



Taralga Historical Society Inc

Orchard Street
Taralga NSW 2580



President: Ken Fleming 4843 8122

Secretary: Graham Lambert 4843 8187

Treasurer: Glennis Wright 4840 2215

Aim: To preserve history of Taralga & District for future generations

Newsletter No 4, 2014

Presidents Report:

The year of 2014 is almost gone, and one way and another, it has been a very busy year.

The bus trips keep coming and, while these keep us busy most weeks, they keep a small steady income stream coming in each month.

The special launch of our new book on Taralga and Its People was a great success with people coming from everywhere to attend and get a copy of the book. The launch was made by former Mayor and the President of Viola Trust, Paul Stephenson, who along with his wife Sue, renewed many old friendships on the day. The Mayor of Upper Lachlan Shire Council, John Shaw and his wife Suzie were also guests. All speakers congratulated the compilers of the book, Mary Chalker and Maureen Long, on their excellent production. This was followed by afternoon tea.

Sales of the new book are still going well and we should soon recoup the outlay in printing and then all sales will be a plus for us. Our book sales are the best income that we have, and without them I don't think we would survive very long.

We have accepted a grant of \$1,000 to go towards restoring 1 or 2 of our lead light windows in the church. There are two windows which need a lot of repair and this will be at least a good start.

Graham Lambert has managed to get the files on the WW1 soldiers onto a disc, and has it running continually, with appropriate music in the Nissen Hut. This is proving very popular.

Our Christmas Party is planned for Sunday 14th December. We will have a quick meeting at 2pm to tidy up any left-over business for 2014, followed by our party. We have arranged for a local group to come and provide some musical entertainment for us (I will keep their name a surprise....you will have to come and see for yourselves). If everyone could bring a small gift for the Christmas Tree and some nibbles it will help the festive atmosphere. We will end the afternoon with a BBQ, so will need a few bowls of salad to go with it.

Hoping to see as many as possible of you on 14th, and all of you who live away and can't make it:

A Happy Christmas to you all.

Ken Fleming

Vale

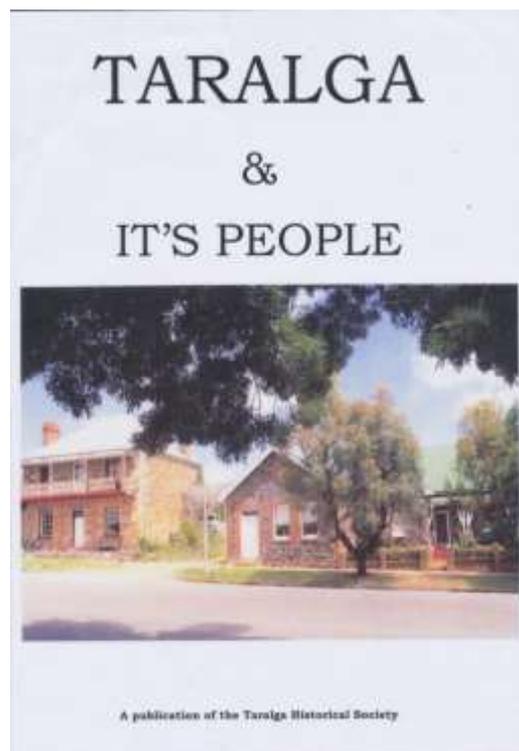


Phyllis Corby
20.7.1925 - 28.8.2014
aged 89 years

Una Rudd (McKenzie)
21.9.2014 at Taree

Our newest book has been released – and is available for sale from :

TARALGA:
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JEANETTE SMITH'S GENERAL STORE
PRUE BURFIT GIFT SHOP
MARY CHALKER 4840 2084
GOULBURN:
MAUREEN LONG 4821 8041
PRICE: \$49.00



**Bob Cullen “Casa Blanca” – Oberon/Colong Stock Route Mt Werong
Lots 2, 3 & 22 Parish of Banshea Country of Westmoreland**

Abstract

Bob Cullen has lived permanently at Mt Werong since 1970 although Bob had been visiting the area for a few years prior.

During this time, Bob obtained a wealth of knowledge about Mt Werong and has experienced some good times and a few bad times which he has now shared with all, allowing them to be recorded for which I truly want to express my gratitude.

Introduction

My knowledge of this area is nil, it was through reading Jim Barrett & Mary Williamson books in line with my caving interests that I have developed the passion to start researching the regions history, this has been further enhanced by history provided by Val Lang who is still considered our neighbour on the Bindook Highlands even though Val now lives in Oberon.

Bobs History

Bob, born on 22nd August 1932 in Woodville New Zealand, (North Island), was the second youngest of eight children to parents Ira Stanley Charles Cullen (B 2/8/1892 – D 16/3/1946) of Ulverstone Tasmania and Millicent Anne Amelia Cullen (nee King) of Hobart, Tasmania (B 3/3/1899 – D 3/3/1987). (Clark 1991)

Of the eight children, three females and five boys, five of the children were born in Tasmania, and the other three in New Zealand, after migrating there.

A special note on the ‘Cullen’ name which originated from Germany – Cullen means Comes from Cologne, Kolin (Noble 2003) with some settling in Nottingham England plying their trade as lace makers and eventually arriving in Australia.

Bob left New Zealand in September 1950 to live with his older brother in Melbourne for about six months, then moved to Tasmania to live and catch up with other members of his family for a period.

Bob eventually came to Sydney where he worked for about eight years and started visiting the Oberon/ Mt Werong area in the mid 1950s. Once, while at the Oberon council enquiring about who owned some land at Mt Werong, only to find the lady who had just been served in front of him was the owner of the land he was interested in. Her name was Mrs Oram and after Bob approached her, she was happy to sell him Lot 22 of 20 acres which was vacant, except for a dam that had been partially constructed on the western boundary,



Mrs Oram also chucked in Lot 9 a residential block in the village of Mt Werong which, the family had hoped to capitalize on in any future mining growth of the Mt Werong area. This did not eventuate but that is another story. On Lot 22 Parish of Banshea Country of Westmoreland, Bob built a humpy out of iron that still stands today among a cluster of blackwoods, close to the northern boundary, and moved in permanently on New Years Day 1970. The Lands Department wanted him to give the property a name for easier identification Bob called the place “Cullens”.

Bob later sold Lot 9 to a chap who moved to Kakadu in the Northern Territory, who eventually sold it to George and Edna Freeman and their period of ownership of this land will be written up in the future.

The remains of a number of stills, used to produce eucalyptus oil using the water from the dam put in by Walter Munn or the Orams’. Bob relates of meeting a Hungarian fellow from Canberra who once worked these stills, at that time this chap was working at either the Government Mint or Printers.



There is also the remains of a large hand riveted pressure boiler that was brought up from Munns Creek, and some beautiful hand riveted pipes about 4 inches (100mm) in diameter that were used for sluicing on the Abercrombie River While living at "Cullens" Bob got to know George Venn for a short period, George owned Lots 2 & 3 of Parish of Banshea Country of Westmoreland about 1 km north of him, when George died in 1972 (Williamson 2009 p187) the land was handed down to his son John who passed away 10 years after his father (Williamson 2009 p189). John had two daughters Susan and Patricia. Patricia married Walter Stiff, who was a policemen in



Bathurst at the time, Walter was the son of Clive Stiff, Manager at Wombeyan Caves from 1948 to 1981 (Wylie & Wylie 2013).

When Susan and Patricia inherited these blocks from their father they sold them to Bob in 1982. Meanwhile Bob cleared Lot 22 and built a large dam

on the south eastern corner of the property, he also managed to lease a portion of land to the north of the property from Forestry NSW to build a 4000 foot (1300 metre approx) long x 200 foot (65 metre approx) wide airstrip to be able to fly in and out on, This work was carried out by Kevin Cole of Oberon a logging contractor who was working in the area at the time

Bob set up a piggery on Lot 22, hoping to make a living breeding large whites, which were highly sort after at the Sydney markets at that time, Unfortunately after many years of breeding Bob's pigs caught a viral pneumonia that wiped out his pig population. All efforts made by Bob at the time failed to cure this problem.



Bob decided to stock Lots 2 & 3 with about 100 sheep, paint branded his sheep with a C, with sheep selling at the sale yards for around 50 cents per head, it seemed a good idea. Initially all went well, although occasionally the sheep got fluke from such wet and snowy conditions that can prevail there at times. Bob never had trouble with wild dogs or dingos, but did have problems with crow

(actually ravens) when the sheep went down with fluke, the crows would peck their eyes out.

Around this time the land surrounding Bob's property was still state forest but on the western boundary of Lot 3, Keryl Woods of Oberon had taken a lease up to initially run cattle, the original stock yards still exist but eventually stocking the land with sheep that ended up mixing with Bob's sheep causing grief between him and Keryl, who was very keen on purchasing some of Bob's land.

In 1982 Bob found all his sheep were missing, but even after following their tracks to a property on the Abercrombie River he could not find his branded sheep, his report of this sheep loss to the stock police at Oberon had repercussions as Keryl Woods reported to the police that he was growing and supplying marihuana and had also released his pigs into the state forest where they had gone feral.

Bob admitted to growing marihuana (he had been given some seeds and was growing it for a friend) but he denied that the pigs in the forest were his, as those seen in the area were either black (Bershires) or ginger in colour (Tamworths). Remember! Bob had only bred Large White and these had pretty well had all died by the time of these accusations, Bob chose to represent himself in court regarding these charges, mainly, to save money, he was convicted of possession and sentenced to nine months jail, serving six months at Bathurst and three months at Oberon. The money saved on his legal fees and with the help of a good friend from Oberon, Kevin Cole keeping an eye on his properties while he was in jail. After serving his time, Bob shared a flat with Kevin at Oberon and took a job at Boral Timber Industries, where he worked for thirteen years, retiring at 66. He restocked his property with another truck load of sheep while working in town but unfortunately as Bob was not at the place all the time his sheep slowly disappeared over time, which lead him to give up on the idea of trying to make a living running any stock.

In August of 1986 Bob started building a house on Lot 3 with the assistance of George Freeman who had obtained Lot 9 at Mt Werong Village and built a number of stone dwellings, where he and his wife, Edna, were living permanently. This property now belongs to NPWS, and is used as camping grounds, but again that is another story to be told at a later date.



Bob Moore, a friend of George & Edna Freeman, also assisted with building the house. Moore had a Permissive Lease over a section of the forestry lands to the north of the Mt Werong Village, over Ruby Creek (also referred to as Mt Werong Creek) where Ernie Sharpe (Else Mitchell 1938 & Ron Mills 2002) and his son had established a market garden to provide fresh vegetables to the miners at the time. Ernie had originally tried his hand market gardening in the late 1920's and early 1930's on the upper reaches of Murrain Creek (also referred to as Limeburners Creek) but these failed, although the fruit tress he planted are still growing today. Bob Cullen was given this information by Ernie Sharpe Junior, who would be in his

90's now, if he is still alive.

Bob Moore, who was in breach of his lease agreement because of the humpy he had built on the land he had leased from Forestry, between George's place and Ruby Creek, Bob Cullen offered to supply all the materials to build the house on Lot 3. Because of this Moore was given the opportunity to live in the new house for as long as he wanted but Moore did not see the job out, as he moved to Narrabri and let the permissive lease lapse.

The frames for the house were built behind George's place and carted up to the plot once completed and erected, the total cost of building the house was \$120,928.80, it was painted white and Bob called it 'Casa Blanca'. He named it this because Casa means house and Blanca means white.

The telephone was installed in 1996 not long after George and Edna Freeman had it installed at the stone house, Bob also ran a 50mm PVC water line for about a mile (1.4 klm) up from the large dam he built on Lot 22 to the large white water tank now out the front of "Casa Blanca" as a backup supply and fire fighting if required.



When Bob retired in 1998 from Boral Industries his cousin Dorothy who was in need of additional care came to live with him for a number of years, during this time Val Lang from Bindook was a regular visitor whenever she passed their way. Dorothy eventually passed away at 'Casa Blanca'

As you pass by Bob's place a drilling rig still lies out the front of 'Casa Blanca'. Bob purchased the rig because of his interest in the geology of the area. Mt Werong has a basalt cap and the surrounding plateau is geologically significant, a fact that has been well documented, with some good three dimensional drawings of the terrain (Craft 1928) for even the amateur geologists to easily understand.



To the west of Bobs place on the Werong fire trail is the Mt Werong Cemetery. Bob has indicated that three people were buried at the cemetery, although difficult to find the layout of the graves, they can be found by the small quartz chips laying on the surface that were dug up from the sub soils when back filled.

The first person to be buried at the Mt Werong Cemetery was Jacob Emelhainz aged 72 in 1923 (Anon 1923) another was, supposedly George Moate aged 83. As for the third person I am still endeavouring to find out who it was.

Bob also took me to where George Moates' shack used to be, George was partly crippled and was burnt to death in his shack, after making a desperate effort to escape, (Anon 1940). All that remains today is the base of the fireplace and the cleared area down the back towards the creek where George grew his vegetables.

Between Bobs place and the old cemetery are a number of natural springs, if you have an interest in all aspects of the landscape and how it has evolved, these are worthy of seeing, as they were observed and noted very early in the piece by Government Geological Surveyor Mr Lamont Young (*A noticeable feature of Mt Werong are the swamps & springs*) when he visited the Mt Werong gold fields in 1880 (Young 1880).

Bob and I visited the basalt cap of Mt Werong to view the area and looked at what is left of the magnificent stone cairn which is quoted by Jim Barrett, about how enormous it was (Barrett 1993). There were actually three built in 1894 by Surveyor Scrivener, Mt Werong, Mt Shivering and Mt Colong which is the only one left surviving, the trig stations on Mt Werong & Mt Shivering have been replaced with a steel structure.

We then made our way to the headwaters of Murruin Creek/Limeburners Creek to look at some of the remains of the prospectors hut. The earth floors have long since been washed out leaving the neatly stacked stones exposed providing the only evidence of bygone days. There are a collection of photos within the Wollondilly Heritage Centre

Next we went to the visitor area of the Ruby Creek Mine that has recently been done up by NPWS, (<http://fnpw.org.au/parks-and-reserves/new-south-wales/blue-mountains/blue-mountains-national-park/showcasing-the-history-of-mount-werong>). A large interpretive sign has been put up giving the history of the mine, with a number of photos provided by Trish Hill from the Burratorang Heritage Centre and the information on the area was obtained from the Ron Mills Yerranderie – Burratorang Scrolls.

The reference on the interpretive sign "Mt Werong Oral History Interpretation Report" remains as a draft within NPWS, but it's simply a copy of Ron Mills Yerranderie – Burratorang Scrolls (Burratoroko 2000).

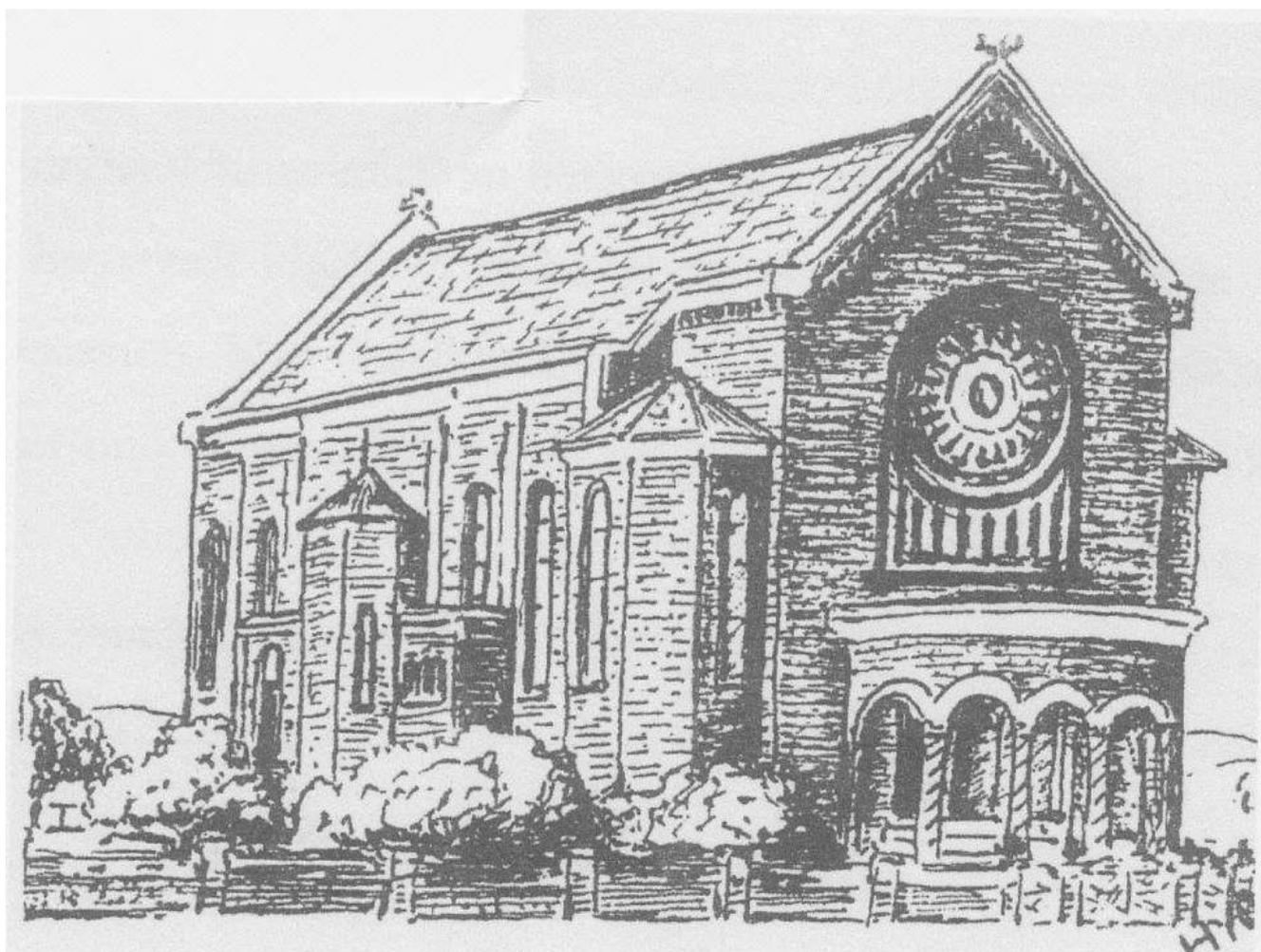


Finally I visited the Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum at The Oaks to read the history written on Mt Werong within the Franklin Papers, more commonly known as the Yerranderie/Burraborang Scrolls that were written up by Ron Mills on large sheets of paper. Through the efforts of a few dedicated heritage volunteers the scrolls have been digitised and can be viewed at the centre. I have also received digital copies of photos of some of the miners huts, from the centre to use in this article.



This article supplied by John Wylie

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH TARALGA



Drawing by Hilary Connor

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH TARALGA

Extract from HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN TARALGA

by Patricia Blay

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the opening of Christ the King Catholic Church.

Before the building of this church, mass was celebrated in St. Ignatius Church, the complex surrounding St Ignatius housed the Church, the school and the convent. The visiting Priests were accommodated in the house next to the showground known as "The Hut".

Fr Austin O'Connor and his parishioners decided it was time for the parish to move into the 20th century. Suitable land was available across from Bannaby Road fronting Macarthur Street belonging to Mr. M. Charteris. Six acres was purchased for a cost of \$700. And so the Catholic people of Taralga were soon to have a new school and presbytery, second to none in the Diocese of Goulburn.

After the blessing of the foundation stone for the presbytery Mr. Cecil Mooney proposed that a subscription list be opened. The sum of \$8,700 was placed on the stone. With the amount already held that made a balance of \$12,652.

The convent was built free of debt with donations of \$6,000 from local ladies Miss Margaret Lynch and her sister Mrs. Amy Costello.

These building were opened and occupied free of debt and the parish showed a credit of \$2,600.

The new church was to follow the Celtic Romanesque style and would be built for about \$18,000.

The architect for the project was to be Mr. C. Clancey of Sydney; the contractor, Mr. R.M. Bowcock of Ashfield.

Work progressed without a hitch and the magnificent building was completed and ready for opening within six and half months.

That memorable day in the history of the Catholic Church in Taralga was to be October 2nd, 1934.

While the fund raising was continuing, Fr O'Connor saw to it that work was also progressing on the mammoth undertaking of the Church construction. The bricks came from Gulson's Brickworks in Goulburn, coming to Taralga by rail and were carried to the site by Mr. William Webb. The sand came from "Guineacor" – some being carried by Patrick Kelly by dray.

A feature of the Church was to be the enormous sandstone cartwheel style window set high above the front porch. Coming to Taralga by rail, it arrived embedded in a railway truck of sand. Mr. William (Gundy) Webb and his helpers then had to undertake the task of

removing it from the rail truck and transporting it, whole, to the church site. This being achieved, Mr. Webb was thanked by Mr. Bowcock for a job well done!

The dimensions of the Church are large. It is 35ft wide with seven bays 11ft 8in long. The Nave consists of six bays extending to the Sanctuary which is 24ft wide and about 20ft deep. The Nave is 35ft high and has a barrel ceiling, while the Sanctuary has a semi-circular dome ceiling.

The walls were constructed with bricks five thick and the bricklayers worked a ten hour day.

All woodwork within the Church is silky oak with seating capacity for 350 people with an upstairs gallery. The Sanctuary is paved in terrazzo. The entrance to the Church is complemented by a semi-circular porch, with circle on circle synthetic stone arches carried on circular spiral brick columns. The arches and columns used have specially gauged bricks, also fired at Gulsons. The roof has full glazed tiles.

October 2nd 1934 saw 600 people present for the official opening performed by Bishop Barry. The total cost of the church was then announced \$18,506.99 including architect's fees. A collection was then taken up and a further \$3,600 was generously donated.

Also present on that day was Rev. B. McPhillips of West Wyalong, who, many years later was to become Taralga's Parish Priest.

Following the opening of the Church of Christ the King many other lovely fittings have been donated to the church in the memory of the loved ones of many parishioners of the Taralga district. The new church used the wooden alter taken out of St. Ignatius' Church for many years until 1946 when Mr. Jim Fitzgibbon of Ruffies Flat, Golspie, donated \$400 towards the cost of a magnificent High Alter. Crafted from Wombeyan marble, the alter was carved and dressed by Italian craftsmen and installed in the church. The marble pulpit was installed at the same time.

The alter rails (which have now been removed) of silky oak with stainless steel supports, were donated by Mrs. M. Mudie of the Hotal Taralga in memory of her late husband.

The church holds beautiful statue groups, among these being: The Lourdes Shrine, donated by the Children of Mary Sodality 1934; The Sacred Heart group donated by the Sacred Heart Sodality. One of the most inspiring groups in the church is the Calvary group. Positioned high above the main altar, this group was donated by Tilly Barry, Annie Barry and Mrs. Grace Hoare. The Calvary Cross at the church entrance carries the inscription: Of your Charity, Pray for the Souls of J.J. and Johanna Lynch.

Other church statues honour Ave Maria donated by Mr. J. Barry Jnr; St. Therese donated by the Hibernian Society 1934, as was the statue of St. Francis Xavier. The statue of St. Joseph was erected by Lady F.P. Kelly in memory of her late husband, Sir Francis P. Kelly 1934.

The large brass candle holder in the Sanctuary was donated by Clem and Mollie Chalker in memory of the Sacred wounds.

On the High Alter are six large candle holders, each has been presented to the Church by local families. The six inscriptions are as follows:

1. Presented by William Miskelly in memory of his Parents, Ellen Miskelly died 23.11.1904, and John Miskelly, died 25.5.1925
2. Presented by W.E. and Mrs. Alders in memory of Eliza Alders (nee Connor) died 8.7.1921, and Ethel Alders, died 29.12.1934.
3. Presented by Thomas Carlon in memory of his brother Joseph Walter Carlon, who died 4.11.1947.
4. Presented by Dave Mullaney and Family in memory of Ivy Mullaney who died 6.11.1946.
5. Presented by Pat Keogh in memory of Margaret Keogh, died 23.1.1942 and Stephen Keogh who died 25.11.1947.
6. Presented by Adrian McDonnell in memory of his parents Robert and Jessie McDonnell.

In 1979 the family of the late F. Kelly donated two floodlights to the church in his memory.

Another outstanding feature of the beautiful Church is the fourteen Stations of the Cross. Situated high on the church walls in the usual manner, the Stations are depicted in full colour and all have been donated to the church by worthy parishioners.

1. The gift of Sarah Chalker in memory of her parents and brother.
2. The gift of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Elliott in memory of their parents.
3. The gift of Margaret Lynch and Mrs. Costello in memory of parents, brother and sister.
4. The gift of Margaret and Steve Keough in memory of their parents.
5. The gift of Mrs. Wm. And Ena Aylward in memory of Patrick, Mary and William Aylward.
6. In memory of our parents, James and Edward Keough, and our brothers Thomas and Patrick, Erected by Catherine Mary and Bridget Keough.
7. The gift of Mrs. Wm. and Ena Aylward in memory of John, Mary and William Aylward and Dennis Quinn.
8. The gift of Mr. and Mrs. George Chalker in memory of their parents.
9. The gift of Miss Kate Maher in memory of her parents, brothers and sisters.
10. The gift of John Mooney in memory of his parents, Patrick and Catherine Mooney.
11. The gift of Councillor and Mrs. J.J. Walsh in memory of their parents and relatives,
12. The gift of Mr. and Mrs. Garry McDonnell in memory of deceased relatives and friends.
13. Erected by the Corby Family in memory of Phoebe
14. The gift of Mrs. George Whipp in memory of her late husband.

At each entrance to the church is a holy water font. Of the same sandstone that appears on the exterior of the church, these are fashioned in a scalloped shape and faced with Wombeyan marble.

In pride of place at the main entrance is the Honour Roll to commemorate those who gave so generously to build the church.

Mrs. J. Parkman \$2000
M. and A. Lynch \$2000
\$200 from following
Mr. and Mrs. T. Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. P. Elliott
Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Fitzgibbon Snr.
Mr. and Mrs. G. Venn and Son
John Venn
Miss Venn
Wm. Miskelly
D. McRae
T.C. Mooney
Miss M.A. Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. M.F. Keough
Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Keough
Mr. and Mrs. C. Mooney
Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Connor
Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Connor
John Fitzgibbon
L. Bridge
R. Bowcock
G. Clancey
A.H. Connor
J.D. Keough

The following collected

Children of Mary and School Children \$600
Holy Name Men \$200
T. Galvin \$200
Mr. and Mrs. J. Cussack \$200 Gift.
D. Croker \$200
E.A. Connor \$200
M.J. McAlister \$200

An 80th anniversary Mass was celebrated on 16th November 2014 with confirmation by Archbishop Christopher Prowse and the presentation of:

Russell Chalker - the first Baptism in the Church

Sr. Paulinus (Eula Croker), her brother Joe Croker and Phyllis (Chalker) Walsh who were in the first Confirmation class in the Church

Greg Moloney representing his parents John and Hazel whose wedding was the first in the Church.

Programme

December 14 2pm: CHRISTMAS PARTY (following short meeting)
PLEASE BRING: SMALL GIFT FOR UNDER THE TREE
SOME NIBBLES
SALAD FOR BBQ



Museum Duty

December 7	Michael & Annette Chalker, Jeff & Judy Chalker, Peter Davies
December 14	Pat & Bob Blay, Mary Balfour, Ray Shiel
December 21	Joan Scott, Maureen Long, Esma Faucett, Robin Cole
December 28	Graham Lambert, Margaret Lang, Michele Gardner
January 4	Mary Chalker, Sandra Keith, Margaret McAlister
January 11	Ian & Kath Hartley, Jennifer Lamb
January 18	Joan Scott, Maureen Long, Esma Faucett, Robin Cole
January 25	Ken & Joyce Fleming, Jason Voorwinden, Andrew Moore
February 1	Mick & Annette Chalker, Jeff & Judy Chalker, Peter Davies
February 8	Max & Glennis Wright, Pat Murray
February 15	Joan Scott, Maureen Long, Esma Faucett, Robin Cole
February 22	Pat & Bob Blay, Allan Robertson, Judith Matthews
March 1	Ken & Joyce Fleming, Robert Rabjohns, Leonie Cooley



Maureen Long Editor