



**Taralga Historical Society Inc
Orchard Street
Taralga NSW 2580**



**President: Michael Chalker 4843 5975
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Treasurer: Glennis Wright 4840 2215**

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

Newsletter No 4, 2015

Presidents Report to 13th December, 2015:

The lead-light windows for the church have been installed thus restoring the status of the building to the level that fits with the ever improving restoration of the buildings of Orchard Street.

On the Sunday of the June long weekend the reunion for families who were either born, lived or worked in Taralga and fought in World War 1 was held. Also, in conjunction was the closing of the community time capsule, the capsule will be opened on Anzac Day 2065. (Where will the world be in 50 years?). A generous afternoon tea thanks to our great ladies and topped off by guests speaker Terrie Ross ensured a great day was had by all.

The October long weekend activity was an afternoon tea and a wonderful presentation by Mac Patterson on his centenary visit to Gallipoli where he undertook with other teams the row boat trip across the Dardanelles.

On Saturday 7th of November a small group journeyed by coach to the National War Memorial. A very moving and wonderful experience, a must see for all. On the return trip we dined at the Collector Hotel.

As you are all aware we have a Sunday duty roster 1pm to 4pm, many of you may like to become involved with displaying, presenting and maintaining our special exhibits and infrastructure. If you would like to be included on the roster please give me a call.

MEMBERSHIP - as we don't send out invoices there are still a few outstanding. If you are unsure of your status, please give Glennis a call on 4840 2215. Also we welcome new memberships, please talk to your friends and neighbours.

How quickly the year has gone, Christmas is just around the corner, so after the meeting at 2pm on Sunday 13th December, we will have a Christmas Party in the hall (ladies a plate please). We again have a guest speaker - the topic will be Gallipoli and will be presented by Fiona Battiste, the daughter of Ernie and Betty Stephenson who visited the site this year.

If you can't make the meeting or party -

Have a Healthy and Happy Christmas.

The following article was written by Donald Baxter, and published in the Goulburn Newspaper in 1980. Donald was for many years the President of the Mulwaree Shire Council.

It is coincidental that the Bullochy Bill Ridley mentioned in the story is the great Uncle of Mary (Coady) Chalker.

THE PAST RECALLED

Goulburn man, Dave Howard, has died at the age of 92, thus ending a rather colourful and eventful life in which he played many parts and lived to see remarkable changes.

In his younger years he worked hard, on the land six days a week, to earn five or six shillings. He lived to see men getting \$25 per day.

He was the last of the bullock drivers of the Bigga district who patiently handled the transport of wool and other goods in an almost changeless age when motor transport and other modern appliances were not even imagined.

During his long life he was a bush worker, bullock driver and eventually grazier.

He laboured patiently and cheerfully in an age when money and conveniences did not appear to matter very much.

He was a typical son of what Lawson called the "Grand Australian bush" but he adapted himself to many changes.

He used to say that he could not live in town but, when he retired, he adapted himself quite well to life in Goulburn.

Another bullock driver of Bigga, Bill Ridley, who died a year or two ago, lived to the age of 105.

He and Dave held the records for length of life and the biggest loads of wool.

Bill is credited with transporting the biggest load of wool to the Crookwell Railway Station on a bullock waggon. I understand that Dave held the record for weight. His biggest load, though two bales less than Bills, weighed a little heavier.

Two of Dave's older brothers, Mick and Art, were also well known teamsters. Mick drove his team all his life and was regarded as one of the most capable men with bullocks.

Art was a well spoken man and I doubt if he ever used harsh words to his bullocks.

Other bullock drivers were also mildly spoken men and I often thought that the phrase "swore like a bullock driver" was a bit unjust.

Other well known bullock drivers of Bigga were Sam Porter, Tom Hearn and his son Les and George Picker who drove the Picker Bros., team. After he retired his

son, Horace drove the team. Then there was Sam Kelly and later his son Tom, who drove the Yarraman team.

Hard times

Mart Carney should also be mentioned. He was not a carrier, but a station hand and he drove a bullock team for many years in some of the roughest country in the district.

Shifting wool from the Yarraman, years ago, was a difficult task.

It was taken out in half loads for several miles, over very rough country, including the descent of a very steep hill, where it was necessary to hook a small green tree behind the waggon for a drag to assist the brakes.

On one occasion on a return trip with supplies, the ring on the pole broke, while ascending the hill. This left only the poles attached to the waggon, which ran back and killed the two bullocks and two saddle horses that were leading behind.

One belonged to the station manager and which he would not have sold for money. Such were the problems of a difficult bygone age.

Dave Howard was also a good friend and neighbour of the late Charles Ford, who also retired to Goulburn from Bigga and lived to the age of almost 93.

Both worked very hard; both became landowners; both had childless marriages; both reared "adopted" sons, and both lived to over 90 years.

When Dave was young, the landowners were improving land that they had selected and he could relate interesting incidents from that early period. He used to say that, there was no money about and work, ring barking, suckering and packing and burning timber, was at a contract price per acre, varying from seven to ten pence per acre.

"Ten pence an acre and possums" seemed to be a popular rate, That meant that they had permission from the boss to shoot possums, on moonlight nights, to get a few pence for the skins.

They started work with the stars on the sky and worked until the stars came out at night, six days per week, and cleared five or six shillings "clear of their tucker". Tucker meant mutton at one penny a lb., and flour to bake dampers extremely cheap, plus a few other things. Milk, homemade butter, eggs and vegetables were probably available very cheap or free.

I have heard of men "tuckering" for eighteen pence per week. A peep into the past seems very unreal in the light of present day conditions.

Most of the landowners, at that time, lived in very plain houses, built of bush timber and they carried water in buckets from a nearby creek or spring.

Sometimes, in drought, the water supply dried up and water had to be brought from a distance with a cask on a slide drawn by a draught horse.

In his younger days, Dave worked patiently in an age when T.V., radio and other modern things had never been thought of, and the Bigga district had no telephone communication.

In the case of serious illness, someone galloped to Crookwell on horseback to get a doctor to go out in a buggy and pair.

The first telephone line to Bigga was erected by the Bigga people. Along most of the route, they looped the tops off trees and used the standing trunks for poles.

They were hard old times, but it seems strange to us that there was less discontent among the people than in this age of money and all mod. cons.

In this very different age, the present day population might spare a passing thought for the men who worked so hard for so little, to develop Australia's resources, to make modern conditions possible. - D. BAXTER, Golspie.

The Bullocky Bill Ridley mentioned in the story was the great uncle of Mary (Coady) Chalker.



Photo taken at Coady's home in (about) 1941

Back: Alice Coady, Pam Hickey, Mary Coady, Joan Coady

Front: Bill Ridley, John Coady, William Coady nursing Geraldine Coady

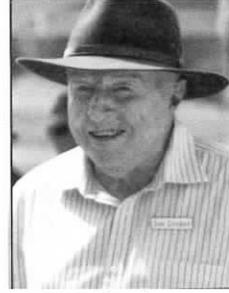
Vale



Muriel Pirie
20.8.2015
Aged 96 years



Bruce Lang
27.8.2015
Aged 80 years



Joe Croker
13.9.2015
aged 90 years

Beryl Fitzgibbon
4.9.2015 age 92
(wife of Horace dec.)

Vera Clack
4.9.2015
(wife of Reg. dec)
aged 89 years

Carol Kent (Chalker)
11.7.2015
(wife of Harold)
daughter of Bill & Elma Chalker
Sister of John Neville Brian Errol
Narelle and Lloyd

Terry Cusack
Uncle of Cheryl (Saville) Chalker



Michael Regan
20.10.1953 - 2.9.2015
At his home at Myrtleville
Brother of Kerry Taylor



Richard Kelly
27.7.1947 - 24.12.2014
son of Frank & May

John Minshall
14.10.2015
brother of
Peggy Mills



Leonie Cooley
14.9.2015
Aged 72 years
Daughter of Stan Williamson



Sheila Maynard
nee McLennan
of Jerrong
2.9.2015
Aged 86 years



Daphne Swan
17.10.2015 - 90 years
and her husband Wyn
15.11.2015
(more next newsletter)

TARALGA

FIRE

A serious fire, resulting in damage to property amounting to about £300, occurred at Yalbraith on Saturday morning about 2 at Mr. D. McKays. There is nothing to show how the fire originated so far, although there are suspicions that it was the work of a incendiary. It seems that early on Friday Mr. McKay and his man started with cattle to Shooters Hill and Mrs McKay and the rest of the household retired to bed about ten o'clock, everything being all right at that time. About one or two o'clock Mrs McKay was awakened by what she believed was the noise of thunder; but it was soon discovered that the barn was alight and past saving. Everything was burnt, including a buggy (almost new), a chaff cutter, reaping machine, a quantity of hay and chaff, a lot of harness and from 30 to 40 tons of oaten straw adjoining the shed. Ninety bags of grain were in the shed, and this was almost all destroyed or seriously damaged. The building was almost a new one, recently covered with galvanized iron and partly boarded. Altogether, the loss is estimated at fully £300, and is most serious at a time like this, as the owner was depending on this feed to carry him through the winter. The police are busy investigating the matter, and I understand an inquiry will be held. Much sympathy is expressed to Mr. McKay, who is respected on all sides, and it is generally believed that the fire was in some way the result of accident, as it is felt that no person would be capable of doing such a terrible deed.

DEATH AT MYRTLEVILLE

The many friends of Mr and Mrs T. Barry of Brisbane Vale, will regret very much to hear of the death of their daughter, Mrs Kirkby, which took place on Friday night. Mrs Kirkby had been seriously ill for a long time, and no hopes were entertained of her recovery from the first. She was only 20 years of age, and leaves a husband and two children. The funeral took place on Sunday and was very largely attended, the Rev. Father Gaffey officiating at the grave. Prayers were also recited at the church for the eternal repose of the soul of the departed, and feeling reference was made by the officiating clergyman to the death of Mrs Kirkby.

ACCIDENT

A narrow escape from a dreadful accident happened yesterday after the funeral, to Captain Drury and his wife at Myrtleville. When coming home from the cemetery the breeching broke coming down a long steep hill, known as Burn's Hill and the horse started kicking, ultimately smashing the buggy and rather seriously hurting Mrs. Drury. No further particulars are to hand, but it is believed that no dangerous injuries were inflicted, If this is so the escape was a providential one, as no worse place for an accident of that kind to occur exists on the whole road.

From the Goulburn Post

SCHOOL IN 1901 . . .



Back Row:

Teacher Mr John Kelly (Mrs Kelly was formerly a Miss Whiting of Taralga), Dave Mallaney, Ned Cusack, John Walsh, Harry Cusack.

Middle Row:

Ethel Cusack, Kate Keogh, Maggie Keogh, Gertie Walsh, Beatie Cusack, Beatrice Walsh, Charlie McKenzie

Bottom Row:

Kate Walsh, Sylvia McKenzie, Lily McKenzie, Donald McKenzie, Pearl McKenzie

This early picture of Richlands School will revive the memories of many residents of the district. It was taken in 1901 in celebration of Federation, when the Government of N.S.W., detailed a Photographer to all schools.

TARALGA

Death of Mrs James Barrett

Mrs Barrett of Bannaby, wife of Mr. James Barret, died at The Meadows on Thursday last, aged 55 years after a very long and painful illness. The cause of death was aneurysm of the heart. For the past year Mrs. Barrett had been receiving medical attention, and everything possible was done to bring relief, but without any good effect. The deceased was a native of Bannaby, being a daughter of Mr. James Alders and in every respect was really a most exemplary woman being loved and respected on all sides and among all classes. She was a sister of Mesdames R. Godfrey, John Chalker, C. Blay and William Chalker and Messrs Joseph, John, Wallace, Angus and Charles Alders were brothers. During her long illness the deceased was continually attended by the priests in the parish, and the last rites of the church were administered by the Rev. Father Torpy. The funeral took place on Saturday, and was one of the largest ever seen in the district, the remains being interred in the Catholic Cemetery at Stonequarry.

Runaway

While journeying to Roslyn a few days ago with a load of cream, Mr. John McLaurin's van met with a bad accident. Mr. McLaurin's son was driving, and when going down a steep hill at Yalbraith the brake would not act, and the horses getting beyond control ran over the embankment. The waggonette was capsized and about £15 worth of cream was lost, besides the damage to the vehicle and cans. Luckily the driver and horses escaped without injury. When returning Mr. McLaurin was leading home a valuable sheep dog worth £5.5/- for Mr. Elliott of Richlands. The dog got entangled, and before assistance could be given was choked.

Departure

Mr. P.J.Maher informed me that he has purchased a property in Monaro, and will be leaving the district on an early date.

In Taralga News of Goulburn Post 4 November 2015



CELEBRATION: The four daughters of Vince and Irene Mooney gathered recently for a family celebration. Gwen Lang, Dulcie Starr, Melba McGoldrick and Josie Swain.

From the Goulburn Post

IN THE EARLY 1900'S



The shade of a cool gum tree, the mates dressed up in their best Saturday cricket gear, a green clearing mowed on a bush paddock — yes, those indeed were good old Australian days. The Kempston cricket team is pictured in the early 1900's. Left back row: Nicholas Croker, Arthur Toole, Andy Toole, Matt Vaughan, Os Cummins, Joe Croker (with bat). Centre: Bill Sillis (with bat), Dave Cartwright, George Croker and W. Emery. On ground: Dave Vaughan, (Little), Mat Toole, Dick Cartwright.

Goulburn Evening Penny Post Saturday 14 May 1892

BUTTER FACTORIES

For the month of April Taralga Co-operative Company's cheque was £655 - the largest received since the company commenced operations. Yalbraith will run close on £200, and Myrtleville about £150, making nearly £1000 to be distributed in the district by these three factories. The amounts paid to some suppliers to Taralga factory are - Messrs J. Barry £51, Thos. Barry £54; while as an instance of the results of milking twice a day Mr. E. Swan was up £17 for 14 cows - a case of "multum in parvo" that might teach a very useful lesson to many dairymen. The combined results of these three factories are keeping the district afloat - in fact, the only cheque you see are from butter factories.

From Goulburn Post



Charles McAlister, author of "Pioneer Days in the Sunny South" with his wife Margaret and their nine sons. Ted, centre in the back row was the grandfather of Anne McAlister of Goulburn

Goulburn Evening Penny Post Saturday 14 May 1892

WALLABY AND HARE DRIVE

A most successful drive, in which about a dozen shooters and an equal number of drivers took part, eventuated at Bannaby on Saturday last on the properties of Mr. Wm. Hillas. The place of rendezvous was Mr. Hillas's woolshed, and Mr. A.S.E.Hillas having been appointed captain of the shooters and Mr. Hillas of the drivers, the party rallied forth on their mission of slaughter. After some half dozen drives had taken place the whisperings of the inner man suggested that something was necessary to effect a renewal of the bloodthirsty designs they experienced at starting - in fact, the sight of the woolshed made the whole party lose their "vim" for hunting and feel an awful hankering to return to it once more. Accordingly an adjournment was made, and as a splendid lunch was awaiting the hungry sportsmen I need hardly chronicle here that, although there was some diversity of scoring during the drives, here all were equal and without exception reached double figures. Another start was then made, and from that till night drivers and shooters worked so well that as the result of the day's exertions 219 of the pests were laid low, the following being the scores: - M.W.F.Charteris 34, A. Whip 30, J.Stephenson 19, H. Pearce 17, A.Pearce 15, J.Larkin 14, G. Whip 25, J.Halls 19, R.Whip 13 T. Whipp 13, W. Menzies 13, Hearth 6.

MEMORIES:

Do you recall your schooldays
And do you remember when.....
There were no such things as biros
Just inkwells and a pen?

Our vegetables and meat were fresh,
We had no frozen food,
We didn't make casserole,
Our meat was just plain stewed.

We didn't sit and watch T.V.
The wireless was the tops,
There were no supermarkets,
Just friendly grocery shops.

Remember when we played a tune
And understood each word,
Movies were romantic.....
And sex was just inferred?

Girls wore pretty dresses,
Suits were worn by men,
Kids were kids 'till they grew up.....
There were no teenagers then.

Fuel stoves in the kitchen....
Nothing cook the same,
An ice chest in the corner,
With a hope the ice man came.

Remember Christmas puddings,
With a threepence for each kid?
There were ha'pennies and guineas
And a pound note was a 'quid'.

We did our weekly washing
With a copper and a wringer,
Clark Gable was our 'heart throb'.....
And Bing our favourite singer.

I sometimes wish those times were back,
And though they brought me pleasure,
I think I'll just enjoy today.....
But memories, I'll treasure.



Happy Birthday!

to Kit Swan

for her 90th Birthday on 25th November



Programme

December 13th

Christmas Party:

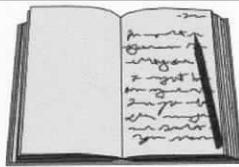
Guest Speaker: Fiona Battiste-Topic - Gallipoli

Christmas Carols

Afternoon Tea & Raffle

Plate please and a small present for under the tree

IF YOUR NAME ISN'T APPEARING ON THE MUSEUM ROSTER AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE, PLEASE CONTACT US ASAP



Museum Duty

December 6	Ken and Joyce Fleming, Brian Moloney
December 13	CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 20	Joan Scott, Maureen Long, Esma Faucett, Carmel Offley
December 27	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
January 3	Pat & Bob Blay, Nicole Young & Marcus Haratein
January 10	Mick & Annette Chalker, Pat Newman, Allan Robertson
January 17	Joan Scott, Maureen Long, Esma Faucett, Brian Moloney
January 24	Graham Lambert, Ernie & Betty Stephenson, Geoff Sieler, Brian Kelly
January 31	Ken & Joyce Fleming, Margaret Balfour, Leon Fleming
February 7	Max & Glennis Wright, Marion & Gil Pfitzner, Judith Matthews
February 14	Pat & Bob Blay, Shirley & George Smith
February 21	Joan Scott, Maureen Long, Esma Faucett, Robin Cole
February 28	Mick & Annette Chalker, Jeff & Judy Chalker
March 7	Mary Chalker, Margaret McAlister, Margaret Lang, Jennifer Lamb <i>Editor: Maureen Long</i>