

Braidwood & District Historical Society

PO Box 145 Braidwood NSW 2622

Newsletter

Number 35 December 2024



President's Report

The Heritage Centre Construction

There have been many delays. In fact, nothing happened onsite for over six weeks as there was no onsite building supervisor. However, construction has recommenced and new completion dates for stage 1 are being negotiated. I'll save the details for next issue of The Dispatch, due out in the next week.

But just to let you know we have not been idle in pushing for the completion of the project. John Stahel and I have had meetings with the following- State Member Steve Wahn, Federal Member Kristy McBain, QPRC Mayor, Kedrick Winchester, QPRC General Manager Rebecca Ryan, Director of Public Works, John Anderson, Senior Staff of Minister Tara Moriarty responsible for Public Works and Director Regional Development New South Wales Megan Cleary. They know the value of the project and recognise our frustrations.

Grants

We were successful in being awarded an IMB Bank grant for \$6,600 for new display cabinets. On the other hand, we were unsuccessful in our Club Grant application of \$200,00 as a contribution towards Stage 2 of the Heritage Centre. Meanwhile we are awaiting the outcome of our application for \$944,000 from Growing Regions Grant. If successful we will resume discussions with our wonderful Community Bank. Their earlier generous pledge of \$520,000 combined with the \$944,000 would enable Stage 2 and the full completion of the Braidwood Heritage Centre.

Under this scenario we control the project.

A Posthumous Thanks

The late Tony Shepherd left a bequest of \$5,000 for BDHS. Tony was a hard working and dedicated volunteer for many years. We are grateful for his contribution and ongoing legacy.

He is missed.



Anthony "Tony" Shepherd

Update of Constitution and new Charity Status

At the recent AGM members agreed to the update of our constitution in line with conforming with Fair Trading. This includes our charity status, in the process of being completed, allowing tax deductable donations as a recognised charity.

Merry Christmas

Finally, I wish to thank our members, committee, volunteers and friends for their support throughout the year and extend best wishes for the festive season.

Peter Smith President

Kerrie's Corner of Unique Museum Artefacts

Written by Kerrie Beers and Jill Clarke

This history of Araluen Hotel is more complicated than first thought. We look forward to sharing this story ASAP. The story so far is......

The newly acquired National Cash Register in our collection was used in the Araluen Hotel (Collin's Tavern, Araluen Valley Hotel). Numerous licensees including Mr John (Jack) Collins and his famous daughter Mollie Collins used this cash register in the period between 1928 – 1960. The story of the sequential timeline of owners and licensees are yet to be verified and will be expanded on in future newsletters.







John Collins as a young man



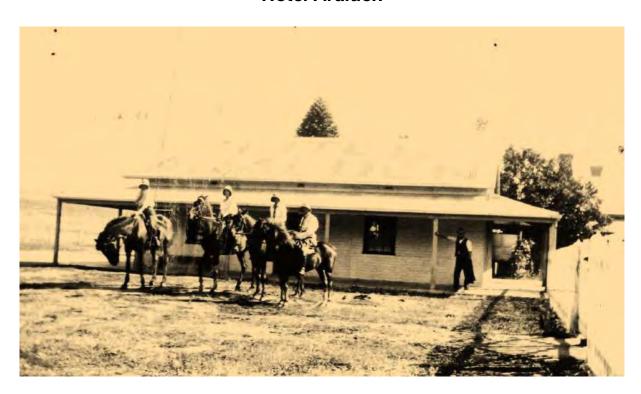
Molly Collins C. 1950



Annie Mary Christina (Molly)
Collins
1901-1981



Hotel Araluen



Mollie Collins and party 1930 John Collins on verandah

From conversations and reading local newspapers we have gathered that Jack Collins was the new licensee of the Araluen Hotel which was located in the newly converted Alley *Perseverance Store*.

John Collins may have purchased the Cash Register for the opening of the hotel in 1928 or he may have inherited it from the *Alley's Perseverance Store*. It is hard to positively prove either way as there is no known documentation or indeed people who may have known this history are long gone. It is believed that Mrs Adelaide Neate (nee Schofield) owned the 'hotel building' and leased it to Jack. Jack was a very successful



Adelaide Neate nee Schofield 1888-1983

Publican. He sponsored and helped organize many of the sporting competitions and teams that represented Araluen in the 1930s.

When Jack passed away in 1943, Mollie and her siblings took over the running of the hotel. In fact Mollie purchased the hotel building from Mrs Adelaide Neate (nee Schofield) for £10,000. For all those years, the cash register proudly adorned the counter and was used as the pub's cash register. Mollie then went on to lease the building to several others licensees including people such as Bill Mercer, John Young, Rod Hine, Kenneth Snow and Bill and Ina Hovell. We know for certain Max and Katharina Lusch were the hoteliers from 1966 until 1977



Group of Men outside Hotel Araluen c.1930, which was converted to a Hotel on 1928.. L to R Clarrie Kane, Alf Wilson, Harold Shirley, Os Turnbill and hotelier.

They were the hoteliers when decimal currency began in 1966. Katharina and Max came to Australia from Yugoslavia, as they were dispossessed after WW11, and knew of Araluen (and the hotel's imminent sale) through her brother Johan (John Hemler), who purchased a farm at *Mericumbene* in the 1960's. While no meals were served, they did offer toasted sandwiches on request, and added the beer garden, the side annex room, billiard tables and the juke box.

The donor of the cash register, Mr Stan Wisbey became the part owner and licensee in 1978 and called his pub the "The Araluen Valley Hotel".

Stan and his wife Margaret continued using the register until they could purchase a new one. However, the old one remained part of the furniture and adorned the counter as did a very old set of gold scales (used by the Alley family when they purchased gold from the local miners). A silver Araluen Cup also was treasured and could be seen on the top shelve behind the bar. Stan and Margaret ran the hotel until 2006. They were very successful publicans, as they worked hard during this time and hosted many visiting groups and for many years their establishment was the centre of the social gathering of the 'peach pickers' from various orchards that made Araluen the largest peach district in the southern hemisphere. Margaret's famous roasts were a Sunday lunchtime special for many years. Wisbey's sold the hotel to Steve and Elise Potter.



The Cash Register

The serial number on a brass plate in the centre of the register under the glass top 861472 model 327. The Class 300 was a basic cash register capable of keeping track of total sales. The 1909 National Cash Register Catalogue describes it in this manner: "All Class 300 Registers are total-adding machines and are operated by pressing down the registering keys. When an amount key is pressed down the amount represented by it is automatically recorded and added on the total-adding counter, the amount recorded is shown by figures on the indicators in the top of the register, a bell is rung and the cash drawer thrown open. The total-adding counter shows at all times the total of all the cash recorded. This enables the merchant to know accurately and quickly how much money should be in the cash drawer at the close of a day's business or at any time during the day. The amount shown by the adding wheels can only be seen when the lid

on the front of the register is unlocked and open." (From The National Cash Register Catalogue, August 16, 1909)

This July 2nd 1910 National Cash Register Company cash register has an ornate relief filigree brass 'Dolphin Pattern' exterior & Nickle on the three remaining sides continuing the dolphin pattern. An extended marble shelf on three sides above the oversized cash drawer. In addition to the wooden cash drawer fronted by brass, 3 of the 8 draw compartments have metal note clips. Housed in a glass case at the top are pop-up metal indicators showing pounds, shillings & pence denominations. The machine had two rows of keys. Keys in the top row are red & white & numbered 10s, 6s, 4s, 2s, 9d, 3d. The lower row of keys in black, red and white are numbered £1, 9s, 7s, 3s, 1s, 6d, no sale. Adding counter on the right side of the register.

Invented in 1880, Jack Ritty's Incorruptible Cashier forever changed the way retail establishments would conduct everyday business. The first machines were sold not only for their functional ability, but also for their design and beauty. In 1888 ornate cases of brass and cast iron were produced. These fancy cases on cash registers ceased in 1915 due to demand for brass during World War 1.

One of our Members:

Allan McGrath

Written by Allan McGrath



Allan as a young man



Allan on official Council business

It is exciting to introduce you to one of our members. Allan is a very keen historian and often interacts with the various History Facebook Groups. His contributions and administration of the Facebook group called 'Old Braidwood' are always insightful and factual. His family has been around this district for many, many years. His knowledge of events and people's past is remarkable and we often call on his sage collaboration when our researchers are baffled. I hope you enjoy his story and in fact his poetry. He really has a 'way with words'. Allan McGrath was born in Braidwood NSW on the 27 March 1942.

After leaving school (he attended St Bede's school) with his Intermediate Certificate in 1957 he commenced fulltime employment with the Postmaster-General's Department in early 1958 as a telegram messenger. In the early 1960's he worked in the ACT and southern NSW and in works and townships associated with the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme, as a relief postal clerk and postmaster.

In 1968 he joined the staff of the Southern Tablelands County Council based in Queanbeyan, later becoming part of Great Southern Energy, where he continued as regional accounts manager until retiring in 1997.

He was active in community affairs whilst in Queanbeyan being awarded Life Membership of Apex in 1983. He was elected to the Queanbeyan City Council in 1974 continuing as a councillor until his retirement in 1995. He served as Deputy Mayor during 1980 - 1983 and again during 1988-1990.





Allan McGrath and Paul Briggs at a meeting of Yass Historical Society 2023

Allan today.

He was active in community affairs whilst in Queanbeyan being awarded Life Membership of Apex in 1983. He was elected to the Queanbeyan City Council in 1974 continuing as a councillor until his retirement in 1995. He served as Deputy Mayor during 1980 - 1983 and again during 1988-1990.

After moving to Yass in 1999 and establishing a retail toy and bookstore with his wife Victoria, he was elected as a councillor of the Yass Valley Council in 2004 and again in 2008, retiring in 2012. It was in the early 2000's while working as a volunteer guide at Hamilton Hume's historic 'Cooma Cottage', that Allan discovered his gift for rhyming poetry.

In December last year he decided to nominate again for election to the Yass Valley Council and after topping the poll he was elected Mayor of Yass Valley. The local government area of Yass Valley, apart from Yass itself, includes Murrumbateman, Sutton, Gundaroo, Bookham, Binalong, Bowning and Wee Jasper.

In 2024 Allan was again elected to the Yass Valley Council but did not seek re-election as Mayor, he continues to serve as an active Councillor. We have added his poem called 'Jillamatong' and we hope you enjoy reading it.

JILLAMATONG.

A proud and silent sentry, you guard the old home town With gumtrees for your skirt and bracken for your crown For those born in your shadow you are a sacred site As constant as the morning and the starlit skies at night.

A feature of the landscape since mother earth was born You greet the rising son at each new morning dawn. For eons you have watched the seasons come and go The fires, flood and drought, the storms of hail and snow.

Struggles of the black man, the coming of the white The Chinese and the gold rush, the future looked so bright. The sorrows and the sadness of war time's awful lesson The losses of our loved ones, the gloom of great depression.

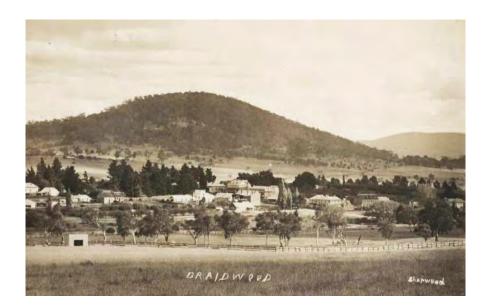
The new migrants of the fifties, you saw how hard their toil With the leaves of Eucalyptus for that precious native oil. The country town of Braidwood that nestles down below Slumbered on for many years but now you watch her grow.

Every generation climbed your steep and rocky hill To seek your hidden granite caves, in search of treasure still. You're the landmark of the district; you're seen from every side Bringing comfort to the weary, you quicken every stride.

Our homeward hearts all skip a beat and sense a kind of thrill When we glimpse you in the distance from the road on Doughboy Hill. If my legs were only strong enough, I would take my kinds along And show them all the distant sights from your crown, old Jillamatong.

But I fear that I will never see, nor stand upon your brow. The fact is, time is catching me and I'm just too weary now. But still I thrill to see you, ancient tall and strong Always there in silence, old mountain Jillamatong.

Allan McGrath 2005.



Jillamatong

Our Annual Dinner 2024

A group of 60 members and friends of the Braidwood Historical Society gathered on the 28th September at Braidwood's National Theatre for our annual dinner. Paul and Annette Briggs who organized and hosted the dinner are to be congratulated. They have volunteered and organised the dinner for the last 9 years. The usual Quiz was rather difficult this year but all learnt a great deal about Braidwood history and general knowledge. A delicious meal and a few wines were enjoyed and the company was good.



Rod McClure.
Photo courtesy Annette Fitzgerald

Our guest speaker was Mr Rod McClure who shared his research on the feelings of the Braidwood Community concerning the question of Compulsory Enlistment during World War 1. Rod stated: 'There is no question that many men in the Braidwood township and surrounding volunteered for the Australian Imperial Forces in WWI. One only needs to look at the cenotaph in the middle of town to confirm this fact and the continued support for those that served with the yearly ANZAC day ceremonies. What surprised me, however, is that many young men in these communities did not volunteer, even when placed under considerable pressure to do so. Not only that, but many resisted the proclamation by the government of W.M. Hughes that they should provide details and report for medicals and training in camp before the result of the first conscription referendum in 1916 was even known.

Thank you Rod and thank you to Peter Van Rijswijk for the assistance with the technology.

A Special BDHS Member's Birthday

It's not every day that someone in Braidwood reaches 90 Years Young. Margaret's enthusiasm and zest for life has been a great driver for everything she has devoted herself to, and she doesn't let go of anything easily either. Margaret was one of the Foundation Members of the Braidwood and District Historical Society in 1970. It is also that tenacity and commitment which earned Margaret community recognition, resulting in her OAM in 2006 for Service to the Community of Braidwood. Margaret is truly a Braidwood Institution and we are very proud to have this 'youngster' as one of our own.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARGARET!





Margaret Royds

John Maddrell, Olive Royds, Margaret Royds, Brian McDonald

Convicts Who Settled in Braidwood

THE HEAZLETT STORY by Nick and Lesley Fry

This interesting story starts with David Heazlett born 1824 in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh Ireland. He enlisted in the 96th Regiment of Foot at age 16 with the unit moving to Lancashire in 1839 and then departed on the 'Woodbridge' among 230 other passengers via Cape of Good Hope. The ship arrived in Sydney in February 1840. David then appears to have been posted to Auckland NZ when he embarked on the 'City of Aberdeen' in February 1843 still as part of the army.

In 1844 David was posted to Launceston and then Hobart in 1847 but he had a change of mind when he was to be posted to India and got a discharge at age 23. Somehow, he met Charlotte Foster a convict, then in the Women's Factory.

In Norfolk UK, Charlotte had a run in with local police on 25/1/1839 and convicted by Alderman Fleming of 'Disturbing the Peace' sentenced to 14 days on 31st January and discharged 7/2/1839.

Charlotte was recorded as a protestant with brown hair and a fair complexion, from Armagh and was a farm servant. A second conviction ensued of 'stealing potatoes' and tried at Monaghan 1844 with 7 years transportation with her children Margaret and Jane being confined to Grange Gorman Convict Depot in Dublin. All three did not see each other until transported on the '*Phoebe*' and arriving in Hobart 2/1/1845.

Whilst at Hobart, Charlotte was caught for being out after hours for 6 days and falsely representing herself to be free. Sentence seems to have been suspended (illegible writing on record sheet).

They had a son David Foster Heazlett in 1848 and were able to gain the authority to marry in Newtown, Hobart in 1849. What enticement lured them to Major's Creek has not been found yet but by late 1849 David is listed as a tailor and from 1866 to 1872 as a publican. He passed away in 1872. So, it appears the license for the hotel was transferred to Charlotte.



The Government Gazette 1877 shows Charlotte as the proprietor of the Elrington Hotel at Major's Creek which must have been doing a roaring trade as her Probate August 1884 listed 930 pounds of assets.

David and Charlotte had a prosperous and fulfilling life giving birth in the district to twins Charlotte and John in 1852, Rebecca 1854 and Sarah 1855.

As David was in Major's Creek in 1849 he must have corresponded with his father about the positive prospects country we see his father Abraham and his grown family come to Australia on the '*Kate*' in 1851 from Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, Ireland as free settlers and made their way to Braidwood possibly as gold miners.

David Foster Heazlett 1848-1904

Abraham (66) arrived, after paying 29 pounds sterling, with his 2nd wife, 3 grown children and 3 daughters from his first marriage.

Now back to Rebecca Heazlett (1854), she marries James Wallworth Wallgate, born Braidwood in 1872 and had 9 children one of which was Dulcie Wallgate 1881-1921, the **great grandmother** of a local well-known Braidwood resident Lesley Fry.

So, research has shown that this tribe of Heazletts have intermarried with a lot of local Braidwood/Araluen/Major's Creek families of which the Keyte, Carter, Coles, Sherry,

Flack, Blandford, Mugridge, Crandell, Warren, Wallgate, Martin, Jocelyn, Macauley and McDonald are noted.



David and Charlotte Heazlett as well as son John and his wife Margaret, Majors Creek cemetery

As a result Lesley has many cousins, uncles and aunts close and distant floating around, some of which are still to be found in the Braidwood district.

Heazlett's of Majors Creek

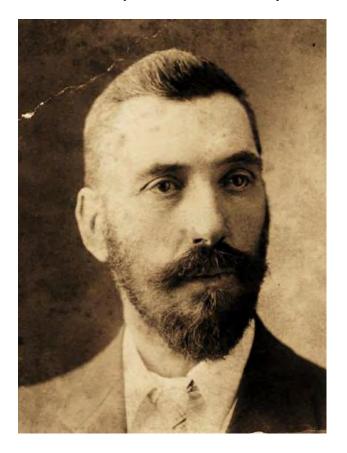
Written by Brian McDonald

One of the first Heazlett to come to Majors Creek was David Heazlett son of Abraham Heazlett and Annie Kennedy. He was born 1824 in Enniskillen Ireland and died at Majors Creek 24 Jan1872. He married Charlotte Foster in Tasmania 8th May 1849. David and Charlotte had eight children namely Jane (Foster), Margaret (Foster), John (Jane Warren), Charlotte (Robert Carter), Mary, David (Mary Ferguson), Rebecca (James Gill) and Sarah (George Sherry). Early records show that David Heazlett was the licence of the *Elrington Hotel* at Majors Creek from 1872 to 1881and on his death in 1872 the licence was transferred to his wife Charlotte Heazlett from 1872 to 1881. On her death in 1884 it was transferred to their son John Heazlett. Mr Heazlett (known as Publican Heazlett) ran the hotel until he retired in 1924, lived in retirement and died in 1932.



The first Elrington Hotel Majors Creek

John Heazlett (David's brother), was born was born 1827 in Baileybeg County Ireland and died at Majors Creek 2nd January 1902.



John Abraham Heazlett

John married Margaret Foster and had ten children namely, Annie (Walter Flack), Rebecca (James Wallgate), John Abraham (Julia Martin), Charlotte (Thomas Keyte), David Ninian, James Edward, Sarah Jane (David Jocelyn), William Henry, Robert Irvine, Albert Charles.



Thomas Keyte 1857-1920 Married Charlotte Heazlett

Elizabeth daughter of Abraham's second marriage to Sarah Guthridge was born 1830 Enniskillen Ireland married Charles Henry Crandell 1854 and had nine Children namely: George Abraham, Amelia Jane, Richard Peter, Charles Henry, William John, William John (2), Sarah Elizabeth, Edward Heazlett, and Rebecca Elizabeth.

The Heazlett name continues far and wide with many families from Majors Creek united in marriage.eg. Warren, Carter, Crandell, Flack. Wallgate, Martin, Keyte, Jocelyn. The last resting place of many of the Heazlett and associated families is the Majors Creek Cemetery.



David Joselyn 1860-1948



John Heazlett and his twin sister Charlotte Carter

The Hanging of the Quilts



Quilts handing outside Braidwood Museum 23rd November 2024



Braidwood Dodge Bulletin # 16

November 2024

'Gellibrand' Takes Shape in Dodge City

Written by John Stahel, Vice President



The last newsletter came to you as the tyres were being fitted. Braidwood is cold in winter, particularly if you are working in the D&S garage. Things appear to be moving slowly, but as you will see progress is being made.

The mudguards that came with the vehicle were off something else and the Cowboy had to do quite a bit of fiddly work on them to make them fit. Nothing he likes more than attacking a job with an angle grinder. He lives by the maxim

'Once you start cutting, keep going!'









All's well that ends well



As I have said before the project is defined by the generosity of our volunteers.

Bryant Ennis, who lived in Braidwood some years ago but is now in Queanbeyan, contacted the project team to offer his professional services as a motor trimmer. He generously offered to help with the upholstery. His skill and charity, using materials left over from other jobs, have transformed the cab.

Our sincere thanks to Bryant.





Many of you will remember Tony Shepherd. The Historical Society recently heard from lawyers who advised us that Tony left a very generous bequest to the museum. How to spend the money from bequests is always a subject that the Committee gives serious consideration. We try to choose projects that reflect on the people, their lives and values. In Tony's case, directing his bequest towards the Dodge project seemed an obvious fit. Tony wrote to me only a few weeks before his death to give moral support to the project and to share his own adventures with various restorations.

10 HAWTHORN LANE ISRAIDWOOD NSW 2622 (02) 48 422 203 + MESSAGE BANK. SUSDAY 11/12/22 TO: - JOHN STAHER, ESP. Bridwood of wenn. Ref. " Changing Times" 1550E 67 of Nov. 30/22p. 9 Subject: "VINTAGECAR BUFFS NEEDED" MORAL SUPPORT FOR A TECHICALLY DIFFICULT RESTORATION PROJECT - in DODGE 1930 TRUCK I have been in very your heart for some time now and for some time have love danitied by the local hospital as EXTREM COVID RISK - LOCKDOWN STATUS by the OUTPATIENT SECTION at The LOCAL HOSPITAL . I HAVE BEEN UNDER HOME LOCKDOWN FOR MANY MONTHS, WHILLH 1 BREACH AT MY OWN DISCRETION, BUT WAY BACK IN 1945, IN MY LAST YEARIN SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE SOUTHERN UK. I WAS A "BOY SERGEANT" IN THE SCHOOL CADETS. I WAS GIVEN THE CHANCE TO GO TO THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY BEGINENT AND JOIN A TEAM FROM OTHER SCHOOLS IN REBUILDING AN ABANDONED AUSTIN "CHUMMY SEVER" OPEN TOURER WHICH WAS STORED IN A NUMBER OF PLYWOOD TEA CHESTS IN A MISSEN HUT AT THE REGINENT'S H. Q. THERE WERE ID OF US FROM VARIOUS SCHOULS IN THE OXFOR DISTRIGT ~ OUR " UNISTRUCTOR" WAS A RETURED SERGEANT FROM THE BRITISH ROYAL ARMOURE COPAS WHO HAD DRIVEN A TANK AT THE BATTLE OF ALAMEIN, THE ONE WHICH HELPE MONTGONERY QUIN ROMARL OUT OF NORTH AFRICA. (ME COULD NEVER STOP HE TOLD US WE HAD SEVEN WORKING DAYS TO WORK OUT HOW TO PUT THIS CAR BACK TOGETHER AND "ON THE ROAD" HE GAVE US NO FORMAL INSTRUCTIONS, HE SAT AT A TABLE AT ONE END OF THE HUT AND WAITED FOR US LADS TO PULL OURSELVES TOGETHER AND START ASKING ALL THE PLIGHT QUESTIONS - THEN HE CAME ALIVE. AND WAS AN ENORMOUS HELP MEANWHILE HE JUST SAT AT HIS TABLE, SMOKED CIGARETTS AND READ A HORSE-RACING PARER CALLED THE "PINK UN." BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT BY THE END OF SEVEN DAYS US SCHOOL CADEY LADS HAD GOT A FULLY ASSEMBLED AUSTIN SEVEN

ON THE ROAD. WE ALSO HAD A TEACT OF LADS WHO ALL STARTED OUT AS STRAMBERS BUT WHO ENDED AS A CO-OPERATIVE TEAM WHOASKED ALL THE RIGHT QUESTIONS. AT THE END WE WERE ALL ISSUED WITH A MINYSTRY OF DEFENDE UNIVERSAL DRIVING PERMITY AS WE WERE ALL AROUT TO BE CALLED UP IN TO THE ARMY, (NATIONAL SERVICE),

MY PERMIT WAS YAYD FOR SEVEN YEARS. IT TOOK ME ROUND THE WORLD ! I STILL HAME 17.

BEST OF ENGK TO YOUR TEAM FROM A VERY BISABLED BLOKE! - Tony Stephel P.S. D. 85. NO TORE?? I thought they had vanished 11

> COPAS WHO HAD DRIVEN A TANK AT THE BATTLE OF ALAMEIN, THE ONE WHICH HELPE MONTGONERY PUSH ROMARL OUT OF NORTH AFRICA. (ME COULD NEVER STOP HE TOLD US WE HAD SEVEN WORKING DAYS TO WORK OUT HOW TO PUT THIS CAR BACK TOGETHER AND "ON THE READ" HE GAVE US NO FORMAL INSTRUCTIONS. HE SAT AT A TABLE AT ONE END OF THE HUT AND WAITED FOR US LADS TO PULL OURSELVES TOGETHER AND START ASKING ALL THE RIGHT QUESTIONS - THEN HE CAME ALIVE. AND WAS AN ENORMOUS HELP MEANWHILE HE JUST SAT AT HIS TABLE,

SMOKED CIGARETTS AND READ A HORSE-RACING PAPER CALLED THE "PINK UN"



I think Tony would be very pleased to see his legacy linked to the completion of this community project. We will ensure that Tony's generosity is exhibited on the vehicle in some appropriate way. **Thanks Tony.**



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



and

