



Braidwood & District Historical Society

PO Box 145 Braidwood NSW 2622

Newsletter

Number 34 September 2024

President's Report

Heritage Centre News

The Heritage Centre continues to evolve, even if it is not smoothly. Everyone agrees this completed project will deliver broad ranging benefits to BDHS, the Museum, Braidwood & District Community and Regional NSW.

You will find more on this in the '**Dispatch News Sheet**', coming out this week.

Our Committee and Volunteers

Meanwhile our wonderful committee and volunteers continue to make improvements to the museum and organise coming events.

Please note these important dates with information to follow:

- **Friday 6 September- Jill Clarke and Brian MacDonald's Book launch.**
- **Saturday 28 September Annual Dinner and speaker - topic of great interest.**
- **Friday 11 October- AGM and proposed change to the Constitution.**

Grant Success

We have been successful in gaining several new grants.

Thanks again to our Braidwood Community Bank for approving the full funding (\$9,595.00) for the publication of *Schools of the Braidwood District*, by Jill Clarke and Brian McDonald. Thanks Jill and Brian for making this a BDHS publication.

Veolia Grant for \$6,326.00 (plus already received \$2,174) for restoration of our historic Apple Crusher. This will enable this piece of local history to be back to working order and ready for the future Apple Cider Festival. Thanks John Stahel.

Dargues Gold Mine grant for \$3,000. Thanks Annette.

Museums and Galleries for \$1,890, for display cases. Thanks Annette

Still under consideration is a grant application from IMB Bank for \$6,600 for display cases; Clubs NSW for \$200,000 contribution to the Heritage Centre; RAHS for a \$2,500 to publish an *Illustrated History of the Clarke Bushrangers*, featuring the paintings by Greg Willis on exhibition in the Braidwood Museum.

So much has been achieved. We have such a good, hard-working committee and several unsung volunteers, such as Paris Sylvester, Jon Stuart and Benta Jensen. Thanks.

Peter Smith President

Another of Our Volunteers



Bente Jensen

Bente has been a passionate bibliophile all her life. Born and raised in Denmark she trained as a teacher and moved to Australia in the year 2000 to be near her daughter, Linda. Her meticulous skills enabled her to work as a proof reader as well. Bente started to volunteer at the museum in 2001 where she was kept busy scanning photos and organising the sale of our stock of books.

Her management of this section of the museum still utilises her well-designed structures and procedures. At the moment there is a vacancy. If you wish to take on this task as a volunteer the committee members would be grateful for your assistance.

Bente has served on the museum committee twice and is still a dedicated volunteer. At the present she is transcribing some of the old ledgers and putting them into an Excel file so that researchers can access the information. This work allows her to toil at home and it keeps her busy. She has become an experienced and dedicated member of our museum team. She has endeared herself to our team of archivist and researchers.

***Well done Bente
We appreciate your work!***

Launch of Braidwood Schools Book

The Braidwood & District

**Historical Society is hosting the
launch of our new book.**

**Brian and I would like to invite you
to the Official Launch**

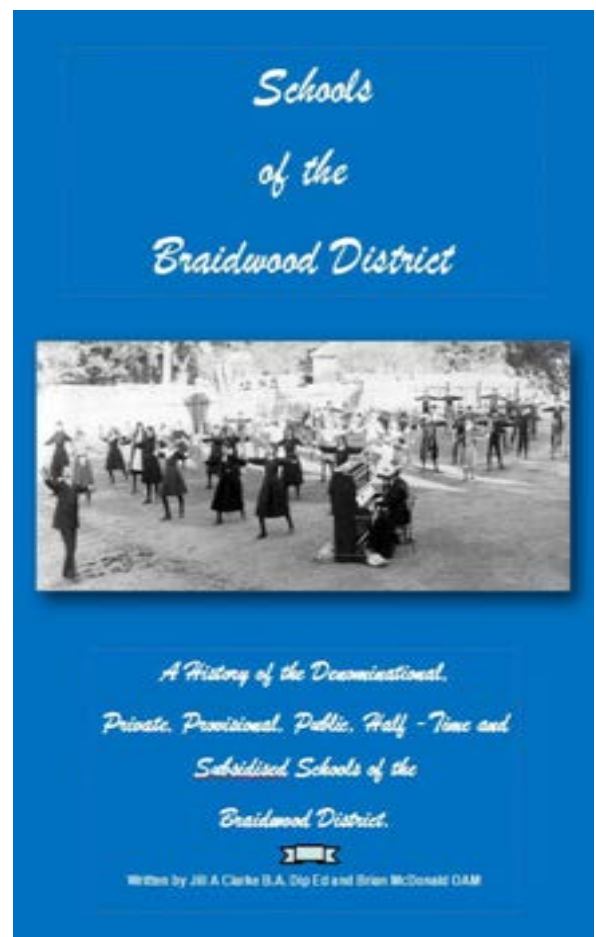
Date: Friday 6th September 2024

***Venue: Braidwood Central School
Hall***

Time: 5.30pm

**Join us for the launch and a cup of tea or
coffee and light refreshments.**

***Please RSVP by 3rd September
wivenhoe1@bigpond.com***



BDHS Annual Dinner

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

Our Dinner speaker, retired local High School Headmaster, Rod McClure's talk is entitled ***'Hell no, we won't go.'***

Rod's talk relates to his research into Braidwood's response to the WW1 call to arms. He has found a surprising reaction occurred throughout Braidwood and has turned it into a fascinating talk.

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.

A separate and full Invitation has been sent to all our Members.

Kerrie's Corner of Unique Museum Artefacts

The museum has recently been the recipient of some lovely donations.

The first was from Margaret Tuckwell who discovered to her joy a Noritake dinner set named for our lovely town and now on display in the museum's hall.

With this discovery Margaret wrote to Noritake to find out why this sumptuous formal designed setting manufactured from fine white porcelain had been named **'Braidwood'**.

The following is a response from Steven Yeend, National Sales Manager of Noritake Australia Pty Ltd.



'Back in the 1990's Noritake had a very popular bone china pattern by the name of Killian that was unfortunately discontinued by the factory.

The Australian Noritake Manager came up with the idea of reproducing this design on a more affordable fine porcelain body. Noritake in Japan agreed to this but requested a new name.

They needed a name that was easy on the tongue, as it was to be sold internationally, but a name that embodied the design. At this time, I was a frequent traveller to Tomakin on the south coast and we would always take the inland route via Goulburn and Braidwood. We would often stop in Braidwood for a rest break, grab a coffee and stretch our legs with a wander around the town. I was very taken with the place, its beautiful historic buildings, and rustic nature.

*Bing! I had a light bulb moment – the town's name epitomised the rustic nature of this design and thus the pattern called '**Braidwood**' was born. A lovely design befitting the town that it is named after.'*

The design features a textured decal in sepia with a dark brown outer band and a repeating shell and scroll motif in the same tones. Each shell is topped with a jewel like accent dot of emerald green and a 22K gold trim adds an elegant final touch. A genuine classic, '**Braidwood**' combines contemporary sensibilities with a more traditional rustic feel and is ideal for all dining occasions.

**And so, Braidwood has its very own named dinner set –
Something to be proud of!**

Our second wonderful donation, the '*Ashcroft Collection*', consists of clothing items, donated by Veronica Dingle. On display in the ladies' costume room is the lovely timeless handmade wedding dress, circa 1909, of fine voile lawn and lace, with cotton petticoat, worn by Maude Selina Hunt born in Braidwood 1881, eldest daughter of Richard William Hunt and Agnes Maria Wedd of '*The Ranch*' near St Omer Braidwood. Maude Hunt married Wilfred Ashcroft 22nd June 1910. The dress was also worn by Maude's daughter Doris Cavell Ashcroft when she married in 1951. Maude Selina Ashcroft was a truly fine seamstress, making many of the items donated.



Maude Selina Hunt



Maude Selina Hunt married to Wilfred Ashcroft 22nd June 1910



Keep a look out for a future display of the Hunt family's heirloom christening gown, as shown here. This gown was first worn by Richard William Hunt's father, also a Richard, at his christening on the 8th February 1807 at Thornfield, Dorset England and passed through the Hunt/Ashcroft family, being last worn in 1985 and 1986

Descendants of Richard, Lyn Radvanyi, Chris O'Donnell and Sally McDonnell write in their "**Wedd, Hunt, Fisher Reunion Booklet 2011**" that ' Richard and Hannah (his first wife) migrated to Australia as unassisted passengers aboard the "Themis" arriving at Geelong Victoria on the 25th July 1857. They continue... " *Richard Hunt and Hannah's arrival date in Braidwood is unknown but records show a land purchase date of 31st August 1865 of 40 acres 2 roods, portion 43," near St Omer on the Nerriga Road. "This must have been followed by the further purchase of a 'known' 10 portions. Several of the portions are noted as 'first class land' on the original grants. Hannah died on the 15th August 1879, following a four year illness and her place of death is listed as " **Charleyork**" , she is buried in an unmarked grave at the Braidwood Cemetery.*



Richard Hunt



Agnes Hunt nee Wedd

After Hannah's death Richard hired a housekeeper, Agnes Maria Wedd whom he married on 9th December 1880 at '**Rock Vale**' witnesses were George William Wedd and Matilda Emily Wedd (Agnes' brother and sister) Richard and Agnes raised a family of ten children. It is unknown whether '**Charleyork**' was the first name of their property and it was then known as " *The Ranch*". "

The Feehan Story

The Generation of Harold Feehan plus John Feehan

This is the last edition of the Feehan story. We hope you have been enjoying it

The Feehan story continues with the aid of family documents and the generous assistance of Pam McNamara and John Feehan. We thank them for their support and the provision of photos and the stories of their family here in Braidwood. The story continues....

Harold Feehan was born on the 16th November 1910 at Jembaicumbene. His sister Molly (Mary) was born on the 26th February 1913.

Harold and Molly both attended St Bede's Convent School. Later Harold attended St Patrick's College in Goulburn. Molly was a successful scholar and was the winner of the Diocesan Bursary and was awarded the highest place in the examination for the Preparatory Intermediate exams. Harold was planning his career as a wool classer and had set his goals even at high school.



Molly and Harold

Molly trained as a nurse at St Vincent's Hospital, Bathurst and she gained her degree and was registered as a qualified nurse in the Australian Trained Nurses' Association in 1936. She worked as a nurse until she married local Braidwood man, Ernest McDermott at St Bede's Church on 22nd July 1940. Molly and Ernie had one son Dermid. Ernie and Molly was the owner of the Railway Hotel in Goulburn for many years. Ernie was also the much-respected Mayor of Goulburn from 1960 until 1977.

As Mayoress, Molly was indeed a very busy lady during this time. Molly died on 12 May 1978 and Ernie passed away on 9th August 2002 in Goulburn. In the meantime, Harold gained admission to the Sheep and Wool Course at the Sydney Branch of the Sydney Technical College where he studied in 1928 and in 1929 to become a wool classer.



Following the conclusion of the course, he acquired work for two years in the wool trade and obtained reports from Sheep Stations and Wool Selling Brokers in order to become eligible for the Full Certificate at the College as a Wool Classer and sorter. Harold passed this course with honours. After ten years classing in the Braidwood District and other districts of NSW and Queensland, Harold married local girl Nellie Brooks in January 1940.



***Harold and Nellie
married
30th January 1940***



***Nell Feehan nee Brooks
and Harold Feehan***

WEDDING

BROOKS—FEEHAN

A charming all-white colour scheme was chosen by Miss Nellie Brooks when her marriage with Mr. Harold Feehan was celebrated on January 30th at the Sacred Heart Church, Darlinghurst. The Rev. Father Devine, of Braidwood, officiated, assisted by Rev. Father Coughlin, of Darlinghurst.

The bride, who was given away by Mr. Arthur Hardy, wore a slim-fitting frock of white bridal lace over satin, with an applique of satin leaves defining the corselage and a matching applique on the train. The veil of cut tulle, which fell over the face, was held in place with a top-knot of white gladioli, and she carried a sheaf of the same flowers.

The bridesmaid, Miss Ivy Twenlow, wore an old-world frock of white taffeta with a Dolly Varden hat of red roses, and carried a fan of the same flowers.

During the signing of the register Miss Alma Hardy played a violin solo, "Ave Maria."

A reception was held in the Wentworth Hotel ballroom, where immediate relatives and friends were entertained.

Braidwood Dispatch
Friday Feb 16th 1940
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Just a couple of years after his marriage Harold was guided into the Army around 1942. He attended his army training at Goulburn. He related a story that one day when his group of trainees were out in a paddock being drilled, an army car drew up and he was called to fall out by the drill sergeant. The officer in the car told him that he was needed for wool classing as part of the national war effort. Thereafter, an Army supplied vehicle (a 1948 V8 Ford Mercury) was available to Harold to drive him around the various wool sheds. He worked in the very important wool industry in NSW and Queensland from 1942 until 1946. It was noted that during the war wool was in demand almost as much as bullets. Then in the 'Wool Boom' of the 1950s Harold and his expert skills were in great demand.



***Harold with his
local Militia
mount ca 1930s***

After World War 2, Harold continued to farm and deal in sheep. One of the interesting points about Harold's time as a sheep dealer is that he managed to buy sheep around the Tarago, Bungendore and as well as the Braidwood District. His tell tale 'office' was at times at the local hotels where the farmers would congregate. His clients always knew he was in the 'Office' as his Ford Mercury car was always parked out the front. Harold made some very lucrative deals at the 'hotel' office. Harold would organize a viewing, an assessment of the sheep flock and then he would name his price... by the afternoon he was more than not the proud owner of a mob of merinos. He quickly called on his trucking mates from Braidwood to fill their decks with his purchases and his flock was soon grazing on the pastures of his Jembaicumbene property. As a dealer, Harold's knowledge of the sheep market, the stock and their weights and their

wool producing qualities were well and truly honed by this time of Harold's life. Dealers such as Harold were experienced and these remarkable skills were used proficiently to make a sound profit. The only time that dealers such as Harold failed was when the weather usually in the form of the lack of rain dominated the farming business. However, Harold was lucky to be dealing during a decade (1950-60s) of great demand for wool and an era of 'soft' climate where the rainfall in the Braidwood District was reliable and sound. It is rather a more difficult career nowadays.

Harold eventually sold his farm at Jembaicumbene around 1960 and continued to work as a licensed Stock and Station Agent. He was affectionately given the nickname "L.J. Dooka" by locals for his ability to arrange the successful sale of local pastoral properties. As a Stock Agent Harold was often given the opportunity to buy mobs of sheep for local farmers who relied on his skills. This was about the time that the family home was transported from Jembaicumbene to Wilson St Braidwood

Harold also continued this wool classing career until the late 1960s. His last classing job was at a woolshed named '**Glenrossal**' for Winchcombe Carsons on 13th November 1967.

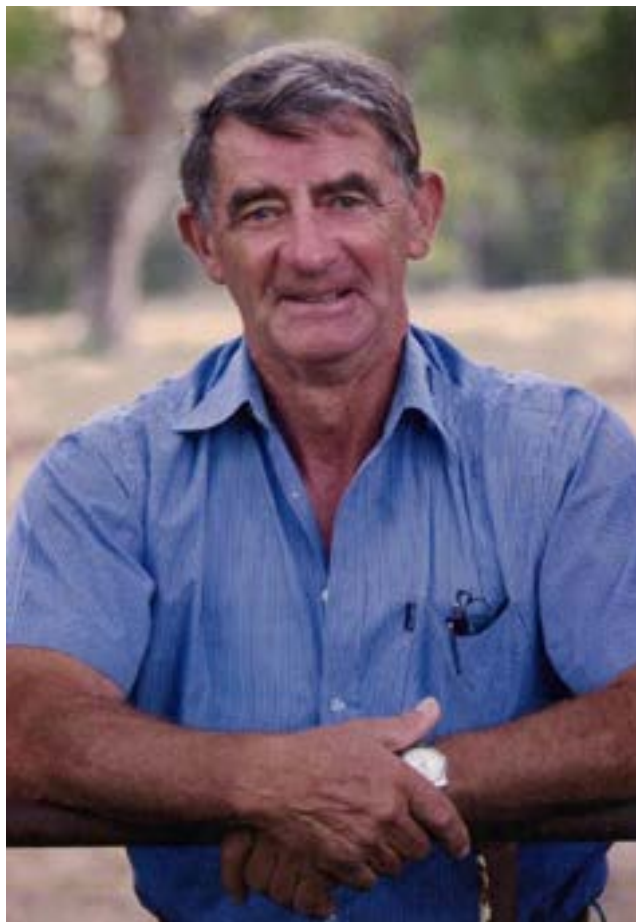


***From left to right:
Harold Feehan, Nell, Bruce, Patricia, John and Pam
c1964***

Harold and Nell eventually had four children, John, Harold (Bruce), Patricia and Pam. All four children attended St Bede's Primary School. They in turn had children and grandchildren and some of them still live in the district. The Brooks family history connection to the Braidwood District also provokes some good stories and historical interest as well. This may be another chapter to be told in the future.

Harold's wife Nell Feehan was a founding member of the Braidwood Historical Society and worked tirelessly as a family research officer for the Museum until her death in 1993. Harold passed away in 1991.

One of the next generation of the Feehan family is John Feehan who is a renowned entomologist. John began his career and worked for over 18 years in the scientific sector of the CSIRO in the field of Dung Beetle Research. When the CSIRO project concluded John developed a private organization called SOILCAM and he has been working tirelessly since that time to collect and redistribute dung beetles throughout Australia.



John is passionate about his field and still spends much time educating farmers, children and other groups about the benefits of the dung beetle for the environment where they promote more productive and sustainable farm soils. John is also a keen historian like his mother and enjoys collecting stories and facts of the Braidwood District. He is a passionate friend and member of the Braidwood Museum and has donated to our collection a variety of interesting and important artefacts.

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 roles 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. Maybe 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!

Agnes (Aggie) Cawthorne nee Douglas (Community Service)



As you entered Tom and Aggie Cawthorne's cottage home in Majors Creek, with pictures of family on the wall and on the mantle, the large fireplace and stone floors, you could immediately smell the home cooking. Whether it was from Aggie making jam to add to the many jars of home cooked jam, or preserved fruits from their home-grown fruit trees, or the apple pies and lamingtons which family and friend often fought over.

Aggie was a warm, strong, caring and generous lady with much to offer her family and community. She was of Celtic blood and so very proud of her Scottish heritage.

Photo courtesy of Lance and Norma Webb.

Aggie Douglas was born 23rd March 1891 in Braidwood. She attended the public school.



Jacob Thomas Cawthorne

Agnes married Jacob Thomas (known as Tom) Cawthorne on 19th December 1917 at St Stephen's Church Major's Creek and made Majors Creek their home. Aggie raised three children, Douglas, Patricia and Thomas. During her entire lifetime she was involved in the many organisations of the village. She was secretary of the Majors Creek Branch of the CWA for 36 years up until her passing in 1974. Over those years she never missed attending meetings and conferences.

Taken 1895.

She was a driving force for the catering committee for CWA functions. Aggie catered for the numerous Blue and Gold Balls, birthdays, anniversaries and weddings etc. She would walk from her home 2km away to prepare for the function and then home and back again for the celebration. She would be then seen to walk home after the gathering in the early hours of the morning with a torch.



Back: Louisa Rebecca Douglas, Mary Louisa Bendeich, William Edmund Douglas, Ann Jane Douglas, Front: Agnes Douglas

During the Great Depression, Aggie was the instigator to fundraise for the local Braidwood Hospital. Each year she would attend the Hospital Board Meeting to report on Majors Creek's efforts. Her committee raised over £17 in 1938. Her efforts throughout the Second World War were also noted in the local newspapers of the time.

Agnes was also a member of the Majors Creek Public School P and C Association holding several executive positions for many years. She supported the school in organised fundraising and prize giving at the end of the school year. She maintained a close relationship with the children of the village.

A dedicated citizen to the end. Agnew Cawthorne passed away in 1974 leaving an impressive legacy.

Information granddaughter Kelly Cooper and Brian McDonald

The Restoration of the Museum's 1930 Dodge

***'Gellibrand'* Takes Shape in Dodge City**

**There is no report this Newsletter
Watch for the December edition of the Newsletter**



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

Our

Society values the support of

Queanbeyan Palerang Council



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