

The Bega Pioneer

Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

June 2026 Edition



Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

Incorporating

Bega Pioneers' Museum

87 Bega Street, Bega NSW 2550

Please address all correspondence to:

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COMMITTEE

President: William Fletcher
Treasurer: Helen Jauncey
Membership: Sylvia Davey

Secretary: Kaye Jauncey
Committee: Reg Huntington, Peter
Guthrey, Peter Ubrihien. Marie

Farram, Liz 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. Society cannot accept any responsibility for any action taken because 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: Traveller's in front of Central Hotel



Museum News

MEMBERSHIP.

NEW MEMBERS:

Kathleen McCann, Jim Ferry

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY JULY 2026 AT MUSEUM 10AM

Committee Nominations Now Open

We are pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the upcoming committee positions. Serving on the committee offers an opportunity for members to contribute to our community, participate in key decisions, and play a part in shaping the future direction of our organisation.

How to Nominate

If you are interested in nominating yourself or another member, please send your nomination to the Secretary by 17/07/2026. When submitting a nomination, be sure to include the nominee's full name and confirmation that they are willing to stand for the position. **Important Information Regarding Treasurer Position** Our current treasurer is not renominating.

If we do not receive a nomination for this role, we will be unable to continue as both the President and Treasurer positions are mandatory for an Incorporated entity. **Get Involved** We encourage all members to consider becoming involved, whether you're a long-time participant or new to the group. Your input and enthusiasm are what make our organisation strong and vibrant.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the nomination process or committee roles, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Hello everyone,

My name is Marie Farram and I'm the new volunteer coordinator for the Bega Museum.

Well over 12 months ago there was a meeting in St John's Church Hall to try and save the museum from closure. It was well attended by community members and lots of people put their hands up to volunteer. I'm reaching out to all members who can give a little of their time.

There are a vast array of objects and items that represent settlement in the Bega Valley from the early 1900's to the present day. Volunteering at the museum can be very rewarding. You don't need any qualifications, only a little of your time is needed. Volunteering once a week, month or year can make all the difference to the success and continuation of our museum.

Volunteering could take the form of building maintenance, cleaning, assist with changing displays, contributing knowledge of local history, data entry, grant applications, gardening, front of house. There are many tasks and skills are transferable, we learn from one another as we learn on the job.

An introduction to the museum's history and training will be provided.

So, if you think you can spare time to help our museum be better then please contact me Marie Farram 0447 660 561 marie.farram@gmail.com or museum 6492 0470 museum@bvhs.org.au

Our AGM is Saturday 25th July 2026, 10am at the museum. All office bearers will stand down, and a new committee will be elected. Is there anyone out there who has financial skills? We need a treasurer.

All are most welcome to come along. Your input is what will make our museum strong and vibrant. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Following a request to update our Central Hotel records this is the new version. Still incomplete re the Leila Dwyer years.

The Central Hotel

This splendid hotel was opened last Saturday night. The lessee is Mr. Dickson, who is an experienced hotel manager.

The site of the Central is Connelly's old store in Gipps Street, which was purchased some time ago by Mr. D. Gowing, of Jellat Jellat.

In addition to the store the premises, properties adjoining was also acquired and used for building purposes. In the main building, on entering the vestibule and turning to the right, are bar parlor, bar and office, while opposite these are dining room 25 x 14 and parlor.

In a passage leading from the dining room, are two bedrooms, pantry, kitchen, scullery, and storeroom, and at the rear are two other bedrooms.

Going upstairs, in the front is a commercial room and a drawing room, which are connected by folding doors, and can be thrown into one room, 46.5 x 15 feet.

There are two bathrooms, which are supplied with cold water from a tank in the roof, or with hot water supplied by a gas apparatus.

Facing Gipps Street is also the billiard room. This room is 34.6 x 26.3 and has two oriel windows.

The right of way between the main building and the sample rooms is 13.5 feet. The sample rooms are three in number and are each 17 x 17 feet, adjoining these is a shop 20ft x 12ft, and at the rear of the shop is a sitting room 13ft x 12ft.

The architect of the building is Mr. Thatcher who deserves great credit for the convenience of the design. Messrs. Underhill and Thatcher, the contractors have executed their work in their usual trustworthy style. Axel and Smith were the subcontractors for the brickwork and put in good substantial work, while Lever, the subcontractor for the plastering, deserves the highest praise for excellence and for the beauty of his cornice designs.

The painting was in the hands of Mr. Surplice, who has performed his part faithfully.

Mr. Dickson has displayed great artistic talent in the decorating of the vestibule and bar. Entering the latter, the first impression one has is that he is in the marble bar.

The stables, which are 88ft x 25ft, contain four horse boxes, eight stalls and two harness rooms. The boxes and stalls are paved with wooden blocks. There are lofts over the whole length of the stables, and an extensive buggy shed along the side.

The yard accommodation is so great that an eight-in-hand could easily be turned in it.

Water is supplied by huge underground tanks.

Without doubt the hotel is one of the most commodious outside Sydney, and we trust it will be a paying concern not only to the owner but also to the Lessee. *The Bega Standard, Tuesday, July 2, 1895*

The license of the Central Hotel Bega has been transferred to Mr. J A Payten

Bega Standard 8 January 1897.

Advertisement – LOST that headache I used to have before drinking XXX Catolloph. Only to be obtained at the Central Hotel *Bega Standard June 1897*

The license of the Central Hotel Bega was transferred to J W Twyford the former host of the Ocean View, Tathra.

Bega Standard 31 August 1897.

Mrs. Rafter is the new manager of the Central Hotel in December 1899. She moved to the Commercial Hotel in 1901.

Ryan Brothers are painting the Central Hotel.

Southern Star Saturday 17 August 1907

Harry Cockerill, proprietor of the Central Hotel under the patronage of the Governor General

Bega Budget 16 January 1909

Mr. and Mrs. T Murray have arrived in town and will take over the Central Hotel next Thursday the 30th. After leaving Bega Mr. and Mrs. Cockerill, the previous proprietors, will most likely take a trip to Java.
Bega Standard 24 September 1909

The tender for the erection of a motor garage at the Central Hotel was granted to Mr. W Tonkin.
Bega Standard 24 December 1909.

Proprietor of the Central Hotel is Thomas Murray.
Bega Standard 5 August 1910.

Mr. Nicholas Bouquet has just finished converting what was once a billiard room at the Central Hotel into five roomy bedrooms. The work has been well done, and the steel ceilings and linings have added to the appearance. Mr. Beresford will now be in a better position to cope with the big demand for accommodation, especially at show and race times, *Bega Standard 20 December 1912*

Licensees, James Andrew Patten and Daniel Propsling, declared bankruptcy.
NSW Government Gazette 17/9/1917

Central Hotel Bega, Andy Morgan proprietor.
BDN 4 January 1921

Walter Victor Day was licensee of the Central Hotel in October 1925
BDN 8 October 1925

Extensive renovations are going on at the Central Hotel – the bar is being moved to the lower portion of the building.
BDN 9 January 1930.

Mr. Andy Morgan, late of the Hotel Central Bega, has taken over the Royal Oak Hotel, Double Bay, Sydney.
BDN 1 March 1934.

The front of the Central Hotel has been transformed and already presents a fine appearance. We understand about £7000 in all is being spent on the center and the whole interior has been renovated. *BDN 23 December 1937.*

Hugh McNally transferred the licence to Vernon Cunningham. *BDN 7/8/1941*

Mrs. H J Rickets has returned to the Central Hotel after having her appendix out.
BDN 3 June 1946

Licensee Mrs. Elizabeth Paine transferred the license to Jack Harold L'Oste Brown.
BDN 5/3/1954

Jack Harold L'Oste Brown became the licensee in 1954, and he added the beer garden.

Donald Robert McFarland purchased the license and was licensee from 1958 to mid-1962. The building then stood empty for several years.
Information from Stephen McFarland 2026

The hotel was closed for business June 30, 1962, and advertised for sale on July 5, 1962. It was sold for £7,500 on November 28, 1962. Leila Dwyer ran it as a private boarding house from ?1972.

EXTRACT FROM KEVIN TETLEY'S NOTEBOOKS.

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

What did PRESCOTT ELLIS Cazneau do? (d. 1944) aged 43 Mary Beswick (nee Cavell) in her 90's.
Gave money for Catholic Church, Wolumla.

B.H.S. Science Block finished 1970-71

GRANT

B. ANN 1958 C of E Bega V1858837159 Par: John & Mira

SMITH

1828 CENSUS. All Presbyterian

SMITH Jeremiah F50 FS "William & Ann" 1791 7 YRS Sawyer, Airds

SMITH Sophia 33 BC

SMITH Thomas 15 BC

SMITH John 10BC

SMITH Jeremiah 7 BC SMITH

Mary Ann 5 BC

SMITH Joseph (6) 2 BC

CENSUS

RIXON Born Rel

Thomas BC P Constable, Airds

Ann G 18 BC P

PETHERS A TARRAGANDA FAMILY in 1903

B. to George & Emelia A. Bega

B. Ernest 1889 19859

B. Oswald R 1891 6591

B. Vera E 1893 6664

B. Reta M 1895 11018

B. William 1896 19837

B. Gertrude M 1898 28812

D. William G. Bega 1903 784 No

Marriage for G & EA.

M. Ernest & Bertha M. Manns Lismore 1918 2990

M. Vera E & Wm. R.T. Hazell Lismore 1918 6447

ALLENS - Cobargo

T.A. (Loy) - Wife Sadie Spence

Rowley Maggie

Matilda?

2 Spence sisters to Sadie Allen had café in Cobargo 1950-60 era. The
Allens were related to the US Kennedys!

TETLEY

Alf & Bro would ride a horse from Braidwood to dance at Michelago - taking turns to ride. -
Source Stan Tetley.

P.161 JPs on bench were Arthur Manning, Stewart Mowle, Lt. John Lloyd (a veteran of Battle of Trafalgar)

SHIPPING ARRIVALS

20 Aug 1857 WRECK OF 'DUNBAR'

Check for ship following - Richard Rogers & O'Neill's

IMLAYS

Auction Sale at Mort's Rooms, Pitt St, Sydney. FRI. 26 Aug 1853

'10,000 sheep with the Stations of Bega & Double Creek. Also a mob of cattle.' It stated in the ad that Bega Station was the first selected in the district.

SMH. 25 Feb. 1953 adv 1,000 head of cattle from NUNGATTA Station.

Peter Imlay was over 6 ft in height & of great physical strength.

He lived to 94 yrs.

Went to Taranaki NZ in 1852

Went to Wanganui NZ where he took up a grant of 5,000 acres as his new homestead.

Carrington Lane = Poverty Lane

Kesterton buried at 'Champion Hills'

Ray Blacker demolished 'old' Kanoona

Dr. Evershed has 1st surgery at Kanoona

33 Prints in Yellow File

Talbot - Jauncey Car 1911-12

3 cars 1919 Buick - rounded seat Fiat on left - Studebaker on R.

Photos donated by me to Museum

1 x each

T Model Ford 20x16

Talbot car 8x10

Underhill Funeral 8x10

Tarraganda Crossing 8x10

Bark Hut - McNamara's 8x10

P. 75, 76, 77 31 January 1860

BEGA - ABORIGINAL ORGIES - noise and disruption. Policing by Constable Twyford.

- ROAD MONEY- received by Trustees of Roads.

- HORSE STEALING - George Holt arrested

COURT OF PETTY SESSIONS

Britten v Thurston

George Holt

WRECK Vessel "Nelson", cargo cedar.

NATIONAL SCHOOL - to open, teachers Mr & Mrs Martin.

TRADE WITH SYDNEY - offer of service between Tathra and Sydney. Cost of mooring at Tathra.

P. 78 7 February 1869

BEGA DELIVERY OF THE PAPER - irregular

HORSE STEALING - George Holt to go to trial at Eden TARTHRA - a memorial

ROAD OFFICERS - meeting at Wolumla re money NEW GOLD FIELDS - rumours of new discoveries at the Snowy River or Gibson's Plain. Mr. Jauncey and Otten having a look to assess potential for markets for local produce.

P. 79 14 February 1860

BEGA SNOWY RIVER DIGGINGS - Gold fever spreading. Interview with Mr. Jauncey & John Otten report on diggings.

- P. 80 17 February 1860

BEGA NEW GOLD FIELDS -gold fever led to reduced number of workers in Merimbula, Bega and Wolumla.

TATHRA - moorings are granted.

OFF TO THE DIGGINGS - Mr. Macgregor's road party went to the diggings.

p. 81 Wreck - investigation of wreck that sits between Bega River and Nelson.

21 February 1860

BEGA -Flooding-

Mr. Dawson & Holland rescued Mrs. Clarke and children.

Mailman having difficulty in crossing Frog's Hollow.

24 February 1860

-Government surveyor to survey Towamba

P. 82,3

-Gold fever continues

BEGA

-Accident with gunpowder

-BEGA PETTY SESSIONS - Taylor v Pollack, Rezensky v White.

-COURT OF REQUESTS- many gone to diggings.

P.84, 85, 86 2 March 1860 BEGA

LATE FLOODS -effects

NEWS FROM THE SNOWY RIVER - comings and goings. Mr. Jauncy, Dawson, Underhill take goods to the diggings. Overestimates of gold output.

OFF TO THE MINES - arrivals at Merimbula, gold fever.

ELECTORAL ROLL- on door of Court House for inspection

Bega Show

A Retrospective, by W. A. Smith

You all know the story of Dick Whittington and how, when he was turning his back on the great city after his first visit to London, he heard Bow Bells and fancied they were saying "Dick Whittington, thrice Lord Mayor of London," and how he returned and subsequently had his fancy fulfilled. It is a far stretch from Frog's Hollow to London, but my first memories of life go back to that locality seven or eight miles south of Bega, and it was from there that I first came to Bega Show, riding on horseback behind my elder brother, a common form of travelling in those days before motor cars were thought of and when other means of conveyance were scarce. In the year before my mother and children had set out for the show in a spring cart, but the mare in the cart jibbed at the little creek near the gate at Moorlands, and all the shows in the world would not have induced her to go on, so we had reluctantly to return home.

The showground was much smaller at that time than now – the road to Tathra ran through what is now the park and along about where the pavilion stands. The pavilion at the time I write of was located near the present main entrance gate and was a very primitive affair; if I remember rightly, there was a big tree in the centre of it.

The show must have been a smallish affair, but in childish eyes it was probably wonderful. Unlike Dick Whittington, I did not hear Bow Bells – the only bells I was familiar with then were those placed on working bullocks at night so that their owners could find them.

Never a thought or fancy came to my mind that one day I would be president of the Show Society. Sometime later my people moved to Bega, and as a small boy I would go to the Show with my two cousins, Ted and Billy Law. Boys in those days did not have money to spend as now, and our limit would be a shilling – 6d to get in the gate and 6d to spend, so we would pool our sixpences and buy a melon – that was our sole desire in going to the show, and we would get into a quiet spot and demolish it. Ice cream was unknown then.

The years passed on, and some 20 years back Charlie Hanscombe, who became president after his return from the war, induced me to submit my name for the committee, and I was elected. I began to take an interest in it, and that interest intensified when I launched out as an exhibitor of fruit and vegetables; it is wonderful the effect a blue ribbon or a blue ticket has on you, and I would urge on all, especially the young people, to start exhibiting something – it will give them a new interest in life.

So, for the recent very successful Show I occupied the position of president, and any man should be proud to stand in the place of the very fine men who have previously held it, men whose names rank high in the history of Bega district and who helped to lay the foundations of the society's prosperity.

I should mention that the late Arthur Alcock and G. P. Kerrison, when residing at Candelo, played a leading part in the establishment of the Bega Show Society, regularly riding in on horseback from Candelo to attend the initial meetings. I take my hat off to the memory of such men.

Mr. Kerrison was subsequently for many years president, and his name is perpetuated on the fine pavilion. Before that was built there was an iron pavilion on about the same site, with an earth floor, and at show time exhibits and people would be smothered by dust.

Today, thanks to Mr. Kerrison and others of his day, we have one of the finest show pavilions in the State. I thought of these men last week, and of the many men and women of the town and district who have left their footprints on the ground and passed to their reward.

I am the first president of the Society who has not been a farmer, and I take that as a high compliment; for a long time, there was a feeling in the town that businessmen were not wanted on the Society, but that has been dispelled in recent years. No one man could have achieved the success of the Show, and I wish to say that after a long experience in public life in Bega I have never worked with a better or keener committee – every man pulled his weight; and exhibitors and public of course played their parts.

It is often said that public men get no thanks, but they have the consolation at least of something achieved, and the recent Show will be amongst my happiest recollections in years to come.

My fervent hope is that the Bega Agricultural Society, which stands for all that is worthwhile in the district, will survive the crisis our country and Empire are passing through, and that when the Allied Nations shall have been triumphant it will go on to bigger and greater things.

Bega District News, March 1943

Publications for Sale

<i>Bega District Band</i>	<i>\$10</i>
<i>Bega High - 50 years</i>	<i>Free</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>\$20</i>
<i>The "Braine" Book</i>	<i>\$30</i>
<i>Days of Long Ago by Harold Braine</i>	<i>\$20</i>

