

Traralgon & District Historical Society

Incorporated

BULLETIN

VOLUME 35, NO. 3

SEPTEMBER, 2004



William Henry Hales (left), Baker, Franklin Street taking delivery of his new baker's cart, prior to which the bread was delivered in a basket on horseback; his bakery and residence was one of the seven establishments destroyed in the fires of 1896.

ISSN 1441 – 8037

Office Bearers 2004

President:	Mr Jim Hood 25 Canfield Crescent, Traralgon, 3844 Phone: 5174 3797
Vice President:	Mr Ron Hore
Secretary:	Mrs Dawn Hustler 3 Cassandra Drive, Traralgon, 3844 Phone: 5174 4540
Assistant Secretary:	Thelma Mayze
Treasurer:	Wilma Keir
Web Master:	Wally Pickering Email: webmaster@traralgonhistory.asn.au
Bulletin Editor:	Adele v. Rosmalen Email: adled@dodo.com.au
Street Address:	Historical Society Room, Kath Teychenne Centre 11 Breed Street, Traralgon, 3844 Phone: 5174 8399
Postal Address:	PO Box 697, Traralgon, 3844
URL:	http://www.traralgonhistory.asn.au
Email:	traralgonhistory@vic.australis.com.au
Membership Fees:	Ordinary Member \$15.00 Concession \$13.00
Committee Meetings:	1 st Thursday in the month commencing 1 pm
Meetings:	2 nd Tuesday of the month at Kath Teychenne Centre 11 Breed Street, Traralgon, commencing at 7:30 pm
Bulletin:	Published March, June, September and December. Extra copies can be obtained at a cost of \$3 each plus postage.
Research Fees:	Use of material \$5/session We will research for you \$10/hour + cost of p/copies, postage etc.

ISSN 1441-8037

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise without the prior consent of the publisher.

Contents

Office Bearers 2004..... 2

Contents..... 3

From the Chair..... 4

Coming Events 5

Monthly Meeting Reports..... 6-11

Fires in Tyers and Glengarry West 6-7

The Real Estate Business in Traralgon 8-9

Traralgon South Primary School..... 9-11

Traralgon High School, 1963..... 12

Trip to the Light Horse and Field Artillery Museum..... 13

One Hundred Years Ago 14-15

Extracts from the Gippsland Farmers Journal

July 1904 14

August / September 1904 14-15

News and Notes 15

Donations 15

Condolences..... 15



Franklin Street, Traralgon, 1896

From the Chair

Either the year is moving quickly or I'm getting slower!

Some news for the coming year: around June or July, 2005, the City of Latrobe will be hosting the 150th year of Rail in Victoria. Traralgon has been chosen for the Gippsland display - I will keep you all informed as the time gets nearer.

We have staff at the Centrelink Tele Centre interested in looking after the baby Smythe grave situated beside Repco's premises. This will be a great help in keeping this part of Traralgon's heritage tidy.

Our trip to the Light Horse and Field Artillery Museum was a very enjoyable day; the weather was kind to us and our host gave a most informative talk on the hardship of the soldiers who took part in the First World War.

There have been plenty of inquiries to the Society, and we really need some assistance with answering the e-mails as we are building up a back-log. If you can help with one or two this will be of great help.

Laurie Huffer and myself attended our first Victorian History Support Meeting, which is considering and implementing various changes in the way of providing assistance to those societies that have few workers and low membership, but more on this later.

Congratulations to Gormandale Football Club for running a *Past Players and 1954 Premiership Players Reunion*. This was held on the 3rd of July, 2004. Gormandale played Cowwarr, as was the case in the 1954 Premiership when they won but Cowwarr reversed the tables in this historic game.

Till we meet again,

take care

Jim

Experience is a wonderful thing: it enables you to recognise a mistake when you make a mistake when you make it again.

Coming Events

14th September – Tuesday, 6:30 pm

Our **Annual Dinner** will be held at the Grand Junction Hotel Function Room (opposite the Railway Precinct), beginning at 6:30 pm for dinner at 7:00 pm. The catering will be provided by Mr Ken Barnes. The guest speaker will be Mr Les Wright from Traralgon. His talk will be his 'reminiscences' of people and places of a bygone Traralgon.

Cost of the dinner will be \$25 per person and a deposit of \$10 is required when booking. Reservations can be made with Dawn Hustler, 5174 4540.

12th October – Tuesday, 7:30 pm

At this meeting we will hear from Mr Danny O'Keefe, of his years growing up in Seymour Street during the war years and later. Perhaps also some of his time as shoe retailer in Franklin Street before he retired.

23rd October – Saturday, 7:30 am

Will be our coach trip with Hazelwood Coaches to Bindi Station, which is classified by the National Trust.

Leaving Traralgon at 7:30 am, we will have a short break at Swifts Creek for morning tea. BYO lunch and fold-up chair for lunch at Bindi. Mr Tim Gibson will be our tour guide. Cost of the trip is \$20 and booking is essential on 5174 4540.

9th November – Tuesday, 7:30 pm

Ms Alison Robertson has very kindly offered to address our Society on the history of "Marsh's", the butcher's shop, which has had a very long association with the people of Traralgon. Her talk will include the various changes since Mr John Adams took over the business.

14th December – Tuesday, 7:30 pm

The final speaker for 2004 is Mr Rudi Paoletti. His subject will be historic gold mining areas. Rudi is the producer of *Adventurer Maps*.

Working Bees

Reminder – working bees will be held as usual on the 2nd and 4th Monday each month at our rooms. The next working bees will be Monday, 26th July; Monday, 9th August; Monday, 6th September and Monday, 20th September.

Monthly Meeting Reports

May 2004

Fires in Tyers and Glengarry West

Speaker: Helen Henry

A fire requires heat, fuel and oxygen to ignite and remain active, explained Helen Henry, Captain of the Glengarry West Fire Brigade. Fires are fought by removing one of these elements. Out in the open it's impossible to remove oxygen, so fire fighters will try to remove the fuel or the heat. Water will lower the temperature and temporarily displace the oxygen.

The factors affecting fire are weather, fuel, and topography. The weather conditions that fires like are high temperatures, low humidity and high wind speed – basically typical summer weather conditions, particularly here in Victoria when we experience northerly winds. Fuel will differ in type, such as tree, shrub or grass; description, such as heavy or fine (fine is defined as less than 6mm in diameter); moisture content; arrangement (vertical or horizontal); and spotting potential. Topography refers to the lay of the land – how much slope (fires love steep slopes and will double in speed for every 10° incline); aspect (a northerly aspect will be drier and warmer); the use of the land; and physical barriers, both for the fire and for the firefighter.

Fires, of course, require an ignition source. This can be natural, such as a lightning strike or spontaneous combustion; or human. Historically there were many more sources of ignition from human activity due to such things as cooking, lighting and heating practises, indiscriminate burning, steam trains, and more smokers.

Fires used to be very common and the one that had the most impact in the nineteenth century was *Black Thursday* of 1851, which was located at Wimmera, Portland, Plenty Ranges, Westernport, Dandenong districts, Heidelberg and Gippsland – although at this stage Gippsland had not long been discovered.

There were four major fires in the Tyers and Glengarry West district around the turn of the nineteenth century. A fire of 1898 (the papers called it Red Wednesday but it was also known as Red Tuesday), affected the whole of Gippsland, particularly the Strzelecki Ranges and South Gippsland. The Gippsland Farmers Journal reported that 'on Wednesday, January 12th, a remarkable phenomenon occurred and it was as if the last day had come when at 2 pm the air suddenly darkened with masses of choking smoke and visibility was cut to 20 yards and a lurid colour appeared in the smoke'. It went on to say that they had a desperate fight at Tyers before the fire burnt easterly towards Glengarry. Traralgon was surrounded on Tuesday, 1st February.

In 1905 an unconfirmed two deaths were reported in the Gormandale / Carrajung area in early January. Later that month a journalist who was undertaking a tour of Tyers reported obtaining a magnificent view that was partially obscured by the smoke from the bush fires. The situation deteriorated dramatically and on February 12th it was reported that 'with the thermometer at something over 100 degrees in the shade and a stiff breeze blowing, the smouldering fires in the different localities were soon fanned into fierce devouring flames, resulting in the black desolation left behind'. Two years later the story was much the same with the whole of the foothills country being burnt, and then again in 1913 when a journalist reported 'an immense fire, the biggest ever known, burning in the hills above Glengarry'.

Monthly Meeting Reports (cont)

By 1921 the First World War was over and things were very prosperous in Gippsland. The Harvest Festival was held in Traralgon on 23rd January and the next day two trees were struck by lightning. Hot weather and a very strong north wind resulted in a fire three miles wide. It ran into another fire east of Glengarry while another fire had broken out at Loy Yang – altogether 100,000 acres were burnt.

In 1926 a fire occurred in the first week of February. There were fires west of Toongabbie, the Haunted Hills, the Traralgon Creek, Walhalla, the Strzeleckis, and in the Tyers area. But the worst day was Sunday 14th February, 'a terrible day and a worse night', when the thermometer was reading the same temperature at 1 o'clock on Monday morning as it had on Sunday afternoon, and 'the fire burnt faster than a car could drive from Izepi's to Mr Chappel's'. The fire also got into the Yallourn Open Cut, which at the time had only been operating for a few years.

During the Depression, in 1932, another fire spread through Tyers and Glengarry West. It continued for over a week and in Traralgon it became too dark to see except with electric light. Six people were killed at O'Shea's Mill at Erica.

Friday, 13th January, 1939 is also known as 'Black Friday', however the deaths occurred on 10th January. In total 1.6 million hectares of forest, seventy-one people, sixty-nine saw mills, 700 homes and shops, and one hospital were amongst the victims. It destroyed the sawmill industry as it was, and changed the history of logging in Victoria, with sawmills from then on being established out of the forests. Enough people died for the Government and people to take notice, which resulted in the appointment of Judge Leonard Stretton to run a Royal Commission.

Large fires were again experienced in Victoria in the summer of 1943/44 when 1,100,000 acres burnt in six hours, taking a total of thirty-two people and 700 homes. The local area's bad day was 14th February when twelve people were killed. This fire led to the formation of our current fire-fighting services, and the CFA was given responsibility for fire-fighting in Victoria outside that area controlled by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Although fires started being taken seriously in Victoria, they still happened – in 1952, '62, '65 (this fire burned in Gippsland for seventeen days, taking more than sixty homes and shops, 4,000 stock, 750,000 acres of forest, and 40,000 acres of grassland), '68, '69, '72, '77, '78 and '81, however they tended to be localised, and weren't already there burning when the blow-up days came. Then on 16th January, 1983 came Ash Wednesday. It was a bad summer and we'd had a multitude of fires beforehand, but on this one day we lost forty-seven lives, more than 27,000 stock, and over 2,000 homes and shops. Yet despite the weather, with it being over 40° at 9pm, only 210,000 hectares were burnt, which is quite an amazing reduction. Last year we had the fires in the Alpine area. They were very large and were very much the same area as had burned in 1939. However we lost little property and only one life, which was not related to the fire.

Helen directed us to the CFA (www.cfa.vic.gov.au) and DSE (www.dse.vic.gov.au) websites, which both contain some fire history, but also provide details of any fires that are running, such as where it is, which way it's running, whether it's under control, how many trucks are there and so on.



Isabella at the 2003 fires near Traralgon

Monthly Meeting Reports (cont)

June 2004

The Real Estate Business

Speaker: Bill McMahon

Bill said he felt rather humbled speaking to the Society as he was sure there were many at the meeting who had lived in Traralgon longer and would know more about the history than he; however, he said, it was certainly great to be there with us. Bill's a self-proclaimed proud Traralgonite and very proud to be a part of what he thinks is a great town, which is why he is a member of the 'Save Traralgon' group – it's a subject very dear to his heart.

Bill began his talk with an overview of his and his family's history in Traralgon. His father came to Traralgon in 1938, the same year he was married. He bought-out a man called Farrin-Webb who was a livestock, real estate and general agent. Bill remembers all the old bottles of DDT, fly spray and other odds and sods that they'd sell at the office, which is now the Telstra shop, next to what was *Castles*. It was a terribly dingy old building, as buildings were in those days, and Bill remembers as a young child, when his father occupied the southern end of the building, being too frightened to go down the back.

Further on the south side was Harry Cooper and his photography shop. There was also a grocery and a gaming room – Bill remembers having to hurry past when he was with his mother, as he wasn't supposed to look down the long passageway, it being a place where 'bad people' gathered.

After buying-out Farrin-Webb, Bill's father carried-on business in this shop until around 1958. It was about 1955 that the land west of the Journal office lane was subdivided. The old Journal office was the last building in Seymour Street on the south side. This was the area where Richard Jeffery built his big drapery shop around 1956 – a huge development for Traralgon. The land between the drapery and Bert Thompson's Journal office was still vacant and it was subsequently subdivided and the area that is now the arcade was bought by Standings, where they ran the ES&A Bank, which then became Standing's Livestock and Real Estate. Bill's Dad bought a block next to Jeffery's Drapery when it was auctioned, where he built and moved his business.

Ria Bell, who Bill described as a wonderful woman, worked with Bill's father from 1939 until the business wound-up in 1969. Bill's father experienced many years of ill-health and Ria used to virtually run the business for him. During all those years they would always address each other as 'Mr McMahon' and 'Miss Bell'. Bill and his brother Max carried-on their father's business from 1974 at 20 Church Street (their father had always kept his licence current and had continued to do a little bit of real estate and stock work on the side). It was a block their father had bought in the mid 1960s and they stayed there until 1978 when they bought-out Rex Jacobi next to Post Office lane. They carried-on business there for twenty years, shifting to their current building in 1998.

During his years in Traralgon Bill has seen a lot of changes. The town has grown in a magnificent and orderly manner, and we have a lot to be thankful for in that our forefathers designed the town in such a wonderful way. Interestingly, a gentleman recently brought Bill the original plan for subdivision in Traralgon – it was a small village at the time and the original intention was to have Traralgon in the High Street area, as it was perceived in those days to be

Monthly Meeting Reports (cont)

much dryer up there. In fact the plan he has quotes the south side of Hotham Street being virtually useless due to its dampness. The reason it changed was that they found that if the steam trains stopped at the bottom of the hill near McNairns, they couldn't make it up the hill. They decided to bring the town back down this way and put the railway station where it is today, which is between the two hills, so the engines could get up either side.

In respect to business it's been an amazing era considering the growth that's taken place. Bill recalls selling a mill-house that was 'in pretty good nick' in Washington Street in 1976 for \$29,000, and saying they will never-ever get any dearer – just today he was talking about selling a mill-house on the western side of town for \$120-130,000. Blocks of land are now selling for up to \$150,000 each. Bill had the pleasure of working with the Sunderland Circuit subdivision – it was particularly dear to his heart as the land had been owned by the late Bert Smith. Bert was a very good friend of Bill's father and had flown Sunderland flying boats during WWII (he sank a U-boat in the Bay of Bengal and was awarded a DFC). Bert owned about six acres, now known as Sunderland Circuit, where Bill remembers chasing poddy calves during the '50s. The auctioning of the land was held on a Saturday morning in December at the Little Theatre – there were around thirty blocks which were sold in an hour and a half for a record price in Traralgon.

Bill finished his talk by answering questions from the floor. Lively discussion ensued regarding the industrialisation of the area east of Traralgon; the effect that the proposed bypass might have on business in Traralgon; the development of the estates across from the golf course, including the provision for a school, church, and recreation area; the trend of people moving from Morwell to Traralgon; the development of the Shakespeare Street area since the closing of the brick and cement works; Campbell's Estate and the history of severe flooding of the Traralgon Creek; the future of the old Central Gippsland Hospital site and much more.

July 2004

Traralgon South Primary School, 1879-2004

Speaker: Bruce Fulton

Bruce Fulton, Principal of Traralgon South Primary School (No. 2114), thanked the Society for his invitation to speak on the 125 year anniversary of the school. He has been associated with the Traralgon South Primary School for the last twenty-five years, although he has taught at other schools in between.

First known as Traralgon Creek South School, it was one of the first in the area. Along with Traralgon Creek (Koornalla), Upper Traralgon Creek (LeRoy), Balook, Blackwarry, Callignee and Callignee South, it made up the district schools and is the only one that survives today. In its first 100 years the school barely grew – in its first year, enrolment was twenty-nine (this included six of the Head Teacher's children) with an average attendance of sixteen pupils, and in 1979 enrolment was thirty-three. For many years enrolments were far greater than the average daily attendances, probably due to such things as farm work taking precedence or the difficulties encountered in getting to school.

The First World War had a direct impact on schools in the district and during the war years attendance rates fluctuated greatly. The Head Teacher during the first years of the War was Albert Callow. An inquiry by the District Inspector was conducted and in early 1916 the

Monthly Meeting Reports (cont)

Education Department Director wrote that “While the charge of making pro-German statements was not sustained, Mr Callow was informed that a wiser discretion in his comments on the war was needed”. A number of female teachers, who seemed to experience greater difficulty with the community, were appointed. Teachers rarely stayed for any length of time in the early years, and by July, 1916, the fourth Head Teacher in five months was appointed.

In 1917, and after a precarious period, a new Head Teacher, Mr Herbert Cook, was appointed. Under his charge the school engaged in fund raising activities for the War, albeit under difficult circumstances as described by his daughter, Winifred Lade:

When my father arrived to inspect the school residence (the load of furniture was just arriving) he was dismayed and disgusted to find the Education Department had transferred him to a school where it was impossible to house a family.

The schoolhouse was attached to the school. It consisted of only 3 small rooms, 1 very small living room and an unlined kitchen, where rats ran around the wall as we sat at the meal table.

As it was impossible for the family to live under these conditions, my father bought a large roll of hessian and with this, he halved the size of the schoolroom. He then divided the cut off into rooms. These were our bedrooms.

Measles broke out at our school. We became ill and were put to bed, where to the delight of the other children, and to our embarrassment, the children in the school were able to stand on the desks and look at us over the top of the hessian. They could also crawl underneath as the material did not go right to the floor.

After the War the school council set about making requests for a new school. As far back as 1911 it was recorded in council minutes that “The School was erected about 30 years ago and the walls are eaten away by white ants, the blocks are worn out and the ventilation is very bad”, and in 1921 “The school was erected 40 years ago and the studding and weatherboards are eaten away by white ants. The school building is beyond repairing and nothing but a new building will do”. A new school building was opened in 1923.

In 1927, Mr Kieran Brady was appointed Head Teacher and remained in the position for eleven years. During this period there was a dramatic lift in academic standards, and Council Meetings became more active, becoming involved with the day-to-day routines and gradually improving the appearance of the school. Eileen Clarke recalls:

Mr Brady lived in Traralgon and rode his bike to and from school every day. He was a firm disciplinarian and expected his students to be gathered at the school gate to greet him when he arrived. A boy would then be entrusted to wheel the bicycle to the shelter shed. Quite often, if the children were enjoying games Mr Brady may not have approved of, one of the boys would climb a tree to watch for his approach.

Although, it appeared, Mr Brady was not very enthusiastic about keeping his work program up to date, he was a keen sportsman and gardener, and took a lot of pride in the school garden. The Inspector’s Report Book gave some glowing reviews:

The little building is clean and neat. Pupils are fortunate to work in such surroundings, ... pupils do not show any great originality of thought, but they are earnest, careful workers ... before school the boys were found busily engaged in the garden ... residents and parents recognise the value of the training he is giving ... the appearance of the interior is an education in artistic decoration.

Monthly Meeting Reports (cont)

Mr Alan Keating was appointed Head Teacher in 1939. Being male and a keen sportsman, he fitted in well with the locals. After three years he departed to serve with the AIF in New Guinea. Four female Head Teachers then led the school until the end of the war.

After the War, normality started to return. Eleven of the school's twenty-three pupils were repeating a year. There were six Head Teachers in six years, which must have been hard for the school, and a new District Inspector noted on several occasions the lack of resources and equipment at the school. This was duly acted upon and for the first time a 'sewing mistress' (second teacher) was employed. In 1951, for the first time since 1939, a permanent Head Teacher was appointed, and in 1952 the Inspector noted:

Electric power has been connected and wireless and projector are in use ... improvement has been effected in standards ... pupils now have a more thorough grasp of basic number facts ... progress in arithmetic and reading ranges from good to very good ... incidental teaching of correct pronunciation.

The 1960s saw changes in the scope of education offered, and in 1965 the school was upgraded to a Class 3 school. For the first time a Head Teacher was promoted to the school rather than appointed to it, and numbers were on a gradual upward trend. But during the 1970s, development plans by the State Electricity Commission were under way and land was purchased for the Loy Yang project. It was dictated that the school either relocate or close. The local community were determined to keep their school. The school carried on as normal while enduring enormous noise and dust as huge earthworks, machinery and equipment surrounded it. Eventually the SEC agreed to move the school and cover all costs. Centenary celebrations coincided with the relocation of the school to the current site.

The '80s was a period of change and growth. Funding was granted for a bus service to the school and numbers of students began to increase, peaking at over 140 students in 1993. Families seeking a rural lifestyle have shifted to the area and settled for many years, and the School Council now selects its own Principal. The school has received new portables to accommodate its growth, and in 1995 it underwent a major refurbishment. It is well resourced, particularly in the Information Technology department, and continues to be involved in many innovative programs. The school makes good use of local community based resources, and many of the current staff have been at the school for more than ten years.



Traralgon South State School Group about 1890

Traralgon High School, 1963

By Russell A King

Early in 1963, Traralgon High School welcomed its newest intake of students from primary schools throughout the district. There were five forms of newcomers - 1A to 1E - and forty-one years on, in March of 2004, members for Form 1A gathered at the Shakespeare Street site to see how they - and the school - had weathered the years.

The timing was fortunate, big changes are under way at what is now Traralgon Secondary College East Campus, but in March the only evidence of them was preliminary excavation of the sports oval adjacent to Maskrey Street. The rest of the site – with the exception of an additional block of classrooms and a new library – was more or less unchanged.

Form 1A comprised forty-five students in 1963, and of that number 35 were located. The closest was only a short walk from the school (three still live in Traralgon, and five in the near vicinity), and the furthest living in California. The remainder were found in Laos (1), South Australia (4), Queensland (3), and New South Wales (3), as well as in all corners of Victoria.

In the end eighteen former classmates made the journey to Traralgon for the reunion. They were joined by three members of Form 1D and one from 1E, and seven teachers from the time were also on hand to ensure that order was maintained.

With the kind assistance of present-day school staff the weekend's events commenced in the conference room after lunch on Saturday, March 20th. Attendees renewed acquaintances while looking through photograph albums and school records, (all lovingly tended by current librarian Ian Moore) and took the opportunity to stroll around the corridors and grounds. The assembly hall – the school honour boards still affixed to the walls – was a popular stopping off point, and house loyalties a keen topic of discussion. Items of school uniform, textbooks and report cards from the sixties kept the conversation flowing and memories resurfacing until late in the afternoon.

Dinner at the Traralgon RSL Club was the second part of the weekend's gathering. A group photograph was taken for posterity and a quiz gave everyone a chance to further exercise their memories. Answers differed now and then, but lively discussion found the correct ones in the end. The high point of the evening came with the question about Cumnock Hospital; a count revealed that the majority of Form 1A had been born there!

The reunion closed with a BBQ brunch at Bert Thompson Reserve the next morning. Over orange juice and burnt sausages plans were made for a similar gathering during the Traralgon Secondary College's up-coming 50th anniversary celebrations, planned for 2005/2006.



Traralgon High School, 1963, Form 1A



1963 Form 1A Reunion, 20th May 2004

Trip to the Light Horse and Field Artillery Museum

By Joy Lancaster

On Sunday, 6th June, several members of our Society travelled to the Light Horse and Field Artillery Museum at Bessie Creek Road, Nar Nar Goon. Our hosts had morning tea waiting for us when we arrived, after which we were given a guided tour of the Museum.

The Museum has a large collection of restored WWI horse-drawn transport vehicles as well as a large display of WWI and WWII weapons and equipment carried by pack animals, collections of uniforms, cavalry kits and medical equipment from Gallipoli and France, honour rolls from well known firms, and a model of the Canberra War Memorial made entirely of used matches. Our guide has an extensive knowledge of all these exhibits, making his commentary most interesting and informative.

We then made our way back to the picnic area and the smoky warmth of the fire in the drum to chat and chew our BYO lunch, returning after this to the Museum to view, in our own time, the numerous items on display.

The horse-drawn food wagons with their ovens for cooking and bain-marie for keeping the food hot while on the move reminded us of the difficulties involved in keeping an army not only fed, but supplied with munitions and medical services etc. These services were also needed for the horses and other animals used in war such as donkeys, mules, dogs and pigeons. We tend to forget that the animals died and suffered as well as the men.

Our thanks to the organisers of this excursion, and to the Curator of the Museum, Mr Bernie Dingle, for a very interesting and appropriate way to commemorate the anniversary of D-Day.



Members of the Society and Bernie Dingle enjoying an interesting and informative day at the Light Horse and Field Artillery Museum, Bessie Creek Road, Nar Nar Goon

One Hundred Years Ago

By Dawn Hustler

Extracts from the Gippsland Farmers Journal

July, 1904

Glengarry

– The committee of the local club held a meeting last Wednesday, when it was decided that another series of dances be held. Mr James Lang's name was added to the committee.

– We regret to learn that Mrs Barden, an old and respected resident, died last Friday. Her husband died about a year ago.

– The road past Mr Hambrook's property is being very much cut up since the bullock waggons have started carrying timber along it. It was a fine piece of road until lately but will now soon require attention. The heavy rains of last week have been very beneficial. The ground has been too hard to plough till the rain came, but now it is in a perfect state.

Gormandale

– The Cricketers' Ball held on Wednesday, June 29, will long be remembered in Gormandale.

Favoured with a lovely moonlit night and a record crowd, visitors were present from Rosedale, Traralgon, Flynn's Creek, Callignee, Carrajung, Blackwarry and Willung. Dancing commenced at 8 o'clock to the music supplied by Mr J Missen (violin), Mr A Willis (piano), while Mr H Le Frenz filled the position of MC with his well known ability.

Traralgon

– Weather permitting the Traralgon Town Band will give a performance of music at the "centre block" on Saturday evening, commencing at 7.30.

– Mr Ellis of the old established fruit and confectionery business "centre block", Franklin Street, Traralgon, invites the public to call and inspect his stock.

August / September, 1904

– On Monday, August 15, Mr John English will sell Mr W O'Meara's land, store and dwelling at Glengarry. It is a good site and the buildings are substantial, and should be a good investment.

– There was a somewhat sensational bolt in Traralgon on Tuesday last. Mr F Grubb's son was driving a light spring cart and horse, used for carrying timber, when it suddenly reared and raced along Church Street, turned up Kaye Street, thence along Franklin Street, and was making straight for Messrs Smith Bros. window when one wheel of the cart collided with the lamp post, and before the animal could renew its mad career, Mr Burton had seized the reins.

The iron lamp post was broken off and the lantern damaged, but neither the vehicle or the horse were injured. The boy was thrown out before the collision took place, and escaped with a few scratches.

– **Sanitary Contract:** Cr West said that the sum of five shillings and fourpence should be deducted from the sanitary contractor's account, as the pans from four dwellings in the town had not been attended to during the quarter. The council was only liable for services actually rendered and it would be unfair to charge the ratepayers for work that had not been done.

News and Notes

Donations received

Jones Family – Lodge memorabilia.

John Thomas – ledger account book 1920s.

Angus and Heather Pollock – maps of APM plantations.

Traralgon Golf Club – book: "Beyond Traralgon Park – 100 years of Golf in Traralgon" by Bruce Lawn.

Les Davidson – books.

Hazel Wright – Gippsland Traders tray.

We sincerely thank all our donors.

Excursion

The outing on Sunday, 6th June to the Light Horse and Field Artillery Museum was a most interesting day. Those who attended were overwhelmed by the extent of the display.

Condolences

Vale – Nancy Burnet, Olivia Lockhardt and Pam Woolley; our sincere sympathy to their families on their loss.

In Appreciation

Many thanks to Centrelink Telecentre staff who, with assistance from Growmaster Nursery, have restored and beautified the baby Smythe grave.



Traralgon & District Historical Society Inc.

Print Post No. 345965/0004

If undeliverable, return to
PO Box 697, Traralgon 3844

Surface
Mail

Postage
Paid
Australia