

# The Bega Pioneer

*Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.*



*PHOTO from Kevin Tetley's collection*

March 2019 Edition



# MUSEUM NEWS

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

It's that time of year again! Our AGM will be held on 27 July 2019 and I am officially calling for nominations from Members to stand for a position on the Bega Valley Historical Society's Management Committee.

Members of the Management Committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting for a period of twelve months.

A strong, committed Management Committee is essential for the survival of the Museum and the Historical Society and to successfully manage the exciting projects we are undertaking. Can you spare a few hours a month for a year?

### Who sits on the Management Committee?

The Management Committee has a maximum of ten members, all elected annually by Members of the Society.

There are four office-bearers. These are:

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

There are six other annually elected members who, together with the office bearers, form the Management Committee.

### What skills, experience and time commitment are required?

It is expected that all Committee Members have good email and internet skills as communication between Committee members is increasingly undertaken electronically. The Management Committee meets once a month for about 1 hour. Under current arrangements each Management Committee member is responsible for implementing and managing one or more activities in the Society's Workplan appropriate to their skill set.

## Nomination Process

If you have the skills, commitment and time I would urge you to nominate for a position on the Committee.

If you wish to nominate you should complete an application form (a nominator and seconder, both financial Society members, are required) and return it to the museum by 4pm Friday July 25th. If you have any questions about the Management Committee or the nomination and election process, please don't hesitate to contact us.

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members, Peter John Clancy and Jenny van der Rijn.

Thanks to a kind donation from Sandra Florence we now have more copies of "They Made This Valley Home." The book was written by Sandra and Di Pryor and is priced at \$25

## Una Umbers

We extend our sympathies to the families of Una Umbers. Una was a long time member and supporter of the Historical Society.



# A Redoubtable Character

by Jule Higgins

Merimbula-Imlay Historical Society

Robert Morgan-Bruce of Bombala is genealogy conscious, and he has discovered a colourful ancestor in George Henry Brasington, born in Stockport, England, in 1812. From all counts this ancestor was a huge man with a voice to match, and after arriving in Australia prior to 1838, he applied in 1840 for a grant of land at, or near Haycock. He built a home and a large wool store, near the mouth of the Broadwater on the Haycock side of the river, and the foundations of these may still be found by probing in the soil beneath the bracken.

He went into shipping – the “Susan” and the “Ellen” were two of his ships – and, as the river and lake were not silted up then, he was able to bring his ships up to the settlement of Pambula. Pambula Beach became known as Brassie Bay. One of his ships caught fire near Tathra and burned for three days, and for years afterwards bits of it could be seen at low tide. The timber of the “Ellen” was ultimately used in the building of Bega’s first flour mill.

Captain Brasington bought a 1,000 acre property near Bombala, which he called “Stockport”, but he spent his last years on the coast. He elected to be buried by the sea at Haycock and in fact dug his own grave there.

He died in 1902, but Robert Morgan-Bruce’s mother clearly remembered a childhood holiday spent at Haycock. She not only palpably recalled this huge and ancient man, but she never forgot the sound of his voice. “Get out of my grave!” he shouted, as the children laughed and tumbled in what to them was a fascinating playground. “Get out of my grave!”

The headstone of the grave of this redoubtable character was later transferred to the Pambula cemetery.



**Check us out on  
facebook.**



**We still have so many photos needing identification. Photos are uploaded to facebook twice a week....so don't forget to check, us out!**

# **Buckajo - from 1906 to 1930**

**By W. R. Spindler**

*Buckajo is situated in a natural basin of hills, surrounded two-thirds of the way by Buckajo, Bemboka River, commencing in the north-west where the river comes around from Moran's Crossing, extending right around the whole area to the south-east, and then bounded from the north-east to the south-east by a range of hills.*

*It is a natural rural area, well suited to dairy farming; good soil, well sheltered and adequately watered by a natural watercourse.*

*In 1906 a lot of Buckajo was part of the very large Ebsworth Estate. Philip Spindler and his wife, Caroline, came there soon after they married as Philip had been appointed as manager of the northern end of the Ebsworth property. The southern area of the estate, which was much clearer country, was managed by John Hukins and family.*

*Philip began by working a large dairy on the property, assisted by his brother, Harry, a hired hand, and his wife. However, time proved that this was not a satisfactory proposition, due to the place being fast overcome with rabbits and scrub. The rabbits came in millions, and the scrub afforded them plenty of shelter. About this time Ebsworth Senior gave the estate over to his son, Guy, who had not long come home from college.*

*Guy promptly arranged to let the dairy herd out on adjustment for a couple of years, and so closed the dairy for that period. Times were not so good on the Monaro at that time, and he had not trouble renting the top part of the estate out to sheep. So came a few thousand sheep to Buckajo, tended by a Mr. Bulgaries as shepherd. During their stay at Buckajo they had just been shorn in August when there was a violent hailstorm, followed by a very cold night, and four to five hundred sheep were lost.*

*Closing the dairy gave Guy Ebsworth the opportunity then to employ Philip Spindler and his helpers to start clearing scrub, and erecting miles of rabbit-proof fencing, so dividing the paddocks into smaller areas. Rabbits came also, and soon havoc was played with these pests. By poisoning and digging out burrows, by the end of two years there was not much evidence of them, and so the dairy opened up again.*

*Guy Ebsworth then married a Miss Mort from Bodalla. They did not stay long at Buckajo before dividing to sell the estate.*

*John Hukins bought the area he was managing, excluding the portion where the Ebsworth residence stood, and this was purchased by H. J. Howard and his family, as an addition to the Howard farm adjoining. Later the Howard family moved into the Ebsworth home, until H. Howard bought a property at Newtown, Bega, and converted the Ebsworth portion to a small dairy.*

*Augustus Rheinberger bought six hundred acres adjoining the Howard area, and Philip Spindler remained on to manage that farm until 1949. On the northern boundary of this farm, James and Thomas Rheinberger purchased three big paddocks to add to the John Rheinberger farm, where James and Thomas Rheinberger were operating as partners.*

*The eastern area running along below Buckajo Park was purchased by Joe and Jack Rheinberger as a cattle run.*

# Publications for Sale

Bismark House	\$20
Bega District Band	\$5
Bega High - 50 years	\$5
Bega Primary 1860-2010	\$10
They Made this Valley Home	\$25
Illawarra Steam Ship Company	\$25
Remembering Bega Valley Serviceman of WWI	\$20



*Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.*

*Incorporating*

*Bega Pioneers' Museum*

*Committee*

President:	Peter Rogers
Secretary:	Kaye Jauncey
Treasurer :	Helen Jauncey
Research Officer:	Margaret Sly
Committee Members:	
Doug Russell	Aly Walsh
Bill Fletcher	Cheryl Moon

Please address all correspondence to:

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Website: [begavalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au](http://begavalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au)

**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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**d a t e s to REMEMBER**



**BLACKA REUNION**

*Cobargo Showgrounds 9th -13th April 2020*

*Contact: Kirsty Blacka  
[blackafamily1@hotmail.com](mailto:blackafamily1@hotmail.com)*

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