

# Taralga Historical Society News

No 1, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

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**Fees Due: \$20**, Account name: Taralga Historical Society Inc. BSB: 062545 Account: 10040942

**NEXT MEETING 13<sup>TH</sup> of April, 1:30pm. Earlier time due to handover of Maynard Portrait.**

## President's Report

Hello everyone and welcome to the first newsletter of 2024.

Following our AGM in February the majority of roles are filled by the same people and we have launched into another busy year.

As always, thank you to everyone who helps out and also to those who have made donations. Read on to see what we've been up to.

## Grants

Grant application have been ongoing and our most recent has been put towards our archives. The Upper Lachlan Foundation has awarded \$1000 to go towards materials our archiving team use to keep things in order and to help preserve items in the collection.

## Machinery Shed

The machinery shed is looking excellent owing to all the hard work put in to cleaning it up. The extended area now has timber shelving which is proving useful in sorting the collection of things in there. Pat Lang is wiring up lighting and powerpoints. Jenny and I have put in an application to get some display units from the Powerhouse Museum. Interesting finds during the cleanout have included a big selection of medical instruments which came from Dr Lyons' surgery, some of which look very menacing. We hope to see you there in October for when we open it up to the public.



Top left, Jeff, Jenny and Annette starting the daunting task of cleaning the shed out. Top right, Jeff helping with the construction of the new shelving. Bottom Left, Randall and Mick doing some maintenance on Cordingley Cottage. Bottom Right, Pat Lang adding lighting and powerpoints.

See the flyer attached to this newsletter for info. on the opening we are planning for the October long weekend this year.

## Christmas Party

Our Christmas party was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December at Ken and Heidi Ainsworth's, where we had about 65 people attend. Thank you for all the positive feedback on this. I know that Ken (my father) takes great joy in showing people his collection of steam powered machinery. Hopefully, this coming Christmas we will be able to have our Christmas party on location at another interesting site.



## Mower Shed

The mower shed at the back of the Nissen Hut has also had a clean out and the golf buggy is parked in there now. Remember to get this out when you are on duty as it is a great help in getting people around the grounds to see everything who otherwise might have trouble doing it all on foot.

## Gardening Group

The grounds and gardens around the museum are looking excellent and somewhat greener than is normally expected at this time of year. To keep things looking good a gardening group is meeting every third Wednesday of the month through the growing season. If you'd like to be involved contact Jenny via the email or phone number listed at the start of the newsletter.

## Interesting Donation

A few weeks back we received a very interesting donation. A bushwalker at Bannaby in the early 1980's came across the house of William and Ellen Connor in Long Gully. By then it was still standing but abandoned. Scattered about the place were documents which had been left there. The history-conscious bushwalker picked up the papers and put them in a timber gin bottle crate and then took them home. They sat in his shed on the south coast for 40 odd years and have now made their way into the capable hands of our archiving team.

The papers help tell the story of life on the land in the depression years. Money was scarce and the family's main sources of income were dead wool, rabbit and fox skins and wattle bark. One letter from a tannery in Sydney informs William Connor (junior) that the tonne of stripped wattle bark which they sent to Sydney by train wouldn't be fetching the standard value of six pounds per tonne due to areas of rot in the bark. Imagine how much wattle bark would be required to make up 1 tonne. Also in the collection is the unopened referendum argument information for what I think might be the 1946 referendum where Australians were asked the question: "Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Social Services) 1946'? The yes vote won by 54% and this led to the introduction of things such as maternity allowances, widows pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services, benefits to students and family allowances.



The unopened referendum information.

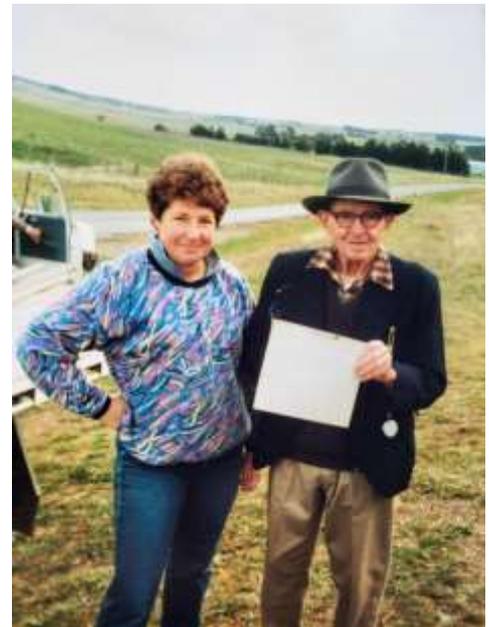
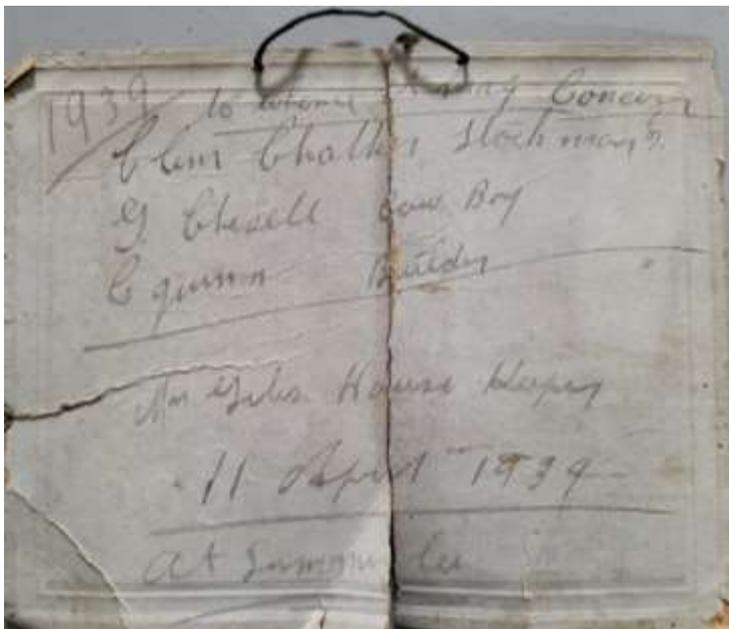
### Historic Homes – Summerlee renovation of 1939

The historic homes section in this newsletter will be a bit different, we will look at a house which is no longer standing. Late last year as I was getting some information out of our archives for a Charteris descendant who came to visit us I found a curious item in the collection. Some of you will be aware of the house the Charteris family lived in at Summerlee on top of Bannaby Hill. In my lifetime I watched it slowly fall apart and it was always an exciting place to visit as a child. Below is a photo which I took in about 1999 just before it all fell down for good. The rusty tin roof on the right was the kitchen building which still had a wood stove in it. This was a timber slab construction. On the right of the stove was a large stone chimney with an open fire for cooking. The weatherboard section to the left was a living area and then the bedrooms were behind it. To the left of this you can see a section of tin roof, under which were very well preserved shingles. They were of course all hand cut and held in place with handmade nails. On the far right you can see a small meat cutting block still sitting under the tree. Objects from within the house were scattered all around the paddock. I can recall a cast iron piano frame and lots of draught horse tack. Further to the right of the house was a set of stables and a pig shed, behind this is an orchard which still bears the



occasional apple. Behind the house was a laundry building clad in rippleiron, an outdoor toilet and a well which was destroyed when a dam was dug there.

The item in our collection that brought my attention to the house at Summerlee is pictured below. In case it's hard to make out is reads: "1939 To whom it may concern, Clem Chalker Stockman, G Chesell Cow Boy, C Quinn Builder, Mrs Giles House Keeper. 11<sup>th</sup> April 1939 at Summerlee". How did the Historical Society come to have this interesting item? When the Cordingley Cottage was being erected on site at the museum in the late 1980's some extra timber was needed. Summerlee, at that time owned by the Church of England Property Trust who had left it to go to ruin, was used as a donor for slabs and extra pieces of timber. While removing some fibro the piece of cardboard was found hidden hanging in the wall cavity. It's a simple thing which gives us a lot of information. Evidently in 1939 the Charteris family were going for the modern look so they clad the interiors of the house with fibro. I think it would also have been at this time the kitchen was connected to the house with a hallway, this was fibro with louvre windows. Mrs Giles would have been pleased to be able to carry food to the dining room without being rained on or have a stiff westerly blowing the froth off her Bonox.



Many of you will remember Charly Quinn who lived on Bannaby Road where the zoo is now. The house there is a fine example of fibro construction. Charly Quinn was still alive when the piece of cardboard he had hidden in the wall was found in 1988. Above is a photo of Pat Blay, the president of the Historical Society at that time, showing it to him. Note Charly Quinn's pocket watch which is attached to his jacket with a safety pin. Clem Chalker went on to build the house at Circle C, the land on which it was built was left to him by the Charteris family. I assume G Chesell the cow boy was looking after some milking cows. Bev Brayne who lived in my house could recall going over to see Mrs Giles, she was well known for the cooking and always gave him a coin to take home.

If anyone out there reading this has information on the Charteris family please get in touch.

### **Albert Maynard Portrait**

Another interesting item is heading for our collection and is to be housed in the Nissen Hut. Late last year I was contacted by Bev Hatch from the Crookwell RSL who has a portrait of Albert Maynard. Inscribed below the portrait is: 'To Mr and Mrs WH Maynard, from Golspie W.H.C. in memory of their brave son Private E A Maynard, 53<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, who gave his life for king and country'. This portrait was found at an op-shop in Queensland and made its way to Crookwell RSL.

Research shows us that the portrait was presented to Mr and Mrs Maynard in 1920, an article in the Crookwell Gazette reads:

“... A somewhat sad duty was then performed by the Chairman in presenting to Mr. W. H. Maynard and wife, as a gift from the committee a splendidly executed, framed memorial, in memory of their brave lad, A. E. Maynard, who gave his young and vigorous life in defence of the great and glorious principles of liberty.”

Records at the War Memorial tell us that Albert died on Christmas eve 1916. He had been ill and was transferred to a hospital in Estairre where he contracted pneumonia and died aged twenty. He is buried at Denancourt near Amien, France. It serves as a reminder of the dreadful conditions the soldiers must have faced if someone at such a young age could be killed by pneumonia.

The portrait will be handed over by the Crookwell RSL and displayed in the Nissen Hut before our next meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. If you would like to attend please come and try to arrive by 1:30 p.m.

Interestingly, Albert Maynard lived at a property called Llandilo at Golspie and this is where our electrician, Pat Lang, lives now.



"Llandilo"

Galopie 17/1/16

Dr. Burkitt, On. Officer in Charge  
Su

The Beaver

Albert Ernest Maynard is my son only  
19 years last month - I am willing for  
him to enlist, (although it is hard for  
me to carry on without him)

I will sign any necessary paper.

We would be very pleased if you can  
get him into the same Camp or Company  
as Tommy Lawler of Galopie & W. Max-  
Scott of Taralga both went into camp  
at Goolburn on 3<sup>rd</sup> of this month.

They are all mates and decent fellows

He wanted to go with them but I asked  
him to wait for Conformation, which he did  
at Taralga last Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>

I am very pleased to read of the underservants  
being drummed out.

Thanking you in anticipation  
Yours faithfully  
W. H. Maynard.

DA

Poignant letter written by Albert Maynard's father, supplied by the Maynard family.

## Museum Roster.

If you have any problems with this please contact Chris.

<b>April 2024</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret and Peter McAlister, Chris Ainsworth, Alan Robertson.
Group Visit – Vintage motorcycle club 11a.m. 22 people.	9 <sup>th</sup>	Peter and Jenny Haigh, Tim Dowsley.  We need some more people here so let Jenny know if you can help.
Group Visit – 11a.m.	11 <sup>th</sup>	Peter and Jenny Haigh, Graham Lambert for town tour, Tim Dowsley for talk at morning tea.  We need some more people here so let Jenny know if you can help.
<b>Meeting 1:30pm</b>	13 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Ainsworth, Michelle Green, Noelene Cosgrove, Elaine Connor.
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Mick and Annette Chalker, Pat Murray, Jimmy Dean.
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Davies, Joan Scott, Penny Gordon, Bob Blay.
<b>May 2024</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Ainsworth, Tim Dowsley, Lida Veenstra.
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Judith Matthews, Mick and Annette Chalker.
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Helena Hopkins, Margaret McIntosh, Peter Davies.
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny and Peter Haigh, Simon Grieg, Bob Blay.
<b>June 2024</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mick and Annette Chalker, Penny Gordon, Joan Scott.
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny and Peter Haigh, Francis Flood, Jimmy Dean.
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff and Judy Chalker, Brian Moloney, Pat Murray.
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tim Dowsley, Michelle Green, Noelene Cosgrove, Elaine Connor.
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret and Peter McAlister, Helena Hopkins, Margaret McIntosh.
<b>July 2024</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	Penny Gordon, Joan Scott, Tim Dowsley, Alan Robertson.
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff and Judy Chalker, Lida Veenstra, Judith Matthews.
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Annette and Mick Chalker, Pat Murray, Jimmy Dean.
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Ainsworth, Jenny and Peter Haigh.

## **Minutes of General Meeting held in Masonic Hall, 3rd February 2024 at 2.00pm**

**Present:** Chris Ainsworth, Jenny and Peter Haigh, Judith Matthews, Jeff and Judy Chalker, Tim Dowsley, Mick and Annette Chalker, Pat Murray, Margaret McIntosh, Randall Vlietstra, Suzanne Collins, Stephen Horne, Shirley Webb, Margaret McGregor, Bob Blay, Lida Veenstra, Karen and James Thorpe, Martin Walsh, Sally Mansfield, Michelle Green, John Hirsch, Kate Lammerton, Brian Moloney

**Apologies:** Elaine Connor, Joan Scott, Ken and Joyce Flemming, Peter Davies, Helena Hopkins, Penny Gordon, Graham Lambert, Nolene Cosgrove, Bec Brierley

**Minutes:** The minutes of previous meeting, held on 4th November 2023, were moved for adoption by Mick Chalker, seconded by Tim Dowsley.

### **Business arising from previous meeting:**

Follow-up on Grants Program brainstorm session -

#### 1. Interactive Research Centre:

- White genealogy research folders have all been moved to the Research Centre in the Masonic Lodge. Saturday visitors who are interested in family history research will need to be accompanied to the Research Centre and assisted in finding the appropriate folder. The list of names for the folders is held in the church and on the table in the research centre.
- The Archiving Team is working on the Portrait Gallery which will be displayed on the blue room dividers in the Masonic Hall meeting room.
- The oral history display is also being worked on. An A4 sheet with photo, some information about the speaker and a QR code will be displayed on the blue room dividers in the Masonic Hall which will enable visitors to listen to the voice of the storyteller.
- Acquittal documents for this grant are due by the end of February. 2. An Upper Lachlan Foundation grant, for \$1000, to purchase archival materials, was received. The materials have arrived and a workshop on the use of these materials was held at the archiving session held on 11 January 2024.

3. NSW Community Building Partnership grant, which was applied for to enable a Genealogy Hub to be set up in the THS Research Centre, will not be announced until March 2024.

4. Windmill repair. A report on the progress of the windmill restoration, prepared by Thomas Glastonbury, was read out.

- Graham Lambert, via proxy, proposed a motion that: THS make progress payments to Thomas Glastonbury who will issue progress invoices with a progress report and photos. Seconded by Mick

Chalker. Vote: Yes - 14

- Acquittal of this grant is due 30 June 2024. Project not planned for completion until September 2024. Jenny to pursue a Variation to the Works with the Taralga Wind Farm Community Fund to ensure our compliance.
- Question was raised as to whether the required works are still within the grant money. Graham will let us know if the quotes are within the grant money.

### **Progress on agreed actions and motions arising from general business:**

1. Machinery Shed update - the work of making the new section of the machinery shed prepared for public access and display is ongoing, with a huge amount of work being completed:

- concrete floor has been painted;
- inside side walls have been painted;
- frames for shelving across back and sides of shed have been welded in place;
- wooden shelving has been attached to the frames and painted;
- a rubbish skip has been rented to enable a clean out of the back storage room of the shed and the mower shed. Back room has been cleaned;
- the items in the back room are being sorted and those for display have been temporarily placed on the new shelves;
- the big white shelves from the mower shed have been moved to the machinery shed;
- unwanted material from the mower shed still to be disposed of.

Cordingley Cottage has also undergone some maintenance - down pipe reattached, gutters cleaned, verandah post reattached, garden overhaul and replant.

Chris thanked everyone involved in all this work.

2. THS Christmas gathering was held at Ken Ainsworth's place on Saturday 16th December 2023. People reported that it was a very successful gathering. Neil Bennett has offered his place for our Christmas gathering for 2024. Proposed date is Saturday 14th December 2024. Chris to contact Neil.

3. Love Vintage Taralga is interested in creating a community historical event/initiative for Taralga. Chris advised that we are interested in assisting. There are no details at this time.

### **Reports:**

President - Chris Ainsworth presented a report on all the activities that members of the THS have been involved in over the last 12 months and whole heartedly thanked everyone involved.

Secretary - Jenny Haigh presented information pertaining to upcoming visits to THS:

1. Tuesday 6th February 2024 by Bathurst Community Transport. A group of 22, will arrive by 11.00am. We require a few people to assist with tour. Morning tea required, Judy is organising.
2. Sunday 7th April 2024 by Port Bus - BUNDANOON TO BRIGADOON, at 12.00pm, approx. 40 people. We require a few people to assist with tour.
3. Tuesday 9th April 2024 by Douglas Motorcycle Gathering in Crookwell. Motorcycles range from 1914 to 1955. To arrive possibly at 10.30am, approx. 40 people. We require a few people to assist with tour.
4. Thursday 11th April 2024 by Potter Travel, MAYFIELD GARDENS, at 11.00 am. We require a few people to assist with tour as well as someone to assist with a talk and a coach guided tour of Taralga.
5. proposed visit of Saturday 19th October 2024, as part of 50th Year Rural Youth Reunion of a World Study Tour, approx. 40 to 50 people, to arrive possibly at 10.30am. We require a few people to assist with tour. Morning tea required. Details to be confirmed.

Treasurer - Judith Matthews - The treasurer's report, with a balance of \$46,671.03 as at 31st December 2023 and the balance of \$47,505.08 as at 2nd February 2024, was tabled by Judith Matthews and moved to be received by Bob Blay. This was seconded by Annette Chalker. Members were reminded that membership is now due. Options to pay are by cash to Judith or by direct debit with details to be found on our web page under the heading Membership.

Archives - Jenny reported on behalf of Penny that the Archiving Team is still working on both the Portrait Gallery, which will be displayed in the Masonic Hall meeting room, and labeling the items in the Masonic Lodge Collection, using the newly purchased archiving materials.

Garden - Annette reported that the grounds are looking lovely but more assistance is required. It was proposed that a Gardening Group be established that would meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month for a couple of hours, from 9.00am, to carry out garden maintenance. This proposal was met with overwhelming support. A list of volunteers to assist was created and they will be notified regarding the first session. Chris volunteered to carry out the annual Rose Garden pruning for 2024.

Catering - Judy reported that our catering commitments are running smoothly with good support from volunteers and wished to thank everyone for their help.

#### **General business.**

1. Condolence card to be sent to Matt Chalker, past member of THS, on the sad passing of his wife, Vicki Chalker, by Bob Blay.
2. Congratulations were voiced to Maureen Long, past President of THS, for her achievement of Taralga's Citizen of the Year 2024 Award.
3. Wombie Room - Chris raised the idea that the Wombie Room needs cleaning out, that perhaps it should be moved or sold, thereby enhancing the look of the church. After discussion a motion was proposed by Pat Murray that: The Wombie Room is now surplus to requirement, not needed anymore, and should be sold or disposed of. Seconded by Suzanne Collins. Vote: Yes - 18
4. Portrait Handover - a military portrait of a soldier from Golspie, Maynard, has made its way from Queensland to Taralga. There will be a hand over of the portrait, to be attended by the Maynard family and an RSL representative from Crookwell, about 20 minutes before our next general meeting. Members are invited to attend. Details TBA.
5. Taralga Show BBQ - THS will run the canteen. Peter Davies is in charge and will require volunteers to assist.
6. Plaque for Margaret Lang - Shirley Webb, her sister, will consult with her family to decide what is written on the plaque and the family will donate half of the cost of the plaque.
7. Stephen Horn spoke of his proposal to have an open day, with displays, afternoon tea, at Richlands. Dates to be discussed at a later time.
8. October Long Weekend - Proposal of an Open Day to celebrate the Machinery Shed Opening as well as the other initiatives at THS, eg. Windmill restoration, Interactive Research Centre. More information to follow.

Meeting closed at 2.45pm

Next Meeting: 13th April 2024 at 1.30pm