



Braidwood & District Historical Society

PO Box 145 Braidwood NSW 2622

Newsletter

Number 21 June 2021

President's Report

The Braidwood Heritage Centre

Some members and community observers may have expected to see men in fluoro vests at work around the museum site at this stage. That will come but the project is still in the early stages of sorting out the compliance, approvals and consents. Public Works who are managing the project will have the funding agreement with QPRC in place by the time you read this newsletter. A Project Manager has been selected and will be announced by late May/early June.

The Development Application will be submitted by Braidwood & District Historical Society as we own the property and will own the Heritage Centre. Naturally we will be assisted by QPRC to ensure we can comply with the rigorous requirements by the Heritage Office, Service NSW (Roads), Education Department, besides the requirements for access, plus disabled access, building codes, electricity, sewerage and whatever else I haven't thought of just now.

Fortunately, the concept in principle does not have any major issues likely to prevent the overall project and vision being achieved. We will have the studios for demonstrating the lost trades, the working blacksmith shop, the café, the shop and onsite accommodation. Plus, major improvements to the existing museum such as air conditioning, lift and much improved access. All this will provide benefits for those involved and create a

cash flow to enable BDHS to employ the qualified staff needed to run it.

It is comforting to know from a member's perspective that Braidwood & District Historical Society will own the assets including the land buildings and collection. Profits will go to the museum and benefits will flow to the community.



The Stamper Battery (Gold Crusher) Moved on loan to Ryrie Park

Unfortunately, Mother Nature intervened. The heavy rain in March delayed the move and the dedication by the Mayor, Tim Overall on the scheduled day, 27th March. However, it is now in place and adds a grand addition to the recognition of Braidwood's goldfield heritage. The move was managed and carried out by Council and on behalf of the community I would like to thank QPRC for bearing the costs and arranging the excellent signage explaining how the gold crusher worked, its history and the significance of the goldfields for Braidwood's development. The Council staff were great and accepted the challenge when they discovered the

Crusher could not be moved in one piece and had to be taken apart and re-erected on site.

The Battery Stamper was moved to the museum site about 25 years ago by David Murtagh also known as 'Handyman Dave'. He and his wife Irene were living in the museum as caretakers and Dave worked at Braidwood tip collecting scrap metal for recycling. He heard that an American company had purchased the Alma Mine at Mongarlowe so he went and talked to the manager about the steel. He thought the stamper would look good at the museum but it had to be moved within the month. And so the journey began.

The other function we had lined up for the Mayor was the opening of the Law and Order Exhibition which we were able to hold on the scheduled day. About 30 members and friends attended including member, Tim the Yowie Man who provided a two-page spread follow up in the Canberra Times. We have had much interest in the exhibition and many visitors to the museum. Greg Willis's paintings on loan for the exhibition have received much comment. My thanks to John Stahel for his work in designing the exhibition and persevering through some printing supply dramas which should not have happened.

Peter Smith

Braidwood Museum Tees up Golf Classic or Out of the Bunkers and into the Trees

contributed by John Stahel

In March, a large field stepped back in time to play '**Hickory Golf**' at Braidwood's beautiful and historic course. Hickory events are played with pre-1940 wooden shafted clubs. Members and visitors dressed for the occasion. Players had to make the difficult adjustment to these ancient clubs and appreciated the skill that was required by our past champions.



***The winners,
Barry Leithhead
(CL) and Les
Browne (CR)
teamed up with
John Stahel (right)
and his brother
Geoff
Bowmaker (left)***

The winners on the day were, perhaps unsurprisingly, two keen players from the Australian Golf Heritage Society. Les Browne and Barry Leithhead teamed up to take the trophy beating Braidwood members John Stahel and his brother Geoff Bowmaker by one eighth of a shot. Damn that wayward chip on the ninth! Braidwood's Club Champion, Michael Toirkens and Terry Hughes were in third place, only two eighths of a stroke behind.

John Stahel, a volunteer at the museum who helped to organise the day said "We created a piece of living history today. There was great camaraderie and an appreciation of how the game was played in Braidwood a hundred years ago" Stahel thanked the Braidwood Golf Club and the Australian Golf Heritage Society for helping to create "The Hickory Experience"

The Braidwood & District Historical Society sponsored the event in an effort to emphasise the importance of our community sporting clubs. These small clubs provide important social connections and the culture of those clubs are a product of the club's history. Being aware of an organisation's past can help strengthen them for the future. Stahel said "It's important that we remember and honour the custodians of that culture. The tone of fraternity at a club is set by the succession of members, management, champions and sponsors who keep the club viable, both financially and socially." Traditions aren't important because they are traditions, said Stahel "It's the other way around. They are traditions because they are important."



Braidwood Golf Course 1925

Braidwood Golf Club is among the oldest courses in the country. It was formed in 1913 with the first matches being played in May after the course was opened by a local Alderman.

The Dispatch reported that "the links are well laid out, occupying the common beyond the pound yards and adjoining lands and with a small expenditure the course could be made an excellent one. The mixed foursomes were won by Mrs Page and Mr Bull. Afternoon tea was provided by the ladies."



Braidwood Golf Course today

The First World War seems to have disrupted the club in those early days but it reformed in the 1920's, still using 'The Common' along Flood Creek. Some considered this course unsuitable and a course at the racecourse was proposed. There may have been a split in the club at this time, as even though the proposal was defeated, a course was still built at the racecourse. The original course started to be referred to as "The Town Course" Both clubs were disrupted by the Second World War. When the Servicemen's Club was founded in 1952, the present golf course was laid out in Mr McDonald's Paddock after negotiations to place it in the Police Paddock at the northern end of town broke down.

A special guest on **Hickory Day**, who had never played at Braidwood, was Ross Howard, the son of Al Howard who designed the present course in 1952 for a fee of £23/10/06p "It was wonderful to see the layout" said Ross, "the setting and the trees all blending together to create a golfing vista and a great tribute to the club's management, greenskeeper and volunteers to present the course in such wonderful condition" Ross was able to identify many of the Howard hallmarks as we played the course, the bumps and dips sculptured around the green in particular.

Recently, another interesting connection has been confirmed between the Braidwood district and the history of golf. Davey Robertson migrated to Australia in the 1850's to dig for gold in Araluen. The Scotsman from St Andrews, brought a set of golf clubs with him that had belonged to his brother Allan. Allan Robertson is one of the most significant figures in the history of golf. He was the very first professional golfer. The hickory clubs Davey brought to Araluen were handmade by his brother and today they are displayed in the collection of the Royal Sydney Golf Club.



***Davey Robertson's brother Allan Robertson,
with Hickory sticks.***



***Ross Howard, Ted Emmett, Brendan
Booker, Murray Smith.***

Born in St Andrews, Scotland in 1815 Robertson inherited a century old golf equipment company that he grew into the premier golf club and ball manufacturer in the world. His skilled craftsmen spent their days creating "feathery" golf balls, which were made by stuffing boiled goose feathers into a small leather pouch. These labor intensive and relatively fragile golf balls were the best available for nearly 200 years before gutta percha balls took over.

As a golf professional, Robertson acted as a caddy, instructor, and equipment manufacturer. Professionals of the day subsidized their income through wagers while on the golf course, and Robertson was widely considered the best golfer of his day. When Robertson died it was decided to hold a special tournament to decide his successor. That tournament was the "The Open", later called the "British Open".

We don't know much about what happened to brother Davey. He found two nuggets at Araluen but he was also declared bankrupt. Perhaps he was last seen looking for a lost ball in the thick rough near Gillamatong Creek.

Geoff Bowmaker



Steve Cansell, Phil Wilson, Nick Fry



Rodney Royds, Rob Martin



*Nice style, John Stahel
BDHS Vice President*



And a wonderful day was had by all.



Is this a winning walk?

Big thanks Kathy Toirkins for the great photographs

The Australian Golf Heritage Society promotes the regular celebration of the origins of the game and further information about the organisation can be found at <http://www.australiangolfheritage.org.au>

Jack Alick Bond War Veteran

There is a paucity of Australian records concerning Aboriginal involvement in the 2 World Wars, let alone the Boer War. Braidwood is lucky to have two known Aboriginal participants who served with great credit. Jack Alick Bond served in the Boer War and his brother Andrew Bond served in WW1.



Jack Alick Bond

Jack, Andrew and their brothers Joe and William were born to Ellen (Helen) de Mestre and black tracker, Alick (Jacky) Bond. Ellen was the daughter of Etienne de Mestre and an Aboriginal woman, Sarah Lamb, all living in the Jembaicumbene area of Braidwood. Records show that black tracker Alick was probably the son of an earlier Jack Bond, known as Mondalie, King of Majors Creek with his wife Kitty, his Queen (from *Aboriginal History* Vol.39, 2015).

In 1872 after being declined the gazettal of a reserve for Araluen Billy, Mondaliea alias Jack Bond, moved to Moruya. By 1890 there were only four Aboriginal women and two children remaining in Braidwood and by 1900 there were no Aboriginal people in the Braidwood although the Bond family returned to Majors Creek in 1881.

Ellen de Mestre described her son Jack as being a farm labourer as well as a tracker and skilled horseman. She claimed their family, "frequented Mt Elrington, Ballalaba, Krawarree, Jembaicumbene, Major's Creek and the Araluen valley and belonged to the Jincro 'tribe' of the Walbanja Yuin".

Commonwealth Contingent for Service in South Africa.

ATTESTATION of No. **356** Name **John Alick**
Joined at **SYDNEY, N. S. W.**
On **JANY 20 1902**

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
1. What is your name?	1. John Alick
2. What is your place of birth?	2. Braidwood res
3. Are you a British subject?	3. YES
4. What is your age?	4. 28 years — months.
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. Labourer
6. Are you married?	6. No
7. Who is your next-of-kin, and what is the address of same, and degree of relationship?	7. Brother, Joseph, Brown
8. Particulars of any previous service in present South African war, and state in what Contingent enrolled, and if discharged.	8. 1 1/2 yrs 2 Contingent discharged
9. Are you willing to serve for a period of 12 months, or for the duration of war, in the Contingent for service in South Africa with His Majesty's forces?	9. YES
10. Are you willing to be vaccinated, or re-vaccinated, if deemed advisable?	10. YES
11. Present permanent address?	11. Two Andy & Dot Wombeen Brown
12. Religion?	12. R C

I, **John Alick** do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made for service under the Imperial Government, and that I have no claim on the Commonwealth Government, and that I do not expect to receive for myself, or any of my relations, any compensation whatsoever from the Commonwealth Government in case of my disability or death.

Signature of Applicant: **John Alick**
Signature of Witness: **J. P. Gorman**

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE
I have examined the above-named applicant and can certify that he is medically fit for service in South Africa.

Height **5** feet **4 1/2** inches. Eyes **Brown**
Chest measurement **33 1/2** inches. Hair **Black**
Complexion **Dark** Distinctive marks **1 - V.M. 2 - L.H.M. 3 - Scar on Right**

Signature of Medical Officer: **Renta & Root**

* One to be struck out and initialed by Medical Officer.

OATH TO BE TAKEN ON ATTESTATION.
I, **John Alick** do make oath that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty, His heirs and successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty his heirs and successors in person, Crown, and dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me.

So help me, God.
Signature of Applicant: **John Alick**
Signature of Witness: **J. P. Gorman**

Subscribed before me
Justice of the Peace.

Application for service in the Boer War



**Helen (Ellen) de Mestre
1860-1934**

Jack Alick Bond sailed on January 17, 1900 as a member of the Second Contingent of the First Australian Horse. Bond went on to take part in significant battles at Poplar Grove, Zand River, and Diamond Hill, Zilicats Nek, Kameel Drift and the Battle of Belfast.

Upon his return to Sydney May 2, 1901, Bond was presented with a medal by the Duke of Cornwall and York, and future King, Prince George.

He then re-enlisted in January 1902, age 28 years, noting his brother Joseph as next of Kin. He received a medal for the South African Campaign in 1901. Jack Alick Bond died November 1941, age 68 years at La Perouse.

BOND.—The Funeral of the late JACK BOND, late of La Perouse, will leave Our Private Mortuary Chapel, 265 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, THIS FRIDAY, at 2 p.m., for the Church of England Cemetery, Botany. MRS. P. KIRBY and SON PTY., LTD., 265 Elizabeth Street, Sydney. Phone, M2221-2.

BOND.—FIRST AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED RIFLE.—Members of the SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their Comrade, JOHN BOND (Jack Alick). See Family Notice for further particulars. MAJOR C. W. COULTER, Pres.; JOHN T. RYAN, Secretary.

In 1900 he wrote a letter home to Braidwood. It was written at Korvall Pont, Convalescent Camp. September 4th 1900, and addressed to Mr George Larkins, Krawarree. It was published in

The Braidwood Dispatch and Mining Journal 13 October 1900.

Letter from Africa.

The following letter from the black tracker, Jack Alick, who joined the Australian Horse and went to the war, will be interesting. It is addressed to Mr. George Larkins, Krawarree, and was received on Tuesday last:—

Norvala Pont, Convalescent Camp,
September 4, 1900.

DEAR GEORGE,—I now take the opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know I am still alive and kicking. I have been unfortunate enough to take an attack of fever from which I fell sick at Johannesburg, just three months ago, but I am pleased to say I have almost fully recovered and am feeling well again. I have not seen the regiment since I fell sick and I am not particularly anxious to rejoin them as I am quite satisfied where I am now having an easy time here, doing no duty. I have seen quite enough fighting and have had some very narrow squeaks. It is a very healthy place here and we are close to the Orange River and also the bridge which was blown up some time ago. We are surrounded on all sides by kopjes, and after 10 o'clock in the morning we are free to roam wherever we like and sometimes I take a turn at climbing, but not often as I have seen enough of these kopjes. I have been amongst all sorts and sizes of troops since my sickness, regulars and volunteers from almost every regiment out here, and I must say they are a majority a most lively and jolly lot of chaps and damned good company, especially in the tent where I am now. I understood you had a good days' race at Snowball on Easter Monday and hope you all enjoyed yourselves. Of course it wasn't my luck to be there, but I enjoyed a night out in the rain on the veldt on Easter Monday without tents, and also the two following nights, after which I felt slightly washed out. I haven't space enough to go into details of all the fighting, &c. I have been through, but will give you all particulars when I return home, which I hope won't be long, as I reckon it has lasted quite long enough. Give my kindest regards to the Mrs. and the children and accept same yourself, from your old friend

JACK ALICK.

I have added a translation because of the small script.

Korvall Pont, Convalescent Camp,
September 4, 1900,

DEAR George,— I now take the opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know I am still alive and kicking. I have been unfortunate enough to take an attack of fever from which I fell sick at Johannesburg just three months ago, but I am pleased to say I have almost fully recovered and am feeling well again. I have not seen the regiment since I fell sick and I am not particularly anxious to rejoin them as I am quite satisfied where I am now having an easy time here, doing no duty. I have seen quite enough fighting and have had some very narrow squeaks. It is a very healthy place here and we are close to the Orange River and also the bridge which was blown up some time ago. We are surrounded on all sides by kopjes, and after 10 o'clock in the morning we are free to roam wherever we like and sometimes I take a turn at climbing, but not often as I have seen enough of these kopjes. I have been amongst all sorts and sizes of troops since my sickness, regulars and volunteers from almost every regiment out here and I must say they are as a majority a most lively and jolly lot of chaps and damned good company, especially in the tent where I am now. I understood yon had a good days races at Snowball on Easter Monday and hope yon all enjoyed yourselves. Of course it wasn't my luck to be there, but I enjoyed a night out in the rain on the veldt on Easter Monday without tents, and also the two following nights, after which I felt slightly washed out. I haven't space enough to go into details of all the fighting, &c I have been through, but will give you all particulars when I return home, which I hope won't be long, as I reckon it has lasted just long enough. Give my kindest regards

to the Mrs. and the children and accept same yourself,

from your old friend JACK ALICK

The letter was probably written on his behalf as Jack Alick signed his 1902 Attestation with 'his mark'. The fact someone took the trouble to write it for him as well as the letter's contents indicates that Jack Alick's experience with his fellow soldiers was a positive one.

A Memorial and Re-dedication ceremony was held on 31 May 2021 at his gravesite at Botany Cemetery.

Jack Alick's brother Andy Bond, Service No.4509, enlisted in Kiama and served in the 33rd Infantry Battalion 2nd WW. He was born in Braidwood in 1883, but lived at Wallaga Lake. He died in Berry in 1943. He was also a musician.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

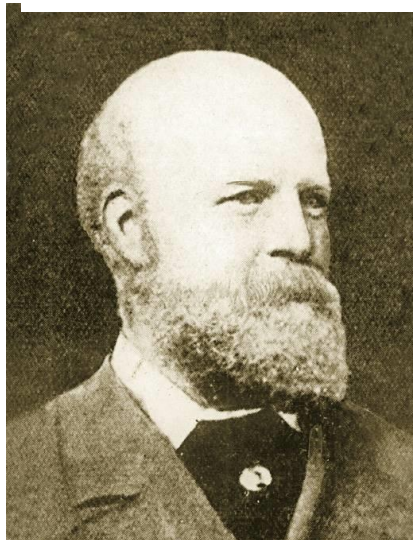
No. 4509 Name BOND Andy
30. Btn/12 Reinf Unit
Joined on 13. 11. 16

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your name?	1. <u>Andy Bond</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?	2. In the Parish of <u>Braidwood</u> in or near the Town of <u>Braidwood</u> in the County of <u>ex. S. Halls</u>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, particulars be shown.)	3. <u>ex. Natural Born</u>
4. What is your age?	4. <u>33</u>
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. <u>Labourer</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period,	6. <u>no</u>
7. Are you married?	7. <u>no</u>
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)	8. <u>Ellen Baddagadi (Mother) Wallaga Lake, S.W.</u>
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	9. <u>no</u>
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with ignominy, or as incorrigible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy?	10. <u>no</u>
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, The Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal	11. <u>no</u>



Courtesy of David Huggonson



Etienne de Mestre, father of Helen de Mestre.

BDHS Annual Dinner

We had to miss last year because of COVID, but there will be a dinner this year. So plan to receive further details for the Saturday 14th August dinner in the National Theatre with our favorite caterer Vanilla Catering.

Our Society values the support of

Queanbeyan Palerang Council



And

Braidwood & Districts Community Bank

