

The Bega Pioneer

Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

September 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: Helen Jauncey	Committee: Reg Huntington, Peter
Membership: Sylvia Davey	Guthrey, Peter Ubrihien, Marie
	Farram, Elizabeth Doyle

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: Kameruka Holy Trinity Church and Cemetery



Museum News

MEMBERSHIP.

Renewal paperwork for 2026 will be sent in early December

NEW MEMBERS:

Debra Moffatt. Debra and her late husband Jim previously were members and did maintenance work in the outside sheds. Welcome back Debra.

VOLUNTEERS:

Debra Moffatt
Robert Russell from Jelgowrie.

PERGOLA

We have obtained a quote to have a pergola built over the courtyard. A private donor has offered to pay for this to be installed.

SOLAR PANELS

We were successful in getting a government grant for solar panels to be installed. They are currently on their way to Bega - Goulburn to be precise - and will be installed by the end of October.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

The Bega Old Machinery Club are working on some of our stationery engines.

Painting of the new picture rails continues.

LAWN MOWING.

This is currently being done by a contractor. We looked into a volunteer roster to take this on and save us some money and we did have some people put their hand up to help however, due to some delays getting this started, those people have moved on to other things. We are now revisiting this and would welcome anybody who would like to help. If this is you please contact us by email or call in and put your name down.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES.

The Bega Pioneers' Museum is governed by policies and procedures pertaining to acquisition, de-accession, and loan. **The one we need to address is acquisitions.** We have had some items given to us without any paperwork being filled out. Below is our acquisition policy. We ask that anyone considering making a donation be aware of and take it into account before proceeding. If any donor is unsure whether an item meets the criteria, particularly as regards duplication, we will assess it however to do that we must have paperwork that includes contact details.

4. Acquisitions

4.1 Method of acquisition

Acquisitions to the collection may be in the form of donations or bequests, or by purchase or exchange. The Society WILL NOT accept conditional donations. The Society will only accept items for which the owner can demonstrate legal title and only after any relevant ethical considerations have been taken into account.

4.2 Acquisition Procedure

Acquisitions will be accepted by a majority vote of the Committee

4.3 Historical Significance

The Society will collect only those items, which contribute to an understanding or appreciation of the customs, activities, historic episodes or personalities associated with Bega and District, as defined by the above themes.

4.4 Documentation

The Society will take into consideration the information (provenance) known about an item, i.e. the original owner, item history, identity of the people pictured or named. Such information will be included when cataloguing the item.

4.5 Condition

Severely damaged items will not normally be collected. Conservation and storage requirements will be taken into consideration when deciding whether to accept an item.

4.6 Duplication

The Society will not normally collect items that duplicate the existing collection. If an item of superior condition or historic value is accepted, the duplicated item must be considered for de-accessioning

4.7 Storage

Acceptance of items will be subject to the availability of storage space, security from risk of theft and environmental damage.

WOMEN OF BEGA.
by S Florance & D Pryor

Louisa Helen Oswald EVERSLED nee WELBY.

Louisa was born in Benare, Agra, Bengal, Indai on 17 November 1850 to Oswald Welby, schoolteacher, and Margaret. her mother died when Louisa was eight and her father remarried to Lilly Willmot, a widow. The family moved to Australia, on to New Zealand and back to Australia and finally settled in Bega.

Louisa became the first woman teacher at bega Primary School at the age of 21 years, assisting her father who was the headmaster. She went on to assist the new master, Mr. Wilson, before giving up teaching when she married.

She married the popular Bega doctor, Montague Frederic Evershed on 20 April 1876. They had five children.

Oswald Montague 1880

Arthur Clifford 1882 - KIA WW1 at Delville Wood, France 19 November 1917.

Lawrence Welby 1885

Frederick Claude 1889 - he died in 1919 after a long illness.

Other child no information.

The Evershed abodes were 'Rose Cottage' opposite the Catholic Church, the south west corner of Parker and Upper Streets and then in 1890 they moved into 'Morella' in Parker Street.

Louisa was very active in community events - captain and patron of the Bega Womens Cricket Club as well as organising fundraising for Australia day, Belgian Day and other public celebrations. She was the leader of the St. John's sewing bee from which the items sold earned 500 pound to pay for the parish hall.

Helen Louisa Evershed died on 28 July 1938 aged 87 at her home 'Morella'. She outlived her famous husband by eleven years and left seven 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

TATHRA PUNTMEN by Ron Stafford

1928 Morgan Spindler

Jim Preo

Vince Preo

Jack Black

Albert Bobin

Roy Warren

George Preo

Gordan Charters

Ruben Hollis

Blue Cooper

Stan Butler

Ken Game

Ceased around 1959

“BLENVIE CASTLE’ was the ship which followed the ‘Dunbar’ and it arrived in Sydney 21 Aug. 1857. On board the ‘Blenvie Castle’ were Mr & Miss O’Neill (married D’Arcys) Richard Rogers & Mr. Kerrison.

L.A.BISHOP’S STAFF

Connie Gowing 1930’s

Vin Morrisey

Thora O’Neill (KITE)

Cecil Doyle

Fred Hetherington (Office)

Pat Boulton

Margaret O’Neill

Thelma Wiley (Office)

Edgar Herbert

Lloyd Furnell

Dave Rosenthal (off)

Eric Rhienberger

Ron Rood

Bill Kite

Reg Pender

Chick Gregson

Mel Rixon

Fred Newton

Brian Lovelock

Ernie Watson

Average staff - about 12

Alan Bishop opened 1933 or 34 next to Kings Theatre - Vin Morrisey started there.

SOME HAPPENINGS FROM THE PAST

November 15, 1895

Wyndham

Tin of young trout recently obtained by Mr. W. Grant of Wattle Hill... The fish, about 40 in number, were liberated in the Towamba River, near Mrs. Collins' residence, on the morning after their arrival.

February 19, 1897

Wyndham

A very strange animal was recently seen in the vicinity of Wyndham.... noise like the roaring bull.... strange animal proceeded from the thickset of the scrub.... a man or beast about 5 feet in height, it had arms like a man which appeared to be of great length. Its head was rather small and round, something like a monkey's. This curious affair travelled on two legs and appeared to be able to get along at a good pace..... It is said that several residents have seen it at various times.

'Pambula Voice' January 14, 1898

ROCKY HALL

At about half past eight o'clock on Thursday evening last a meteor was observed to pass through the sky in a southerly direction. The heavens were lighted up for a few seconds with a bluish light which was followed by a low rumbling noise lasting for fully ten minutes. This phenomenon caused no small amount of alarm in the locality.

July 6, 1899

'Delegate Argus and Border Post'

Peculiar Gun Accident. - A lad named James Ryan, 17 years of age, being a State-school boy in the service of Mr. William McCloy of Narrabarba, was brought to the Eden-Pambula District Cottage Hospital on Sunday afternoon, and admitted as a patient to same. It is stated that the youth was out shooting on Saturday afternoon, and upon returning home was about to extract the charge from the gun (a muzzle-loader); he got the shot out all right, but the powder had become damp and stuck. After trying various methods in vain, Ryan put the nipple of the gun in the fire, and as that did not have immediate effect he foolishly put the barrel to his mouth and blew down it. The powder ignited at that moment, and was discharged into Ryan's mouth, burning and lacerating it terribly, and rendering him incapable of swallowing food or liquid. On arrival at the Hospital the sufferer's injuries were attended to by Dr. Morgan, who administered food by means of a tube. The patient is now doing splendidly.

'Pambula Voice' February 22, 1900

Mr. Oliver, Commissioner for the Federal Capital site, came to Eden last week and after inspecting the harbour he started on a second visit to Bombala, via Towamba and Bondi, accompanied by the Eden Progress Association, (Mr. Phillips).

'Pambula Voice' December 7, 1900

During the terrific thunderstorm on Friday, Mrs. Chas. Galli of Bega, a sister of Mr. Love of Towamba, was struck by lightning and killed instantly. Seven small children mourn the loss of a mother. The flash struck terror in the hearts of most people. The chimney of the house was split.

Excerpts from *Bega Valley Characters of Yesteryear* by Norm Ubrihien

East of the River.

The river in question is the Brogo where a large Scottish family resided. They were renowned for their wit and humour. On this particular Sunday morning a group of locals including this family met the Shire president and Shire Clerk to discuss a road that was really only a bush track leading up to Mumbulla Mountain. After the Shire president arrived the meeting was opened by the President who said 'We are here to discuss this road'. 'Road' roared one of the locals 'it's nothing but a rough bush track... a road; I could piss across it'. The president went very red and said 'Sit down, you are out of order'. At which the gentleman replied 'Of course I'm out of order; if I was in order I'd piss twice that far'.

The same family had invited several couples for a Sunday evening. After dinner whilst the wives entertained themselves within the house, the subject of shooting arose amongst the menfolk. They were invited outside by their host and given a .22 rifle. It was a full moon that night. In the top of a huge gum tree he showed them two possums and said 'See which one of you blokes can shoot one of those possums; Much to the disgust of the shooters neither possum fell to the ground and the host told them what crook shooters they were. Little did they know that on the previous day the host had shot the possums and wired them onto the tree.

Sense of humour.

One of the most humorous men I have encountered was Jack the undertaker. In his profession that had to be an attribute. His laughter was known far and wide and on occasions at the local theatre during the screening of a comedy with Charlie Chaplin or Mickey Rooney the theatre manager would have to ask him to quieten down or leave the theatre as his laughter was so disturbing.

When I was elected to the Bega Jockey Club in 1950 I was assistant to Jack in weighing out the jockeys. On some programs the last race of the day was a 'Corinthian' for amateur riders. One such rider, Alby, had borrowed a pair of white britches which were probably about three sizes too small. When Alby was legged up onto this very tall horse, left the birdcage and stood up in the stirrups the inevitable happened and the britches split from the waistband at the back to the crutch at the front and he rode the preliminary from the grandstand and back with parts of his person hanging down towards the saddle. We thought we would have to take Jack to the hospital as he laughed himself into hysterics.



Jack Manning

Service Women from the Bega District in World War II

BALDWIN, Helena Alice Jean from Wyndham	AAWAS
BARRINGTON, Gwenda Elaine, from Candelo	Insp Staff
BEVERIDGE, Mona, from Pambula	Medical
BISHOP, Gwendoline Florence, from Cobargo	AAMWS
BOBIN, Hazel Frances, from Bega	Canteen Service
BURGESS, Alice Margaret, from Bega	Cpl NSW E & R
CAMPBELL, Margaret Jean, from Bega	HQ NSW L of C
COLE, Lorna Elizabeth, from Cobargo	AAWAS
COLLINS, Nola Margaret, from Candelo	Driver
CONNOLLY, Doreen Mary Agnes, from Bega	AAWAS
CONSTANCE, Ina Elaine, from Bega	Sgt Concord Hosp
CONSTANCE, Moya Esma, from Kameruka	AAWAS
CORSER, Ailsa Mary, from Bega	Concord Hosp
CURTIS, Mary Josephine Florence, Cobargo	LAC RAAF HQ
DOULL, Mary Doris, from Bega	AEME
FISHER, Gwenda Grace, from Eden	AWS NCO School
FOURTER, Freda Marjorie, from Pambula	ACW Medical
GAUDIE, Loyola Kevan Carroll, Mogilla	Inf Battalion
GLASS, Valerie, from Bega	AAWAS
GLASS, Joan Aileen, from Bega	AAWAS
GLEESON, Alice Anne, from Bega	Medical
GORMAN, Edna Frances, from Bega	Lance Corporal AAWA
HAIGH, Ivy Olive, from Bega	Ordinance Stores
HAMMOND, Marie Marrion, from Cobargo	AAWAS

HARRIS, Eileen Audrey, from Bega	Sch Radio Physics
HERON, Alma Joyce, from Bega	AAWAS
HIBBURD, Zone Marie, from Bega	Signals
HICKSON, Nora Theresa, from Bega	AAWAS
HOOD, Ina Alice, from Wyndham	Pte RMC
JAMES, Dorothy Agnes, from Bega	Sgt Concord Hosp.
LAVINGTON, Annie Muriel, from Bega	AAWAS
LAVINGTON, Isabel May, from Bega	AAWAS
LAWSON, Lorna Lilyan, from Bega	Ord Depot
LEGGE, Joyce, from Bega	Cpl AAWAS
MANNING, Gwendoline, from Bega	Signals
NEVILLE, Mable, from Bega	SME FD
NEWLYN, Marie Aileen, from Bega	Lt AANS
PARKER, Elizabeth Harvey, from Kameruka	Sgt EAHQ
PARRY, Verna Lorraine, from Bega	Sgt Signals
PAYNE, Peggy Jean, from Bega	AAWAS
PERKINS, Aileen Marie, from Cobargo	AAWAS
Pheeney, Jean Millicent, from Wolumla	ACW Radio
RIXON, Agnes Joan, from Bega	Lt AANS
RIXON, Joyce Claudine, from Bega	Medical
ROBINSON, Joan, from Bega	Sgt AAWAS
SCHOMBERG, Dorothy May, from Bemboka	Cpl 113 C MH
SHIPTON, Doreen Edith, from Quaama	AAWAS
SLATER, Nance Mifanwey, from Quaama	ACW, RAAF Cmd

SWITZER, Norma May, from Eden	Gunner AAWAS
TARLINTON, Elizabeth Florence, from Cobargo	Lt 2/9 Gen Hosp
TARLINTON, Joyce Mary, from Cobargo	Cpl 113 Gen Hosp
TARLINTON, Mary Alice, from Cobargo	Pte AAWAS
TAYLOR, Olga Merle, from Cobargo	ADHQRS
UNDERHILL, Ilma Marie, from Bega	LCpl AAWAS
UMBACK, Frances Clair, from Bega	Medical
UMBACK, Rita Glory Joyce, from Bega	AWAS
UPJOHN, Dorothy Gwenllian, from Bega	Lt AIF
WILLIAMS, Dorothy Jean, from Bega	Driver
WARREN, Lorna Marie, from Tathra	Me

Publications for Sale

<i>Bega District Band</i>	<i>\$10</i>
<i>Bega High - 50 years</i>	<i>Free</i>
<i>They Made this Valley Home</i>	<i>\$10</i>
<i>Illawarra Steam Ship Company</i>	<i>\$10</i>
<i>The Bushfires of 52</i>	<i>\$25</i>
<i>Bayleys History of Bega</i>	<i>\$20</i>
<i>A Walk Along Carp Street</i>	<i>\$20</i>
<i>Fascinating Bega</i>	<i>\$20</i>
<i>Scrummaging On The Sapphire Coast</i>	
<i>The "Braine" Book</i>	<i>\$30</i>
<i>Days of Long Ago by Harold Braine</i>	<i>\$20</i>
The left over military books from the centenary of ANZAC are free to a good home.	

