

# The Bega Pioneer

*Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.*

**December 2018 Edition**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS**



# Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

*Incorporating*

## Bega Pioneers' Museum

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Treasurer :	Helen Jauncey	Research Officer:	Margaret Sly	
	Doug Russell		Aly Walsh	Bill Fletcher
	Peter Rogers		Cheryl Moon	

### *MUSEUM OPENING HOURS:*

*Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am to 4pm  
Saturday 10am to 2pm*

The Society's Newsletter is published quarterly and is free to all members and to kindred societies.

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Front Page: Santa



# Museum News



## Research Room Clean up

Kaye and our Saturday morning volunteer Sylvia Davey photographed in the process of a big clean up in the Research Room.

This will enable volunteers to find information easier and making the room more pleasant to work in.

The Museum will be open 6 days a week in January (closed Sundays).

**New Member**

Welcome to  
Jo Riley Fitzer

**KEVIN TETLEY PHOTOS**

An enormous amount of photos have been identified, but there are many, many, many more to go. Weddings, portraits of some beautiful children, debutants, schools, social events that have taken place in the district, and much more!

If you have a few minutes (or hours) to spare, come in, see if you can recognise anyone.

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**



Do you have a few hours to spare?

**ADVERTISE WITH US**

# Another Party at Tarraganda

Taken from Bega District News 8 Jan 1934

As the "GADFLY" seems to be a bit LOVE-SICK or long-winded, I would like to have a crack at the coatings that attended the party at Mr Dansey's on Boxing night. The home was brightly lighted, and the music was first-class, extras being played by Mrs E. OTTON (piano) and Mrs C.K. (violin).

The supper provided by Mrs & Miss Dansey was, as usual, of the best. But those gents, they did sparkle in the latest of good taste. Mr. Dansey's navy blue, cream shirt, gold tie & certainly looked younger than ever and danced like a two year colt; acted MC, as well as playing several roles. OH! We all love him. Me Ernest Otton also caught my eye. He really is distinguished looking, and I liked his "sun" smile. His mole suiting was certainly becoming, cream shirt (pink stripe) and shot tie, and dances divinely. His two sons Doug and Tom, were smartly dressed, the former wearing navy, pale blue shirt and cream tie with blue dots; the later dark grey oxfords, white silk shirt, violet tie, and both looked adorable. OUR friend, Mr. Peter U, blew in late in his Melb cup rig out, which must have cost a mint of money, for which we are sure Land-mark or Hall mark or some mark footed the bill. Anyway we were pleased to see him and receive his cheery greeting, and all agreed that he was a wonderful advertisement for the Melb tailors. Good boy, Pete!

Mr. Percy SIRL blue suit, stripey shirt, kingfisher tie, clock socks, and romeos of the best and looked slightly mercey-rised. Mr. Cecil Howell, dark grey, lemon shirt, black tie, spots, shiny pumps and dances well.

Mr. H Morris, nigger brown, cream shirt, blue tie and socks court shoes and looked as happy as larry. Mr C. KOEL. wore the latest striped suiting in small check, wh silk shirt, and plaid tie and his usual diamond stud. I'd like to have that diamond in a ring, but no hope! Mr. Sid Pearce looked very smart in a suit of mole, lemon shirt (small green stripe) and emerald tie with half moons, lemon socks with green docks to tone; a radiant smile, and he did look sweet and danced as light as a fairy. Mr. Eric Paul, navy tailored, cream shirt, red stripes,

cream tie with navy dots, red clocks, and bronze shoe: looked just it. Mr Noel Pauline, brown suit, cream shirt with lemon stripes, brown tie with lemon half moons, lemon socks with brown clocks, and champagne shoes. Mr. John Dansey, light brown, white silk shirt, purple tie with dots, railway socks, and pumps to tone. Mr. W. Marshall, grey suit, blue silk shirt, cream tie with gold dots, bronze socks, and shoes to match. Easdown brothers (three) all wore navy and looked exceptionally smart, and were an acquisition to any gathering. Mr. Fred Bates, dark grey, light green shirt, black tie (stars and stripes) grey socks with clocks to suit the boots. Mr. Albert Bates, navy suit, silk shirt, fancy vest, red tie WITH stars, navy socks with red clocks, and very well groomed. Mr. Alf Berry, blarney tweed, tartan tie, navy striped shirt, socks and boots to tone.

Could not pick the belle, as it lay between Mr. Bill Sirl and Mr. Athol Blacker, who both seemed to be attracted by the same lady. Bill was dressed smartly in a well tailored navy serge, paisley shirt, striped tie, navy socks with rainbow clocks, and, shiny pumps; while Athol wore dark grey, blue rose shirt, rose shot tie, and socks to tone, and many ladies beamed upon this beautiful pair. Mr. Stan Blacker, dark brown, blue silk shirt, floral tie, brown socks with rose clocks, shiny pumps, and paid a deal of attention to Stella. Among the younger set the palm goes to Norm Reeve, who wore navy suit, pink shirt, navy tie and socks (pink clocks), and dances beautifully, and the writer admired him as he seemed just as fond of dancing with the old as with the young. Good old Norm! Ken Pearce, dark grey, canary shirt, black tie, black socks and shoes - and still going strong with the ladies. Mr. George U still an enthusiastic dancer, wore a navy suit, white shirt with brown stripes, brown socks and golden slippers. Mr. Dave Reeve, grey oxfords in the

## **Another Party at Tarraganda** *continued*

very latest cut, pink shirt, brilliant studs, narrow pink and black tie, but his shoes took my eye, as they looked like crystal; some thought they were glass but there was no doubt about his waltzing. Mr. Stan Reeve, navy tailored suit, Paisley shirt, blue tie, socks to tone, and shoes with fancy caps. Mr. Jim Otton, grey suit, blue silk shirt, blue and white tie, grey socks with blue clocks, and footwear to match, and never missed a dance. Last, but not least, Mr. Bill Koellner wore black evening dress, white shirt, white bow, white button-hole, and a man always looks best in evening dress.

Among the small ones: Mr. Ron Otton, dark grey suiting, cream shirt with blue stripes, blue silk tie, fawn socks, carnation clocks, bright dancing shoes with buckles, and looked just the glassy marble!

No doubt about it being a happy gathering. Everybody simply beamed with delight, with jests and short stories, happy greetings to each other, which was quite in keeping with the festive season, and we expect that the wedding bells will ring for at least three couples before the end of 1934. this, of course, is a secret, but we'll let the tail go with the hide.

**Have you moved or  
changed your email address?**



**Please let us know**

call 64921453 or email [museum25@tpg.com.au](mailto:museum25@tpg.com.au)

## **What to do with Dad's Body?**

by Herb Parbery

A story illustrating the precarious existence of settlers on the land in the Bega District during the 1880's or 1890's.

In those days life insurance premiums had to be paid right on time. There was no such thing as paying interest on an overdue premium, or deducting anything owing when the policy had to be paid up, it just had to be paid on time or the contract lapsed.

This story is about farmers, and farming was a tough game then.

The father in the family became very ill and, after a few days, when there was no improvement, the family became worried.

One member suddenly remembered that Dad used to have a small life insurance policy.

The season had been bad and no one could remember if he paid the last premium. They went to his box of papers and hunted for a receipt but no, it was not to be found.

The family posted a cheque for the amount and hoped for the best.

However after three or four days the old man died.

The weather was fairly warm, so what could be done?

They had no close neighbours, so they thought they must keep the death quiet until the receipt came back.

One member had a bright idea. They wrapped Father in a big old tarpaulin they had, and with a horse in the slide they took the "old man" down in the shade of the willows at the creek, which was the coolest place in the day.

However they dare not leave him there at night because there were plenty of dingoes and foxes around, and that would never do!

They were not short on ingenious ideas, and they would bring him back up on the slide and shove him up the chimney in an upright position at night.

This went on for several days until the receipt arrived, and then the doctor was called in and his death was announced.

# Sleeper Cutting

by Ron Stafford

Sleeper cutting was a major source of employment on the Far South Coast for over half a century. In the decades 1960-70 however, the trade had dwindled to almost a dribble, possibly due to lack of suitable stands of timber being available to cut sleepers from, and alternative employment being available to timber cutters in the wood-chip business.

It would be a fair comment to say the golden years of sleeper cutting would be during the depression years of the 1930s. It was during this era that timber workers from Victoria came to the South Coast of New South Wales to join with local workers in the sleeper cutting industry. Wood stands of hardwood were readily available from local forests, and there being no quota system, cutters could earn acceptable incomes by working long hours. Cutters had to have a licence issued by the Forestry Commission to whom they paid royalty per sleeper cut. The cutter also had to pay to have the sleepers carted from the forest to the dump, which was usually adjacent to the wharves at Eden, Merimbula, Tathra and Bermagui. Each month or five weeks there would be sleeper pass where an inspector from the N.S.W. Railways would come to the appropriate dump, and inspect all sleepers before payment was presented to the cutters. It was not uncommon for some sleepers to be rejected, but there was usually a ready demand for reject sleepers by the public for fence posts etc.

Large quantities of sleepers were exported to New Zealand, and among ships to load sleepers at Tathra were S.S. "Abel Tasman", the "Kaorie", and a larger ship named the "Port Waikato". The skipper of the "Port Waikato" had many anxious moments when loading at Tathra Wharf because of insufficient depth of water at low tide to float his ship, and as a result the ship used Eden port on later voyages. As a matter of interest, the S.S. "Abel Tasman" in later years took part in Antarctic operations. A further ship named the "Charlie Dan" also loaded sleepers from Eden port for export to Pakistan. During the golden years of sleeper cutting, the cutter's tool kit comprised crosscut saw, hammer and wedges, broad axe, a bar, and his gauge and string line. In later years mechanisation took some of the toil from the

business with the introduction of chain saws, and some cutters built up circular saws for the sawing of sleepers. The famous old army blitz wagon also was an asset for winching logs from steep gullies and slopes.

Mr Joe Caddey, who has just retired from the N.S.W. Forestry Commission, and was in fact a professional bushman and sleeper cutter, has quoted the following statistics. One man could produce, on an average, seven to eight sleepers per day, and a perfect-sized tree was one which would produce about thirty sleepers. Mr Caddey said the largest tree he felled during his sleeper cutting career was a Black Butt in the forest known as the "Desert" in the Wallagoot Lake district. This tree produced over one hundred sleepers, but he does not claim this as a record, because his late father, Joe Caddey Senior, had talked of forest giants that produced up to one hundred and fifty sleepers. These huge trees had to be worked by a gang of cutters, being too large for one man to handle, because the diameter of the tree at ground level could be almost six feet. When the steamer trade to the Far South Coast of N.S.W. finished in the early 1950s, the sleeper cutting industry rapidly declined because the Government Railways would only purchase sleepers on a delivered to railhead basis, which meant cutters had to deliver their sleepers to Bombala or Bomaderry railheads, and this of course was not economical. There was of course a lesser demand from the coal-mining industry.

Several species of hardwood timber were used for sleepers, and in order of quality Iron Bark was first, followed by Red Gum, Box, Woolly Butt, Black Butt, and Stringy Bark. In New Zealand the railways are now treating soft-woods for use as sleepers and maybe the Australian railway system may think likewise. It is apparent that our stands of matured hardwoods are being harvested faster than they can regenerate.

Substitutes for railway sleepers have been carried out, and reinforced concrete and steel were among the experiments, but as far as is known the hardwood sleeper still predominates. Sleepers for the Government Railways are still cut in large quantities from western river Red Gums, and also on the North Coast of N.S.W.

# ADS FROM BEGA DISTRICT NEWS DEC 1960

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£170 Prize Money £170

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Nominations Close Thursday January 13th.  
JAS. APPLEBY, Secretary.



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FAMOUS  
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*There is no Substitute for Quality.*

**Grand Gymkhana**  
AND SPORTS MEETING  
TO BE HELD ON  
Candelo Showground  
ON  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22nd.

Proceeds in aid of Show Society's New Luncheon Pavilion.

HUNTING CONTESTS - HORSE & NOVELTY EVENTS - CHILDREN'S RACES  
GUESSING WEIGHT OF BULLOCK - EVENTS COMMENCE AT 11 a.m.

Admission: Adults 2/- Schoolchildren 1/- Publican's Booth.  
Luncheon Booth - Fruit, Ice Cream and Soft Drink Stall on the Ground.  
HOT WATER AVAILABLE F. M. ROBERTS, Secretary.

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BEGA

Phone 144. 7.45 Nightly

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**All My Sons**

All the greatest the screen can bring—all the drama you've not seen before.  
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With Constance Moore, William Marshall, Bill Goodwin.  
Fox Australian News Short: "Album of Animals."  
Coming: "Wake Up and Dream." (Technicolour). John Payne and June Haver.

# Taken from **BEGA DISTRICT NEWS** January 1949

Birth at Private Hospital to Mrs John Sinclair, of Auckland Street, a daughter.

\* \* \* \* \*

Back in the district again is Mrs Stan Curtis, of McLean, who came to welcome her new grandson and granddaughter. Alan, the son of the Bill Curtis's, Batemans Bay, and Ruth, daughter of the Austin Kays, who are shortly moving into their new home. Mr Stan Curtis will soon be in Bega for part of his annual holiday.

\* \* \* \* \*

With daughters Pam and Beth, Mrs S McNeil left for Randwick last Wednesday, and expects to be away until February. Her husband has with brush and palette at Tathra

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Salmon with Tag Caught**

What is thought to be the first fish to be caught at Bermagui wit a C.S.I.R tag on it was an 8lb salmon with the tag marked C.S.I.R. A4907.

The Salmon was caught on a light rod and line by Mr Paul Estripeaut, of Sydney, Cuttagee Beach.

Fish are tagged by the C.S.I. R. and freed, and when caught again certain scientific data is thereby obtained.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Dr on Drug Charge** **Worried by War Wounds**

Dr Norman Roy Patterson of Cobargo, was charged at the Bega Police Court, before Mr Bott, S.M., on Wednesday, for the self administering of drugs and for not keeping his drug register up to date.

The defendant pleaded guilty under extenuating circumstances, bought about by his extensive war wounds flaring up. Dr Patterson had a long period of war service at sea.

Mr Bott took a serious view of the case as one firm of drug distributors, according to the police, is being processed against for

failing to observe a stoppage order against the supply of drugs to the defendant.

A fine of £20 with ten shillings imposed on the first charge, and a fine of £5 and five shillings cost on the second.

\* \* \* \* \*



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Mrs Westaway's two granddaughters, Pat and Margaret Carpenter of Bemboka, spent a fortnight with their Grandmother.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr & Mrs T Walsh (nee Marg Jamieson) have just returned from a trip to Gundagai, where Mr Wash was visiting his father.

\* \* \* \* \*

Private John Buckley of Occupation Forces, is spending a holiday with his parents, Mr and Mrs Eugene Buckley. His sister, Nurse Aileen Buckley, of South Sydney Hospital, is also at home on a three week vacation.

\* \* \* \* \*



CHILDREN	
Glen Lloyd	Bemboka
Ron Whiting	Tilba
WOMEN	
Mrs. D. Vandenberg	Bodalla
Mrs. H. Kinch	Tathra
Miss N. Brotherton	Mt. Darragh
Mrs. C. Watson	Bega
Mrs. B. Cooper	Bega
Mrs. W. Maddinson	Mallacoota
Miss Margaret Neilson	Bemboka
Mrs. A. M. Booth	Wolumla
Miss E. Filmer	Candelo
Mrs. A. Sly	Buckajo
Mrs. A. Whitby	Bega
Mrs. J. Beggs	Narooma
Mrs. L. Coward	Candelo
Mrs. G. Hayes	Bega
Mrs. C. Bridle	Genoa
Mrs. A. Guthrey	Candelo
MEN	
Mr. E. H. Wood	Nth. Yarranung
Mr. J. A. Evans	Tarraganda
Mr. H. J. Eltherington	Wallagoot
Mr. E. Westrop	Coolangatta
Mr. J. Lucas	Brogo
Mr. Athol Glenn	Candelo
Mr. J. Holmes	Bemboka
Mr. W. Maddinson	Mallacoota

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Via Nowra

# Publications for Sale

<b>Bayley's History of Bega</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Bega High School</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Bemboka Show 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Bismark House</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Courthouse Death Registers</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Howards Way</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Imlay Ratepayers Index</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Monumental Inscriptions</b>	<b>\$90</b>
<b>Ratepayers Indexes to 1953</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>They Called this Valley Home</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Bushfires of 52</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Illawarra &amp; South Coast Steam Navigation Co</b>	<b>\$25</b>



## Military Books

<b>ANZACS Long Shadow</b>	<b>\$19.95</b>
<b>ANZAC to Amiens</b>	<b>\$9.95</b>
<b>An ANZAC Story</b>	<b>\$9.95</b>
<b>The ANZACS</b>	<b>\$26.95</b>
<b>The Last ANZACS</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>Battle for Lone Pine</b>	<b>\$29.95</b>
<b>From the Trenches</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Young Digger</b>	<b>\$19.95</b>
<b>World War 1</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>The Secrets of the ANZACS</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>Forgotten ANZACS</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Gallipoli Diaries</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>The Unreal Story of WW1</b>	<b>\$9.95</b>