

The Bega Pioneer

Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.



Catching Up With Events

December 2021 Edition



MUSEUM NEWS

MUSEUM OWNERSHIP

BVSC have agreed to sell the museum building back to the historical society for the sum of \$1.

The paperwork has been signed and returned to BVSC. Now we wait.

MUSEUM ADVISER

The BVSC have appointed a new museums adviser Greg Lissaman.

Fay Brunton.

The committee and members of the society extend their sympathy to the Brunton family on the passing of their mother.

Ray Ubrihien.

The committee extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Ray who passed away after a long illness.

Robin Gauld.

The society was saddened to hear of the passing of our member Robin Gauld. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

NNew Members

Jo Riley Fitzer

Judy Norris

Glenn and Pauline Ubrihien

Wayne Milford

Michael Cortis

Brenda Montgomery

Denise Perry

Alexander Tarlinton

Check us out on

facebook

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call 64921453 or
email museum25@tpg.com.au*

*Merry
Christmas*
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BEGA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc. held 30th October 2021.

Ladies & Gentlemen, I regret that this report is, due to circumstances over which we have little control, not very happy one.

We will all be aware of a disastrous bushfire period which commenced in 2019, followed closely by the outbreak of an epidemic of a disease, which has disrupted not only our national well being, but impacted on the rest of the world in a way that none of us could foresee when it began and collectively has cost us very dear. Our national debt will be left for our children and grandchildren to pay off. What a legacy to leave behind us

As a result of closures and lockdowns in isolation as we attempted to stave off the results, our Museum was heavily affected by enforced closure as well as the lack of tourist visitors.

Still, we have survived it and can still open despite all.

Highlights of the year have been the sale of the premises to us by the Bega Valley Shire Council, not under the best of circumstances but least we have the title deeds pending in our name and not the Council's. It is my considered view that Council has not acted in any fair way. During their period of 'ownership', they have done nothing in aid to maintain 'their' building, we have had to effect what repairs we could afford from our own meagre funds.

On the bright side we have had a small core of volunteers keeping things going, doing research, painstakingly and slowly digitising the huge photo collection, including a great influx from the Estate of the late Kevin Tetley. Converting to electronic storage, will mean that the photo collection will be available to viewers for many decades to come. It is a tribute to the original photographic process that they have remained usable in most cases so far. We hope electronic storage will extend it's life to centuries yet to come.

We have over the year, made available to researchers our collection and I am happy to report that they in turn, have lodged copies of their results here for future generations to share.

We look to pursuing Grants from Governmental resources to keep improving our efforts.

Where we can, we are happy to share our resources with our fellow Museums in our Shire and beyond.

I regret I must mention the removal from Bega of the Bega District News office. The paper has been going downhill due to the vast explosion of the Internet and "social media", the local communication of the printed word is on a downhill run. Our history will be the poorer for it. Great names of past Editors like William Braine, Walter A Smith and "Curly" Annabelle would be aghast.

What can fill the gap with reliable news and recording of our collective doings?

My personal thanks go out to Kaye Jauncey who carries out her duties as Secretary with great dedication, her sister Helen Jauncey, for keeping our accounts in apple pie order, Bill Fletcher for his maintenance of grounds and building, to Nita Quinn our life member for her memory and unfailing memories of events and people to fill the gaps in our knowledge. Especial thanks to the other

volunteers who research, preserve, digitise our photos, labour in our constant efforts to catalogue our now immense collection of artefacts, photos, books, etc. We would be at such a crisis without them. I must mention in closing, our thanks to Peter Lacey, whose has been organising excursions by bus around our town, and lately, street walks to review our past, a lot of which has now vanished. Our grateful thanks and hopes for even more to come!

I have pleasure in moving the adoption of this report.

P R Rogers. **President**

Annual General Meeting.

The AGM was finally held on October 30th. The committee remains the same.

Rita Roberts donated the original gold assayer scales from the Wolumla Gold Mine. A display is being set up for these.

TAG ALONG TOUR.

Organised by Norm Pearce and Peter Guthrey this was held on Saturday November 20th. The group, a mixture of locals and visitors from Bombala, travelled from Greendale to Rodely's Oyster Farm via Corridgeree, Kalaru and Tathra with guest speakers at each stop. They valued the interaction and the opportunity to learn of family histories. Despite the weather and the adventure at Norm's farm of cars having to be pulled up the hill to the morning tea site by tractor, thank you Tom Pearce, a great time was had by all, especially the delicious morning tea and sweet energy boosts at each stop provided by Narelle Pearce.



Local Notes.

Mrs Emma Rogers died the previous day aged 89. She arrived in this district with her husband Richard Rogers in 1859. They lived for twenty years on a selection at Tarraganda , later buying Brianderry, Dell-rill and Kingswood. Her husband was a native was a native of Derbyshire, Wales. He died at Brianderry in 1888 aged 62.

Mrs. Rogers was a pillar of the Methodist Church and only last year was honoured with the duty of laying the foundation stone of the new church (1924).

She had been present at the laying stone of the foundation stone of the first church by the Reverend G. Hurst on 31st March 1868.

Bega District News January 26, 1926.

The coach fare from Bega to Tathra was 7/6d in McPhee and Underhill's coaches and 5/- in Anderson's Mail Coach. *Bega Standard 8.8.1893.*

A public holiday was proclaimed in Bega for the opening of the Bega Gas Works, the first Municipal Gas Works in NSW - Friday 2nd October 1884. After a days picnic and sports on the Showground there was a grand torchlight procession of all public bodies and the gas illumination was followed by a banquet. *Bega Standard 4.10.1884*

A book, "Days of Long Ago" by Walley Braine - Tin Chue and Ah Sun were the first Chinese merchants in Bega in 1870. Scores of Chinese were then in the district with large gardens at Fairview. Most of them later returned to China very comfortably off. *BDN 2.6.1942.*

In 1861 the bushranger Dean alias John Smith was shot at Wandella by a police officer sent out from Bega. His body was placed in a cart and was being brought into Bega but for some reason not disclosed he was buried in the sands of the Brogo River near Greendale Bridge. The spot is still known today by locals as Deans sands. *History of Bega by Barton Jauncey*



Mrs Emma Rogers



McPhee and Underhill Coach



Bega Gas Works and Original Committee



MORE LOCAL NOTES

Bega, Tuesday ? date.

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s or accept the advice of the Minister for Health, who previously recommended the building of a new hospital, and commence its construction"
Loud cheers greeted the resolutions.

Bega Gazette, July 7 1883.

Into our sanctum on Wednesday came an old man who said he wanted to tell us that his name was Joshua Higgs and that he was the oldest living pioneer white man of the district. "I went to see a newspaper man down the street" said Joshua "but he wanted to be paid for putting my story in his paper and I have come to ask you to let the public know that the oldest hand is now in Bega.

"Been out here long?" asked the editor. "Yes" replied Higgs. "I came to this country in 1820 in the ship "Marquis of Huntley" commanded by Captain Askill. There were 18 boys of us and 222 men as far as I can remember. Did I have a free passage? Yes but I got into trouble in a simple way. My father was a small farmer near Salisbury, not far from Stonehenge. One night as I was going home from market I met a man driving some three or four head of cattle . The man said he would give me a shilling if I would help him. I went with him glad enough like most boys at home to earn a little money but before we had gone far the constables took us in charge for cattle stealing. we were sent to Winchester jail and cast for death but our sentence was commuted and I was sent out here.

The "Marquis" reached Sydney after a long voyage and by and by I went up the country to Thomas Cowper's place at Balalaba near Braidwood where Cowper had a grant of 2'000 acres which he afterwards sold to A Badgery who in turn sold out to Hugh Wallace. I was about Braidwood for over 20 years. In 1843 I rode a mare, "Miss Phantom" for Andrew Badgery at the first Braidwood Races. I weighed out, saddle and bridle, at 8st 4lb and won the 2 mile race for 100 guineas easily. Hugh Wallace was judge.

Captain Rains of Bathurst were the first cattle sent to Bega under the care of John Campbell. Isaac Bentley was the stock man and "Yorcky" the hut keeper. They came to Brogo, made yards and put up a hut but the blacks hunted them and the cattle away. I came down the Eurembene Mountain, there is no traffic on it now, with about 300 head of young cattle from Balalaba, and out party took up "Brogo". John Johnstone was the overseer, John Farley the stock man, and "Connaught Tommy" whos proper name was Thomas Moohan was hut-keeper. We broke up an acre of ground on the river bank, sowed wheat, reaped it and ground it in a stool mill. Three weeks after down came Henry Badgery with cattle to Warraguburra. William Bowman from Bong Bong came to Buckajo. The Warraguburra men were in the habit of coming to our camp and we went out together for mutual protection. The hut keeper at Warraguburra seemed not to fear the blacks. His name was Michael Dunn, a Dublin man. But after a while we missed Dunn for two or three days and, suspecting he was killed, we caught two black boys and made them tell us where he was: they took us to a waterhole where we found his body and we took it out and buried it.

The emus were thick in those days and ran about in mobs. All Bega was covered in tall grass and the waterholes had long rushes about them. All sorts of waterfowl were plentiful and so tame they would almost let you walk over them.

Then the Imlay's came to Twofold Bay and began whaling. A party of their men found their way over to our station and I drove some fat cows down to the Bay, made some yards, and and killed the first fresh beef the Imlay's had.

I believe Campbell gave Bega its name and I am the man who gave the name to Tarraganda. We asked the blacks what they called that place and in their quick way they said what i took to be Tarraganda. It might be Tallagalla from the turkeys but I aint much of a scholar and I thought they said Tarraganda."

The Ubrihien Family.

GERMAN SETTLERS IN THE BEGA VALLEY

WHY DID THE GERMANS COME?

DURING THE MID 1800'S THERE WAS A HEAVY INFLUENCE OF PRUSSIA IN GERMANY.

THE PRUSSIAN COUNCIL OF NSW ARRANGED CONDITIONAL PERMISSION, FOR GERMAN FAMILIES WITH EXPERTISE IN VINES, OILS AND SILK, TO IMMIGRATE TO AUSTRALIA.

MANY FAMILIES IN GERMANY WERE STRUGGLING AND WAGES WERE VERY LOW. THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR ASSISTED IMMIGRANTS TO WORK IN A NEW COUNTRY MUST HAVE BEEN A GODSEND FOR THESE POORER FAMILIES

APPLICATIONS FOR LABOURERS WERE MADE BY LANDOWNERS IN AUSTRALIA AND PASSAGE WAS ARRANGED AT A COST OF 36 POUNDS FOR A MARRIED COUPLE AND 18 POUNDS FOR EACH PERSON OVER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS.

JAMES MANNING, ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN LEASING KAMERUKA ESTATE, HAD BEEN EDUCATED IN EUROPE AND WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE TENACITY AND INDUSTRIOUS NATURE OF THE GERMAN VINEYARD WORKERS. HE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO BRING A NUMBER OF FAMILIES TO TWOFOLD BAY, BY SHIP WHERE THEY WERE MET AND TAKEN TO KAMERUKA.

DEPARTURE

DEPARTURE DATE FOR THESE IMMIGRANTS WAS 15TH NOVEMBER, 1854, FROM THE PORT OF HAMBURG. THE SHIP THEY TRAVELLED ON WAS THE "CAESAR", A BARQUE OF 438 TONS, BOUND FOR SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, VIA TWOFOLD BAY, EDEN, NSW. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PASSENGERS, EMBARKING FROM HAMBURG, DESTINATION EDEN, WERE 77. THE NUMBER THAT CAME ASHORE WAS 56. 21 DIED FROM A CHOLERA OUTBREAK AT SEA. THE ORIGINAL SHIP'S LIST STATED THAT THERE WAS 293 ASSISTED PASSENGERS AND 13 CREW, ON BOARD, AT COMMENCEMENT OF VOYAGE. THE PASSENGERS DESTINATED FOR SYDNEY, WERE 216 OF WHICH 40 DIED DURING THE VOYAGE.

THE JOURNEY

THE CHOLERA OUTBREAK WAS ONE OF THE WORST TO EVER HAPPEN ON BOARD A SHIP. VERY FEW OF THE FAMILIES WERE SPARED THE AGONY OF LOSING A LOVED ONE. ONE FAMILY LOST BOTH PARENTS AND THE CHILDREN ARRIVED IN A NEW COUNTRY AS ORPHANS. MANY STORIES HAVE BEEN TOLD AS TO WHY THE DISEASE BROKE OUT. THE MOST COLOURFUL WAS THAT THE CAPTAIN'S PET PIG WAS ALLOWED TO HAVE FULL RUN OF THE SHIP, WAS KNOWN TO BREAK INTO THE FOOD STORAGE HOLD, AND HAD CONTAMINATED THE FOOD. THIS ANIMAL, AT SOME TIME DURING THE PASSAGE, MYSTERIOUSLY, FELL OVERBOARD. ANOTHER FAMILY BLAMED THE CAPTAIN FOR FAILING TO COLLECT FRESH WATER. THE CAPTAIN WAS ACTUALLY INVESTIGATED ON ARRIVAL IN SYDNEY, AND WAS FOUND NOT TO BE AT FAULT. CHOLERA IS A WATER-BORNE DISEASE AND SUSPICION WAS JUSTIFIED. THE OTHER CAUSE COULD BE THAT THE SHIP WAS NOT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE THE FULL PASSENGER COMPONENT OF 293, AND HAD INADEQUATE TOILET FACILITIES 'TWEEN DECKS. LACK OF SANITATION MADE IT DIFFICULT TO ISOLATE THE DISEASE, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE MANY CHILDREN ON BOARD.

ARRIVAL

THE "CAESAR" ARRIVED IN TWOFOLD BAY ON THE 19TH MARCH 1855. IT WAS HELD IN QUARANTINE FOR A WEEK BEFORE THE PASSENGERS WERE ALLOWED TO DISEMBARK. THE PASSENGERS HAD BEEN SPONSORED BY AND CONTRACTED TO WORK FOR, JAMES MANNING, OVERSEER AND PART OWNER OF THE TWOFOLD BAY PASTORAL COMPANY'S KAMERUKA ESTATE. WITH ONLY A GUIDE AND A BULLOCK WAGON TO PICK UP THEIR LUGGAGE, THEY SET OFF TO WALK TO KAMERUKA. THIS WOULD HAVE TAKEN ABOUT THREE DAYS AND DURING THIS TREK, THEY WERE HARRASSED BY LOCAL ABORIGINAL TRIBES.

A TRAUMATIC FIRST IMPRESSION OF THEIR FUTURE HOME!

UEBERHEIM (UBRIHIEN).

JOHANN AND FREDERICA, TRAVELLED WITH THEIR THREE CHILDREN, PETER (16), ELISABETH (5) AND ANNA MARIA (2).

THE FAMILY WERE ON THE 'ASSISTED PASSAGE' LIST, BUT THERE WAS A PETER UEBERHEIM, LISTED ON THE SHIP AS 'UNASSISTED'. HE CAME FROM THE SAME VILLAGE IN GERMANY AND WAS NOTED AS A SHEPHERD. WE ARE NOT SURE WHERE HE SETTLED.

SON PETER, MARRIED ELIZA THOMAS, IN 1866. SHE WAS THE FIRST REGISTERED WHITE CHILD BORN IN EDEN. HE GAVE UP FARMING, TO TRY HIS HAND AT GOLDMINING IN THE ADELONG FIELDS AND MOVED THERE WITH HIS WIFE AND TWO LITTLE GIRLS, ROSE AND CHARLOTTE. THEIR FIRST SON, PETER, WAS BORN THERE IN 1876. IN 1890, THEY MOVED BACK TO THE COAST AND COMMENCED FARMING (DAIRY FARMING) IN THE COBARGO, SPRINGVALE AND WOLUMLA AREAS. THEY HAD THIRTEEN CHILDREN - ROSE, ELIZABETH, MARY, CHARLOTTE, PETER, MAUD, JAMES, EDEN, SARAH, ANNIE, GERTY, NELLIE AND JOHN.

PETER, FIRST BORN SON, MARRIED ETHEL JANE MITCHELL IN 1904 AND ALSO HAD THIRTEEN CHILDREN. HE BOUGHT A PROPERTY OF 362 ACRES ON THE BROGO RIVER IN 1921 CALLED "CORRIDGEREE". IT IS AT TARRAGANDA ON THE SITE OF THE ORIGINAL SETTLEMENT OF BEGA.

WITH EIGHT SONS AND FIVE DAUGHTERS, THE FAMILY BECAME WELL KNOWN FOR THEIR DAIRY PRODUCE AND ADDED TO THE SUCCESS IN THE BEGA DISTRICT, OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.



Family of Peter and Ethel Jane Ubrihien - "Corridgerie", Bega

Back row, left to right:

Percy Thomas b 1905, d 1971, Doris Elsie b 1910, Peter John b 1908, Claude b 1912, Gladys b 1913, William James b 1906
Centre row: Peter b 1876, d 1950, George Edwin b 1915, Mary Elizabeth b 1917, Archibald b 1918, Ethel Jane b 1879, d 1961
Front row: Norman b 1919, Olive b 1922, Walter Radford b 1923, Una b 1926

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

Mllawarra Steam Ship Company \$25

The Bushfires of 52 \$20

Bayleys History of Bega \$25

A Walk Along Carp Street



Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

Incorporating

Bega Pioneers' Museum

87 Bega Street, Bega NSW 2550

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MUSEUM OPENING HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and 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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