



Braidwood & District Historical Society

PO Box 145 Braidwood NSW 2622

Newsletter

Number 33 June 2024

President's Report

It gives me great pleasure to announce that as of the last week of May construction of the Braidwood Heritage Centre is finally underway. Excavators have been at work preparing footings and slabs for a concrete pour. Trenching is underway for electrical and plumbing services. We have asked that priority be given for installing the air conditioning in the museum in preparation for the coming winter.

As previously advised the project has been divided into two stages. At this time there is no funding for stage 2. The initial funding was \$2.5 million. There was a later top to \$3.75 million. Since then, there has been a further budget blow out.

I will endeavour to explain the reasons for the blow out- The project is being managed by Public Works Advisory (PWA) with a very large committee (Project Consulting Group) overseeing the expenditure and protocols; the architect did not design to the initial budget, but on the positive side made improvements; Heritage NSW wielded a heavy hand insisting on many alterations to the plan without considering the economic viability of the project; Heritage did not take into account that a viable heritage centre complex at the back of the museum would ensure the maintenance and preservation of the state heritage listed museum building; Heritage NSW insisted on a more extensive archaeological study of the site

regardless that we had already commissioned and paid for an archaeological assessment including ground penetrating radar; in the four years since the announcement of the initial grant building costs have increased in some cases by over 50%; some costs were unaccounted for such as the cost of a right of way over a small area of school land; council charges; delays have increased costs including management charges over a longer period.

Stage 1 will deliver the accommodation block consisting of open lounge, dining, and kitchen with 6 rooms with en-suites, the working blacksmiths shop, a new entrance at the rear of the museum building with reception area and shop, new museum toilets, museum lift and air-conditioning. While construction is underway the plumbing and electrical lines will also be completed in anticipation of a stage 2 construction.

Stage 2 can only be completed when funding is available. Stage 2 includes the artisan and teaching studios for lost crafts, co-working spaces, café, and toilet block. Several avenues are currently being explored for the additional funding.

While construction is in progress the museum will continue to be open and function almost normally. Our committee and volunteers continue to do a wonderful job. We have much to look forward to.

Peter Smith President

Another of Our Volunteers



**Jon
Stuart**

**as we
know
him**



**Jon
Stuart**

**the
proud
family
man**

Hi folks I haven't been involved with the Braidwood Museum for very long (about a year) but I sure like what I see. A bit about me (censored). I grew up in Sydney and always had a great love of its museums from many visits as a wide eyed child, Probably the dinosaur and animal history museum were my favourites. Which led me to volunteer in the digitization department of the Australian Museum many years later....it felt like home. And maybe that's what led me here. I've done so many different types of jobs along the way from apprentice chef to land drilling, farming, family stock mill manager etc. But to do a job that resonates is a special thing. Such is the Braidwood Museum to me. Such a welcoming and talented, great team, makes it even more fun and living in a magnificent rural setting with an incredibly rich history has been quite an eye opener for me. I like to work alone and also in a team environment and it feels like we're heading in the right direction with many exciting things happening in the future.

BDHS Annual Dinner

Our dinner this year will be held on Saturday 28th September

The dinner will be catered by Golden Roast again, as so many people expressed great satisfaction with their special style of catering last year. It will be held in the National Theatre. Doors will open at 6.30pm.

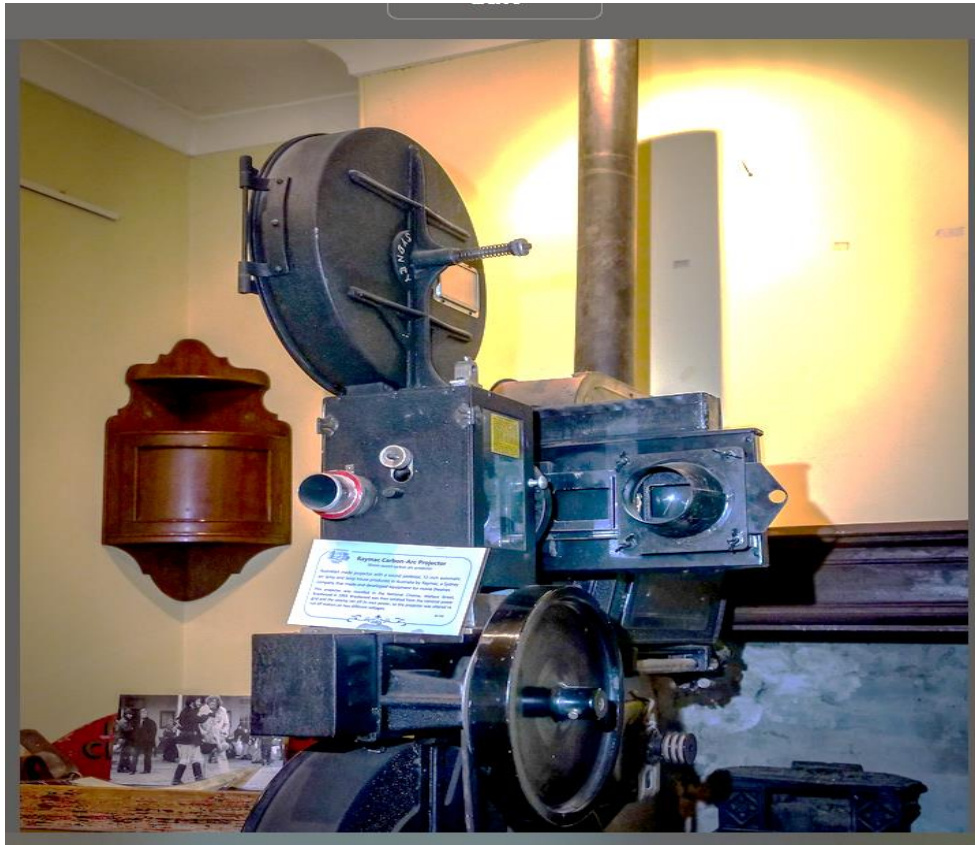
Our speaker will be Rod McClure, retired local High School Headmaster. His topic will be ***"Hell no, we won't go."***

Rod has been researching Braidwood's response to the call to arms for WW1. He has found a surprising reaction occurred throughout Braidwood and has turned it into a fascinating talk. We hope you will find it just as fascinating as we have.

Kerrie's Corner of Unique Museum Artefacts

Our Film Projector

This Newsletter's artefact has been standing in the museum for many years. It is a Raymac Carbon -Arc Projector. Mr Cecil Byrne and his wife Gladys took over the National Theatre Cinema in 1956 when Mr Paul Nomchong retired after 50 years of being 'Braidwood's Movie Man'.



BRAIDWOOD GOES TO THE MOVIES

A Celebration of 100 Years of Making and Screening Motion Pictures in the Braidwood District - 1897 to 1997

by

Robert Parkinson in collaboration with Christine Wright



AUSTRALIAN CINEMA AND THEATRE SOCIETY INC

This Australian made projector with a sound pedestal, 12 inch automatic lamp and lamp housing was produced in Australia by **Raymac**, a Sydney company that specialized in making and developing equipment for movie theatres. It is believed to have been installed in the National Cinema in 1959. As Braidwood was then isolated from the national power grid, the cinema had to run off its own power. The projector was altered to run off motors on two different voltages. If anyone is interested in following up on the history of making and screening motion pictures in the Braidwood district, there is a great little book called "Braidwood Goes to the Movies" written by Robert Parkinson in collaboration with Christine Wright, and is available in our Museum library if you wish to acquaint yourselves with the history!! There are also a few copies left for sale if you are interested.

New Araluen Website and History Trail

The website contains all the collected Information on Araluen from First Nation History to the present. There are oral histories, old photos, maps. The History Trail is a self guided journey where at each stop there is a storyboard. The website is

<https://araluenvalley-history.com.au/>

Jill Clarke accepted a bound copy of existing "Araluen Star and Miners' Right" newspapers, on behalf of Braidwood & District Historical Society.



John Joseph Feehan known as Jack (Son of Matthew) (continued from last Newsletter)



Three Generations: left to right: Jack Feehan, Harold Feehan and John Feehan c 1945

John Joseph, or Jack Feehan as he appears to have been more commonly known, was born in June 1868. He would have most likely attended the local Roman Catholic denomination school at Jembaicumbene. His father Matthew was one of the three local Roman Catholic School Board members who administered the school. His teacher would have been Miss Ellen Donnelly and then the talented teacher Mr John Bourke. Mr Henry Edmunds would have been his last teacher at the little catholic school. The school closed at the end of 1882 and maybe Jack had left school by then.

Tragedy struck when Jack's father, Matthew Snr died when Jack was aged 8 years. His older brother Joseph died aged 20 years when Jack was 13 years old. His older brother Thomas died just 9 years later.

Braidwood Dispatch
17 Nov 1897 p.3
and
Braidwood Dispatch
10 Nov 1900 p.3



RACES
WILL BE HELD AT
JEMBAICUMBENE
ON
NEW YEAR'S DAY.
PROGRAMME IN FUTURE ISSUE.
JNO. J. FEEHAN,
Hon. Sec.



Jembaicumbene Race Club.
(REGISTERED.)
New Year's Day,
1st JANUARY, 1901.
COMMITTEE: Messrs. J. Jackson, J. Weatherall, J. Walsh, Thos. Ahern, Wm. McCarron, R. C. Edsworthy, J. Feehan.
STARTER: E. M. Royds, Esq.
JUDGE: J. E. Mackellar, Esq.
- PROGRAMME -
1. OPENING HANDICAP, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, £5.
2. HACK RACE, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, £3.
3. JEMBAICUMBENE HANDICAP, 1 mile, £10; second horse to receive £1 from prize.
4. HACK RACE, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, £5.
5. MEMBERS' HANDICAP, once round, £7.
Nomination 5 per cent. Acceptance $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
Nominations for Opening and Jembaicumbene Handicaps to be in hands of the Secretary not later than SATURDAY, 22nd DECEMBER.
Winner of Opening Handicap to carry a penalty not exceeding 5 lbs in the Jembaicumbene Handicap.
Bookmakers 10s 6d, accompanied with £2 10s deposit. Fruit stalls and games of chance 5s.
SPURTS FOR BRIDLES, &c.
ONE REFRESHMENT BOOTH.
Race Ball at Night.
JNO. J. FEEHAN,
Hon. Sec.

Jack became a farmer at Jembaicumbene. No doubt he would have gained experience in stock handling on his father's farm and on the bigger properties such as 'Bell Vue', 'Exeter Farm' and 'Bedervale'. He was also working with his brother Matthew who was a cattle dealer. Jack was a cattle dealer also in 1903. The **Braidwood Dispatch** talks about the time when Matthew went up to Jingera, where he purchased a big mob of wild pigs. His brother Jack, and Dan Hart drove these to Moruya and sold them. (Friday 16 July 1937 page 2).

In addition to farming, Jack played local football as he was mentioned in an article that appeared in the **Braidwood Dispatch** on 16 April 1948. Under the headlines, '**After Many Years**' by J F Heazlett. The author refers to playing in a Chapman Cup football match 52 years earlier (1896) when Jack Feehan was one of his football chums but now

looking 'a bit shaky'. * ***At this time Mr Gibbons of Araluen had donated a cup and prizes, and the Majors Creek team, which included Jack, was the contender in 1897 to win this prized Cup. (the author hasn't been able to find out who won in 1897 at this stage.)***

Mr J Heazlett wrote another piece in the ***Braidwood Dispatch*** on July 5th 1940 when he reminisced on the foundation of the first football club at Majors Creek in 1895. At a meeting in the Elrington Hotel, he stated, "*We had some fine strapping lads in our team. Phil and Frank Clowry, Andy and Mick McCarron, Malley Jackson and Dave McMinn were powerful forwards. The two Clowry's were characters but lacked a little of the devil necessary in a forward line when attacking. In other words, they treated their opponents too courteously. The opposing players generally dumped us unceremoniously. Bob Heazlett, Tom Wiggins and Tom Royds, although light men, made fine forwards. Our back division usually comprised the following: Herb Dunshea, Fred Lewis, Jack Feehan, Billy McCurley, H Wilson, Bob Belcher, C Lewis and the writer.*"

Jack Feehan was also secretary of the Jembaicumbene Horse Racing Club. A report on the Jembaicumbene races in the ***Braidwood Dispatch*** of 20 January 1901 stated: "*The secretary Mr JJ Feehan, as usual, was extremely courteous and obliging, and he is to be congratulated upon the completeness of the arrangements*".

Once he moved to Braidwood, Jack also became a committee man on the Braidwood Turf Club. (BD Sat 11 Jan 1908 page 2)



Betty Feehan aged 4 years



Molly and Harold Feehan

Jack married Margaret Walsh, at 36 years of age and at that time was a grazier. There was one child to this union, Elizabeth Mary (Betty). Unfortunately, Jack's wife Margaret died shortly afterwards of heart failure. Betty had been raised by her maiden aunts, Kate and Cecilia, in Sydney.

Jack married a second time on 31 January 1910 to Mary Madden. At the time of Jack's marriage to Mary he was a farmer. Their children, were Harold, and Mary (Molly). Harold was born in 1910 at Jembaicumbene in the family home. Molly was born in Braidwood in 1913.

**** you will hear more of Harold and his sister in our next newsletter).***

Jack was recorded to be living at Jembaicumbene in 1913. (Federal Electoral Roll.) However soon after this date he was living in Braidwood.



***Jack and his daughter
Molly c 1919***

Jack won the lease of the Braidwood Courthouse Hotel at the beginning of 1916. Jack and Mary worked together to run this establishment until c1924.

We understand that Mr. J. J. Feehan, of Jembaicumbene, has secured a lease of the Courthouse Hotel, Braidwood, and will enter into occupation as soon as the license is transferred. "Here's to-hee," Jack !

***Braidwood Review
and District
Advocate
22 February 1916 p.2***



Even though the Courthouse Hotel has a sign 'Allen', JJ Feehan had taken over the license by April 1916.

Stud Notice.

ALL MARES left at Feehan's Court-house Hotel for the Stallion NELSON will be forwarded without delay.

W. EDWARDS.
Proprietor, Nelligen.

(BD 2 Dec 1921 page 7)

Jack, Mary, Harold and Molly had moved to live at the corner of Duncan Street and Monkittee Streets in Braidwood. It was recorded that Matthew Feehan (Jack's brother) owned this home in 1902-3.





In the ***Braidwood Dispatch*** Feb 1917, the paper announced how busy Jack was at this time. He indeed had become a prominent community member. Jack was also involved in the Braidwood Band and worked hard as a committee man.



Our new publican, Mr. J. J. Feehan, has jumped right into public activities. He is now an alderman, Shire Councillor, president of the Turf Club, Hospital committeeman, and Band committeeman. "Jack" obviously doesn't believe in confining his attention exclusively to pulling the beer pump.

Jack was also prominent in raising funds for the Braidwood Hospital and was on the committee from 1917 until 1921



Jack was also a major shareholder of the Braidwood Refrigerating Co. which had its office and factory in Duncan St (BD Fri 28 Feb 1919 page 7)



Braidwood Refrigerating Company in Duncan Street.

(Photo donated by Margaret Tuckwell, B&DHS photo collection)

After the **Courthouse Hotel** was closed permanently, Jack looked around and saw that he could provide for his family by farming, and by taking on auctioneering and carrying on as a stock agent and cattle dealing. Jack was in partnership with CM Royds after he finished up at the hotel. They conducted cattle sales and furniture and property estate sales. He then went out on his own.

Spring CATTLE Sale
at Braidwood
Thursday, September 10
Intending sellers please advise early
J. J. FEEHAN
C. M. ROYDS
Auctioneers in Conjunction.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1926.
Saturday Next
at 2 o'clock.
Furniture Sale
J. J. FEEHAN
WILL SELL by Public Auction, on
Saturday Next, 23rd inst., on
acct. of Mr. Jos. Doyle, who is leav-
ing the district, at his residence,
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE
AND EFFECTS
— ALSO —
PONY TURN OUT. Stylish Pony,
Rubber-tyred Sulky, and Harness

Braidwood
Dispatch
28 August
1925 p3

Jack and his family decided to move from Duncan Street to 75 Wilson Street. As there was not a house on this block, the family decided to move their family house at Jembaicumbene to 75 Wilson St. This plan was undertaken by the Nomchong family on their newly acquired truck. Fonce Nomchong and his brother Johnny had ordered their new truck and it was to be transported to Nelligen, then to Braidwood. However, a mishap occurred at the Nelligen punt and the truck slipped into the Clyde River. The truck was pulled out and transported to Braidwood where it was reconditioned ready for business.



PECULIAR ACCIDENT TO LORRY

On Friday night last one of Messrs. Nomchong Bros.' lorries came to grief under rather extraordinary circumstances at Nelligen. A load of wool had been unshipped from it, and the lorry was on its way to Bateman's Bay. It crossed on the punt ^{as} right, but after it landed on the other side the wheels failed to grip on the wet soil, and, slipping down the slight incline, pushed the punt out and toppled headlong into the river. Messrs. F. Nomchong, W. Sherack and G. Hion were on the lorry, together with two Nelligen men. Mr. Nomchong and one of the other men jumped out as the lorry was going down, and Hion also got free when it reached the water. Sherack and a man named Dayball were on the front seat, which is covered round with woodwork and a hood. They could not get out, and went down with the lorry to the bottom of the river. However, they were not long before they reached the surface. The lorry at the time had all its electric lights burning, and these were still burning brightly on Saturday morning. The stream is between 20 and 30ft. deep at the spot where the lorry is lying on the bed of the river. An effort was to have been made yesterday to raise the lorry. It is, we understand, covered by what is known as comprehensive insurance. A telephone message yesterday stated that the lorry had been safely extricated from the river.

*Braidwood
Review and
District
Advocate
16th November
1926 p.2.*



In the meantime, the local builder cut the house into four and was it promptly transported on the reconditioned truck to Braidwood in 1926. The house was bolted together by an inept carpenter who appeared to not own a spirit level. John was believed to carry out repairs and realigned the house again.



Fonce Nomchong with his truck at Araluen

In 1947, Jack's health was in decline. This article appeared in the ***Braidwood Dispatch*** of 31 October 1947: *"We regret to learn that our old friend, Mr Jack Feehan, has been very ill for the past couple of months. His many friends in the town have missed the genial Jack particularly on Saturday afternoon and join with us in wishing him a speedy recovery. An enforced stay in bed for a month was a pretty severe trial for the fine old warrior."*

Just before his death in 1947 he was also an agent for The Mitchell Machinery Co.



Jack died on 12 November 1949 at the age of 81 years. He is buried in the Old Braidwood Cemetery.



Jack and Harold Feehan

The third and last chapter of the Feehan story will be told next newsletter.

Heritage Week Recording Memoirs Workshop



This workshop provided attendees with tips and tricks for bringing their memories to life and preserving their legacies through the art of storytelling. It showed how to understand memoir as a genre, where and how to start, the role of research and memory gaps, the art of storytelling and handling characters, and the ethical considerations and challenges of developing the memoir project.

And Tours of Wallace Street



***John Stahel led two
very popular tours of
Wallace Street during
Heritage Week***

***Photo courtesy of
Tim the Yowie Man***

The Restoration of the Museum's 1930 Dodge

'Gellibrand' Takes Shape in Dodge City

Written by John Stahel, Vice President

Braidwood Dodge Bulletin # 15

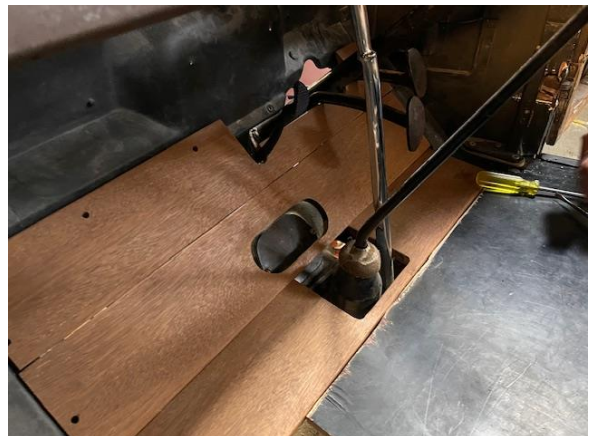


May 2024

When you last heard from me we were looking for a fuel pump. The National Motor Museum in Adelaide came to the rescue and gave us one. The interest in this community project has been matched by people's generosity.



Ted has such a commitment to the project that he sold his house and now lives just around the corner so that he could be on hand. It's given him the chance to



copy the rotting floor boards and craft new ones.



The fuel gauge has been checked, serviced and refitted. The dashboard instruments and the wiring loom are ahead in the distance. We hid the windscreen from the cowboy for 12 months because I imagined an accident. He found it, and just as I imagined, couldn't wait to fit it. Consequently, it often looks like we have progressed further than we are. It will have to come off and on a few more times, so keep an eye out for a replacement for us.



But in truth there has been steady progress that sometimes can seem imperceptible. When you look at the photographic record you can see the progress. As a reminder, this is where we started. We picked the parts up from the National Museum in November 2022.



Today, with the dramatic addition of Paul Blacksmith's buckboard tray we can see how we have transformed the vehicle.





This week I picked up 4 brand new tyres.



**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



and



