

The Bega Pioneer

Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.



PHOTO from Kevin Tetley's collection

Carp-St-1960's

September 2020 Edition



MUSEUM NEWS

VALE GEORGE MORROW

George was President of the Society in 2014 and 2015. During that time he was responsible for getting the grant for and setting up the Centenary of ANZAC Exhibition. He also instigated the updating of the Society Policies and Procedures and the current Volunteer Program. He retired from the position due to ill health.

The Society extends it's deepest sympathy to his partner Linda and their families.



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NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

We welcome to our museum family

New member and volunteer Michelle Martin. She has started updating the exhibit labels.

New committee members Brett Bowyer, Regina Huntington and Indigo Wood.

Check us out on

facebook

CHANGE IN MUSEUM

OPENING HOURS .

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are all now 10am to 2pm.

Presidents Annual Report

1st August 2020

While we are all aware of the momentous events during the 2019-2020 period, it is important that our society, being Historical in nature receives and documents them for future generations.

Our region and indeed much of Australia went through a tremendous drought period for 2018 and 2019. This left deadly serious events for our farmers, on whom we all depend. Dams and water supplies were becoming depleted, stock numbers depleted, crops ruined, even fish stocks were dying in our major river systems.

This dry resulted in our forest areas not only becoming a fire hazard, coupled with large amounts of fuel accumulating on forest floors. High Spring temperatures during Spring left much of our nation vulnerable to bushfire and this almost inevitably happened, beginning in Queensland but followed by massive breakouts on the North of NSW, then Central, then to us, not only on the Far South Coast but in Victoria where tremendous fires were out of control for days on end, despite heroic effort by volunteer firefighters to whom we all owe a great debt for what was saved. Many are not aware of the danger our Eucalypt forests present when ambient temperature exceeds 40 degrees Centigrade, where eucalyptus oils in the leaf canopy begin to vaporise above the tree tops and become explosive, creating a potential holocaust. It only needs a spark and some unpredictable winds to produce a firestorm which is unstoppable by human efforts.

Evacuations were ordered, tourist parties virtually trapped where they could find refuge. The defence forces were called in to assist in evacuation in Mallacoota, help volunteers man evacuation centres at Bega Showground were among their efforts. Lives were tragically lost, homes burnt to the ground. In our shire, Quaama, Verona, Bemboka. Coolagalite, Mumbulla, Brogo, Nangutta and the National Parks from Eden to the Victorian border were all impacted with great violence.

We can be proud of how our community reacted. Food and help donated at every turn. A robust resolve on the part of all.

The sky was darkened, the sun obscured and atmosphere so smoke laden, breathing was difficult for many with respiratory problems.

Good rain in February brought relief from the fires but a blight arrives on our shores with a virus spread world wide with deadly consequences not only to life but wrecking national economies world wide. Our Government, both State and Federal have both strenuously moved to counter and control this disease epidemic and as we meet are still battling it. Our health services have responded with resolve and deserve the community's thanks.

The consequences will be felt for many years, our national debt, incurred in trying to keep our economy afloat an ease the financial load on everybody, will not be paid back in the perceived lifetime of many of us.

Our Society is better placed than most to survive but we will need your continued support and goodwill to preserve our history and to tell the story of our weathering of the storm. When I recall the struggles of our pioneers over two centuries of European settlement and thousands of years of indigenous occupation (which often must have been precarious in the extremes of climate), I have confidence we will prevail and our current story will be inspiring too.

Peter Rogers President

How Bega Has Changed from the 1880's to 1934.

W A Smith

Newtown – W A Smith's father J R Smith & family moved into a not quite finished house in 1880's when there was only 6 houses at Newtown.

Dan Harris lived where Mr & Mrs Wilson are in 1930's.

A Miss Rixon lived nearby.

Mr & Mrs Maher lived in an old place on the corner of Newtown Rd & Prospect Street.

There were only about 2 houses further along this road.

On the eastern side, the only house was that occupied by Mr W McNamara now – at that time the home of William Rixon & family.

The old Spindler homestead was in Rawlinson St, just off Newtown Rd, and old Mr & Mrs Wm Ryan lived further down the street.

Today – Sid & Dick Rixon have fine new homes.

From the Police Station there was not another house till below the Catholic Church.

Dr Evershed lived on the western side, now occupied by Mr Longhurst, and for a long time the home of the late Mr P Rosenthal.

In **Belmore Street** was the house of Mr Bell, who was the book-keeper for Mr Connolly's Store. The only other place was that of Mr John Davis, Police Magistrate, and now the home of Mrs McIlvride.

On the other side lived the Neillys, where Miss Allan lives now.

Billy Hibburd had the home now owned by Mr H Blomfield.

Mr Smith, carter, was further down, and there were 2 other residences, since renovated, and now occupied by Mr Balmain and Mrs Jardine.

Parker Street

Where the Convent stands was an old home occupied by the Rodd family, and for years before that by Mr Heady, surveyor.

There were only 2 places further down, one where Mr Kearney now lives, and where Miss D'Arcy, who kept a sweet shop, lived – she was popular with the RC school children.

The home that Mrs Blacker lives in was built by Mr F H Sturah's father and was considered the best in town in those days – Dr Evershed once lived there.

Along Parker Street was mostly paddocks.

Carp Street

Where Mr Ritchie, Mr Ziegler and other houses stand today was a hay paddock in my early days – I remember seeing a haystack burn there.

On the opposite side there were 1 or 2 houses.

How Bega Has Changed from the 1880's to 1934

Bega Street

The Rectory building, originally the home of T Rawlinson, had not been built, and on the opposite side of Bega Street there were no houses.

Bega St, right from Gipps to East Sts, has made remarkable progress and contains some of the most attractive residential areas.

Perhaps we should not mention the saw-mill, but it stands in the paddock that was years ago the site of the Barnes Grammar School.

Canning Street did not exist.

Gipps Street

The late Henry Brown had a blacksmith shop where the fire station stands, and there were several old places further down.

The Royal Hotel, now occupied by Mr Wm O'Neill, was kept by Jim Hutton, who was later the first licensee of the Metropolitan, now known as the Bega Hotel.

The saleyards were above the Royal Hotel, where Mr J E Barber's home is.

Mr P McNamara's butchery was opposite, and Micky Vaughan had a boot shop near where the Salvation Army is today.

Gus Arnold's barber shop, the only one here then, was somewhere about the Commonwealth Bank is, and there was a Chinese store adjacent to it.

Connolly's Store, now the Hotel Central, was the only other building on that side.

The Bank of NSW was on the other side where Mr Manns now lives (the Tourist Information Office in 2005).

Further up were Mr Braine's home, the Gazette Office and Mr Manby, solicitor, in the premises used by Mr Starr for some time as a produce store, and Mr Maher had the store known as Starr's.

On the corner of Gipps & Carp Sts, the Bank of NSW premises, now occupied by the Rural Bank (BDN 2005) had not been built, and I remember St Leon's Circus showing in the vacant block.

From there to Parker Street was not a building.

Carp Street

Mr Quain had a coach-building business opposite the Bega Hotel, and Mr Magner's blacksmith shop was up on the corner where Mr Tapper's garage is (Taylor's 2005).

It was all open paddock where now stands the premises of Mr Blomfield, Mr Bush, the Lyric Theatre and others.

Until quite recently there was a row of old buildings between the Commercial Hotel and Mr Rosenthal's store. Mr Gentle's saddlery was in between.

How Bega Has Changed from the 1880's to 1934

Mrs McNamara had the Club Hotel, where the Neon Café is today (Finches 2005), and Bill Lavington, a one-legged man, had an oyster bar just below where Mr J Clark's stationery shop is.

The Standard Office, now occupied by the District News, and Taffy Harris' lolly shop, were the only other buildings between that and Auckland Street, and there were cattle sale-yards on the corner where Mr Herbert's restaurant stands (Hookers 2005).

On the opposite side of Carp Street where the Co-op Store and other places stand, was all open paddock, and it was the cricket ground of the town.

Where the Occidental stands (Grand 2005) was an old building kept as a boarding house by Mrs Williams, and there were one or two other places.

The Lyceum Hall, now Balmain's, had not been built.

Auckland Street

There were very few houses in upper Auckland Street, but lower down there has not been much change since those times.

Mr Allie Sharp's father and grandfather had a brewery opposite the Public School, which was destroyed by fire when Gus Arnold had it.

Thomas Howard lived next to the School and there was a large room on the street frontage which had, I believe, in the early days been used as a dance hall.

The Queens Hotel (Victoria Inn) then kept by Mr Edwin Mears, was in the premises now known as the Mumbulla Shire Council rooms.

Church Street

In Church Street there were only about 2 buildings on the eastern side – one a butcher's shop kept by Mr R Jeffers (?), and the other a fruit shop kept by Mrs Rawleigh (?).

Hughes, Jones & Co.'s store, the principal one of those times, was located in premises which were burnt down later. The store was where Mr M Disher's premises are and there was another Chinese store, Chong Way & Co. lower down.

Hughes Jones & Co. later built big premises on the other side of the street, which were years later destroyed by fire.

Church Street is today all buildings except for the vacancy left by this store.

Fairview

Over at Fairview, where the optimists of the day expected the railway station to be built, there were then very few houses, but there had been boom sales in anticipation of the railway.

North Bega

Even North Bega has also made progress since the days when Granny Bailey's cottage stood on the site of the Butter Factory's office, and Cocky McLean's home was where Mr Stan Howard's fine brick residence is.

Early Bega Photographs From The Society Collection



Auckland Street c1890



Carp Street
early 1900's



Kiss Lagoon c1890

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

87 Bega Street, Bega NSW 2550

Committee

President:	Peter Rogers
Secretary:	Kaye Jauncey
Treasurer :	Helen Jauncey
Research Officer:	Margaret Sly
Committee Members:	
Doug Russell	Aly Walsh
Bill Fletcher	Brett Bowyer
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MUSEUM OPENING HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am to 2pm

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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