

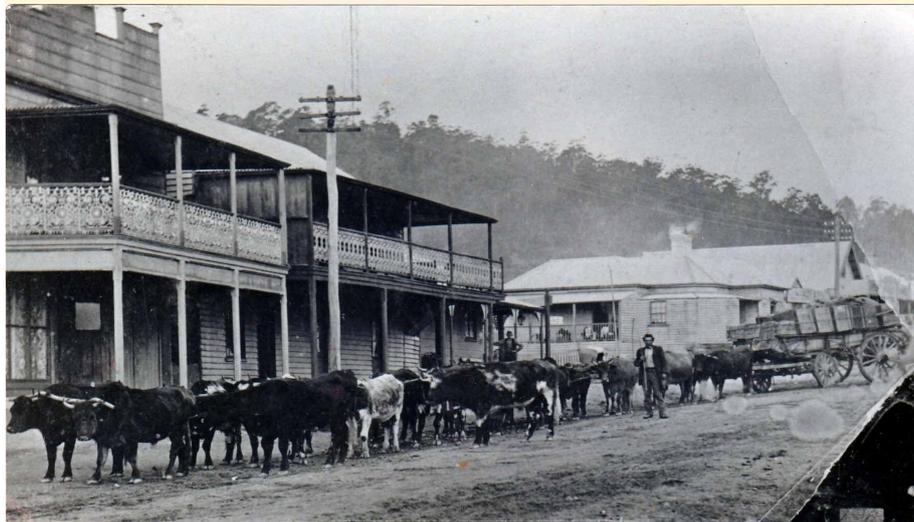
# The Bega Pioneer

*Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.*

March 2022 Edition



Wolumla



# Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

*Incorporating*

## Bega Pioneers' Museum

*87 Bega Street, Bega NSW 2550*

Please address all correspondence to:  
*The Secretary, Bega Valley Historical Society Inc,  
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Phone: 02 6492 1453.  
Email: [museum25@tpg.com.au](mailto:museum25@tpg.com.au)  
Website: [begavalleyhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://begavalleyhistoricalsociety.org.au)*

### COMMITTEE:

President: Peter Rogers  
Treasurer Helen Jauncey

Secretary: Kaye Jauncey  
Research Officer: Margaret Sly

Aly Walsh, Brett Bowyer, Reg Huntington, Doug Russell

### MUSEUM OPENING HOURS:

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

*Museum Entrance Fees:  
Adults \$10, Seniors and Pensioners \$5, Children \$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.



# Museum News

## WE'RE OPEN YOUR WELCOME GRANT

We have been successful in getting a grant aimed at increasing visitor numbers to the museum.

To this end we will

- be getting some new signage and banners for the building
- holding opening weeks where we will open every day and not charge admission
- offer guided tours twice a day on those weeks.

**Our planned dates are 2nd to 15th May and 11th to 25th June.**

## MUSEUM OWNERSHIP.

**THE BUILDING IS NOW THE PROPERTY OF THE BEGA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**

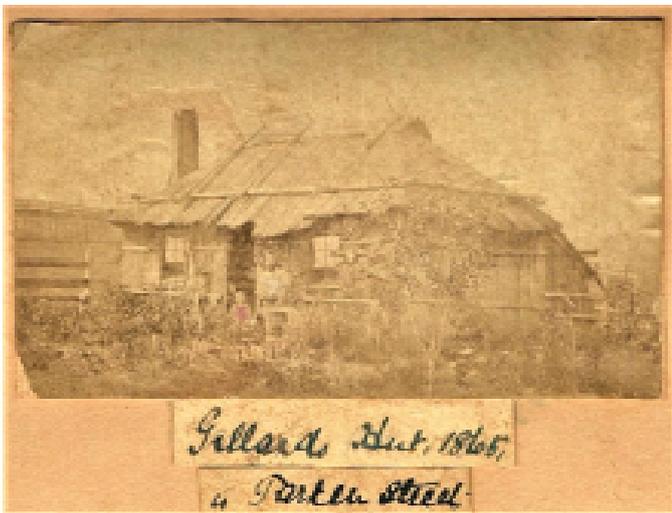
This will make it easier for us to apply for grants etc. as we no longer have to list BVSC as the owners.

## NEW MEMBERS

Donna Swain  
Chris Clarke  
Kerrin Sheard

## IN OUR COLLECTION.

Some old sepia photographs of early Bega buildings



# RECOLLECTIONS OF KEVIN UMBACK

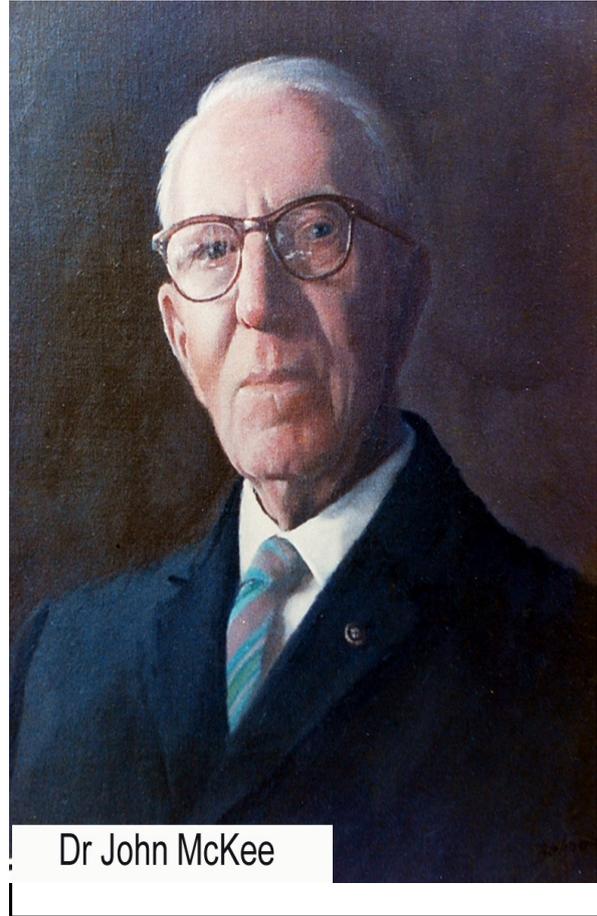
A few months before he died Kevin Umback wrote down his memories of the Old Bega Hospital.

My sister and I were admitted to the Bega Hospital for diarrhoea in the late 1920's but as soon as felt well enough we decided to discharge ourselves. We were caught going down the front steps near Matrons office which was just as well as it was quite a few miles out to our home at Pericoe sheep station, Peters Swamp.

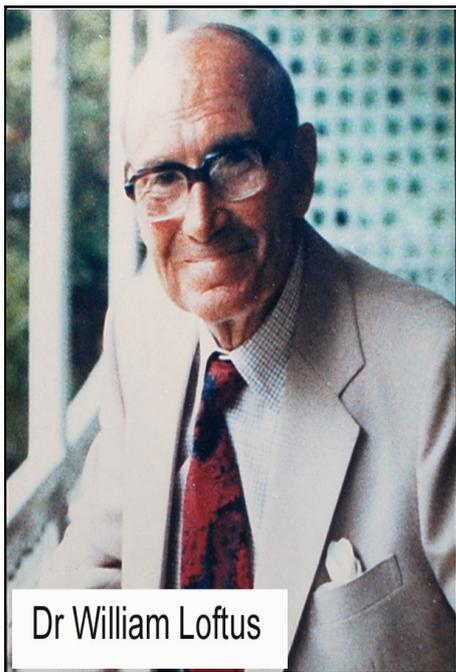
The night nurse found her way around by way of a hurricane lamp.

Stan Maples was employed to milk the hospital cows. He acted also as wardsman and drove the Hospital Lizzie (a car) to convey the nurses to and from town or their homes, a distance of two miles. He was a character - he always wore his britches at half mast to avoid the long wet grass.

Early September each year was set aside as hospital day with donations of cakes, eggs and any foodstuffs but especially eggs when the chooks were beginning to lay after a winter lay off



Dr John McKee



Dr William Loftus

Dr. John McKee was one of the early doctors to come to the Bega Hospital c1920 settling in at Bega Street and his surgery 'Dunvegan' where he remained the entirety of his professional career. In 1928 he was called to view the shotgun murder of Wolumla schoolteacher Mulholland on the front lawn of Nat Reid's house opposite the school.

Young John Murphy lost a thumb in the sausage machine in his fathers butchers shop. Undeterred Dr. Loftus took a bone from one of his toes and grafted it onto the stump of the thumb successfully repairing the thumb less the nail. John was able to hold a glass of beer and wiggle his new thumb much to the delight of his mates.

Joe Wheatley, an elderly friend of Dr Loftus had his leg packed in ice. Dr. Loftus operated and amputated the leg near the knee. Joe was able to hobble around for many years

## IN OUR COLLECTION

### Timber Jinker.

#### Cat No Z6012

Found in the forest reserve near Bega by Duntroon cadets in the 1980's and donated originally to the National Museum of Australia (1986.37) the artifact was deaccessioned and accepted into the Bega Valley Historical Societies collection in 1997. A rare survivor of the local timber industry this vehicle is of high importance to the collection.

Known variously as logging wheels in North America and simply as a pair of wheels in England the term inker may have been applied only in Australia. Because of the hard work these vehicles were required to withstand and the harsh environments in which they were often left to deteriorate there are few examples preserved in collections. The massive scale of their construction is in itself significant as testimonial to the achievement of the coach building industry that built the wheels and bolsters and forged the heavy cranked axles. The use of the term bobtail means cut off or shortened or more likely in this case referring to its relatively small size. It should be noted that there is a potentially confusing use of the term bob in English horse drawn vehicle language to describe a two wheel jinker.



### **Caroline Burgess nee Moon.**

Caroline was one of the first children born in the Bega area, arriving on the 12th October 1844 at the beach of Moon Bay near Tathra. Her parents, Frederick and Jane (Duff), had travelled down the coast by boat with a load of sheep. Various stories are told of why they landed at Moon Bay but Jane had gone into labour and Fred had to assist his wife with the delivery of a healthy daughter.

Fred then walked westward over the bushland range to the little settlement of Bega that he knew was over the mountain where his friend and fellow ex convict, Thomas Underhill, resided and worked for Dr. George Imlay at Tarraganda.

He eventually found Thomas at the black smiths where he worked and after hearing his story Mrs. Underhill (Jane Kirkland) found a baby's outfit which she sewed to the back of his jacket to keep it clean on his way back to his new family.

Caroline's baptismal record in July 1845 states that her father Frederick was a shepherd living at Numbugga.

Caroline was the first of nine children born to Fred and Jane. Frederick , who was from London, died at Numbugga in June 1870 aged 61. Jane, born in Scotland, survived another 35 years dying in Bega in 1905.

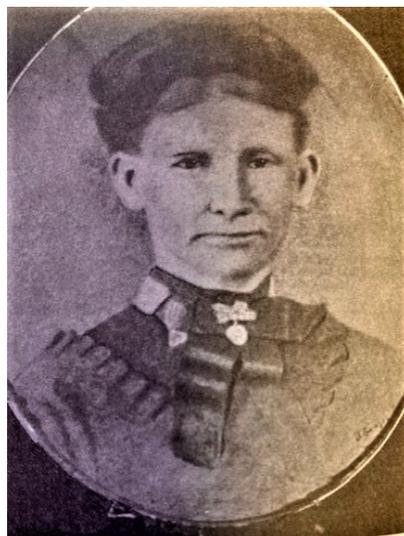
Caroline's brother Robert is well known as the man who discovered the Buchan Caves in Victoria where his family made a living from tourism to the caves area.

Her sister Catherine married a Bega blacksmith named Henry Brown who used to raucously celebrate the anniversary of the American War of Independence. Henry's real name was Henry Loehner whose parents had moved from Essen in Germany to America. Henry had fought in the Civil War and jumped ship at Twofold Bay, Eden, with a friend John Pruss ,the first of another pioneer family.

Another sister, Jane, married Charles Adam Weppeler, another German. Their son Adam married his cousin Lydia Burgess. Jane was widowed in 1899 and she remarried in 1906 to John Hergenhan.

Caroline was married on the 9th of October 1863 to George Burgess. George was born in 1836 at Clavering, Essex and arrived on the Sultana in 1856.

They had twelve children while living at North Bega all of whom, except for the first and last, survived to adult hood. Sadly Caroline died three years after the birth of her youngest child. She only saw two of her daughters married and just missed seeing the birth of her first grandchild, Raymond Bofinger. She died on 2 February 1892 aged 47 and is buried beneath the Bega High School in the first official Bega cemetery.



• Caroline Burgess, nee Moon  
(1844-1892)

## John Coman - Pioneer

JOHN COMAN, of Wongaryka, is the third son of William Coman of Eurobodalla, and was born in Condon, Moruya, in 189. Educated in his native town, he afterwards entered the employ of his father, whom he assisted in the management and working of a farm. In 187 he selected a piece of land, on which he erected his present homestead, "Wongaruka". This estate comprises 8 acres. In 1873 Mr. Coman discovered the Bumbo Reef, which for two years, he worked with profit. He afterwards proceeded to Queensland, where, in conjunction with his brothers, he took over the Wyroo Station, of 500 square miles, on the lower Diamantina. This they stocked with 800 head of cattle. On disposing of the property to Walter Douglas, they organised an exploring party, and, proceeding westward, crossed the Herbert and Hamilton Rivers, penetrating as far as Lake Phillipi, which they discovered. Here they took up 2000 square miles of territory, which they sold to advantage to Messrs. Parker, Wolsley and Brown. Going further west, they took up 2500 square miles of country on then an unknown river, which they called Sylvester, and named the station Sandringham. The subject of this sketch here detached himself from the party to proceed to Blackall, the nearest Lands Office, a distance of 700 miles over then an almost unexplored tract, in order to make the necessary application for the above squatting area. After securing the country he retraced his steps as far as the confluence of the Barcoo and Thompson Rivers, where they form Coopers Creek. Here by arrangement the brothers were to meet, but through unavoidable causes the other members of the family were a month behind the appointment time. He was alone, and felt in sore troubles as to the safety of his brothers, as the natives were at that time waging war against the whites, and also the danger they ran of dying of thirst from the scarcity of water. The entire party started for their native district. Travelling up the Liatra Creek, then across the Bulloo, crossing it at Thergamunda, then on to the Wilson, Paroo, and Warregoo Rivers the latter they followed down to the Darling, then along the Darling to Louth, across the back blocks, through Cobar on to the Lachlan at Condobolin, over the Mana Mountain, on to Lake Corvel, then up the Bland to the Murrumbidgee Falls, on to Wagga Wagga, and finally arriving at their native district through Yass. Mr Coman has since resided on his property at Cobargo. In 1881 he married Elizabeth, fourth daughter of John Collins, of the "Oaks", Candelo.



## ANZAC DAY MEMORIES



**LONE PINE MEMORIAL GALLIPOLI**

### GALLIPOLI.

			<b>Home Town</b>	<b>Cemetery</b>
Amey, James Alfred	Pte	735	Gallipoli	Wyndham
Annis, Arthur Ernest	Pte	819	Gallipoli	Narooma
Armstrong, John Squire	Pte		Gallipoli	Pambula
Bartley, Rupert	Pte	816	Gallipoli	Bega
Beck, Charles A	Pte	551	KIA Gallipoli	Ex Bega
Beck, Ferdinand	Sgt	128	KIA Lone Pine	Ex Bega
Bewicke, Sidney J F	2nd Lt		KIA Gallipoli	Bega
Bryant, Frederick J	Pte	213	KIA Lone Pine Gallipoli	Johnstons Jolly
Buckley, Jeremiah S	Pte	1517	KIA Lone Pine Gallipoli	Tantawangalo
Clarke, Henry James	Pte	838	KIA Gallipoli	NKG Gallipoli
Davis, Arthur George	Pte	237	KIA Gallipoli	Nimmitabel
Dummett, Alfred	L/Cpl	170	DOW Gallipoli	Embarkation Pier
Ellis, Guy	Sgt	253	KIA Gallipoli	Lochiel
Faulkner, Stanley E	Driver	1209	Gallipoli	NKG Lone Pine
Finch, Herbert L	Pte	028	DOW Gallipoli	Wyndham
Flower, James H	Pte	357	DOW Gallipoli at sea	NKG Lone Pine
Fraser, Norman B	Pte	1150	KIA Gallipoli	Byron Bay
Gielvoit, Cornelius	Pte	600	DOW Gallipoli	NKG Lone Pine
Herman, Harold E	Pte	1706	DOW Gallipoli buried at sea	Nethercote
Hobden, Noel C	Pte	1123	DOD malaria Gallipoli	Pieta, Malta
Kauter, William	Pte		Wellington Rgt NZ KIA Gallipoli	NKG Lone Pine Chatby,
				Egypt
				NZ Memorial Chunuk Bair
Kebby, James C	Driver	1236	DOW Gallipoli	Pambula
Manning, William J	Pte	1200	Died at sea	Quaama
Meek, Cyril Wallace	Pte	310	KIA Gallipoli	Bega
Morrice, William J	Pte	957	KIA Gallipoli	Lone Pine
Munn, Ronald T	Pte	2731	KIA Gallipoli	Quinns Post
Ritchie, Frank Lane	2/Lt		KIA Gallipoli	Eden
Roberts, Norman F	Cpl	570	KIA Gallipoli	Pambula
Ryder, Arthur Luke	Pte	1002	Gallipoli	ShrapnelValley
Smith, George	Pte	1396	KIA Gallipoli	Bega
Smith, Robert E J	Trper	282	KIA Gallipoli	NKG Lone Pine
Sullivan, Robert I	Pte	1817	KIA Gallipoli	Bemboka
Sutherland, William	2/Lt		KI	Lone Pine
Targett, Ernest W	Pte	1709	DOW Gallipoli	Dignams Crk
Taylor, Henry Joseph	Pte	957	KIA Gallipoli	Pambula
Walter, Clement W	Cpl	1295	KIA Gallipoli	Chatby, Egypt
Williams, Edward	Pte	2900	KIA Gallipoli	Tanja
Williams, Erasmus C	Pte	10	Gallipoli	KNG Lone Pine
Williamson, Alfred J	Pte	2197	KIA Gallipoli	Bega
				Parade Ground
				NKG Villers B
				Kameruka
				Candelo
				NKG Lone Pine

**NKG = No Known Grave**

## “Mates”

Joseph Britten and James (Jim) Augustine Hanscombe had been friends since childhood and joined up at the same time to “fire a few pot shots at the Germans”.

Jim was the eighth child of dairy farmer William Hanscombe and his wife Catherine, nee Carroll. There were fourteen children in the family.

Joe was from the neighbouring dairy farm. Son of Joseph and Emma Britten

The two friends often went into Bega on a Friday night for a drink with friends at the Family Hotel.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1915 Jim Hanscombe, his brother Charles, and Joseph Britten enlisted.

They left Sydney on HMAT “Star of England” on March 8, 1916.

In 1917 they were deployed in the 5th Divisional Ammunition Corps, Australian Field Artillery as drivers.

On 6/7 October, 1917 they were delivering ammunition through Hells Fire Corner on the Menin Road when their column came under heavy shelling. For three hours they were unable to advance. Number 2 driver, and his assistant were killed and Joseph Britten seriously wounded. Jim Hanscombe ran across the open ground and carried Joe back to his truck. He delivered his ammunition and then took Joe to a field hospital where Joe died.

Jim Hanscombe received the Military Medal for Bravery In The Field. *On the night of 6/7 October 1917, this driver was in a column on the Menin Road bringing up ammunition. The column was heavily shelled for about three hours, during which a shell killed another driver in his team, killed one male and wounded two others. While the third driver cleared the road, Driver Hanscombe cleared his wagon and unaided carried on and delivered his ammunition. Although considerably shocked himself, Hanscombe showed a fine example of bravery and devotion to duty deserving of recognition”.*

He returned to Australia and married Gladys Buckley, daughter of the Family Hotel proprietor, Con Buckley. He died on 21st September, 1967 as a result of being hit by a car in Carp Street, Bega.

Joseph Britten was buried in Birr Cross Roads Cemetery, Zillebeke, Belgium, grave number 113.



Driver Joseph Britten  
5th Div. Ammunition Col,  
Australian Field Artillery  
Died 6 Oct 1917 aged 25 years  
son of John and Emma

Portrait by Joseph Britten



**JAMES AUGUSTINE HANSCOMBE**



**BIRR CROSSROADS CEMETERY, ZILLBECKE,  
BELGIUM**



# 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*

