



Braidwood & District Historical Society

PO Box 145 Braidwood NSW 2622

Newsletter

Number 30 September 2023

President's Report

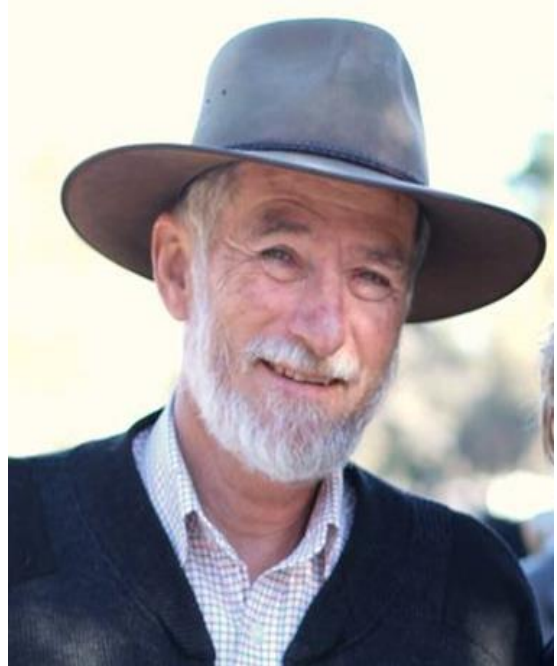
Our dedicated, hardy volunteers have ensured the museum has been opened throughout winter this year. Winter visitations are generally quieter but there has been a steady flow and many enquiries have been attended to, particularly regarding family history. Our new exhibition, "Celebrated Women of Braidwood" is officially launched. The project will continue to grow and will eventually become a book. Put a visit to the museum on your to do list. You will not be disappointed.

There are delays with the commencement of construction for the Heritage Centre. All I can say is Governments and Councils move slowly and a lot of money is wasted in the process. The additional Bushfire Recovery funds have been lodged with the Council as required before a builder can be contracted. That means we start with \$3.750M, but we still have a budget shortfall. This is not quite the same as Snowy 2.0 but we will have to modify our expectations and will be seeking additional sources for funding. I am not able to advise the starting date for construction at this time.

More information will be available at the AGM on Friday 22 September at the Services Club, commencing at 6pm. We are looking forward to a good roll up.

Peter Smith

Another of Our Volunteers



Peter Smith
President

I have had a fascination with Australian history ever since I can remember. I love the bush and the adventures the bush offers. No doubt, this is what led me to my interest in colonial history and particularly bushrangers.

My father was a leading figure in agriculture and I spent a lot of my school holidays on farms, particularly around Moruya and the south coast. On a visit to Nerrigundah one day, I discovered the monument to Constable O'Grady, murdered by the Clarke gang. It fired my imagination and stirred my resolve to find out more.

I was 15 years old when I met Chris Woodland and Edgar Penzig. They fostered my interest and along with my brother, Ray, I joined them in the formation of Wild Colonial Days Society.

At the same time, I joined the Sporting Shooters Association and took up competition target shooting and became SSA junior champion. Soon after, I started collecting antique firearms.

In 1965 I met my wife, Robyn through our activities in the Wild Colonial days Society. We shared a common interest in the bush and colonial history. Later we formed a group with Edgar Penzig performing historical re-enactments and advising for film and television production. In 1982 Kangaroo Press published my first book, 'Tracking Down the Bushrangers'.

At the same time, I was still working on the Clarke gang book which was boosted when I met Annette Briggs, who helped considerably with my research. It took a long time but 'The Clarke Gang-Outlawed, Outcast and Forgotten' was eventually published in 2015 and has since had three reprints due to popular demand.

My father was stationed at Moruya during WW2 in a Government role to build up a stock of vegetable seed for the war effort. Moruya became a favourite place for the family. My brother and I went exploring up the river where we had great adventures and made many friends, including the pioneering Davis family, of Woolla on the Deua River. In 1992 Robyn and I purchased Woolla. For a time, it was a great place to spend week-ends, but I could only dream how good it would be to live there.

Eventually the time arrived. By 2006 we had sold our printing and manufacturing company in Sydney and I retired. We built a new house at Woolla and took up residence there. I now was in the right place and had the time to finish the book I had been researching for nearly fifty years.

I have been a member of the Braidwood & District Historical Society since about 1970 and was in awe of the fabulous

work done by the founders and the many volunteers who followed. Added to this was my love of the local history and the heritage town. With my book finished I was ready for a new challenge. It came quickly in the same year 2015 when I was elected President of the Braidwood & District Historical Society.

At the museum I enjoy working with a great group of dedicated people. I am very grateful for the efforts and support whilst I work closely with John Stahel to create the long-awaited Braidwood Heritage Centre. It is a grand project and will be a milestone in the ongoing story of Braidwood's heritage.

Kerrie's Corner of Unique Museum Artefacts

Kerrie wishes to highlight this rare and significant artefacts located in our Goldfields exhibition in our museum. Our accession records state that John Blatchford's Brass Telescope with tripod was donated by Blatchford family member Mr Malcolm Mackenzie 1996.



This special artefact measures 102cm long, 20cm circumference base and has a 10 cm circumference eye piece. The telescope maker was J H Steward, an English optician who founded his business in 1852. Steward's advertisements boasted that he produced an extensive range of items for military use, including instruments for 'reconnoitring, sketching, night marching, signalling and gun laying'.

The question is why would a businessman living in Bell's Creek require a precise instrument such as this? The answer lies in the need for John to keep his eye on his mining interests in the Valley. John and his family lived in a house he built known as 'Torrington 'or Tor Cottage'. This home was named after a local town in Devon, England. Their home was located high up at Bell's Creek overlooking Deep Creek in North Araluen, where his mine operations were positioned. John would sit on his front veranda and use his telescope to watch the progress of his gold interests in the valley.



"Tor Cottage" Bells Creek

John was an Englishman who was trained as a cabinet maker and joiner. He migrated to NSW as an assisted immigrant aged 24 in 1853. He married Miss Thirza Honey in June 1859 and they soon travelled to the Braidwood District. John and his wife set up a business in Majors Creek. He was also the agent for the Roberts family, which kept him very busy. He took the opportunity to expand his business and he opened a store at Crown Flat, Araluen. With the success of the Araluen goldfields, he opened another store at Redbank and operated as one of the main gold buyers. It was noted in the newspapers of the day that as a principal gold purchaser he averaged 2000 oz per

week and personally escorted the coach that laboured to haul the trunk full of gold up the mountain from Araluen to Majors Creek. John sat up front with the driver. In 1865, when notorious bushrangers Hall, Gilbert and O'Malley attempted to rob the coach, John and his private gold escort



John, Thirza Blatchford and daughter Helena 1861

foiled this brazen robbery. John was also named as a local magistrate in 1868 and remained on the bench for some twenty-five years.

John had extensive mining enterprises at Dirty Butter Creek and Deep Creek and was one of the first to lay claims at Captain's Flat and at Boro. However, the glitter of gold did not always shine for John and his family. John's losses during several floods in the 1870s saw his light dim. He moved to his residence in Bell's Creek in 1870 and worked to secure his financial burdens. He lived to enjoy his hard work but died because of heart failure aged 65 in 1894. He and his wife

had six daughters and one son. John and Thirza are buried at the Old Braidwood Cemetery.



New Members

We are very pleased to welcome:

Francine Magsino
Gary Lewis
Cheryl Hill

We hope you enjoy our Newsletters

Celebrated Women of Braidwood

Have you ever wondered what the women of the Braidwood District have been doing to elevate the community!

The curators at the Braidwood Museum have wondered that too and they wish to fix the balance of the history by highlighting the contribution of women to our area. The history of Braidwood has been dominated by men's role over the last 200 years of European settlement.

There is a small area of the museum that has been allocated to highlight some of the women's stories. The worry is that there are too many stories and not enough space.

So, the solution is that the curators will rotate the stories over the next year or so.

Eventually these stories will be transformed into a book.

If you have a story please contact the Braidwood Museum and your celebrated Braidwood woman can be highlighted.

You are welcome to view our first collection of stories. The Braidwood Museum is open from 11.00am to 2.00pm each Friday and Saturday. Free entry will allow you to view the other exhibitions as well. All welcome!

Anzac Day Presentation



Rod McClure, Jill Clarke, Terence Roach

This was held on 27th May
Rudy Stachow - spoke about his thoughts and experiences as an Aussie Infantry Corp soldier with the 9th and 5th Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment who more or less followed a route from Majors Creek Primary School, Braidwood Central High School. Infantry training and then to Vietnam in the period

1968 to 1970, linked that to some of the exhibits on display.

Rod McClure - Braidwood 1915: At Home and On The Front. Rod will speak a little about the display, but also how Braidwood sent off its men volunteering to fight and also touch on the reluctance of some young men in the town and area to enlist and why. He will read parts some of the letters that they sent back from the Dardanelles.



Rudy Stachow, Rod McClure, Terence Roach, Paul Briggs

Terence Roach- retired RAN submarine CO. **HMAS AE2** – The story of the 'Silent Anzac'. On the 25 April 1915, before the ANZAC troops landed, AE2 had successfully penetrated the Dardanelles to break through into the Sea of Marmara to commence a sustained submarine campaign which so disrupted the build-up of Turkish forces, that they were never able to launch a successful counterattack. HMAS AE2's brief operational career was of great significance, not only to Australia and its young Navy, but also in the history of submarine operations.

Paul Briggs – ex RAAF: My Family's WW1 Involvement, relics and my 2005 (90th Anniversary) ANZAC experience. Paul will speak about his Grandfather Jack, and Jack's older brother Tom, who were both soldiers in the 2nd Battalion AIF at Gallipoli. Both were injured in the August Offensive at Lone Pine, after which only Jack was left to carry on

fighting as part of General Chauvel's Desert Mounted Corps; a brief synopsis of Jack's time spent in both theatres of war and tying Paul's 90th Gallipoli ANZAC anniversary experience back into his family story, 2 and 3 generations on from 1915.



Thomas Walter Briggs Death Penny 12.8.1915 at Lone Pine 14th Aust. Light Horse



WW1 medals and Commemorative medal for 50th Anniversary of Anzac belonging to Jack Briggs

The AGM

This year's AGM is to be held on **Friday 22nd September 2023 at 6pm** at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club

There will be a short meeting and election of officers, followed by a short reading of an old newspaper item of interest and the showing of an old local movie clip.

For those who wish to stay on, dinner and drinks may be purchased at the bar.

We thank you for your support throughout the year and hope to see you that night.

Henry Luttwitz Mater

Part 2 of this article, commenced in the June Newsletter.

After Henry retired from the Fire Brigade he went on to participate in many of the societies and organisations in Braidwood.



***Stock Inspectors of NSW. Henry Mater third row from the front:
Third from the left.***

KEY TO PHOTOGRAPH OF STOCK INSPECTORS

BACK ROW	Copeland, Madson, (Ilparinka), Rees, Forster, Little, Bloomfield, Nevill, Hamilton, Kearney, Brooks, Furness.
SECOND ROW	Hyte, Poollett, Mater, Freeman, Cox, Reuss, Faulkner, Gavel. At back between Reuss and Faulkner-Pillinger. At back between Faulkner and Gavel - Adams.
THIRD ROW	Smith, Edwards, Rassin, Whitehouse, Campbell, White, Lucas, Bluett (Secretary).
FOURTH ROW	(Sitting) Proctor, Lawson, Palmer, Brett, Symons, (Chief Inspector), Rochfort, Hatten, May-Steers, Bucknell, (Brew-)



Henry was a keen musician. He is seated back row far left.

Mr. H. L. Mater proposed as the next toast Success to the Braidwood Billiard Club. He did not think there was a country town in New South Wales that had such a beautiful room as this Club possessed. He had been in many parts of the State, and he never saw a room so well fitted out. He was once very fond of billiards, and had played a good deal. He remembered in one tournament in which he had taken part he had wiped everybody out but one player, the late Dr. Llewellyn, whom he played off. The game was 200 up, and he (Mr. M.) only wanted 2 to win, but as he had been taught that it was not the thing to pot the white ball he refrained from doing so, and the Doctor, who was 195, then potted the red ball, and next potted him, and thus won the tournament.



Henry was a keen contributor to his district. He was a member of the Masonic Order (picture above) acting as Grand Inspector of Workings for the Southern and South Coast districts.

Henry was also involved in the Braidwood Hospital Board as well. He was also the Treasurer for the Braidwood P & A (Show) Society. He was a prominent exhibitor, as he competed and often won prizes in classes for Pony Hacks, Ayrshire Cattle, turkeys, and the manufacturing sections (The 1907 Braidwood Show). This is around the time that he invented a 1000ft hose appliance for the Fire Brigade that was believed to be manufactured by a Sydney Firm.

Chapman 2

SECTION Z : MANUFACTURES.

STEWARDS : Messrs. E. A. Maddrell and J. Mair,

Iron Plough, single, A R Hill 1, H L Mater 2

Single Harrow, H L Mater 1

Spring Cart, H L Mater 1

One-horse Dray, H L Mater 1

Side Sole Leather, F E Grenenger 1

Side Kip Leather, F E Grenenger 1

Side Harness Leather, F E Grenenger 1

Set of Horseshoes, heavy draught, M. Dempsey 1, R. Whitfield, junior, 2

Set of Horseshoes, saddle, M Dempsey 1, R Whitfield, junior, 2

Double-seated Buggy, A Campbell 1

Sulky, A. Campbell 1

Henry applied for extended leave in 1922 and officially retired in 1924 after 42 years of service to the Braidwood Pasture Protection Board. Henry and his wife Mary and their family consequently prepared to leave the Braidwood District.

BIRDS AND ANIMALS PROTECTION ACT, 1918.

RESIGNATION OF HONORARY RANGER.

Chief Secretary's Department.

THE resignation by Mr. Henry Lutturtz Mater, late Inspector of Stock, Braidwood, of his position as an Honorary Ranger under the Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1918, has been accepted.

C. C. LAZZARINI.

RETIREMENT OF STOCK-INSPECTOR MATER.

Mr. H. L. Mater, who retires from the position of Inspector of Stock for the Braidwood P.P. district to-day, does so on a retiring allowance of 11 months' full pay. Of this amount the Board will pay half and the Government half. Recognising that such a large payment out of the funds in one year would be rather a serious matter for the Board, Mr. Mater very generously offered to accept half-pay and extend the time for payment of the allowance to 22 months instead of 11. Needless to say this act of grace is highly appreciated by the Board, as, indeed, it certainly should be. One doesn't often meet with such considerateness nowadays in our business and professional life. It provides a fitting climax to a long period of excellent service. In the performance of his duties Mr. Mater has doubtless made bad friends, and possibly enemies. This is only, after all, natural. Has not a philosopher said: "Show me a man without enemies, and I will show you a man who has done nothing?" Mr. Mater can lay "the flattering unction to his soul" that he has not only done something, but has secured the goodwill and appreciation of the Board under which he has worked for such an extended period in doing it.

VALEDICTORY

FAREWELL TO MR. STOCK-INSPECTOR MATER.

At the termination of the lengthy sitting of the Braidwood P.P. Board on Tuesday the chairman, Mr. R. G. Hassall, said that was the last meeting which Mr. H. L. Mater would officially attend. He was sure they would all agree with him in expressing the deepest regret that they were losing his services, because he had done his duty faithfully and well both to the Board and the ratepayers. Nothing more could be said of a man than that. It must be very pleasing to Mr. Mater, after 42 years' continuous service with the Board, to know that he was leaving office with the cordial friendship of those with whom he had been so long officially associated, and also to know that he had their best wishes for his future prosperity and happiness.

Henry and his wife Mary left Braidwood to live in Manly, Sydney.
Henry died on 8th July 1935.

The Restoration of the Museum's 1930 Dodge

'Gellibrand' Takes Shape in Dodge City **Written by John Stahel, Vice President**

Through July and August a steady stream of volunteers have kept bolting on more and more bits to the engine. The tables that used to be covered in parts are clearing. Parts that a few months ago just looked like bent wire are now revealing themselves as vital instruments. Rusty nuts have been cleaned to reveal their special function.

Two months ago, the starter motor was bolted on and a battery connected. Some oil glugged in and the engine was turned over. Not fired up you understand. Oil pressure was judged to be more than satisfactory and a small cheer erupted. The engine doesn't make any clunky noises.

Since then, the head has been bolted down, carburettor connected, exhaust and muffler attached. The brakes are connected. Rotten wooden coachwork has been repaired or replaced. Our clever volunteers are doing clever things.

The workshop continues to attract the attention of residents and visitors. Every time the roller door goes up people drift in for a look. The local member for Monaro, Steve Whan, dropped in recently. It's great to have the support of our community.



John Stahel with Member for Monaro, Steve Whan



A visit from the ACT chapter of the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club



Brakes fitted so that when we get going, we can also stop!



Heads on.! Crikey ! This might work !

**All articles written by Jill Clarke, unless otherwise stated.
Typesetting done by Annette Briggs**

Our
Society values the support of

Queanbeyan Palerang Council



and

Community Bank
Braidwood



and



and



FRRR
Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal

