



Taralga Historical Society Inc

83 Orchard Street

Taralga NSW 2580



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 2, 2017

Presidents Report:

Hello all, it has been a very sad time for the Society with the passing of three of our very special members Patricia Blay, Lorraine and Ian Ross. Our sincere condolences are respectively extended to Bob Blay, Malcolm Ross and their respective families, they will be sadly missed.

Visitation since the last newsletter has been relatively slow with only one coach, however a visit and appraisal of the village and its attractions by the Upper Lachlan Tourism marketing team should in due course help bolster numbers.

Society members assisted with the catering for the Australia Day Rodeo and Campdraft weekend, a big thank you to those volunteers, this effort resulted in the society receiving a donation of one thousand dollars from the Australia Day Committee who work so hard to put on a great show which benefits the entire community.

The Donation will go towards maintenance of the facility and the upgrading of interpretive materials..

The Society also supported the Taralga Show Society with a display of early

Shows memorabilia which created much interest.

We have been talking about constructing an eighteen nineties style Schoolhouse to house the early history of that era ie. up until 1947. Thanks to Veolia Mulwaree Trust who have favourably supported our submission for funding, we are now able to move forward with the school project with the majority of the works to be completed by the end of June.

Our 4th of June meeting will discuss an opening date, invitations and associated activities.

Our application for funding from the Taralga windfarm to assist with the purchase of a suitable means of transportation to assist our elderly and disabled visitors to access the many and varied exhibits over the large and undulating site was unfortunately unsuccessful, however we have been invited to reapply in 2018.

There is much to be done around the complex, Research, Maintenance i.e. cleaning, gardening, painting/staining etc. Everyone is welcome to partake.

Mick Chalker - President

Vale



Pat (Chapman) Blay

5.4.2017 aged 74 Years



Edna (Offley) Knowlman

14.4.2017 aged 95 Years

Wife of Bob

Mother of:

Rodney(dec) Sean (dec)

Natalie, Trenton (dec), Brad

Wife of John (dec)

Mother of:

Chris and Kerrie

“Bill” Walsh

18.5.1936 - 10.4.2017

Ted McPaul

16.4.2017 Aged 92 Years

Husband of Beth

Bessie James

29.4.2017- 95 Years

Wife of Charlie (dec)

Mother of:

Lyn Murphy, David (dec)

and Michael



Val (Willoughby) Elliott

18.4.2017 Aged 78 Years

Wife of Ray (dec)

Mother of:

Petrina, Alison, Leanne,

Phillip, Chris and Raelene



Lorraine (De Valder) Ross

20.4.2017 Aged 81 Years

Wife of Ian

Mother of:

Malcolm



Pat Blay was the second of three girls born to Aub Chapman of Chatsbury. Her sisters are Maureen who married Greg Gordon of Bannaby, and June who became Mrs Meckiff of Crookwell. *Editor*

All who visited the Taralga Historical Society grounds over the last few years appreciated the magnificent display of roses in the Memorial Garden which were the result of the tender love and care given by Pat Blay to their needs. However, Pat's contribution amounted to so much more than that.

Pat served as President for 11 years from 1981 to 1992. During this time she was responsible for so much:- she compiled a book on the History of the Roman Catholic Church in 1983, and the following year wrote a book on the History of Myrtleville. Also, in 1984 she organised the placing of a time capsule in front of the museum church *celebrating the history of the St Joseph Nuns in Taralga.*

A grant was obtained for the repair and restoration of the bell tower on our Methodist Church. Another 1984 enterprise was the demolishing and removal of the Cordingly Cottage from Big Hill. This was a big project during 1987/1988 when it was rebuilt as a Centennial Project. To comply with Shire regulations, new timber had to be cut and carted from "Tallygang" Wombeyan Caves, and then there was the opening celebrations to organise.

Funding was made available in 1990 to build our first machinery shed where old items from the Aub Johns collection were housed. Around this time Pat organised for the birth place of our first white baby in the district, Thomas Taylor, to be marked at Tarlo River.

In 1994 Pat's efforts were recognised by the Royal Australian Historical Society with a Certificate of Achievement. Later Pat received a Life Memberhip from our own society.

Pat Blay's efforts and her expertise in catering, showed in her work and service as Catering Officer for our group for many years when many bus tours were catered for. She also acted as a guide when showing tourists around the town.

On our society bus trips away which she helped organise, Pat provided many thought-provoking quizzes to entertain our members.

In 2007, Pat collaborated with Pat Williamson to compile the book, "More About Myrtleville" which has since sold many copies.

With thanks to a Loyal Member

We will all miss your commitment, energy and on going achievements

Ken Fleming



Lorraine Ross was the only child of Reg and Ida De Valder. Her mother was Ida Halls from Bannaby and her father came from Sydney. She lived in Sydney for many years and then in Goulburn before returning to the Bannaby Post Office with her family.

She married Ian Ross in 1957, and they had one son

Malcolm.

Lorraine and Ian were inaugural members of the Taralga Historical Society.
Editor

History was a special part of Lorraine's life, even before she became a part of Taralga Historical Society. Both Lorraine and Ian joined the Goulburn Historical Society in 1965 and Lorraine was still a member right up until her death.

In 1972, 45 years ago, Lorraine was present at a special meeting which was held at the home of Mary and Kevin Mooney on Golspie Road regarding forming a historical society in Taralga as it was feared a lot of our history would be lost. It was decided to hold a display in the Masonic Hall to gauge the

interest of forming a Society in Taralga. Lorraine and Ian offered to display some of their historical treasures of the Taralga area, with other interested people, like myself, adding to them. This went off so well that a special meeting was called to start the Taralga Historical Society. Ian was elected President and Marlene Huggart, Secretary. Soon we see Lorraine as our Secretary and meetings being held in her bookshop in Orchard Street.

Lorraine was appointed President in 1977. With a minute secretary she brought the Historical Society back to life and it went on to be the great organisation it is today.

She was involved in many aspects of the Society, being Archives Officer, and another term as Secretary during the busy period of the building of Cordingly Cottage, helping to set up displays and taking her turn to open the grounds at weekends, even after they moved to Goulburn.

Lorraine was proud to receive an award from the Royal Australian Historical Society in recognition of her commitment and service to Taralga Historical Society, and also received Life Membership from Taralga Historical Society.

A true and faithful member of our organisation

Lorraine, we will miss you.

Ken Fleming



Ian Ross died 19th May 2017, his funeral will be held on Friday 2nd June.

Valerie Therese Elliott was born on the 18th January 1939 in Crookwell to William and Sarah Willoughby. She was the baby sister of 14 brothers and sisters, and they lived at Carawar.

After her father died when Valerie was two, the family moved to Roslyn where she attended school.

When Sarah died in 1949 Valerie went to the Sacred Heart Convent in Taralga. After she finished school she went to Goulburn to live with her sister Dorothy, and worked for Bryan Keating's Dental Clinic.

She moved back to Taralga and worked at Goodhews Store, living with her sister Mavis and Bert Corby.

Valerie and Raymond Elliott married on the 12th April 1958 in Christ the King Church and have six children: Petrina, Alison, Leanne, Phil, Christopher and Raelene. The growing family now includes 20 Grandchildren and 17 Great Grandchildren.

Written by her niece Annette (Willoughby) Chalker



Mrs Knowlman was born Edna Offley in Crookwell, the eldest of three daughters to Lauie and Vera Offley. She grew up on the family's property, "Hill Top" at Myrtleville, and attended the little school nearby.

Following her education she trained as a triple certificate nurse in Sydney and worked at several hospitals, including Crown Street and North Sydney before coming back to Goulburn as a staff sister. The young Edna was taken by John Knowlman when he came to the x-ray department one day after he injured himself in a cricket game.

It was the start of a happy and enduring relationship. The couple were married at Taralga's Saint Lukes Church in 1948, and later had two children Kerrie and Chris.

John had been working at the family business, established in 1888, and eventually became manager. John died in 1974, aged just fifty-four.

It was only at age 90 she stopped mowing her lawn and age 93 when she gave up driving.

Her sisters Doris (Mrs Archie Hoad) and Audrey (Mrs Fred Bell) predeceased

her.

Article from The Goulburn Post

FATAL CRICKET GAME AT BANNABY

Evening Post 22.12.1978

The death of cricket umpire John Bogg from a cricket ball has inspired a centenary cricket match between the two teams on that day, Big Hill and Bannaby.

In December 1878, John Bogg was umpiring a cricket match between Big Hill and Bannaby at a cricket ground close to Arthursleigh at square leg when he was struck with a ball just below the ear and died.

From that point in time local umpiring was done from point not square leg.

Cricket was a regular sport at Bannaby up until the war when many of the young men left the district to go to the front.

There will be several Big Hill descendants of the fatal cricket match playing in the centenary match.

Both teams will autograph a cricket bat on Sunday to mark the centenary match at Bannaby.

Some of the families names who played in the early day include Whipp, Hillas, Handley, Menzies and a Gordon boy who later played grade cricket in Sydney.

There were some great games played in the good old days, and in one of the Bannaby Big Hill encounters, a ball was hit into a very big gum tree and failed to come down.

The two batsmen became footsore running between wickets while a team of axemen set about to cut down the two metre thick tree.

One of Big Hill's opening batsmen this weekend Robert Stephenson claims this will not happen this Sunday because he is taking his chainsaw.

The Taralga Historical Society, along with representatives from Big Hill are staging the centenary cricket match at Bannaby on Sunday.

The centenary cricket match:



Play began at midday when Big Hill representative, 89 year old Sid Bogg of Goulburn, winning the toss and elected to send the Bannaby team in to bat.

Noel and Glen Elliott opened the innings, and their partnership proceeded to add runs at a brisk rate, Noel playing some very fine shots particularly on the off.

The 87 runs from Jim Blissenden, retired not out, was highlighted by three sixes and 13 fours.

With storm clouds gathering, and time running short, Bannaby was all out for 245.

Big Hill took the crease with batsman K. Kell and I. Thompson showing they were far from concerned by their opposition, and had 39 runs on the board, when the first wicket fell.

I. Thompson went on to make 43 before returning to the sidelines.

Unfortunately rain made further play impossible, and Big Hill's score of 3 for 88, umpires John Stephenson and Judy Bell, declared play abandoned.

End result of the centenary cricket match was a draw.

A new cricket bat, autographed by players, umpires, score keepers was handed to Taralga Historical Society for display and safe keeping.

Announcer for the afternoon was Mr Keith Cole, while Mr Noel Clack from Sydney, and former Bannaby representative, acted as official scorer.

The last match played on this ground was in 1938 when Jack Whipp made 98 runs and Sunday's centenary game was the first since that time.



** Presentations of the autographed bat are, from left: Robert Stephenson (Big Hill), Greg Cro (Bannaby), Ian Menzies (with bat) and Ian Ross (captain of the Bannaby side).*



.A centenary cricket match at Bannaby

On Sunday recalled a tragic accident when umpire John Bogg died after being struck by a ball.

Among those at the centenary match were descendants (from left) Mrs G.Bogg and her husband Sid, Mrs A Rossler (grand daughter), Mrs C. Bogg (grand daughter-in-law and five year old Tribly Rippon, great great grand daughter.

TARALGA BUTTER FACTORIES

As recorded in the 1970's

As many of the early written records are incomplete, much of the information collated by the Taralga Historical Society is from personal records compiled by verbal assistance from local families.

Factories were established at Myrtleville, Yalbraith, Richlands Estate and two at Taralga.

Taralga had its own butter factory in 1900 and the Taralga Dairy Co., became operational in 1893.

Myrtleville Butter Factory was a weatherboard building with an iron roof built around 1892.

A steam engine provided the power to drive the machinery and farmers who supplied milk were Barry, Blay, McAlister, Miskelly, Baxter, Little, Staunton, Chalker and others.

They received 5d.per gallon for whole milk and could have the skim milk if they wished.

During the drought of 1902, production lagged but the factory kept working and did not close until 1910.

During a violent storm, the building was destroyed and the steam engine and machinery was sold to a Goulburn buyer.

In addition to the five main butter factories operating in the area, there were at best two private concerns.

Captain Crury of Myrtleville has a steam engine to drive his equipment on the property now owned by Johns family, and another private butter factory was on Spicer's property at Bright Hill.

Mr Lachlan Ross (1892-1922) had an early cheese factory on his property "Rossville". and in July 1869, sold 800lbs of cheese through Commission Agent, C.H.Whitten of Sydney, and in 1906 was awarded a Certificate of Merit from the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW for Cheese.

Mr Thomas Howe was also an early cheese maker of the Taralga district, who came from Campbelltown and was one of the first cheese makers in this area

He received a grant of 600 acres dated September 6, 1828, and the area he selected was just north and joining Macarthur's "Richlands", on which it is reported that he resided and was making cheese near Burra Burra Lake.

The Richlands Estate Butter Factory was situated not far to the Northwest of Richlands homestead and it belonged to the Macarthur-Onslow family who paid their tenant farmers and others for milk they brought in.

Separated milk and butter flowed through a pipe to the pig paddock below the factory.

The factory was a weatherboard building of three floors.

One farmer who supplied milk was Mr. W Price Snr, who received 3d. per gallon for the whole milk.

After Richlands Estate was sub-divided and sold in 1910, the factory was no longer used, and during the Second World War it was destroyed by fire.

The Yalbraith Butter Factory was situated near Howlett's property and the cement floor still remains.

This factory was owned by surrounding farmers on a co-operative basis.

The Yalbraith Butter Factory closed down in about 1900 and the machinery was moved to the Richlands site.

Cheese was also made at the Yalbraith factory.

After various smaller factories closed down in the early 1900's, farmers had to take their cream to Goulburn.

In 1921, the Taralga Butter Factory was established as a co-operative by the dairy farmers of Taralga District.

Shareholders elected a board of directors, who appointed a manager Mr Premister, then Mr Faulkiner and finally, Mr George Gerathy.

Other men who worked there were Joe Cooper (engineer), Carl Alders (accountant), Reg Fitzgibbon, Gordon Francis, Mr Wilkins and Mr Mick Fitzgibbon was the secretary.

About 1935, the co-operative bought another factory in Goulburn, but continued to operate at Taralga until 1949.



Taralga Butter Factory now owned by the family of the late Ken Mooney

*EMPLOYEES OF
TARALGA
BUTTER
FACTORY*

Left to right

Back:

Jim Duncan,

George Gerathy
(Manager)

Carl Alders (Accountant)



Paddy McAlister, W.J.McPaul

Front:

Ross Keith, George Goodhew, Joe Francis, J.J.Walsh

WAR WAS PUT BEHIND HIM

Obituary

Goulburn Post circa 1982

A former prisoner-of-war, who devoted 31 years to the breeding of fat lambs and commercial cattle in the Taralga district, died recently aged 59.

Bill Sahaiewski, born on January 22, 1923 near Kiev in the Ukraine, was a man who possessed brilliant farming capabilities.

Knowing hardship since his early teens, Bill was forcibly brought from his homeland to Germany where he was interned in the country's labor camps.

The prisoners were shown no mercy by their overseers, and Bill considered himself fortunate when he was later assigned to the wharves at Hamburg.

Under Stalin's ruthless regime, Bill's parents and other members of his family, along with countless of thousands of his countrymen, died of starvation.

It was during his forced labor camp years, that Bill married and the couple later had a son. But the marriage failed due to the harsh conditions within the camp.

Divorce followed, and when the war was over, mother and son fled to Brazil.

Bill originally intended to go to Canada, but by some strange set of circumstances, he found himself on Australian soil.

Making his way from Sydney, Bill worked for a time at the Marulan lime quarries and later, a change in employment found him working for a fencing contractor.

Because of ill-treatment at this stage, Bill sought the solace and peace of mind he needed with the Emery family of "Glen William" at Taralga.

The family, comprising of Mrs Mary Emery, sons Bill and Jack and daughter Muriel, who had courageously carried on with the farm following the death of Mr Bill Emery Snr some years before, were attracted by the look of the young Bill Sahaiewski and opened their hearts and home to him.

Bill's life at "Glen William" had much to offer, but the burden of those war years had taken its toil.

For the past 23 years, Bill had been a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, and before the Taralga branch was established, travelled to Crookwell for the monthly therapy meetings.

It was a successful mission for Bill had abstained from his drink problem for many years prior to his death.

Bill, together with his "adopted family", particularly Bill Emery, built up a farming relationship which is well known throughout the district as an enterprising fat lamb and commercial cattle business.

Both men, backed by the family, took particular interest in supporting the local agricultural show and served the Taralga A.P.& H. Association in various capacities as valued and respected committeemen and exhibitors.

Show exhibits from the "Glen William" estate have won the champion steer award for the past three years, as well as gaining recognition from the Australian Hereford Society for entries in the champion commercial cattle classes.

Fat lamb nominations have also scooped the pool on many occasions.

Bill Sahaiewski was a loyal worker, a wonderful friend and a person who had a great understanding of his work and its involvements.

He took pride in his accomplishments and assisted his neighbours whenever and however he could.

Since Bill Emery's death in 1978, Bill Sahaiewski continued to breed top quality stock which is in keeping with the traditions of "Glen William".

He is survived and remembered by the community of Taralga.

Internment took place at the Stonequarry cemetery where Bill Sahaiewski was buried next to his former friend and confidant, the late Bill Emery,



Bill Sahaiewski (right) and Bill Emery
are pictured exhibiting some of their top quality
fat lambs at a previous Taralga show

****MEMBERSHIPS OVERDUE****

Active Members \$20, Associate Members \$25

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Museum Duty

- June 4** Ken & Joyce Fleming, Judith Matthews, Robin Alders
- June 11** Jeff & Judy Chalker, Brian Moloney, Peter Davies, Tim Dowsley
- June 18** Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Bob Blay, Jim Dean
- June 25** Mary Chalker, Matt & Vicki Chalker, Alan Robertson
-
- July 2** Max & Glennis Wright, Sandra & Max Keith, Brian Kelly
- July 9** Graham & Sue Lambert, Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler
- July 16** Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray, Tim Dowsley
- July 23** Jeff & Judy Chalker, Brian Corby, Andrew Moore
- July 30** Bob Blay, Peter Davies, Brian Moloney, Nerida Croker
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- Aug 6** Ken & Joyce Fleming, Gill & Marion Pfitzner
- Aug 13** Peter & Margaret McAlister, Ray Shiel, Marcus Harastein, Nicola Young
- Aug 20** Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Graham & Sue Lambert
- Aug 27** Mary Chalker, Brian Kelly, Alan Robertson, Jim Dean

Sept 3 Mick & Annette Chalker, Peter Davies, Tim Dowsley

Sept 10 Bob Blay, Pat Murray, Jeff & Judy Chalker

Folks, if your name hasn't appeared on the roster don't feel left out, you are always welcome, as there is always much to do. Just turn up and familiarise yourselves with the many and varied exhibits. Bring a broom rake or duster, you won't be left twiddling your thumbs!

Please let us know if you would prefer an alternative Sunday or are otherwise unavailable.

***Mick Chalker* PH: 4843 5975**

Editor: Maureen Long