

The Bega Pioneer

Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

December 2025 Edition



Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

Incorporating

Bega Pioneers' Museum

87 Bega Street, Bega NSW 2550

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COMMITTEE:

President: William Fletcher

Secretary: Kaye Jauncey

Treasurer:

Committee: Reg Huntington, Peter

Membership: Sylvia Davey

Guthrey, Liz Doyle, Marie Farram,
Peter Ubrihien

MUSEUM OPENING HOURS:

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

Museum Entrance Fees:

Adults \$10 Seniors and Concession \$5, Family \$20

Children under 12 \$3

Annual Membership Fee: Ask at desk

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

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc. The Society cannot accept any responsibility for any action taken as a result of the statements herein. Copyright: Bega Valley Historical Society Inc. If you are unable to visit us at the Museum please contact us, we will be only too happy to help with any queries that you may have. We have an extensive collection of family histories, photographs and memorabilia as well as a vast collection of files, books and journals relating to the Bega Valley and its inhabitants. Our research officer is only too willing to help you with your enquiry.

Front Page: Seasons greetings and best wishes for 2026.



Museum News

OPENING HOURS FOR JANUARY.

As in previous years the museum will be open for the January school holidays every day except Sunday from 10am to 2pm.

The only time this would not occur would be if we could not staff the museum.

MEMBERSHIP.

Membership for 2026 is now due. Emails have been sent and letter reminders are included with this newsletter.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Solar panels have been installed.

Pergola discussions have taken place with BVSC.

Disabled access toilet discussions have taken place with BVSC.

Mural - has been placed on hold as we have been unable to get a grant. We are considering other forms of fundraising.

VIRTUAL MUSEUM.

This project is almost ready for go live. The interior shots have been done and our hope is that the virtual tour will be up and running by the end of January.

RESIGNATION OF TREASURER/COMMITTEE MEMBER

Helen Jauncey, ex president and current treasurer has resigned effective from the beginning of December.

We express our thanks for her hard work over the last five years. She remains a volunteer.

We are currently looking for a replacement treasurer who would be a member of the executive or in lieu of that a bookkeeper. If you or anyone you know is interested in either of these positions please contact the museum by email.

In the interim Helen has agreed to stay on until mid January.

BBQ AND TALK

The annual members BBQ has been set for Sunday January 18th.

Prior to the BBQ Peter Alexander, retired (or so he tells me) veterinarian will give a talk on the history of veterinary medicine in the Bega Valley.

The plan is for the talk at 10am followed by the BBQ at 11 -1130am

A reminder will be sent in the New Year.



PIONEERS

Catherine Jackson and Margaret Duggan.

Catherine, one of fourteen Irish women who came to Australia aboard the *Kitty* in November 1792, married John Tarlinton in 1796. They had one child, Mary. Catherine died in 1810. John remarried in November of that year to Margaret Duggan.

Margaret was from Manchester, England, and had been transported for life for stealing. She arrived in the colony in May 1804 aboard the all women convict ship *Experiment*.

Margaret bought to the marriage a son named William Duggan. His father was William Ruffain, a lifer who arrived in Sydney on August 4, 1802. Margaret and John had a son, named John in 1818 but he only lived two months.

John received a pardon in February 1811 and Margaret October 1812. John went on to own a great deal of land in the Mittagong, Braidwood, Prospect area.

He died in 1842 and Mary died in 1834. She is buried beside Catherine and baby John in the St. Johns section of Parramatta Cemetery.

William Duggan Tarlinton.

He took the surname Tarlinton after his mother married John Tarlinton in 1811. In his teenage years he spent time exploring the Southern Highlands and in 1828 he established a cattle station at Oronmeir where Jerrabatgully Creek joins the Shoalhaven River. In 1830 he applied for his own land grant. The application was unsuccessful as was another in 1836 however in that year he purchased two parcels of 640 acres adjoining John's Oronmeir holding.

In 1829 at the age of 23 he married Mary Saunders, one of five daughters of Thomas and Mary Saunders who were their neighbours at Prospect.

In that same year he mounted an expedition down the coast eventually arriving into the valley where Cobargo exists today. he set up camp downstream from the junction of the Wandella and Bredbatoura Creeks. He returned to Oronmeir but in 1832 was back at Cobargo with stockmen and cattle. He set up at Murrabrine.

The rest as they say is history.

At the time of his death in October 1893 his obituary stated

"The name Tarlinton is a household word in Cobargo and the surrounding districts, and the news of the death of the patriarchal founder of the family will be received with widespread regret, while the kindly face and genial manner of the good old man will not soon be forgotten. In the death of W D Tarlinton, Cobargo and district will sustain a loss not soon or easily to be filled; the public life of our little community will lose an enterprising and intelligent citizen, but his long and honourable career of usefulness may well serve as an example to those who come after him. Perseverance, industry and thrift were his leading characteristics, and his name was synonym for integrity.

He was an historical figure in the annals of Cobargo and by the various churches and charitable and other institutions throughout the district his loss will be keenly felt. He was generous patron of every movement instituted for the benefit of the town and district, and many societies throughout the colony owe him a debt of gratitude for his generous assistance. His hospitality was unbounded. From the earliest times travellers always found a haven of rest at Bredbatoura".

He is buried in Cobargo Cemetery beside his wife Mary who died peacefully in her sleep on August 1 1886 and his daughter Sarah (Sutherland) who died in 1881 aged 51 years.

The newspaper states that 78 buggies, and 250 horsemen and footmen followed the cortege to Cobargo Cemetery. At his death his descendants numbered 118 - six sons, four daughters 81 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren.

EXTRACT FROM KEVIN TETLEY'S NOTEBOOKS.

As part of the Kevin Tetley bequest we have his notebooks. This is a sample of the work

MONDAY 22 MAY 1933

“Death of James Maples, Tanja aged 86 - born 24/12/1847 born Double Creek
1933

Sir Geo. PEARCE, Minister for Defense

BDN 21 June 1937

‘We have it and we have it not’

Although Bega Sewerage has been officially opened it is not yet functioning and Council is in the position of the man “who dunno where we are.” Bega Sewerage opened June 1937.

BDN 21 June 1937

“The Coronation Film will be presented to the district patrons of Downey’s Talkie this week. This special Air Mail? Views of the coronation are well worth seeing. Later on a similar film will be shown in natural colour.”

BDN 21 June 1937

Death of Joseph Schuback 88 at Cadelo - one of the 1st white children born here.
“BITUMEN FOR TARRAGANDA LANE”

In Bega Council the works committee recommended putting down bitumen on Tarraganda Lane, and also acquiring a small portion of land at the turn from East Street, to improve the corner. The cost of this work would be £175, of which the Main Roads Board would pay two thirds and the Council one third.”

Journal - Moruya Hist Society Vol 8, No 1. March 2004

1st Moruya Newspaper was “Moruya Times & South Coast Journal” 1886 (March) Publ. by Walter Bennett. By abt. 1888 he sold to William BOOT who moved the plant to Cobargo in Jan. 1890 when the ‘TIMES’ became ‘Cobargo Watch’. He sold ‘Watch’ in 1892 & went to Sydney, patenting ‘Boot’s Indigestion Cure’. After a couple of changes of ownership, the ‘Watch’ was moved by it’s Prop. E.A. Walker to Tilba Tilba where it was first established as the ‘Tilba Times & South Dampier Miner’. On Sept. 30, 1898 BOOT acquired another plant and founded at Cobargo the ‘Cobargo Chronicle’. Boot sold to Wm. Chambers in 1905 & went to Bega where he est. and conducted for 18 years, almost to his death in 1924, the ‘Bega Budget’. The ‘Cobargo Chronicle’ passed to Victor Henry on OCT. 3, 1913 and to Andrew Wallis in Sept 1932. It ceased publication in 1950.” (? 1950 DATE)

HOTELS

B.G 3.05.1882 James Hutton ROYAL HOTEL

B.G. APRIL 1867:

James Rixon transferred his license from Bega Family Hotel to the Commercial Hotel, opposite the Courthouse.

B.G. 2 AUG 1867.

Henry Underhill purchased Family Hotel Premises

Tim Lands had Family Hotel BDN 13 Jan 1930 to BDN 24 Sep 1934

“TOWN & COUNTRY JOURNAL” Nov 11, 1871 Population of Bega - 887.

Items in our collection.



Babies Bottle



Water Purifiers



Wolumla Australian Joint Stock Bank Seal

Publications for Sale

Bega District Band \$10

Bega High - 50 years Free

They Made this Valley Home \$10

Illawarra Steam Ship Company \$10

The Bushfires of 52 \$25

Bayleys History of Bega \$20

A Walk Along Carp Street \$20

Fascinating Bega \$20

Scrummaging On The Sapphire Coast

The "Braine" Book \$30

Days of Long Ago by Harold Braine \$20

