



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, 2018

Presidents Report September 2018:

Hello once again, it's been a cold and dry winter, I trust we will have received substantial rainfall by the time you receive this newsletter.

Visitation through the complex has been steady, book sales are also providing a steady flow of income thanks to the Taralga Store and also Gifts and Goodies.

We have been successful with our grant application for funding from the Windfarm, the forthcoming funding will enable us to commence the much needed upgrade of the archives room.

LONG WEEKEND OF OCTOBER:

Sat 29th, Sun 30th SEPTEMBER (and Mon 1st OCTOBER)

Long Weekend program:

The complex will be open both Saturday and Sunday 10am to 2.30pm. Sunday will be a free day, although we will accept Gold Coin Donations.

Sunday:

11am until 1pm: A Sausage sizzle will be held

1.30pm: It has been a few years since the last '**over seventies**' photo shoot, so there are a few more of us who now fit into the category. It is planned to do a new photograph at 1.30pm. We ask your help in getting the word out to non-members who fit the category i.e. anyone who resides in the district and also those who previously lived in the district and have since moved away.

Our Museum formerly the Methodist Church, was built in 1868 and so celebrates 150 years in Taralga. There will be a recognition of this after the photo.

Afternoon tea will be available in the hall, and maybe some light entertainment will follow. Folks, a plate or a packet of biscuits will be much appreciated.

The Museum and grounds are open Saturdays 10am to 2pm or alternatively by appointment.

The next meeting of the society will be 2pm on Saturday 13th October in Masonic Hall

Kind regards

Mick

THE GOULBURN EVENING PENNY POST - Friday 3 March 1939

In March 1939, Taralga held a 'BACK TO TARALGA' CARNIVAL

Festivities to commence next Sunday. Special Church services on Sunday morning followed by a drive to the Abercrombie River in the afternoon, will mark the commencement of the "Back to Taralga" week celebrations.

The official opening will be performed on Monday at 11am by Cr Walsh, an old and highly esteemed identity of Taralga, who has always manifested a keen interest in public affairs. He has been a member of the Show Committee for more than 50 years. Mondays historical pageant will depict the arrival of Captain McAlister, W. Macarthur and Lethbridge, guided by Mulwaree Tommie, chief of the Cookmai natives, whose brass plate will be worn.

On an original bullock dray will travel descendants of early settlers. The first mailman who ran the mail to Goulburn barefooted, will be characterised by one of his great grand-sons. The first trial of the Spanish Merino sheep away from Camden Park was made at Richlands, but the sheep did not flourish and they were driven to Gundagai. This historic event will be reproduced by a great grand-son driving a mob of sheep, followed by Mr Owen Maher and Tom Fitzgibbon, sons of the original drovers, Nurse Baxter, Taralga's old maternity nurse: Mrs Baxter who weighed 22 stone, will be seen on her slide drawn by two bullocks. The sword presented to John Chalker for capturing the murderer Lynch will be paraded with an escort of pipes.

One of the wooden ploughs will form another interesting exhibit. Lady Macarthur's visit in 1840 will be portrayed and a stage coach will be "stuck up" in traditional manner. School styles of 1839 and 1939 will form an interesting contrast and there will be floats showing the products of the district: potatoes, marble, eucalyptus, wool and butter. The queen candidates will give displays. The newly-formed Troop of Light Horse will parade and there will be some attractive trade displays.

Back to School on Tuesday: there will be a back to school half-hour at the public school at 11am, and at the Convent at 12.30. Old pupils will be given a chance to renew acquaintances with the three Sisters who started the convent school at Taralga.

Wednesday will be devoted to sport. A clay pigeon shoot will be held in the morning, with a race in the afternoon. Record entries have been received and horses from Melbourne and Sydney will compete. An excellent variety entertainment is to be given by members of the Goulburn Liedertafel in the evening.

Taralga's annual show will open on Thursday and, in spite of the droughty period; there will be a very fine display of fat stock. Record entries have been received for the horse events, and the pavilion will be up to its usual standard.

On Friday the Show Ball will be held, and this year special efforts have been put forward to make this an outstanding success.

Saturday will be the last day of the Show, and a very good rodeo, a special exhibition by Mr Ted Mooney and his trick horse will be combined. A clay pigeon shoot will be held for the "also rans" and in the evening something special in the way of concerts will be held and will culminate in the Crowning of the Queen. This being made a special effort, as the ladies who have worked so hard for the A.P.& H. Society deserve great credit for their public spirit in their efforts to raise funds. Mr Matt Chateris and Taralga generally issue a warm invitation to all to come, especially all old residents of the district, as old friends are waiting here to welcome them.

Vale



Christopher Benedict (Ben) Cummins

13.7.2018 Aged 51 years

Son of

Greg and Joan Cummins (both dec)

Brother of:

Dan, Lea, Shay, Julia, Joe, Dominic



Bill Hedley

21.7.2018 aged 86 years

Husband of Rowena

Father of

Meika, Bill, Alison, Michael

Former Licensee of

Argyle Hotel, Taralga



Peggy Kramer

3.8.2018 Aged 87 years



Doreen Saville

8.8.2018 Aged 93 years

Wife of John

Sister of Beryl McKenzie (dec)

Wife of Lloyd (dec)

Mother of

Eric, Cheryl Chalker

Martin & Freddy



EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT OF TARALGA

One of the earliest journeys of importance was that made by explorers Wilson, Barrack and Roe January, 1795. They set out from Camden and explored the country west of Mittagong as far as Wollondilly River, terminating somewhere in the vicinity of Bullio. This expedition brought the explorers within about 17 miles ENE of the present township of Taralga, though it would be impossible to cross such rough country in anything like a direct line.

Following the expedition of Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson in 1813, when they successfully crossed the barrier ranges of the Blue Mountains, the rich grazing pastures around and beyond Bathurst became the envy of all. An access road, built with convict labour was quickly constructed, convicts at this stage vastly outnumbering free settlers - but the country in ranges through which no road passed was so hazardous, that the discovery of a new stock route, traversing more accessible country was essential for the proper development of new grazing lands to the west.

In 1802 a very ambitious man arrived in the new colony. Charles Throsby, Surgeon on board the 'Coromandel 1' was to play his part in the development of New South Wales. By 1809 Charles Throsby had resigned his position as Assistant Colonial Surgeon and had given himself to pastoral pursuits. He made several expeditions into the country south of Cow Pastures, notably one to Jervis Bay in 1818. He offered himself to Governor Macquarie for this new desired work of finding an alternative route to the western grazing lands.

Charles Throsby and his two servants, Joseph Wild and John Wait, accompanied by John Rowley and three native trackers, Cookoogong, Dual and Bian, left the Cow Pastures on April 25 1819. After reaching what is now known as the Moss Vale district, they turned west, crossed Paddys River, near its junction with the Wollondilly, and then made their way into the Cookbundoon range.

On May 2, Throsby recorded -

“In very thick fog and rain, our native guide mistook the range he intended to have gone, persuaded him to take a straight direction to regain our track. This brought us into rather broken country”.

That night they reached the Cookbundoon River, or Tarlo River as it is more frequently called today. On May 3, the weather continuing wet, they ascended the range on the west side of the river for about two and a half miles through very stony country. From this position Throsby remarked -

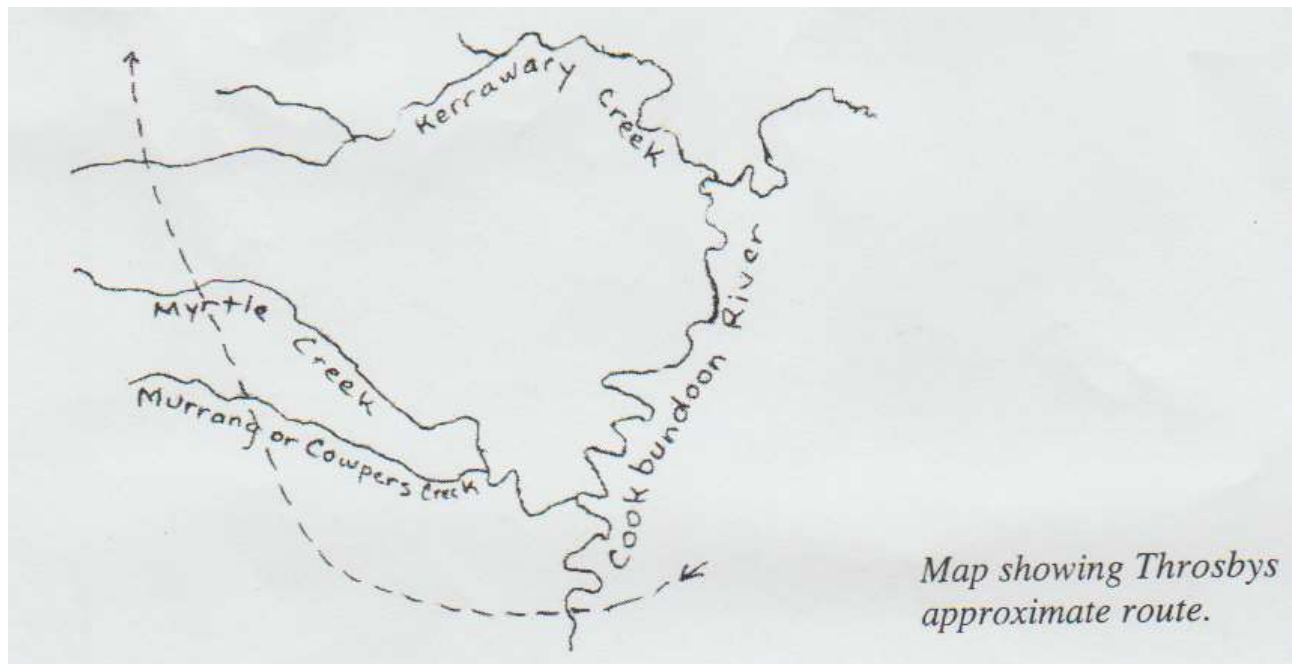
“Country west clear and good and in easy sight of the Cookbundoon”.

Throsby’s journal does not give the route in any detail but it is assumed that he crossed the Tarlo River a few miles above its junction with the Myrtle Creek and his camp on the night of May 3 was somewhere in the vicinity of Chatsbury. Therefore on the morning of May 4, 1819, Charles Throsby and his companions were almost certainly the first white men to behold the Myrtleville grazing lands of the Taralga district.

On May 4, Throsby continued -

“At daylight, weather fine, wind west, we set out through beautiful forest country, very thin of timber, over several small runs into the western river. This country is admirably adapted for either grazing or agriculture”.

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT OF TARALGA



This statement by Throsby bears true to the present day as this area is still recognised as a pastoral region with a safe rainfall. Throsby continued on his journey and by early afternoon passed close by where the town of Taralga now stands. It is interesting to note that somewhere between Myrtleville and Taralga, Throsby remarked that the pastures appeared to be damaged by caterpillars, a problem that affects pastoralists to this day. Surely then, it would seem unfair to blame Europeans for the introduction of this pest which must evidently be native to our land.

After passing by the present town site of Taralga, Throsby and his party came upon a very extensive expanse of water, several miles in circumference, with great numbers of water birds of every description. This, no doubt is what is known today as Burra Lake. Here the party camped on the night of May 4. Throsby then proceeded northward, crossed the river now known as the Abercrombie, and so reached Mr Lawson's establishment on the Campbell's river, in the vicinity of Bathurst, on the afternoon of May 9, 1819.

Thus ended an epic journey of outstanding achievement traversed in a remarkably short period of time.

After Throsby's success in finding a more accessible route across the ranges, the next journey of importance was that undertaken by explorer Oxley the

following year.

Oxley and his party were to cover the same route as was taken by Throsby, but in an opposite direction. Oxley's journey is of particular interest because he left more exact notes - giving fuller particulars than Throsby, also some of the men who accompanied Oxley were later involved with the settlement of the area.

In his report on Agriculture and Trade, Commissioner Bigge stated the importance of the proposed expedition to Oxley,

"With a view to examine the communication that had been discovered by Mr.

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT OF TARALGA

Throsby between the Cow Pastures and Bathurst and to verify the description that had been given to the lakes and country around them by the person who first discovered them".

The party, comprising John Oxley, Surveyor General; John Thos. Bigge, Commissioner of Enquiry; Thos. Hobbs Scott, Secretary to the Commissioner; William Cordeaux; Dr Hill; Charles Frazer Colonial Botanist; and a large retinue, left Bathurst on October 17, 1820. John Rowley, who had previously accompanied Throsby over the same route, acted as guide.

The first week's journey brought the party through mountainous country of rough terrain to a "considerable stream". The Commissioner named it the Abercrombie River.

The following day, October 23 they came in sight of a large lagoon, called by the natives Burra Burra, the same lagoon as that noted by Throsby on May 4, the previous year. The year 1820 was evidently a wet time, as Oxley described the lands in the vicinity of Taralga as "poor, wet forest lands and flats", unlike Throsby's account of the pastures in 1819.

The party proceeded southward towards Myrtleville, passing about half a mile

west of the present boundary of the town of Taralga. On October 24 they crossed Myrtle Creek, *“waters running easterly through a narrow rocky valley, country very indifferent, but grassy”*.

After leaving the Myrtleville area they continued in a southward direction, passing through Chatsbury, with the Cookbundoon range eastward about five miles. A few miles further on they crossed the Tarlo River and continued to the Goulburn Plains. The next day they reached Lake Bathurst, their destination point.

As a reward for his journey of discovery, Charles Throsby was granted one thousand acres “in any part of the country he discovered”. Rowley, two thousand acres in the same country, Wild and Wait, one hundred acres each. Rowley was later granted an extra fifty acres for his part in the second expedition.

Throsby suggested to Macquarie that Cookoogong should be designated chief of the Burra Burra tribe of which he was a member. This was done, and merit-plates were also given to the other two natives as rewards for their services.

After these journeys of exploration and the discovery of suitable grazing lands west of the Cookbundoon ranges, settlers soon began to move towards the new area.

It is interesting to note here that “Myrtle Creek” had superstitious association for the natives who referred to it as ‘Mucki win Nombin’ meaning ‘Ghost’.

Myrtleville was the name given to the surrounding district, also the small village that was established there many years later by Sir Charles Cowper.

CONTINUED FROM LAST NEWSLETTER:

ADDRESS ON HISTORY OF THE TARALGA AREA

From Goulburn Evening Post 1955

The following address on the early history of Taralga and other parts of the southern districts was read recently to Goulburn Historical Society by Mr Dave Mullaney of Taralga.

It was written by Miss Jean Findlay of Yalbraith as an essay eight years ago.

About the Author:

Robert Scott Craig b.1899 d.1968 was the twin brother of Murdoch, he married Iris Findlay who already had a daughter named Jean. Robert and Iris had one son, Keith Gillies who died aged 37. Robert and Iris had a home at 'Cobbodong'.

Jean was a devoted horsewomen. She moved to Sydney and married,

Jean Findlay-Gower died 8th September 2017 at 87 years and is buried at Stonequarry Cemetery with her Mother, Father and Keith.

She wrote this article in 1947 when she was around 17 years of age)



Jean Findlay pictured with Jim Marshall at the Taralga Show

While on the subject of convicts, I shall tell a little of the facts that I have learned about districts near Taralga. One of the largest penal camps in the south was at Towrang, some six miles from Goulburn. It was formed between 1833-46, during which time it grew to be the chief and most notorious convict camp. No less than 200 convicts of all types were kept there.

The first head officer was Lieut. Darley, succeeded in 1836 by Lieut. Waddy, who, in riding his own horse, won the first hurdle race at Homebush in 1841. Convicts wore a black and yellow garb and here were divided into two classes, the seven-years and under men, and the iron-gang man. Work commenced at daybreak, ended at five, and at night the iron-gang convicts were herded together like sheep - made to sleep in pairs in cold rough "sleeping boxes", with one blanket each, and often still in their chains.

Although some of the officers were humane, they all believed in discipline - for

they were soldiers. The men under them would receive anything from 15 to 75 lashes from the cat-o-nine tails for quite small offences.

The “flogger-in-chief” was a tiny tough Irishman, one Billy O’Rourke, who it is said, used to say to his victims before each flogging, “Heavy weather, boys; heavy weather; but aisy now, sure it might be worse”. He could be said to have revelled in his work.

At Goulburn too, there were large numbers of convicts and the flogger was a negro, Black Francis, who lashed savagely from 1838-41 when someone, probably one of his former victims, shot him. Several years ago, I saw some instruments of torture and old bushranging relics at Collector, between Canberra and Goulburn. These were in a very old and historic hotel, and I have never seen any other such relics, nor has any place ever haunted me and stayed in my mind as did this one. The very place seemed to have a strange atmosphere about it, as though haunted by the spirits of men who died from cruelty, and had come back to curse the things that had helped to, if not actually, kill them. I fully expected any moment for a wild convict with rattling chains to appear, or a fierce and bearded bushranger.

FLOGGINGS

The era in which these lived seemed only yesterday. Among the many exhibits was a worn cat-o-nine tails. How horrible it seemed when we realised it had been worn out on the soft flesh of men’s backs. There was a smooth, sloping wooden bench the surface of which was worn and tarnished with faded drops and sploches of blood still discernible. The convicts were strapped onto this to be flogged.

Another instrument was a heavy stone bench with a hollow in the top of it like a wash-basin. Victims for this particular torture were partly starved and given very little water for several days before hand, then were taken and chained under the stone basin. The basin was filled with water and they were tied in such a manner that their foreheads were under a tiny hole in the basin. Water seeped through this hole in drops and fell upon the foreheads of the convicts, who could not moved to reach them.

They were left there and given no water for certain periods, hit often before the time set had expired, the thirsty men were insane. This was the idea, as insane convicts could be termed “dangerous to the community” and shot.

This is hard to believe, but it is true.

In glass cases were old pistols, Dunn's boot (with the toe out), various other guns and sword used by bushrangers and some of their old clothes. The place used to be a store and in a day-to-day ledger were accounts of goods the 'rangers had bought' and never paid for, Dunn had a particular weakness for sardines. It was in this place that the tragic shooting of the young and brave Constable Nelson by Dunn occurred. This place was a favourite haunt of the bushranging team of Dunn, Gilbert and Ben Hall. I think Dunne was drunk and Nelson had tried to arrest him when the shooting happened. It is to Ben Hall's credit that he tried to stop it.

A large memorial has been erected over the grave of Constable Nelson beside the hotel, so that all will know of him and honour and respect his name. Although only about eleven at the time of my visit, I shall remember everything very clearly and have been unable to rid myself of the picture and the fiendish methods brought to mind. With even the small proof above, no one can say that dreadful, often unknown cruelty was not exercised upon the hapless toilers of the early settlements.

ABORIGINES

The three different tribes of natives which once had possession of the Argyle districts have long since disappeared and I doubt whether there is one living descendant of them.

The names of the tribes were respectively Tarlo (Tarlo Hill and Tarlo Creek are named after them), Mulwaree (Shire of Mulwaree) and Burra Burra. The last named were very fierce and war-like and proved the most antagonistic to the white settlers, often they speared good stock and scattered herds. They lived, or rather, I should say their hunting grounds, comprised the Abercrombie Ranges, Taralga and Carrabungla areas. It is little wonder they were so wild when they lived in such rough, wild bush.

Often natives from the Lachlan area came "visiting" to the Goulburn and Taralga districts but these visits usually ended in a fight for the Lachlans "made off" with some of the Argyle's lubras. This was a most serious crime in their eyes and they would set out in great haste after the offending Lachlans. If they failed to retake their lubras in the clash they would raid some unsuspecting camp and help themselves to the most beautiful of their lubras.

Editor: Lubra is an aboriginal girl or woman.

The natives of Argyle were usually big, fine people, especially the men, but they deteriorated rapidly after the coming of the settlers who encouraged them to drink "firewater", which generally "tamed" - but degraded most.

BROUGHT RUIN

It seems a pity that the settlers (invaders in the native sense) should have brought about the gradual ruin of respected tribes of good-living people.

The custom of the Burras and Wollondillys (a tribe hunting near Goulburn) was to try the accused black before all the warriors and elders of the tribe. If found guilty of a very bad crime, after a thorough trial, he was painted white and clubbed to death. If he refused to appear for trial, he was outlawed, and if he escaped, his brother, or nearest male relative was punished instead. Thus it is seen that they gave their accused a fair chance.

Some of the older and better known chiefs were: Yarringinny (chief of the Wollondillys), Mulwarrie Tommy (chief of the Mulwaree), Miranda (chief of the Burras) and one Hugolgong.

All these chiefs were given bronze half-moons by the "big fell'Gub'mint" (as they were noted chiefs) and these were very much prized amongst them.

In his youth Miranda was a fearless and famous warrior, and was supposed to be among those natives who murdered several people near Bathurst and committed many other crimes against the "invaders" during 1830-32.

He died in 1949 and was buried by a lamenting tribe in an ant-hill about a mile and a half from the Paling Yards, Abercrombie.

THEIR GRAVES

On "Cobbodong" there are several blackfellows' graves. Most people know how they were buried, but a brief word may not go amiss.

After death the body was laid on a couch for about two days whilst the tribe did mourning rituals and prepared the grave. Then the body was placed between two large strips of bark, a long straight hole (something like a post hole) was

dug and he was put into it - standing up. The bark was bound by skin thongs and usually the body was wrapped in possum and kangaroo skin. Into the grave, too, went his spears and other personal belongings.

This was, I believe the authentic method, but probably different tribes used different methods.

Some put the bodies in a kneeling position, for it was believed that if they “kneeled down blackfellow, jump up white fellow”. That’s how it was that William Buckley was so readily accepted into that Victorian Tribe. He evidently bore a resemblance to their chief, who had recently died, and they believed that he had come back in the form of a white man.

The “blacks” often acted as trackers for the police, and two from Goulburn tribes were sent to Tasmania to hunt the famous ‘ranger “Jacky-Jacky” and other bushrangers.

Through them, too, the police often learned of some murder that had been committed in the bush somewhere, or the whereabouts of escaped convicts.

For weapons, the Argyle natives favoured barbed spears, boomerangs, knulla-knullas and the woomerah method of spear throwing

Many of the stations and towns about here have aboriginal names. For instance Cobodong means “moon on the water”, wombeyan means “big kangaroo”, wollondilly “water trickling over rocks”, Taralga “centre of the springs”, Mulwarrie “long water”, Yulong “a timbered hill”, Gullen “a swamp”, Currrabungla “a stone in the water”, Kerang “gum tree”, Cobbawn “good” or “large, Nerang “small”, Nagery “to camp”.

The locality called Jerong, which is actually Mt. Jerong, is supposed to be an aboriginal word too, but I do not know the translation. Mt. Werong has a story attached to it. It is said a party of explorers climbed the mountain to see where they were and found they were on the wrong route. They therefore named the mountain “We’re wrong”, which was gradually shortened to Werong.

To be continued next newsletter



One of the great Taralga sides. In 1931, they held the Cooper Cup, Roche Cup, Lands and Mines Dept. Cup and KB Lager Cup. BACK: R. Foord (treasurer), G. Cusack, J. Maloney, J. McLennan, J. O'Brien, S. Bradbury, R. Gordon (secretary). CENTRE: J. Cooper(donor), G. Gerathy (vice president), L. Croke, J. Byrne, J. Webb, L. Kelly, L. Maloney, K. Ward, C. P. Goodhew (President). FRONT: R. Issac, H. Bradbury, J. Matterson (coach), F. Lee, C. Quinn.



Taralga Tigers Cheer Squad 1980

Standing: Jillian Calvert, Michelle Lang

**From Left: Penny Robertson, Rebecca James, Sonia Corby, Lisa Croke, Kathy Chalker,
Kate Moloney, Meegan Robertson, Debbie Lang, Sharon Lang, Melissa Monaghan,
Rebecca Trichter.**

Taralga Historical Society Members Duty Roster October to December 2018

Please note opening hours (unless otherwise advised) are 10am to 2pm inclusive

September

LONG WEEKEND

Saturday 29th

Graham & Sue Lambert, Alan Robertson

Sunday 30th

Annette & Mick Chalker, Graham Lambert, Peter Davies,
Peter & Margaret McAlister

Monday 1st Oct

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

October

Saturday 6th

Judy & Jeff Chalker, Brian Corby, Brian Moloney

Saturday 13th

Annette & Mick Chalker, Tim Dowsley - **MEETING 2PM**

Saturday 20th

Margaret Lang, Ken Fleming, Laurie Halpin
Marcus Hartstein, Nicola Young

Saturday 27th

Bob Blay, Helena Hopkins, Margaret McIntosh

November

Saturday 3rd

Graham & Sue Lambert, Robert Rabjohns, Brian Kelly

Saturday 10th Matt & Vicki Chalker, Alan Robertson

Saturday 17th Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray

Saturday 25th Judith Matthews, Ernie Stephenson, Geoff Sieler,
Peter Davies

December

Saturday 1st Annette & Mick Chalker, Helena Hopkins, Margaret McIntosh

Saturday 8th Ken & Joyce Fleming, Jim Dean

Saturday 15th Maureen Long, Joan Scott, Pat Murray

Saturday 22nd Judith Matthews, Graham Lambert, Tim Dowsley

Saturday 29th ANY VOLUNTEERS????????

Folks: if your name hasn't been appearing on the roster or if you would like to change days, please let us know, or just turn up there is plenty to do.

<u>MICK 4843 5975 or GRAHAM 4843 8187</u>

Editor Maureen Long