

The Bega Pioneer

Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

March 2023 Edition



Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

Incorporating

Bega Pioneers' Museum

87 Bega Street, Bega NSW 2550

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COMMITTEE:

President: Helen Jauncey	Secretary: Kaye Jauncey
Treasurer Helen Jauncey	Research Officer: Margaret Sly
Brett Bowyer, Reg Huntington, Bill Fletcher, Shirley Sproates Peter Rogers	

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.

Front Page: Stony Creek School Pupils 1924



Museum News

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER: 02 6492 0470

NEW EMAIL: museum@bvhs.org.au

MEMBERSHIP.

We thank all our members who have rejoined under the new membership scheme which takes their membership to 31 December 2023.

We welcome the following new members

Edwin Kelley, Marie Watson, Judy Hodkinson, Marea Russell, Elizabeth O'Brien, Cathy and Warren Page, Fay Carroll and Phil and Alison Moffitt

Keith Evans. We were saddened to here of the passing of one of our longest serving members, Keith Evans. The committee sends it condolences to Keith's wife Val and their family.

Doris Hampton. For many years a member and staunch supporter Doris recently passed away. We extend our condolences to her family and friends.

JANUARY OPENING DAYS.

As in previous years we were open Monday to Saturday 10 am to 2pm in January. Thank you to the volunteers who made this happen.

RESEARCH QUERIES.

John Lonkhurst/Longhurst aka Morrison and Catherine Kelly.

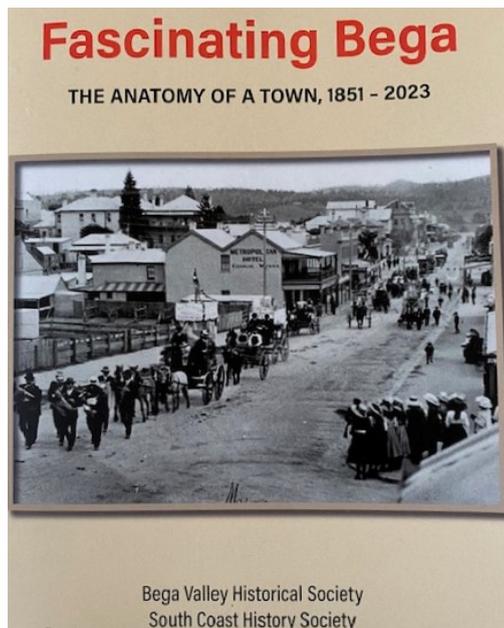
ACQUISITIONS

Worland family data

Book - 'We All Have A Story - Samuel Scott.

LAUNCH OF 'FASCINATING BEGA' BOOK

This event took place on February 4th at St. Johns Church Hall. The event was hosted by Peter Lacey of the South Coast History Society. Proceedings were commenced by the town crier. The launch was conducted by Peter Alexander, ex Bega veterinarian. Afternoon tea was provided by the BVHS.



Peter Alexander

EXTRACT FROM KEVIN TETLEY'S NOTEBOOKS.

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

THE FATAL LIGHTS - TOM MEAD

(covers Dunbar & Leg-Ec-More only)

“DUNBAR”

James Johnson - sole survivor of Dunbar

P52. The first keeper of the Hornby Light was Henry Johnson, brother of Dunbar survivor James Johnson, who came out to Australia with his Irish bride, Mary Anne, after the wreck of the Dunbar. A son of Henry & Mary Anne, Captain Alfred Johnson served in the Eden lighthouse at Twofold Bay, then Smoky Cape and Seal Rocks and eventually returned to the Hornby light where he had been born.

James Johnson was at Nobby's Lighthouse when a violent gale lashed the coast in July 1866, wrecking several ships and causing many deaths. The coastal steamer 'Cawarra' wrecked on the Oyster Bank trying to seek shelter in Newcastle. Of the 60 people aboard, only 1 man, Frederick Hedges survived - saved, coincidentally, by the lone survivor of the Dunbar, James Johnson.

P. 60 James Johnson moved back to Sydney when he retired from his Lighthouse job at Newcastle and lived for some time at Dulwich Hill. He died, aged 78, on April 13, 1915 and was taken to be buried next to his wife, Mary, at Sandgate Cemetery, near Newcastle.

FROM BANKS FILES

1858 Miss Otton opened 1st store

1883 Bega Municipality

1884-5 Drought - water imp from Sydney @ £6 per 30 galls. Iron tank sunk in riverbed

1877 Post Office (New)

1865 Court House - Carp & Gipps St

1886 Pop. 2,470

1880 Some 8,000 diggers on Montreal Gold Field incl many Chinese from the South Island of NZ. Chinaman's Lane - now called Watson's Subdivision (Watson St) 1898.

The Pacific Gold Mining Syndicate at Wolumla banked at NSW, Bega

5 Jan 1875 - William Frederick Allworth, 24 yrs, opened NSW Bank in Bega. LEASED PREMISES.

He was paid £500 per year with a £50 allowance for a servant. He remained in Bega 3 yrs & then went to Orange.

1975 Bega Museum occupied 1st NSW premises

1884 Bank of NSW built new premises on S/E corner Carp & G. Sts. Builder was Mr. Chidney £5,150.00.00

1883 NSW B. Manager William Scott dismissed as “uncalled for” and somewhat absurd” --- “when we build at Bega; a two-storeyed Bank will be erected.”

Original Bank of NSW in Bega was Police Station for 25 years.

1883 Scott still in trouble later with the comments - “The fittings will look better than you think & the accommodation is sufficient for business 6 times as big as yours.”

March 1885 He was told - “You have got a first-rate house and you ought to be content with it”

1885 Bega Municipal Council 1ST GRS Manager E.H. FINCH wrote to HO wanting to install gas in new building. Finally after much correspondence. W. the Bank's Inspector he was rebuked with - “Until the cost of Gas is at least equal to the cost of candles and oil you must not apply anymore on this subject.” (Candles & oil cost £24 a year & gas would have cost nearly £8. more - so candles & oil it was!)

1931 NSW took over Australian Bank of Commerce Ltd. which had opened in Bega as AJS Bank in 1882.

1880's AJS leased 2 premises (location unknown) until 1887 when it built on corner of Carp & Gipp Sts.

Following the merger in 1931 the Wales moved across the street to the old AJS premises and sold to the Rural Bank in 1934.

WOMEN OF BEGA

Mrs Janet Spence nee Sellars/Southers.

Janet Spence born c1809 arrived in Australia from Scotland in December 1848 aboard the 'Bermondsey'. Also on the boat were her husband Robert and their six young children.

Robert was born c1801 and he died on March 22nd 1851 just over one year after arriving into Twofold Bay. He was working for Peter Imlay at that time.

Janet never remarried.

She set up a mill-post to grind the wheat grown by neighbouring farmers on the rich Tarraganda flats. It was said she could carry a bag of maize under each arm.

Her children:

John - 1831 -1908 - had gone to the California gold rush but returned to Australia after his fathers death. He set up a successful tannery in Bega as well as having a shoe shop. He built the Harbour Masters House at Tathra and commuted via horse and buggy to Bega each day. He married Grace Peacock and had 12 children.

Archibald Alexander (1843 - 1915) bought property and became a successful farmer. He married Mary Elizabeth Kerrigan and had 13 children.

Barbara married John Gleeson. They had two children, Robert and Mary Hannah. Barbara sadly died in childbirth aged 28 years

Janet married William Blacka and had 8 children.

Mary Margaret born 1837 married Robert Hunter Burnett. They farmed at Taylor's Flat and had 4 children prior to Robert dying in 1860. She then married William Edward Heath and had 4 children before moving to Sydney where she passed away in May 1908.

Jane, christened Jean and dies as Janet, married Thomas Whyman and had 8 children.

Robert, Barbara and Janet are all buried in the Corridgeree cemetery.



“YARRANUNG”

Brief History of “Yarranung”

‘Yarranung’ was part of the original Crown grant to Peter Imlay in the 1840’s. John Otton rented part of it then, and later, in 1848, Charles and John McGregor were also renting a farm. When William & James Walker took over the Imlay empire in 1844, Peter Imlay retained ‘Yarranung’ and ‘Tarraganda’ across the river. Later however Peter Imlay managed to retain freehold title to the properties, each of two farms. Peter Imlay moved to his other property in New Zealand, leaving tenants in charge and he returned in 1853 to sell his interests in the district.

The Walker brothers sold out to the Twofold Bay Pastoral Association in 1852. They owned 400,000 acres of land, excluding ‘Yarranung & ‘Corridgeree’, and the McGregors were still leasing ‘Yarranung’. North Bega was the preferred site for a township, but was abandoned after several floods, and the south side was surveyed for the town. The Robinson Act of 1861 enabled smaller landholders to become established in the district, breaking up the monopoly of the larger landholders.

In the 1870’s ‘Yarranung’ was owned by Captain Ronald Campbell, a Battle of Trafalgar veteran, who also owned land on Monaro at ‘Cambelong’. He built the house in 1851 and established the cheese factory. The large ‘Yarranung’ homestead was built by ticket of leave men, using small bricks made on the property.



Yarranung Cheese Factory - still standing on 'Elmgrove' property



P H Wood and family at Yarranung House

BEGA CHRONICLE NOTES - MARCH 1797 TO DECEMBER 1849.

Project commenced by Ruth Gowing - her notes recently electronically transcribed

1797 March– survivors of the wreck of the ‘Sydney Cove’ pass through the Bega area.

1797 December– George Bass was at the mouth of Pambula River.

1798 – February 16th Bass examined Twofold Bay

1824

Governor Darling. Area defined as 19 counties not subject to government protection.

1828

Surveyor Florance working in area

1829

Henry Badgery followed route to Braidwood, Cobargo and into Bega Valley.

John Campbell –followed route from Braidwood to Bega.

Thomas Cowper – followed route from Braidwood to Bega. His party was led by Joshua Higgs. They took up Brogo. John Johnstone was the overseer, John Farley the stockman and Thomas Meehan (Connaught Tommy) was the hut-keeper.

William Gerard –followed route from Braidwood to Bega.

W D Tarlinton – discovers route Braidwood, Cobargo, Bermagui.

1830

Aboriginal cattle raid.

John Hawdon moved from Cowpastures to Araluen, Kiora and Millendery near Moruya (see 1835).

Captain Rain sent the first cattle to Bega from Bathurst. The caretaker was John Campbell, stockman Isaac Bentley and hut-keeper ‘Yorkey’.

1832

Imlay’s commence whaling on the north side of Twofold Bay.

1834

Governor Bourke visits Twofold Bay.

G C Curlewis and John Jauncey rode through the Bega area to Twofold Bay They found men erecting a stockyard at Wolumla for the Imlay’s.

John Hawdon sends Alexander Weatherhead to Bermagui with sheep.

1835

Badgery abandons Warraguburra.

Bartley attacked by aborigines – survives

Michael Dunn, hut keeper at Warraguburra for Joseph Bartley, killed by aborigines.

John Hawdon moved to Bergalia.

Imlay’s re-open Warraguburra.

1836

Eden proclaimed a township.

1838

Anglican Dean Sowerby appointed to Goulburn

1839

Drought had a severe effect on the Imlay’s.

1840 - 1849

1840

Bushfires - Further severe blow to Imlay's.
Joshua Higgs sows first crop of wheat
Mill post set up at Buckajo.
Jane Thomas - first white child born in Bega.

1841

William Bartley - first white child born at Dry River.
Brindley, surveyor, maps Monaro and Gippsland.
Alexander Weatherhead ill. He was nursed by his wife as there were no doctors or nurses. She was the first white woman to live south of the Moruya River.

1842

Ben Boyd was conducting whaling operations in Twofold Bay, on the south shore where he built Boydtown.
Joshua Higgs married at Goulburn by Dean Sowerby.
John Lambie was Commissioner for Monaro Crown Lands.
John Otton - 1842 - 43 from Jamberoo.
Thomas Underhill rents farm at Tarraganda and marries.

1843.

Elective members to Legislative Assembly

1844.

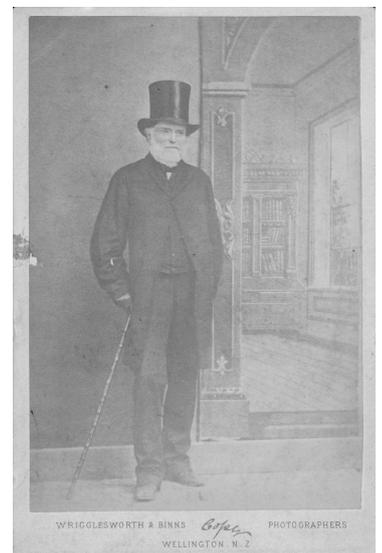
Post Office opened at Boydtown - the first in the district.
Anglican Rev. E G Pryce visits Pambula and Boydtown
G A Robinson travelled to Bega area. He recorded 701 aborigines (Aborigine Inquiry tour).
Henry Underhill baptized by Rev. Pryce at Tarraganda.
Walker Brothers foreclose on the Imlay's.
N Wilmington was a storekeeper at Broulee.

1846

Suicide of Dr. George Imlay 26.12.1846.
George Imlay interred
Peter Imlay purchases Tarraganda, Yarranung and Corridgeree from the County of Auckland.
Sergeant McCausland the first storekeeper in the district.
Walker's had the first wheeled vehicle, a carriage, in the district at Kameruka.
Post office opened in Eden.

1848

Vessel 'Bermondsey' lands settlers at Twofold Bay.



Dr. Peter Imlay

Stony Creek School

Following on from the case of the New House story in the December journal, this is a story about the opening of the third Stoney Creek School - the spelling used in reports was "Stoney."

All were thankful that the school had been shifted from that 'beastly hill' a couple of miles further on towards Numerella. Recapping: the third school was built by Jos Phillips for nearly £1,000 on land donated in 1923 by Colonel Irwin of Erinna, Stoney Creek - Ptn 2 out of Ptn 37 - with the Department of Education buying the land from Irwin in 1932. The new location placed the school in a central and convenient location so that 'every child can obtain a ride on the milk carts right to the school.'

Officially opened on Saturday 22 November 1924, the Stony Creek P&C Association – Charles Spence the president - decided to 'make a big day of it' with lunch at 12.30 and the ceremony immediately following. Reported on by the Bega District News (BDN) as probably the 'biggest day in the annals of Stoney Creek.'

The BDN of 27 November 1924 reported at great length on the school's opening. Everyone was grateful that the school had been shifted and was now 'on the roadside' and an 'ornament to the locality.' Amongst attendees were 'a good many that had received their education in the old school.' Great preparations had been made for the opening ceremony with 'dinner served on the fine verandah on the northern end' there being 'so much poultry that one wondered how the ducks that were running about outside had escaped.' There were: hams, tongues, plum pudding and scores of other delicacies – all fit for a king. The ladies were such 'fine cooks that it was no surprise to see the bonny health and stamina of the children.'

The hard work of the P & C Association along with teacher, O'Hara to get a new school building was acknowledged and that O'Hara now had a 'mansion to live in.' Colonel Irwin gave pupils a fine motto: 'High Ideals' exhorting the children to 'make the most of their opportunities.' Colonel Irwin then posed the question: what was the school for? And his answer:

To educate the children and train them to fulfil their place in society, to be intelligent units in the social and economic prosperity of the country ... the first thing they should learn was to respect their seniors, be prompt to obey, and not to argue the point. They would never occupy responsible positions unless they learned to obey first, and later-on to command. Be truthful. Everyone hated a liar.

Rev. Mills spoke. He had helped by writing a letter to the Department pointing out that in all his experience he had not seen a 'more dilapidated building than the old school' as he wished the teacher and pupils 'a pleasant and congenial time in the new school.' Rev Walton pointed out that 'children were an asset to the nation and it was through education that their latent powers were drawn out.' Mr Dyce, headmaster of the Bega District School, pointed out that 'teaching in the schools was only a small part of the training of the children and that the real training was at the home and the way to and from school.' Teacher O'Hara said it was 'very gratifying to him, everyone coming forward with help.' Further, he had 'never experienced a better-conducted lot of children than those of Stoney Creek.'

With singing of the National Anthem and cheers for Colonel Irwin, the ladies, the teacher O'Hara and contractor Phillips the formal ceremony was over. It was followed by afternoon tea as visitors 'reluctantly departed.' A dance was held that evening in the new school building.

From the first school in February 1872, three school buildings each at different locations, the third closed forever in 1960. Teacher, Turnbull appointed to the first school was still alive and living at Macksville. He married former pupil Janie Burnett. Since the new school opened, attendance increased from 18 to 31.

Sources:

"District Doings – Stoney Creek," The Bega District News, Bega 6 November 1924

"Opening the New School at Stoney Creek," The Bega District News, Bega, 27 November 1924

BEGA VALLEY LIFE.



Synchronised showjumping



Pony Club 1962



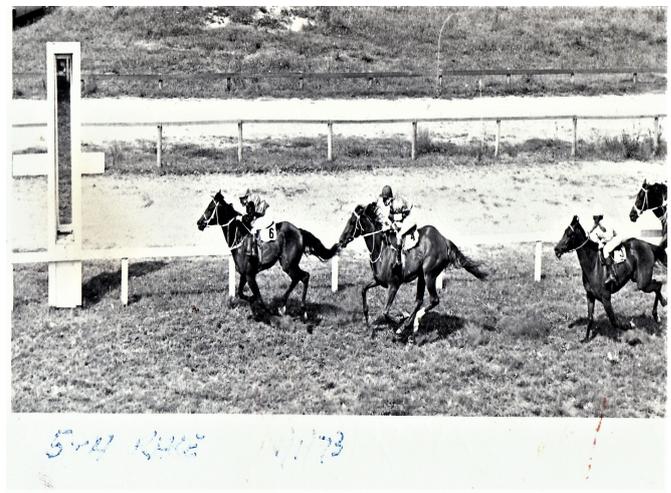
Pony Club



Bush Races at Ravenswood



Pacing - Jim Hergenhan on the inside



Bega 5th Race

Publications for Sale

<i>Bega District Band</i>	<i>\$10</i>
<i>Bega High - 50 years</i>	<i>Free</i>
<i>Bega Primary 1860-2010</i>	<i>Free</i>
<i>They Made this Valley Home</i>	<i>\$10</i>
<i>Illawarra Steam Ship Company</i>	<i>\$25</i>
<i>The Bushfires of 52</i>	<i>\$20</i>
<i>Bayleys History of Bega</i>	<i>\$20</i>
<i>A Walk Along Carp Street</i>	<i>\$2</i>
<i>Fascinating Bega</i>	<i>\$20</i>

