10st, 10lbs, Height – 5ft, 10 ½ ins, and Age – 40 years, 2 months (which was incorrect).

John made his way back to Taralga and continued working in the rural environment in which he felt most at home. The courting of Bridget Toole developed over the following years. He was employed at Carr's property constructing post and rail fencing around the time of his marriage to Bridget at Burruga, in the Church of England, on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1906.

He had a varied working life over the next thirty years trying his hand at numerous activities. Shortly after his marriage he won the contract to operate the Taralga-Goulburn mail run, no mean feat considering he used a horse and buggy as transport. He then became a hotel licensee operating the Royal Hotel in Taralga. It was here in this hotel, which was also their home, that their first two children were born, John Thomas Francis (Jack), 9<sup>th</sup> August 1907, and Margaret Catherine (Mag), 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1909.

# The Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows

## M.U.I.O.O.G.

by Albert Lang

It is not known when this Order of brotherhood was formed in Taralga.

The following extract is taken from the Goulburn Evening Post 1913, from our Taralga Correspondent.

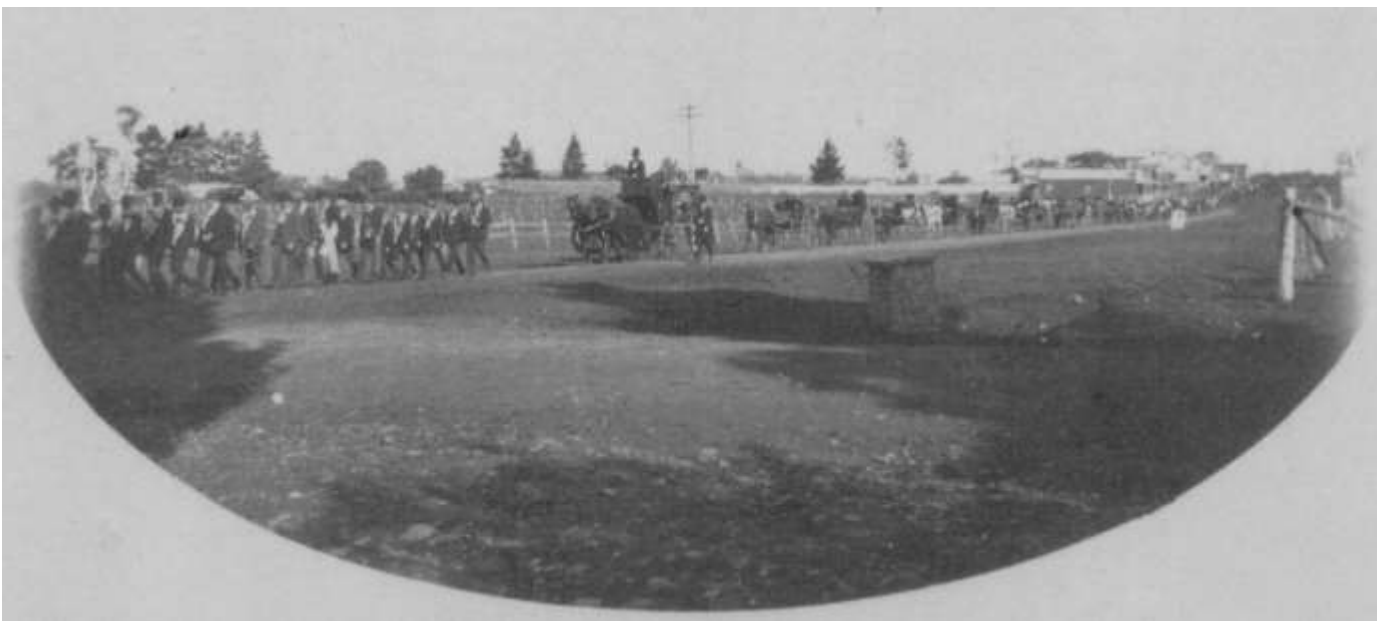
“The funeral of Mr. William Chalker took place on Friday afternoon and was one of the largest attendances I have ever seen here – the remains were interred in the Church of England Cemetery at Stonequarry. The Oddfellows Lodge, which the deceased recently joined, marched in procession in front of the hearse, being marshalled by Bro. Macguire, and at the conclusion of the burial service Bro. H.J. Dawson read the burial ritual according to the Oddfellows”.

The purpose of the Lodge was a friendly Society, which was to benefit its members socially, but the greatest benefit was to help members in time of distress and illness.

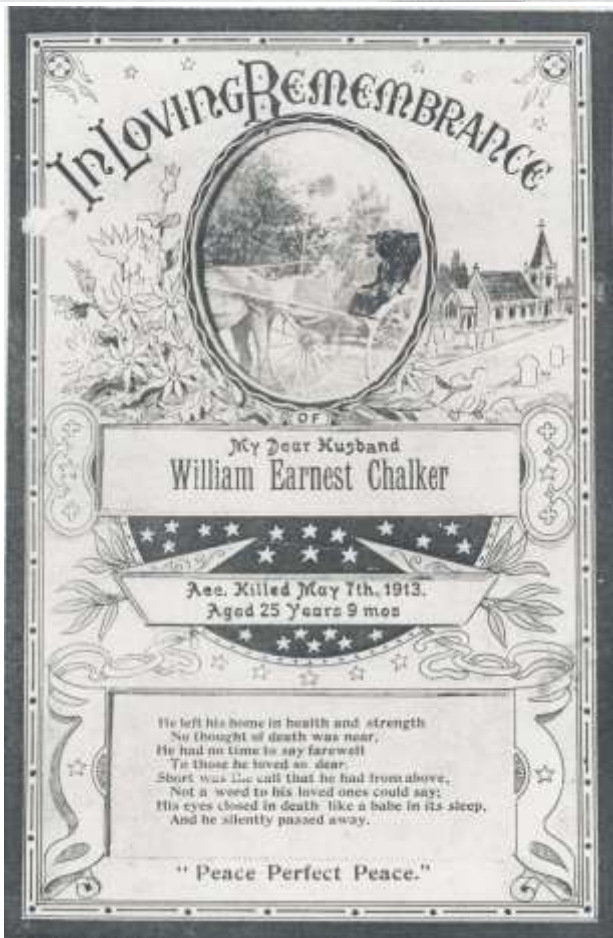
Membership was worked on a weekly basis, but paid quarterly. Now for this, a member was covered to visit a doctor free of charge, but had to attend a nominated Doctor. Medicine was supplied free from a nominated chemist. If you were unable to work, whether you had a job or not, you were paid 10/- a week until the doctor gave you a clearance.

For another small contribution you could be covered for funeral benefits, your age at the time of joining governed the amount to be paid.

Your family could also be covered for medical benefits. They also had an insurance cover that could be taken out until death, or for a limited number of years.



Bill Chalker's Funeral at Taralga 1913



## **OBITUARY**

### **MRS C.L. Fahey (nee Mrs William Chalker)**

Mrs Catherine Louise Fahey, who died in the Crookwell hospital at the age of 90, was one of the oldest and best known residents of the Crookwell District.

She had resided there most of her life, having been born at Kempton in 1887, the daughter of James and Catherine Connors.

She moved to Taralga when she married William Chalker, there being three children of the union, Sylvia, Jim and William. After the death of her husband she returned to Kempton and later married James Fahey. Children of the marriage were Mary, James, Michael, Joan and Jack.

She assisted her husband in conducting the Laggan Hotel for some years and, after retiring from this business, moved to Glen Erin for a short time, finally going to live at "Islington" Binda, remaining there until her death 46 years later.

She was interested in anything which was of benefit to the community and especially the young people. This interest, which she maintained right up to her death, kept her in touch with the youth and junior people of the district and helped her to maintain a much younger outlook on current affairs despite her age.

Her unselfish attitude endeared her to people of all ages but the welfare of her own family always came first.

A devout Catholic, she was a wonderful friend to the Sisters of Mercy during the years the Covent School was in Binda. These friendships endured for the rest of her life.

She was an active member of the Binda Red Cross and the Binda C.W.A., being presented with their long service badge in 1974.

Interested in all sport, she was a staunch supporter of rugby league over 40 years, retaining the interest until a week before her death. Her knowledge of sport was quite remarkable.

She went to live with her son, Jack, his wife and family at "Hilltop" Binda, after the death of her husband in 1967.

One son James Simon, A.I.F., lost his life in Borneo in 1945 and another son, William Chalker and step-daughter Gertie Woods predeceased her.

Surviving children are Sylvia Anderson (Wollongong) Mary Hogan (Grabben Gullen), Joan Fraser (Sydney) and sons Michael and Jack (Binda) and one step-son Maurice Fahey (Glen Erin).

Requiem Mass was offered by Rev. Father Fitzgerald at the Binda Church after which interment took place in the Binda Cemetery.

Pall bearers were grandsons, Ken, Danny, Michael and Peter Fahey and James Fraser and a great grandson Kim Fahey.

## **WOMBEYAN CAVES**

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### **Pioneering Days**

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#### **THE CHALKER FAMILY**

(From our Correspondent)

TARALGA, Thursday,

Some interesting events, reminiscent of the pioneering days of the Taralga district are recalled by the recent death of Mr, Edward Chalker, aged 78, of Wombeyan Caves.

For more than half a century the Chalker family has been identified with the early days at Taralga and Wombeyan Caves. The late Edward Chalker was a reliable and capable man and during a long life occupied many positions of responsibility and trust.

With his brothers – a family of 12 stalwart men – all well up to or over 6 feet tall, and weighting 15 or 16 stone, he took an active part in early settlement. All were wonderful bushmen good horsemen, and in the days when there were no fences only a horse paddock and a stock yard here and there, the American cowboy fashion was followed.

#### **FINE HORSEMEN**

Riding through the open country surrounding the Caves or right to the Burragorang Valley – the owners branded and marked their cows and calves wherever they were found. They handled a rope or horse with ease in different country.

The late Charles N. Chalker established one of the best Darham herds in the district at the old Forest, bringing his first pure-bred bull across country from Bathurst and carrying him in front on the horse for the greater part of the journey. His Darham cow, it is understood, still holds the record at the Taralga Show – 45lbs for one milking, fed on a bit of kurrajong.

Jack Chalker joined the police in the old bushranging days, and gave wonderful service in those dangerous and exciting times.

But it is chiefly in their connection with the Wombeyan Caves that the Chalker family will be remembered. They knew of the old caves, bearing the inscriptions of Macarthur, Hillas and Jamieson, made about 1820. They preserved and safeguarded these caves as a sort of family heirloom for more than a generation, when the beauty of the caves, induced the Government to officially take them over.

They explored the whole of the surrounding country, making the most dangerous descents to unknown depths with the most primitive appliances.



## **SPLENDID RECORD**

Rough ladders and hempen ropes, and in some instances lengthy wire ladders were arranged, and in the long period that Messrs C.R. and T.M. Chalker had charge, there was not a single accident in or at the Caves.

Sober men, they prohibited liquor in the Caves and insisted on reasonable precautions. Charley Chalker had the reputation of being able to climb almost like a cat.

It was during those days that the late Charles Rogers, of the old "Arcade" Goulburn, was a regular and welcome visitor to the Caves. A fine upstanding man, full of courage and resource, he was probably the best whip in the Goulburn district. He drove a drag with six horses, and 20 or 30 passengers – members of his staff and friends – to the Caves and they are probably still plenty of men around Goulburn who still remember these trips. The horses with a groom at the head of each, and the pace was made a cracker.

Bob Chalker was guide and brakes man from Taralga on, and Bob always declared that he sat solid (he weighed 18 stone) and kept the brakes on up hill and down, till the Caves were reached. This was probably true, as on one occasion the rim of a wheel was worn so thin that it burst near the Caves: and on the return journey the party arrived in Taralga with the back axle strapped to a long mountain ash pole trailing from the front axle.

T.M. (Mick) Chalker made his first visit to Sydney with a diamond snake 15 feet long, in a case with a glass front. He notified the Curator of the Zoo, Mr. S. Spent (?), and was met at the Redfern station by this gentle man and escorted to the Zoo.

## **THE BOA WON**

His charge was safely lodged and Mick was introduced to the various celebrities by the Curator, including the boa constrictor. "Heavens, Sir" said Mick on his return to Taralga "when I saw this chap, I was ashamed of my snake". As far as is known, Mick's snake is still at Taronga Park and that visit to the Zoo was the fore runner of many friendships for the Caves caretaker.

University professors, doctors from Macquarie St., and scientists from all over Australia found much to interest them at the Caves and many rare specimens of plant and animal life were made available to these visitors.

Today the Caves are as easily accessible as any town or village in the State. The accommodation is equal to a high class hotel, and facilities for exploration are fully provided for State and interstate visitors are regular guests.

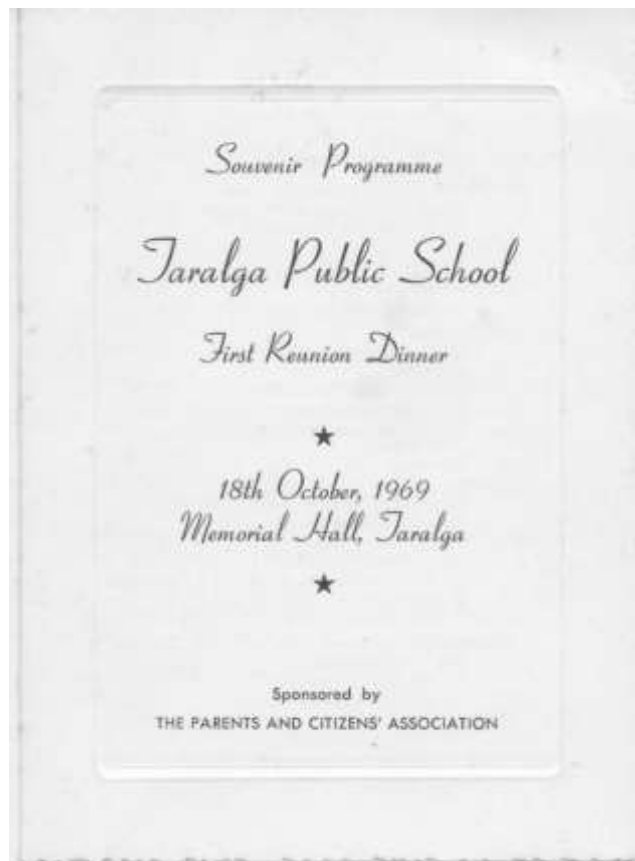
## **FAMILY ENTERPRISE**

Looking back in the past, one must admire the unselfish sacrifice, the love of beauty, and the wonderful fore sight of those old pioneers, of whom the late Edward Chalker was one, in preserving for the present generation this great and beautiful resort.

There was a large attendance at the funeral of the late Edward Chalker on Sunday. He is survived by two brothers, Messrs. William (Myrtleville) and T.M, Chalker (the Caves), and one sister, Miss Chalker of Mares Forest.

**\*\*\*On 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March**

**Wombeyan Caves will celebrate 150 years celebration – the main day will be Saturday 14th**



### *The Evening*

- GUEST OF HONOUR**  
Mr. R. A. Brewer, M.L.A., representing the Minister for Education.
- HOSTS**  
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Stiff.
- MASTER OF CEREMONIES**  
Mr. Cole Bradbury.
- PROGRAMME**  
Getting Re-acquainted.  
The Queen.  
Grace — Rector Noel Smith.  
Buffet Dinner Served.  
Letters, Speeches, Entertainments.  
Prize Giving.  
Dancing.
- SPEAKERS**  
Presidential Address — Mr. Clyde Stiff.  
From Parliament House  
Mr. Ron Brewer.  
Headmaster's Remarks  
Mr. Alan Kirwin.  
Ex-Student Remembers  
Mr. Viv Mackenzie.
- ENTERTAINERS**  
Mr. Fred Commins,  
Mr. Graham Duesbury,  
Mr. Phil Rose.
- BAND**  
The Blue Ridge Band.

### *The Menu*

- APPETIZERS** Sherry, Cheese, Savoury Biscuits.
- BUFFET** Salads of Every Kind.  
Variety of Cold Meats.  
Apple Slice and Cream.  
Cheese Straws.  
Coffee and Tea.
- BAR** Wines, Beer, Soft Drinks, Cordials.

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Catering by the Taralga R.S.L. Ladies' Auxiliary.  
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### *The P & C Executive*

- PATRONS** Miss Jaan Twynam, Mr. Cole Bradbury,  
Mr. Norman Francis.
- PRESIDENT** Mr. Clyde Stiff.
- VICE-PRESIDENTS** Mr. Ted McPaul, Mr. Roy Webster.
- SECRETARY** Mr. Alex Agafonoff.
- TREASURER** Mrs. Clarice Forster.
- PUBLICITY OFFICER** Mrs. Charmaine Croker.

Assisting the Executive for this occasion were many members and friends of the Association, to whom we are greatly indebted.

Goulburn Herald 25.12.1878

### **Death from a Blow by a Cricket Ball**

On Monday last the Coroner Mr A.M. Betts held an inquest at the Golden Fleece Inn, Marulan, in view of the body of John Bogg, then and there lying dead. John McCallum deposed that he is a farmer and resides at Greenwood Meadow. He knew the deceased, who also was a farmer, and lived near Arthursleigh and was a widower, and has left a family of eight children behind him, two of whom are married. He was 47 years of age. William Sharp, a labourer deposed that he was at Bannaby on the previous Saturday and was present at a cricket match; the deceased was umpire for one of the sides; the ball was hit by one Whitehead and struck deceased under the left ear; he fell instantly; he then rose to his feet and then fell again; several persons ran to him, he was quite insensible. Some of the bystanders bathed his head with water; some brandy was obtained and an effort made to pour some down his throat; after the deceased fell the second time he neither moved nor spoke, and in a few minutes after the ball struck him he died; deceased was an old cricketer; when struck he was not more than seven yards from the wicket. Rowland Whitehead deposed that he was present at the cricket match; deceased was standing near the short leg in the capacity of umpire; Mr John Hillas was bowling; he bowled Whitehead a left-ball, which came to him on the hop; he hit the ball to leg with all his strength; as soon as he struck it he ran for the other wicket and did not watch the ball; when he was turning at the other wicket to come back he saw deceased staggering and some of the men running towards him; he was on the ground; he gave two or three groans and then he died; he looked to see whether there was any mark under or behind deceased's ear; but there was none, nor any sign of a blow; the ball played with was one of Duke's normal cricket balls; the deceased stood nearer the wicket than umpires usually do, and was cautioned. Mr John Hillas and James Weygood were also examined and corroborated the foregoing evidence. The jury found deceased died from the effects of a blow from a cricket ball accidentally received. John was only about 47 when he was killed.

(At the age of 21 years on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 1852 John married Eliza Spencer at All Saints Church Sutton Forest. Their children and their birth dates are: Francis (1853), Hannah (1855) Rose (1857) John (1860) Thomas (1863) Robert (1866) Andrew (1869) and Neil (1871). Eliza died in 1875 at the age of 44 years).



*Bogg family at Big Hill Church Centenary, September 1978. In Front row from 1 to r: Norma Gillespie (nee Bogg), Alison Sieler (nee Bogg) Lorna Parr (nee Bogg) Maureen Eddy (nee Bogg) Meryl Rippon (nee Bogg) John Bogg's was the first burial of this Church in 1878.*

## Programme

March 1	National Trust Bus tour of Taralga (no meals)
March 6	Bus 45 people – light lunch – <u>help needed</u>
March 7	Taralga Show. We will have a display of WW1 material
March 14 & 15	Wombeyan Caves 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
April 11	Saturday: Working Bee followed by a General Meeting IT IS HOPED MANY MEMBERS WILL ATTEND – SHARED LUNCH IN MASONIC HALL
April 14 & 15	Wombeyan Caves 150 year celebration
April 25	Anzac Day – 100 years. We will be contributing to a Time Capsule being organized by .....Rees
June 7	LONG WEEKEND There will be an acknowledgement of local WW1 Soldiers Lunch & Guest Speaker. More information as plans progress

**\*\*All Members who can help with any these days please contact Pat Blay on 48406162 for catering days and garden maintenance – other enquiries to Michael Chalker on 4843 5975\*\***



## Museum Duty

March 1	Ken & Joyce Fleming, Robert Rabjohns, Leonie Cooley
March 8	Mick & Annette Chalker, Jeff & Judy Chalker, Peter Davies
March 15	Joan Scott, Maureen Long, Esma Faucett, Robin Cole
March 22	Graham Lambert, Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler, Ian Ross
March 29	Pat & Bob Blay, George & Shirley Smith
April 5	EASTER
April 12	Mick & Annette Chalker, Marcus Haratiein, Nicola Young
April 19	Joan Scott, Maureen Long, Esma Faucett, Robin Cole
April 26	Max & Glennis Wright, Brian Moloney, Adrian & Pat Davidson
May 3	Graham Lambert, Andrew Moore, Sandra Keith
May 10	Ken Fleming, Jason Voorwinden, Jim Dean
May 17	Joan Scott, Maureen Long, Esma Faucett, Robin Cole
May 24	Pat & Bob Blay, Kath & Ian Hartley, Michelle Gardner
May 31	Mary Chalker, Margaret McAlister, Margaret Lang
June 6	LONG WEEKEND Saturday: Pat & Bob Blay, Ken & Joyce Fleming, Mick & Annette Chalker <i>Maureen Long – Editor</i>