



**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 3, 2016

Presidents Report

The Ben Hall Discovery Tour was a huge success. Although the weather was a bit damp, the rain managed to hold off every time we departed the bus. 38 people travelled to Harden, Grenfell, Forbes, Parkes and Eugowra. All were impressed with the historical museums that we visited. Highlights were the Parkes Museum and the Motor Museum in Forbes. Lunch on the final day was at the 'Gentle Cow Cafe' in Eugowra where we were thoroughly entertained by the proprietor with great stories from the local area.

We were successful in obtaining a grant from Museums and Galleries small grants. \$1,800 was awarded to purchase audio equipment to go in the Heritage Shed and the Cottage. Commentaries will be produced describing the exhibits. A simple press of a button will activate the commentaries to enhance the visitor's experience. Pru Goward visited the Museum to congratulate us on our award and was extremely impressed with the work that members had achieved in building our Museum complex.

Planning is underway for our open day to be held during the October long weekend (see details in this newsletter). Invitations have been extended to all the local Historical Societies as well as State, Federal and Local Government representatives. The aim of the free open day is to promote the museum and show our local community what we have. Please spread the word among your friends and neighbours to consider attending.

Once again I would like to encourage you all to contact me if you are interested in getting involved with presenting and maintaining our special exhibits and infrastructure. We are currently working on new rosters and would love to hear from interested members.

**Michael Chalker
President**

Goulburn Post, 27 April, 1978 - extract

Centenary for Wales

The Bank of New South Wales at Taralga yesterday completed a century of unbroken service to the town and district with a special ceremony and social function.

The Member for Eden-Monaro, Mr Murray Sainsbury, unveiled a plaque at the bank to commemorate the red letter day and bank officials later entertained guests at the War Memorial Hall.

The Wales was the first bank to open in Taralga, which in those days had only 160 inhabitants.

The Bank of New South Wales had been founded in Sydney in 1817, with Macquarie's active support, and Oxley was a director from 1821 to 1825.

By 1878, Taralga was "a small but improving township", with five hotels - the Commercial, Royal, Richlands, Taralga and Argyle Inn - and four churches.

The Goulburn Herald of April 27, 1878 reported: "Bank of New South Wales - A branch of this bank has been opened at Taralga under the management of Mr J.W.Voller, Mr Arthur Gannon, a son of Mr J.T.Gannon has been appointed accountant".

The bank's records show that Voller received the princely salary of 19 pounds 15 shillings and 10 pence (less than \$40) a month.

Young Gannon was paid four pounds three shillings and fourpence (less than \$9) a month.

The original branch ledger - now a treasured historic document - shows that three customers opened accounts on the bank's first trading day.

They were

Martin Tynan, publican; William Henry Whiting, storekeeper and chemist; and Thomas Maloney, storekeeper.

Within a week, accounts were opened by John Francis Mooney, publican; Edward Swan, butcher; Thomas Weeks, publican, and Robert Weeks, farmer, Golspie.

The Wales has retained a 100-year-old link with some of its earliest customers, and Edward Swan's grand daughter, Gwen Swan, is a member of the branch's present staff.

From 1878 until 1890, the Wales conducted its business from a room in Daniel McAlister's hotel in MacArthur Street, on a site opposite what is now Ray Williamson's home.

From 1891 to 1918 the bank operated from premises on the corner of Orchard and Court Streets, leased from William Henry Whiting, who had built it specially

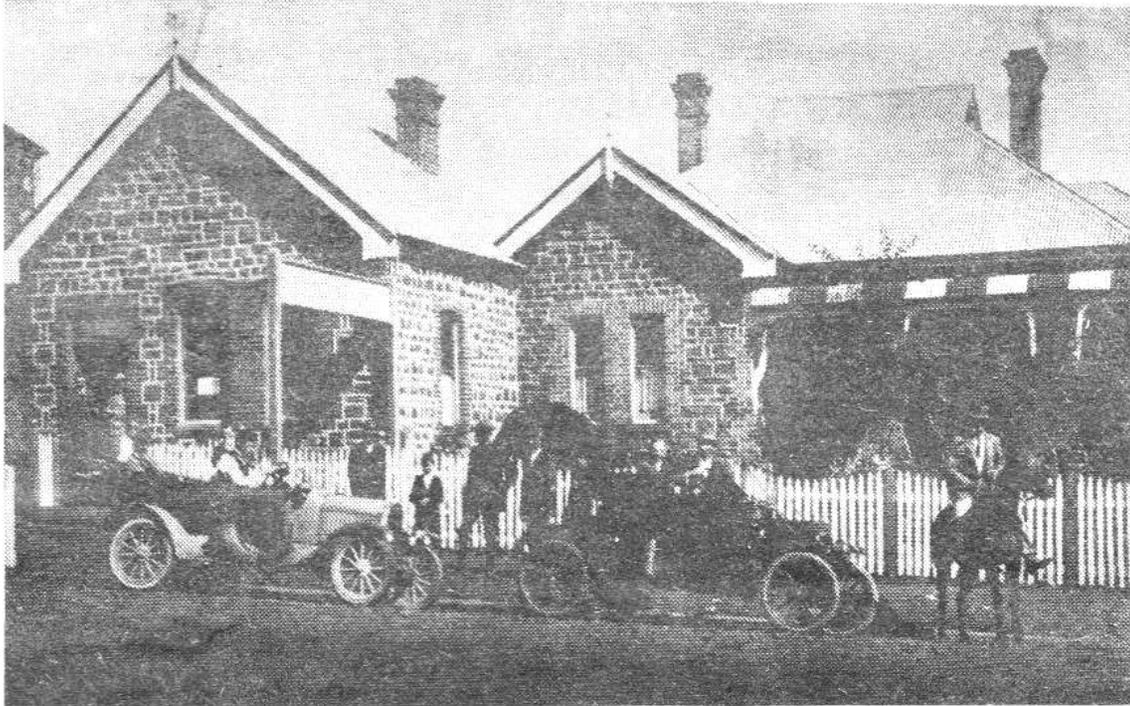
for the Wales. The building is now the home of Mr William Bensley. (This building has been sold - 2016)

In 1918, the bank moved to premises in Orchard Street, now occupied by Farmers and Graziers Cooperative Ltd, almost opposite its present site. Which it has occupied since 1938.

In its 100 years in Taralga, the Wales has had 24 Branch Managers:

1878-1881 J.W.Voller,	1881-1888 T.J.Loder,	1888-1892 S.W.Hayley,
1892-1894 E.W.Evans,	1894-1914 R.H.Powell,	1914-1916 E.V.Vernon,
1916-1921 J.Turner,	1921-1922 J.R.G.Eaton,	1922-1924 N.H.Benson,
1924-1931 H.L.Allnut,	1931-1934 H.W.J.Boucher,	1934-1936 R.R.Dobbie,
1936-1940 R.W.Hitchens,	1940-1948 T.H.E.North,	1948-1950 W.R.Simpson,
1950-1951 S.N.Robertson,	1951-1961 J.W.R.Gorrell,	1961-1964 T.L.Markham,
1964-1965 E.T.Winter,	1965-1968 H.A.Jones,	1968-1970 C.D.Harrison,
1970-1973 J.M.Huggart,	1973-1977 A.R.Convery,	1977- W.D.H.Shields

A PRE — WAR BANK BUILDING



● *The proud owners of early model cars outside the Bank of New South Wales at Taralga. This building came into use in 1918 and was used till 1938 when the existing bank building was opened. Judging by the model of the two vehicles, this picture would have been taken early in the life of this particular building as a bank.*

On our recent bus trip to Forbes, Parkes and surrounding towns:



Secretary of the Taralga Historical Society Graham Lambert with Bob Roach at the Eugowra museum during a recent visit.



President of the Taralga Historical Society Mick Chalker with Eugowra local Wilf Norris.

Making history at Eugowra's museum

THIRTY eight members of the Taralga Historical Museum visited the Eugowra Historical Museum and Bushranger Centre last Sunday as part of their three-day trip by coach to museums in the region.

Bob Roach, a committee member and volunteer of the local Museum, welcomed the visitors and gave them a brief spiel on the Escort Rock hold-up by bushranger

Frank Gardiner and his gang including Ben Hall and Johnny Gilbert.

Viv McMillan was on hand to talk about the Braveheart Wagon with Wilf Norris there to give information on his involvement with the Australian Draught, of which he has had a lifetime of experiences.

Due to the rainy day the visitors were driven around in the coach.

Taken from Forbes Advocate Friday June 24,2016

Vale



Ron Guihot
16.9.1947 - 11.5.2016
Ron grew up at Jerrong



Marie Cumberland
1.6.2016 aged 76 years
Wife of Jack

Shireen Catherine Sieler
21.5.2016 aged 52 years
Daughter in law of our
Member Geoff Sieler

Barry Seaman
30.5.2016 aged 82 years
Husband of Marie (nee Holt)



Joan Cummins
12.7.2016 aged 73 years
Wife of Greg (dec)

Don Hayne
May 2016
Husband of
Wilma (nee Craig)

Fay (Clifton) White
9.6.2016 aged 84 years
Wife of Lew (dec)

Noel Baxter
14.6.2016 aged 81 years
Husband of Florence (dec)

Raymond Goodhew
21.10,1946 - 29.6.2016
son of Helen and Greg
Brother of:
Dianne, Phillip and Elizabeth

Helen Shawyer
24.7.2016 aged 93 years
Wife of Bill (dec)

Australia's Largest Diamond Every Found: Mt Werong, NSW

Researched and compiled by our Member John Wylie

The largest diamond every found in Australia, until recent times, was found in 1905 by two prospectors/miners, John Donaldson and John Williams in the upper reaches of Limeburner's Creek at Mt Werong on Gold Lease (GL) GL 9 in the Parish of Murruin County of Westmoreland.

Diamonds were found as a result of inquisitive gold or tin miners, although they were slow to be recognized by the diggers, they did notice that certain small gems had a particular luster warranting further investigation, with the first diamonds recorded at Reedy Creek near Bathurst in 1851 and later a small crystallized diamond in the Turon River in 1853 (Rose 1960).

With the first reliable discovery of diamonds on the Macquarie River by some gold miners in 1860 recorded by the Rev William Branwhite Clarke.

The first major discovery of diamonds in Australia were found on the Cudjiegong River in 1867 where 2,500 diamonds were recovered.

In 1872 two prospectors in the Inverell district found associated with the alluvial gold, diamonds, resulting in an estimated 18,000 carats being recovered by the end of World War One.

The most productive diamond field till recently was at Copeton, until the discovery of the Argyle mine in Western Australia in the 1970's (most people now refer to them as the Argyle Pinks) which is now one of the largest producer in the world (Gatfield 2013).

The Mt Werong Area

Mt Werong forms one of the main peaks of the Great Dividing Range, attaining a height of 1200 metres above sea level (4000 feet). It's a major geological feature of the area and as a result it has created two major watersheds, that of the Murruin/Wollondilly/Nepean River system that flows west initially then to the north that eventually becomes the Hawkesbury River.

The other being one of Australia longest river, with of it many humble beginnings being Prospectors Gully/ Munn's Creek that flows into the Abercrombie River then the Lachlan River followed by the Murrumbidgee to eventually, the mighty Murray River, that flows down into South Australia.

In the vicinity of Mt Werong, is extensive deposits of quartz wash, this wash is made of well rounded quartz pebbles, cobbles and boulders in a sand clay matrix. In 1880 gold was discovered in the deep lead materials and the surrounding alluvial creeks draining the plateau. The gold found was fine and dark, and abundant gemstone's, like zircon (red & white) and sapphire (green & blue). The gemstones were poor in colour to be of any commercial value. (McNevin,1977).

In 1881 a diamond weighing one & half carats was found at Mt Werong by a prospector who had spent some years in the South African diamond fields (Anon 1881a & 1881b) and in 1885 a Mr McDonald found a diamond in Prospectors Gully, it is noted that on

identifying it as a diamond it did not create any further interest (Pittman, 1906).

The Discovery of the Mt Werong Diamond

The Mt Werong Diamond was discovered in March 1905 by two miners by the names of John Donaldson & John Williams (Photo below) in auriferous drift (gold bearing alluvium) in the upper reaches of Limeburners Creek, being the headwaters of the Murruin Creek at depth of four metres (12 feet). This was recognised as the largest diamond found in Australia, weighing 28 5/16 carats. It is known as a distorted crystal of oblong shape, straw coloured and flawless, measuring 23mm in length, 14mm in width and 5 mm thick (Pittman 1906 & McNevin 1977).

John Williams in his later years.

&

Model of Mt Werong diamond held at the Australian Museum, Sydney.



A Mr H. E. Finckh a jeweller in George St Sydney kindly lent the diamond to the Australian Museum so a plaster cast could be made, and a model made in topaz (Registration No D17852) by a Mr John Priora of the Sydney Arcade, and was on display at the Museum for some time (Photo above).

Mr Finckh purchased (for how much is unknown) the diamond from Donaldson & Williams (Williams 1930) and what happened to it is unknown, although Finckh did put up a Prospectus advertising shares for sale to open the Abercrombie Diamond Trust, with the Mt Werong diamond being given the name "Abercrombie". (Finckh 1905)

According to one Mines Department Report (Pitman 1906) and one newspaper article (Anon 1905), Donaldson & Williams had it valued by a Bathurst Jeweller, a Mr Winters, who offered them 2 pounds, which they declined, a further offer several months later for 10 pounds was also declined. This eventually convinced Donaldson & Williams that the stone may be worth more and sent it to the Department of Mines for identification, where it was immediately recognised as a diamond.

There has been much speculation on the diamond discovered, with a series of newspaper articles in 1930's by various people presenting their views or knowledge of the diamond, (Underwood 1930) With one of the discoveries, John Williams vouching on the authenticity of where it was found (Williams 1930) with it noting, the diamond was sold to a H.E. Finckh a Jeweller in George Street Sydney.

The next largest diamond found, weighing only 8 carats came from Copeton in the Inverell area on the New England Plateau, although it is now noted in the media generally that the Argyle Pink found 2012 in the Kimberly ranges of Western Australia is Australia's largest pink diamond unearthed, weighing 12.76 Carats.

There is a further report of more recent times that certainly supports diamonds are in the Mt Werong area, a annual report was submitted to the Department of Mines by a Keith Duncan from the Megalong Valley, when prospecting in the area during the 1970's, when a Dr J Borner a geologist identified small diamonds, microscopic in size, accompanied the dish concentrate sampled (Duncan 1970).

After the sale of the stone to H.E.Finckh the jeweller, where it was put on public display for a time (Finckh 1905), what happened to the stone after that is a total mystery, lets hope it turns up one day, to be admired once again.

An interesting article written in a northern NSW paper in 1936 notes how two prospectors found the first fresh water diamond in Australia and was sold in Sydney for 480 pounds, and later it sold in London for 2,400 pounds (Garven 1936).

Although there is much doubt as to the authenticity of the one very large diamond found in the Mt Werong area, so owing to the uncertainty it will remain as a mystery until proven otherwise, but it can not be totally dismissed and will remain as the largest diamond found in Australia at present until of recent times.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Bob Cullen for continuing to pass his extensive knowledge of Mt Werong on, continue to show me where lots of other different sites were in the past. The Australian Museum staff, Ross Pogson and Gayle Sutherland allowing me to photograph the model of the diamond, and permitting me to contact John Williams Granddaughter Carol who assisted with parts of the history, a photo of her grandfather and providing a tape recording on the history of the diamond conveyed to him by his grandfather John Williams. A copy has been given to the Australian Museum for their records. **References**

Anon. 1881a. Goulburn. The Sydney Morning Herald. Thursday 6th January 1881, page 5.

Anon. 1881b. Intercolonial Mining News in Brief. The Brisbane Courier. Saturday 15th Jan, 1881. Page 6.

Anon.1905. Mount Werong. Rich in Diamonds. Old Prospector's View. The Sydney Morning Herald. Sat 10th Feb 1930, page 13.

Duncan, K.L. 1970. Authority to Prospect No. 3325. Department of Mines NSW. Report GS1970/125.

Finckh. Herman Edward. 1905. Public Company, Prospectus. Abercrombie Diamond Trust.

(advertisement) Herman Edward Finckh. Diamond on Display 300 George St Sydney. Sydney Morning Herald Saturday 30th September 1905. Page 3.

Garven,J.H.C. 1936. Journey Thro West & Southwest (Written for the Advocate – Continued). The Gloucester Advocate. Tues 28th April 1936. Page 3.

Gatfield. Gary. 2013. A Short History of Diamonds in Australia. Their Discovery and Mining. 5pp.

Rose, G. 1960. The Mineral Industry of NSW. No 18. Gemstones. Geological Survey NSW. Department of Mines NSW. pp 21 & 36.

McNevin, A.A. 1977. Diamonds in New South Wales. Geological Survey of New South Wales, Mineral Resources No 6. 125pp. [p93 ?].

Pittman. 1906. Discovery of a Fine Diamond at Mt Werong. Annual Reports 1905, Department of Mines NSW. pp137-138.

Underwood, Fred, H. 1930. Mount Werong Diamond. The Sydney Morning Herald. Sat 5th March 1930, page 10.

Williams. J. 1930. Mount Werong Diamond. The Sydney Morning Herald.8th March 1930, page 12.



The Old Public School at Taralga



Richlands School circa 1914

Provided by Helen (Minshall) Carne - her father attended the School

Does anyone have a copy of these with identifications?

Myrtleville 'churns back the clock'

Article from the Goulburn Post (1980's)

The Taralga Historical Society's latest display featured the Strathaird and Myrtleville areas.

Photograph albums, newspaper cuttings and artifacts all helped to tell the story of the hardships, triumphs and progress of the early pioneers.

Many of the photographs on display were loaned by interested residents and society members, and included the work of the late Mrs Lillian Wright.

Perhaps one of the better known landmarks of the early days was the Myrtleville Butter Factory.

Situated east of Boardman's house, the factory was built by Joseph Boardman and his brother-in-law, Mr Dengate.

Steam was used to power milk separation and churning in the three-room factory.

John Boardman began production on January 1, 1892 with operations being left to his son Joseph and an E. W. Dobson.

James Bee assisted with the machinery and others on the payroll included Harmony Blay, Joseph Lenane and Pat McAlister.

Farmers around the area who supplied the milk were paid one penny to sixpence per gallon for whole milk.

They bought back the skimmed milk for one penny for a 10 gallon can which was used for pig feed.

The butter factory also acted as a store selling butter, sugar, salt, tobacco etc, to the producers.

Joseph Boardman took the butter to Goulburn by horse drawn van.

About 1910 the factory closed and so ended an era of early factory production at Myrtleville.



Danny and Katie Chalker took an interest in this old butter churn at the display



Old home's new life

4/4/1988

By MAREE BENSLEY

A new home was officially opened in Taralga as part of the town's bicentennial celebrations -- but it is a house in which no one will ever live.

Cordingley Cottage, lovingly restored to its former glory by members of the Taralga Historical Society under the guidance of local builder Mr Ian Ross, was officially opened on Saturday.

Assistant Director of the Australian Bicentennial Committee, Mr Bob Gallagher in conjunction with Mrs Ivy Cordingley of Big Hill Manilla, gave the cottage their official blessing.

President of Taralga Historical Society, Mrs Patricia Blay, welcomed all guests, paid tribute to the work carried out by her members, the financial support received from the Bicentennial Authority and members of the community.

She welcomed Mayor of Goulburn Ald Tony Lamarra, Deputy Mayor Ald Pat Fairhall, representatives of Mulwaree and Crookwell councils and those interested people who braved the cold weather to take part in the opening.

Speaking briefly on the cottage's history, Mrs Blay said work on the building had taken four years to complete.

"It was in 1984 that Max and Glennis Wright together with the Cordingleys first mentioned the building being suitable for a bicentennial project."

Mrs Blay said the original hand-hewn timber, known to be at least 100 years old, was incorporated with new

material cut from Tallygang, a Wombeyan Caves property owned by Mr and Mrs Packham.

She also referred to historical society members, possessing their own particular talent which when combined, helped in refurbishing the dwelling.

"By re-constructing the cottage, we hope to turn back the clock and perhaps give children of future generations a glimpse of pioneer life," Mrs Blay said.

President of Mulwaree Shire Council, Cr Laurie Sadler also paid tribute to the hours spent in reconstruction.

Ald Tony Lamarra said the little cottage could be classed as a show piece and was a direct result of what could be done by an interested community.

Mr Bob Gallagher spoke on behalf of Mr Gleeson, chairman of the Australian Bicentennial Authority.

"His wife Francis was born here, so he is familiar with the place and its people," Mr Gallagher said.

"The NSW Bicentennial Authority was established in 1981. We were looking at funding legacies for future generations.

"More than 60 percent of funds available were distributed to these lasting projects.

"Australia Day in Sydney was a wonderful occasion, but that was one day in Australia's celebrations.

"This today is also important. Cordingley Cottage met all criteria needed for funding.

"The authority helped with money but you people here today have also contributed so much towards the celebrations of our Nation's Bicentenary."

□ TOP: Cordingley Cottage at Taralga. ABOVE: (Front) Mrs Ivy Cordingley, who cut the ribbon to officially open the cottage on Saturday with Mrs Glennis Wright, a member of the Taralga Historical Society.

Goulburn Post 4 April, 1988

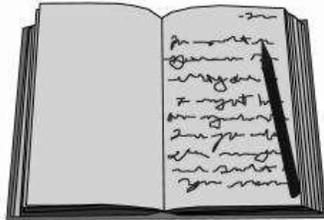


Programme

Sunday 2nd October **TARALGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
FREE OPEN DAY - SHOWCASING THE SOCIETY

Sunday 9th October **MEETING 2PM MASONIC HALL**

**IF YOUR NAME ISN'T APPEARING ON THE MUSEUM ROSTER AND YOU
WOULD LIKE TO BE, PLEASE CONTACT US ASAP
MUSEUM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SUNDAYS FROM 1PM TO 4PM**



Museum Duty

September 4 Mick & Annette Chalker, Pat Newman
September 11 Ken & Joyce Fleming, Marcus Harstein, Nicola Young
September 18 Joan Scott, Maureen Long, Marg Balfour, Margaret Lang
September 25 Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler, Judy Matthews, Mary Chalker

LONG WEEKEND

October 1 SATURDAY: Pat & Bob Blay, Graham & Sue Lambert,
Jason Voorwinden
October 2 SUNDAY: Gill & Marian Pfitzner, George & Shirley Smith, Pat Murray
October 9 Peter & Margaret McAlister, Andrew Moore, Ray Shiel
October 16 Joan Scott, Maureen Long, Esma Faucett, Nerida Croker
October 23 Max & Glennis Wright, Jim Dean, Brian Kelly
October 30 Mick & Annette Chalker, Jeff & Judy Chalker, Peter Davies

November 6 Ian & Lorraine Ross, Max & Sandra Keith, Alan Robertson
November 13 Pat & Bob Blay, Adrian & Pat Davidson, Karen & Neil Bennett
November 20 Joan Scott, Maureen Long, Robyn Alders
November 27 Ken & Joyce Fleming, Andrew Moore, Margaret Lang

December 4 Graham & Sue L, Jason Voorwinden, Jim Dean, Judith Matthews

Editor: Maureen Long

FREE ADMISSION

Taralga Historical Society

Open Day

Sunday 2nd October 2016

Come and visit Taralga

- All Displays in our museum complex will be open
- Shearing Demonstration
- Horse Shoeing
- Horse and Sulky display
- Miniature Ponies
- Rural Fire Service Display
- Spinning and Weaving Demonstration
 - Ukulele Band
 - Bagpipes
 - Sausage Sizzle
 - Free Tea & Scones
 - Free Coffee and Cake

We have extensive Taralga and district family history records. We may be able to help you to learn something of your family history.