

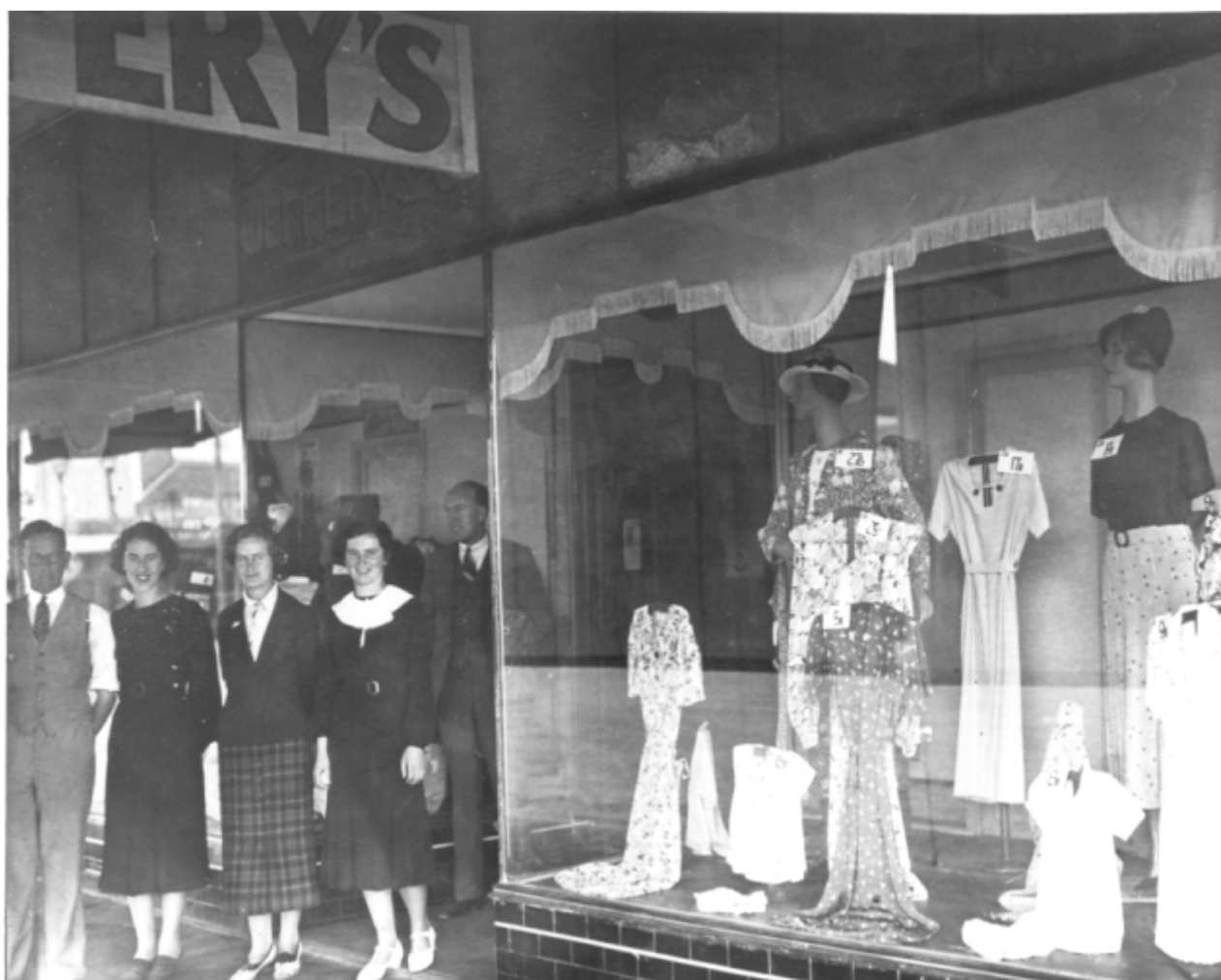
# Traralgon & District Historical Society

Incorporated

## BULLETIN

VOLUME 35, NO. 1

MARCH, 2004



**1935 – Original Jeffrey's Drapery Store**

**Corner of Franklin and Seymour Streets**

ISSN 1441 – 8037

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Ordinary Member	\$15.00
Concession	\$13.00

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the month commencing 1 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Kath Teychenne Centre  
11 Breed Street, Traralgon, commencing at 7:30 pm

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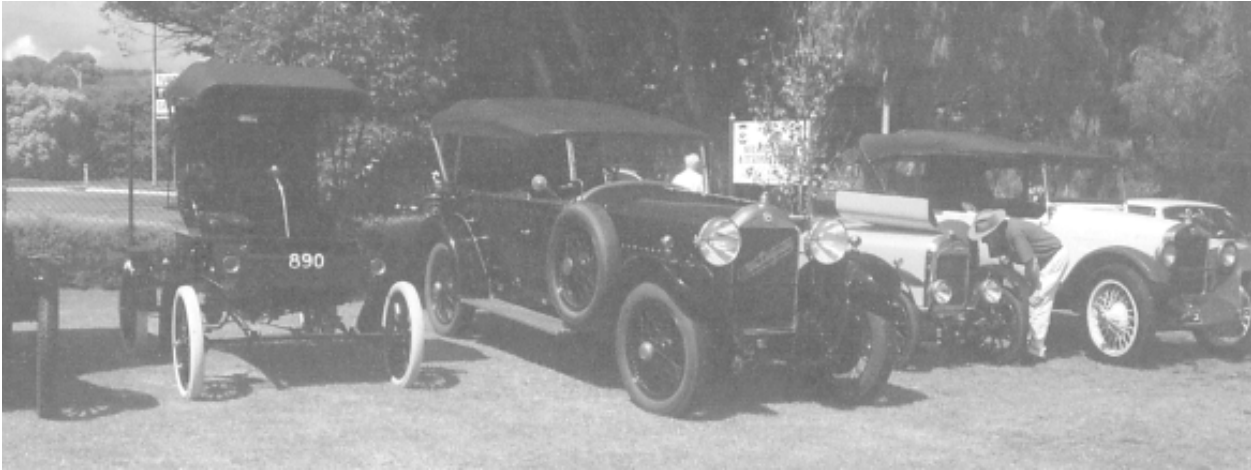
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**The Oldsmobile enjoys an outing and good company**

Another chapter has closed for our Society with the passing of three of our members - Denis Piera, Shirley Power and Kath Timmins. We offer our condolences to these families on the passing of their loved ones. The knowledge they had of our district was invaluable to the Society, and to their many friends.

It's now February and we are back in harness with Working Bees and Guest Speakers' nights. This year's theme is the Traders of Traralgon. Some long-serving business families still reside in Traralgon, though their businesses have changed hands.

Although the Society has been closed over the festive season, the enquiries still keep coming. Some people we could assist; others we could not help, as little information was available. All things being equal, we will have another interesting year.

The Annual Meeting of the Society will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 2004. Our guest speaker will be Sergeant Eric Duffy, who was stationed at Traralgon in the 1980s and was instrumental in obtaining for us the *Police Gazettes* we had on display last year.

Till we meet again,

*take care*

*Jim*



**Franklin Street, Traralgon circa 1950**

# Traralgon & District Historical Society Inc

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** of the Traralgon and District Historical Society Incorporated will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2004 at the Society's Rooms - Kath Teychenne Centre, 11 Breed Street Traralgon.

## **Business**

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2003.
2. To receive and consider the financial statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 and the Auditor's Report.
3. To receive and consider the financial statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December.
4. To elect Office Bearers for 2004:
  - i) President
  - ii) Vice President
  - iii) Secretary
  - iv) Treasurer
  - v) Committee no less than 3 ordinary members.
5. General Business.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004.

Dawn Hustler

Secretary

The form for **Nominations of Office Bearer and Committee** must be signed by 2 members and include the written consent of the nominee. Forms must be returned to the Secretary no later than **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2004**. Forms are available from the Secretary.

Poll - In accordance with Rule 18 of the Society's Constitution: at a General Meeting of the Society a Member has one (1) vote only. All votes are to be given personally and **no proxy votes will be accepted**.

**Annual General Meeting** - following the Annual General Meeting our speaker for the evening will be **Senior Sergeant Eric Duffy**, speaking on **the history of the Victoria Police Force** which has just celebrated 150 years of policing in Victoria. We were most fortunate to have the *Police Gazettes* on display at our rooms in October 2003. They created a great deal of interest as should our talk by Senior Sergeant Duffy.

Our speaker will be **Mr Richard Jeffrey** who will speak on **the history of the Jeffrey's Stores in Traralgon**, which traded from 1926-1989. This promises to be a very interesting address.

Speaking tonight is **Mrs. Lorraine Paulet**, manager of **McArthur's Shoes**. She will tell us about trading in shoes and the business itself, which has been operating in Traralgon at several different locations over quite some time. We look forward to welcoming Lorraine and learning all about shoes.

**Reminder** – working bees will be held as usual on the 2nd and 4th Monday each month at our rooms. The first working bee will be Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February.



**St James' Church, Traralgon, demolished 1970**

**October 2003**

## ***The History of St James' Church***

Speaker: Reverend Clem Watts

*Look to the rock from which you were cut, and to the quarry from which you were hewn.*

Rev. Watts opened with this excerpt from Isaiah 51:1, a verse on history that's a guideline for the future.

This year saw the anniversary of 125 years of the St James' Church in Traralgon. The first incumbent was Thomas Moorhouse, a Stipendiary Reader who conducted his first service in Traralgon with Psalm 86:5. A church was built and opened on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1880; and in July 1881 a rectory was built, Moorhouse making a major contribution to the physical effort involved in the construction of both. He was tutored by his wife in Latin, Greek, Doctrine, History and Study of Scriptures; was ordained Deacon in June, 1882, and Priest in May, 1883.

The timber Church was replaced with a brick Church, and St James' has a beautiful inscribed silver trowel to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone in 1888. However the date on the trowel precedes the date on the stone, and there is no known explanation for this. The former parsonage was replaced in 1899 and a 'schoolhouse', St James' Hall, was built in 1908, the same year in which the Bishop in Council declared St James to be a Parish, when it had been known previously as the Parochial District of Traralgon and Glengarry.

The brick Church was completed and the foundation stone re-laid in 1921, however economic conditions meant the Church was not consecrated until 1934. The land was sold to GJ Coles & Co. Ltd in 1969, and the Baptist Church Hall was used for nearly 18 months until the current Church was opened in 1971.

St James' Church has been involved in some special events in its 125 year history. In 1918 the Church sent Sister Maude Pethybridge, a nurse, to East Africa as a Missionary. It was the first Parish in the Diocese to make such an appointment, which turned out to be a lengthy one with the Sister's last visit being in 1957.

Rev. Blundell, who served the Church from 1924 to 1935, established the Scout and Guide movements in Traralgon as well as the St James' Tennis and Cricket Clubs; and his persistence was influential in the building of the Shire Council public baths in Princes Street. Then during WWII the Church Tower was used as an Air Raid Precaution observation post.

Rev. Geoff Ross encouraged the Mission of St James and St John to look in the direction of the Diocese of Gippsland, and in 1976 'Thuruna', a place of accommodation for children experiencing stress, was blessed. Today this agency of Mission is known as *Anglicare*.

Negotiations with the Victorian Housing Commission saw thirteen cottages for elderly citizens built and blessed in 1988; and Rev. Canon Dick Kainey was instrumental in bringing the ALPHA program to Gippsland.

**November 2003**

## ***Newman Park and the Model Railway***

Speaker: Dick Donchi

Dick Donchi, of the Gippsland Model Engineering Society (GMES), thanked the Society for his invitation to speak, saying he felt it appropriate to address a historical society, as most of their activities are concerned with running the miniature steam train railway in Traralgon - steam trains being thing of the past. With there being so many different types and classes of models that enthusiasts can build based on real engines, it makes for a very popular hobby. As well as providing an activity of enjoyment for the public, it offers educational value about steam train transport.

The land east of the Creek has been occupied by squatters, market gardens, and the Newman, McNairn and Couch families. In her lifetime Miss Newman gave land to the Scouts, while Mrs McNairn left her share of the land to the people of Traralgon. The Couch family sold their land after suffering a bad flood in 1978, and at this point Newman Park came into being. The Couch's house block was located near where the signal box now stands.

The Latrobe Valley is well known for its hobbyists, and together with Ron Dubber, Dick dabbled in model aircraft in the 1940s, both becoming early members of the Latrobe Valley Model Aero Club. During the 1970s they began infrequently attending meetings of the Melbourne Model and Experimental Engineers Society until their group grew. Their attendance became regular, Dick smelt the smoke of a locomotive, put an ad in the paper and soon thereafter welcomed seven people to the inaugural meeting of the GMES.

The GMES has now been in existence for about 25 years and has 52 members: some live in Melbourne and one comes from Tasmania; many come from the old SEC and include professional engineers, supervisory and technical types, tradespeople and others. Over the years members have used much of their own equipment to run public activities, while the Society has a large portable track which they use at school fetes, social club break-ups etc. All profits go towards improving the facilities at Newman Park.

The GMES relies on a good relationship with the City, local organisations including Gippsland Group Training and the *Work for the dole* scheme, and its own volunteer labour. The track is 1.2 km and a ride takes about eight minutes for a cost of \$1.50. They operate on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month and on special occasions. The Society now has its own lathe, has had another nine year lease approved, and has recently submitted a 20 year vision to the City Council.



**David and Emma Crawford ride a model steam train**

December 2003

## *Wilson's Promontory During WWII*

Speaker: Terry Synon

Terry Synon thanked the Society for his invitation to speak. He explained that as a young lad he lived at Fish Creek, and that is where he experienced WWII. Military presence at Wilson's Promontory was all very *hush-hush*, in fact the New Zealanders were known as the *Hush-hush Brigade*, but Terry probably saw more war on the road in his neighbourhood than most people saw in Australia.

Wilson's Promontory became an important defence establishment during WWII. With its great variety of terrain it became a place for eight Australian and two New Zealand Commando training groups. The Commandos were the forerunners of what we know today as the SAS. Their headquarters were on the Derby River and all of their training was done with live ammunition. The New Zealanders' camp became the current Tidal River camping area, while the Australians camped across the road from the current Lilly-pilly carpark. Their training differed to a normal army training in that it was aimed towards guerilla warfare. Each group was meant to be self-sufficient and consisted of an engineer, map-reader, butcher etc. When the Second 2nd Independent Company was ambushed by the Japanese in Timor, they built a home-made radio to contact Darwin, requesting boots, quinine and ammunition - however the people in Darwin thought it was the Japanese trying to be tricky and at first ignored their requests. Their logo was a double diamond.

A Naval establishment was based at the Lighthouse, on the southern tip of the Prom. Reports would be sent from there to Admiralty in Melbourne. All of the main defence establishments were in Melbourne. The Germans attacked the shipping line from Melbourne to Sydney using mines, so mine sweepers would cut the cord, causing the mine to pop-up. The *Cambridge* sank from a mine about four kilometres from the Lighthouse, where the Navy set up a raw signal station. It was given funny names, like 'doo-dah', because it was so secretive.

An airforce was also based at the Prom. To keep it safe from Japanese sub-planes the aerodrome was covered and there were no wind sacks or landing strip. You will often see emus grazing there today. The planes could be hidden in sand dunes and under camouflage hides.

The RAAF's mobile radar station was the envy of the USA and other troops. They were all over Australia - about 200 of them, and the one at the Prom was number 14. It consisted of a transmitter and receiver, and the information was sent directly to Melbourne where objects could be manually tracked on a huge map.



Dawn Hustler, ?????? ?????? and Jim Hood cut the Christmas Cake

*By Mark Mulvany*

I was born in Melbourne in September 1949. When I was about five years old my family moved to Traralgon.

My father was John Bernard Mulvany, a Civil Engineer, who had been a Major in the Australian Army in New Guinea during World War II. Our mother was Carmel Mulvany and I was the third of their four sons.

The reason for the move to Traralgon, which I think must have been made in 1954, was that my father had been appointed by the Victorian Government to establish what became the "LaTrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board". This organisation was established by him in Traralgon, no doubt because of its central position in the LaTrobe Valley and the locations of the sites of the engineering works which were to be carried out.

My father's name appears on the bronze plaque near the spillway at the Moondarra Reservoir which commemorates the opening of that reservoir in 1962.

I lived with my family at two addresses during my time in Traralgon. The first address was in Loch Park Road. Much later we moved to Francis Street, next door to "Dalkeith", a historic timber home, which I understood was in some way linked to the writer Mary Grant Bruce. It was at that time a home for the elderly. I recall that some of the largest and thickest pine trees I have ever seen were removed from the site on which the house in Francis Street was built. I wonder whether the site was once part of "Dalkeith".

I recall that in my childhood steam engines were a common sight on the railway tracks at the end of Loch Park Road. We used to play in the bushes there and we would watch them passing along the line.

I attended St. Michael's school for my primary education. I then had one year of my secondary education at St. Paul's college.

I recall a time at which a large number of migrants arrived at St. Michael's from overseas. I have one memory of a Dutch girl repeating her name to a Nun over and over again, saying "My name is ...", "My name is ..." because she could not speak any other English. Remarkably, I still remember the inflection in her voice and her first and family names but I omit the names from this article out of respect for her privacy.

I also remember the grief which was felt for the victims of the level crossing bus accident which occurred during my primary years. It affected a whole town.

I recall the well-known Australian Rules Footballer, Bernard Quinlan, as another boy at St. Michael's and I have a recollection of playing in a football team with him. I think that he was about a year younger than myself.

I also recall having to line up to receive an injection which I believe was for polio. I recall crying children and the smell of methylated spirits. I think that candles might have been used for sterilising the needles. Our mother obtained a goat, which was kept in the backyard at Loch Park Road, and attempted to milk it because she had been told that changing from cows' milk to goats' milk might prevent us from contracting polio.

At some other time we were given tablets to prevent some other ailment as it was thought that the water in Gippsland was lacking in some important element.

In my years at primary school there was a government scheme under which school children of the era received free milk. The bottled milk was in metal crates. It was part of the daily routine to go into the school yard to drink the milk.

There was also a kind of travelling Government Dentist who would come to St. Michael's school in a van. It would be parked in the playground. I was pleased that I never had to enter the van. I assume it was for students whose families did not have a dentist.

In the early days at Loch Park Road our family used to sit around the radio at night. I recall listening intently to shows such as "The Air Adventures of Hop Harrigan", "Captain Silver and 'The Seahound'" and "Dad and Dave".

The introduction of television changed this. It was a major event. It occurred when we were at Loch Park Road. At first people were so interested in TV that they stood outside shops watching TV sets in the windows - without being able to hear the sound. In Traralgon the aerials had to be very high to get proper reception. They towered on long metal poles. At first only a few families had TV. Children would gravitate to the homes of the lucky few. "The Mickey Mouse Club" was a major attraction.

I have some recollection that there was a kind of picture theatre in the town to which children went on a Saturday afternoon. It was really just an ordinary building like a small hall. It was superintended by a Mr. Lawrence.

Fireworks were also a major form of amusement for children in those days. On what was called "Cracker Night" there were bonfires lit and all kinds of things done with crackers and other fireworks which would be totally banned today.

Although the town had a swimming pool the original one was very basic, so much so that although I can recall seeing it I believe I never went there. We used to swim in the river at Tyers, in the Traralgon Creek and in a well-known freshwater pool at Mirboo North. A modern full size pool was later built in the town and I recall seeing some famous swimming champions doing an exhibition swim in it. I cannot recall who they were.

My father was committed to the promotion of the LaTrobe Valley and, with the support and assistance of our mother, worked to establish an organisation called "ALVA" which stood for the "Advance LaTrobe Valley Association".

One of the many persons who my father knew was Alan Burnet, a brother of the famous scientist. He lived at Glengarry and was on my father's Board. His name is also on the plaque at Moondarra Reservoir.

We used to go with our father when he was inspecting particular projects around the LaTrobe Valley for the purposes of his work. He often did this on weekends.

In the pre-computer age the engineers used slide rules for their calculations. We often saw them lying around.

I well remember the small town of Gould which was flooded in the making of the Moondarra Reservoir. I think that the people who conducted the Hostel there near the river were people named Oliver. It was a historic town and it was on the Moe to Walhalla railway line. Its name still appears on a modern map I have of the Moondarra area.

I recall two sisters who lived together in a charming log house in an open area of high ground a considerable distance, possibly eight miles or so, past Gould. They had to leave their land as it was in the catchment area for the dam. We knew them well and visited them from time to time. We knew them as "The Misses Lamb". One of them said that they had been taxed for the building of the railway and now they were being taxed for it to be taken away. They spoke of how they used to have to ride into the town by horse to collect their mail.

On occasions I went to the bottom of the Yallourn open cut, and into the old Yallourn Power Station, with my father. I also recall being with him when he was looking at storage facilities at the paper mill near Morwell.

We travelled through Rosedale and on to the Ninety-mile Beach on many occasions, as the outfall channel to Dutson Downs, and the Disposal Farm there, were also a major part of our father's work. Because of the controversy over the building of the channel my father was a little unpopular in the early days. However, he once asked one of the farmers how he was finding the smell from the channel. The farmer replied that it had greatly improved with the arrival of his first compensation cheque!

Sir Henry Bolte came to Gippsland to open or inspect some of the projects. I remember being introduced to him by my parents. A photo of our father and Bolte appeared in "The Age" the day after the Moondarra Reservoir was opened.

I recall various of the town identities of my early years in Traralgon.

Dr. Considine was one of the Doctors in town. Dr. Alan Parr was a Dentist, and perhaps the only one in the town. I recall these gentlemen so well that I could still describe what they looked like. Dr. Parr later practised in Melbourne and I used to go to him long after we had both left Gippsland.

Our neighbours in Loch Park Road included a man named Arch Graham who had done very well for himself by manufacturing and selling lemonade which was sold as "Aygee" lemonade - the name no doubt being taken from his initials. Another neighbour was Miss "Evie" Wait or Waite who used to make the cakes for the weddings or other special occasions. A lady of cheerful disposition named Peg Menesdorfer, the spelling of whose name I might be giving incorrectly, lived opposite us.

We also knew the people who had Ryan's Hotel, the Buckley's, and we often went there. Also there were two Traralgon ladies who were very interested in theatre and conducted drama classes for children of the town. They were Kath Richardson and Nancy Kendrick.

Our mother was very interested in antiques and I can recall that there was a Mr. Collier, who had a building or shed which I think had a curved iron roof or was of some unusual design, and who used to sell old things such as rolls from pianolas, old lamps and the like. My recollection is poor but I think that Mr. Collier used to dress neatly and quite formally, and his premises were very tidy. I think that the building was not far from one end of St. Michael's school, the end which was not where the Church was, and around a corner from the school, on the right, as if one was walking towards the main street.

A Laboratory in Traralgon was named after my father. It was opened by Dr. P. Law, the well-known Antarctic Explorer. I think it has long since gone.

## ***8<sup>th</sup> January, 1904***

**Dentistry** – Mr. A. French, dentist, will pay his usual visit to Traralgon on Saturday next, and may be consulted at the Grand Junction Hotel.

**Booths** – The booths for the forthcoming races of the Traralgon Racing Club were offered for sale on Monday last by Mr. T. Farmer. The publican's booth was knocked down to Mr. Clues, who gave £10 for it. The fruiterer's was passed in, and will be sold privately.

**Successful Candidates** – Among the list of candidates who have successfully passed the matriculation examination, we notice the names of Miss Agnes Marion Campbell, and Allan Love Galbraith, a pupil of Sth Melb College. We congratulate the two on their success.

**Rainfall** – Recorded at "Melrossa" Loy Yang by Mr. F. W. Haines rainfall for 1903, was 29.93 points.

## ***12<sup>th</sup> January, 1904***

**Traralgon Police Court** – The only business before the court yesterday was an application by Arthur Sydney Parker for a carriage license, and applications by W. Long and Jas. Wilkinson for collectors' licenses. Granted by Messrs. T.A. Pettit and J.G.B. Duncan the presiding magistrates.

**Mrs. Duff** - Having returned from Western Australia, has resumed the practice of her Profession as Ladies' Nurse. At Seymour Street Traralgon (two doors from old address).

## ***February, 1904***

**Rifle Club** - The match fixed for Wednesday between Darnum and Traralgon, in connection with Dr. Spring's trophy, will not take place, we are informed, owing to the in-ability of the Darnum Club to send a team.

**Church of England picnic** - A very interesting and enjoyable function took place on the banks of the Thomson river on Saturday in connection with the Church of England workers for foreign missions. About 300 men, women and children all gaily attired presented a lively scene.

The **Callignee Butter Factory Company** invite tenders for the supply of 30 cords of firewood. Specifications can be seen at this office.

**Cricket** – On Wednesday afternoon the Traralgon Half-holiday and Gormandale teams met at “Gowrie” the residence of Mr. T.Y. Anderson, in the Trew trophy competition. Both teams batted 12 men, the Gormandale team winning by 11 runs. T. Milligan who took 3 wickets for 9 runs, and T. Anderson with 5 for 21 were the most successful trundlers on the respective sides.

## ***March, 1904***

**Methodist Church** – The Rev. D.J. Flockhart, who nearly 25 years ago, conducted the opening services of the Wesleyan Church here, when the building was much smaller, preached in the above church on Sunday last to large congregations.

**Medical** – Dr. T.A. McLean, late resident superintendent of the Geelong Hospital, notifies that he has succeeded to the practice of Dr. W.A. Spring, and may be consulted daily at his residence in Hotham street, Traralgon.

**Wedding** – A quiet wedding took place early on Wednesday morning, when Mr. Sydney Thos. Burton was united to Miss Isabella Mooney, of Willung. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J.G. Wilson. The bride was married in her travelling dress and the happy couple departed by the morning train on their honeymoon trip.

## ***Donations***

The **Pickering Family** - the cost of twelve months' internet connection to our society. Our web-master Wally does a fantastic job for us.

**Alan Harding and Roger Ries** - a copy of *Toongabbie, Gippsland 'A Gateway to the Walhalla Goldfields'* plus the manuscript of references.

**Latrobe City** - cheque for \$500 to our Society.

**Elizabeth Jeffrey** - books and printed material about issues in Traralgon.

***We sincerely thank all our donors.***

## ***Apology***

We apologise to **Lisa Trafford** for the editorial oversight whereby we failed to acknowledge her as authoring the article *Gold Dust, Dreams and Roses, A Biography of Elizabeth (Kennedy) Stitchling, 1870-1958*, featured in our last bulletin.

Denis was born at Cumnock, Traralgon and lived most of his life in Hiamdale. During the war years his father bought property at Plenty near Melbourne; and for a few years they travelled back and forth. His early schooling was spent between Plenty Primary and Gormandale East schools. Aged twelve years he went to Saint Mary's in Geelong. He left when he was fourteen and became a trainee carpenter until at sixteen his family moved back to Hiamdale permanently. His father died when he was twenty and he took over the farm, dairying for many years. He was an active member of the Gormandale East School Committee and the Gormandale Fire Brigade for many years. He started industrial cleaning when farming got too tough.

Denis retired in 1996 to Mount Batten Court when he became a more active member of the Historical Society until his death. He is survived by his wife, five children, sixteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Born in Sale on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1934, Shirley was the eighth of Tom and Emily Mitchell's nine children. Tom was a contractor who worked on many properties around Sale, mowing and carting hay and undertaking work with Tulloch & Jenkins. Emily was a Camm from Bruthen, her father worked on road construction throughout East Gippsland. For many years Emily ran the kiosk at the Sale Greyhound Racing Track in Dawson Street, across the road from the family home. Shirley spent much time helping her mother with food preparation and working behind the counter.

Shirley's primary school years were spent at Sale 545. As a child she spent many wonderful hours with her family, fishing and playing on the Ninety Mile Beach at Seaspray. It was a family tradition she carried into her own family many years later.

She went to Sale Tech and left at 14 to work in Kent's Laundry, moving from there to the canteen at the Woollen Mill.

Shirley and John met at a dance in Maffra; he was in the RAAF at the time. They married on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1952 and spent the first few months of married life in Wagga Wagga. Their first home in Traralgon was in Catterick Crescent, while John was stationed at East Sale. Acquiring a RAAF house in Stead Street, they moved to Sale with their two little daughters, Judy and Kay.

Upon John's discharge from the RAAF and subsequent employment with AMP at Maryvale they moved back to Traralgon to live in Farmer Crescent. They had two more daughters, Jenny and Leanne, and this necessitated a move to a larger house in Pollock Avenue, their home for more than 40 years.

Shirley was a great contributor to the community in spite of the illness that plagued her throughout her life. She was a dedicated and hard working parent in the Mothers' Clubs at Stockdale Road Primary and Traralgon High schools.

Her commitment to Red Cross was made over almost thirty years. During that time she undertook the roles of Treasurer, Catering Officer for Displan, and the Disabled Equipment Coordinator, somewhat ironic given her own situation later in life.

Shirley was a great lover of Gippsland and family history. She was a wonderful support to John in his years as President of the Historical Society, and in his work with the RSL and the Meniere's Support Group.

Shirley died at 3:30 am on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2004 but will be remembered as a kind woman with a great character who always enjoyed a good chat. Her enormous love of family and courageous spirit won Shirley much admiration, and John and her family have been greatly comforted by the many wonderful tributes that they have received in her memory.

Kathleen, the eldest of five children of Benjamin and Kate Lang (nee McKay), was born at Traralgon on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1910.

She grew up on her parents' farm at 'Littlemore', situated on the Eaglehawk Creek at Glengarry North.

Kathleen attended school at the Toongabbie West State School before transferring to the Glengarry State School when the former was officially closed in January, 1916. Her death marked the passing of the last student depicted in a photo of the Toongabbie West State School students taken in 1915.

Kathleen married John (Jack) Timmins at the Methodist Church, Glengarry in 1936. They settled in Toongabbie where they had four children, Robert, Dorothy, Douglas and Edward. In 1952 the family moved from Toongabbie to a newly purchased property at Glengarry situated on the Eaglehawk Creek. Kathleen was very community minded and became involved in numerous activities, including Red Cross and the CWA in both Toongabbie and Glengarry.

Kathleen loved her history and was a valued member of the Traralgon & District Historical Society for many years. She had an outstanding memory and was an excellent source of information for her many friends and associates as regards the early history of the Toongabbie and Glengarry districts, and particularly the history of the Lang and Timmins families.

Kathleen, who did not enjoy the best of health in recent times, passed away peacefully at the Latrobe Regional Hospital on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2004 at the grand old age of 93.



**Toongabbie West State School pupils, 1905**

reproduced with permission from *Toongabbie, Gippsland: A Gateway to the Walballa Goldfields* by Alan Harding and Roger Ries

**Traralgon & District Historical Society Inc.**

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