# Bridges & Branches

Number 74 June 2009



# NEWSLETTER of the ECHUCA-MOAMA FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

PO Box 707, Echuca, Vic. 3564

### **Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc**

President: Judy McCleary Vice President: Marcia Birnie Secretary: John Howe

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Librarian: Lorraine Johnson

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**Meetings** held in the Community Health Centre, Martin Street, Moama, on the third Thursday at 7.30 pm from September to April, and the third Saturday at 1.30 pm from May to August. No meetings December or January.

The **Research Room** is open and manned every Monday from 11.00am-3.00pm, and the first and third Friday of each month from 11.00am-3.00pm

### Beginner and Refresher Classes in September.

Family History Classes will be conducted by E-MFHG again in September. Details of the classes, which will be held on Tuesday nights and Wednesday afternoons, will be advertised in the *Riverine Herald* in August.

The sessions on Tuesday night are repeated on Wednesday afternoon.

Since 1988 the EMFHG has collected all BDM notices which have been printed in the Riverine Herald. They have also collected other reports and notices relative to family history. The notices included "Legal Notices" regarding wills applying to the Supreme Court for probate and the invitation the prove the will.

As from the 1st March 2009 it is no longer a legal requirement in Victoria for these notices to be published in the local press. From that date it will only be necessary for the notice to appear on the Web. At this stage this does not apply to NSW.

The Editors welcomes articles, notes, queries, book reviews, comments and any items of interest. Contributions to Bridges & Branches are accepted in good faith but the Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc or the Editors, do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of information nor for the opinions expressed. Items can be emailed to:-pcollins1@iinet.net.au or ksdurrant@ozsky.net or rrkelly@bigpond.con

### **President's Report**

The last three months have been very busy with many events taking place. Unfortunately the big news at the moment is the announcement that the Shire has put a halt to the new Community Hub project for the next three months while a financial review of the project is untaken. The statement that, the review wants to establish whether the 'project meets the council and the community needs', seems to me to be broad enough to find reasons to put a halt to the original project. Another statement in the announcement was more alarming in that it stated that there might be 'other less costly solutions' possible. It seems that the whole tone of the article and the mayor's measured language does not give us any optimism about the project going ahead. We are lucky to have our present location and be grateful in this present climate.

The subcommittee for the restoration of the Moama Cemetery Records has applied for funding from the Echuca Moama Community Enterprise Small Community Grants Program funded by the Bendigo Bank. The committee hopes to obtain \$3,000 and locate at least 2,000 names in the next 12 months. A thorough submission was submitted by Anita Bartlett and the committee, of Shirley Durrant, Pearl Collins, Chris Buckley and Wendy Hicks. Anita wrote the draft and incorporated ideas from the rest of the committee. When the project is completed it will be a significant contribution to the history of the district. Well done to the sub committee.

We have had a substantial donations of books made to us by Echuca Secondary College, so Lorraine Johnson has been extremely busy incorporating them into our library. Our last excursion to Heathcote recently was very enjoyable and also enlightening as we were hosted by the local historical society.

The cemetery walk we had for members before the March meeting was a great idea. The members attending were shown around the cemetery by Shirley Durrant who shared her knowledge about the symbolism of the monuments. Thank you Shirley! Classes in family history were conducted in April and we had some who are new to family history and others who came along as a refresher

Marilyn Wicking has resigned as our treasurer as she is moving to Bairnsdale. We must thank Marilyn for the work and time she has given the Group as our treasurer, and especially for building the consolidated index of indexes, named in her honour as the "Wicking Index". Marilyn was presented with a gift in appreciation of her contribution to our Group at our last general meeting. Pearl also spoke in appreciation of Marilyn's work in creating the "Wicking Index" and for passing on her computer skills to others in the group. Marilyn's skills have contributed considerably to the smooth running of the group. We hope that she enjoys life in Bairnsdale.

Finally I must pay tribute to Carole Trevillian who died after a courageous struggle with cancer. Carole was an enthusiastic member of EMFHG and held a number of positions, including president, during her time with the group. Our thoughts are with John, Stuart, Richard and Caroline.

Judy McCleary

### Gwendoline Mierisch's Story

My name is Gwendoline Mierisch, I am 93 years old and about to tell you my story

I was born on 31st March 1915, at Echuca Private Hospital to Margaret [nee Howells], and Donald McLennan. My maternal grandmother, Grandma Howells, was angry that I was born on a Monday as this was washing day, but she died soon after my birth thus, I was named Gwendoline after her. I was taken home from the hospital to a house in Mitchell Street after which we lived in Pakenham Street for a short time, and then went to a little cottage owned by Grandpa Howells in Anstruther Street. We stayed there until the house that Mother and Dad built was completed in Hume Street where I grew up and remained until I married.

My mother and father were highly respected and regarded in Echuca. My Mother was a warm and cuddly woman, very outgoing. She was a loyal and respected member of a number of organisations in the town, including the CWA and all church activities. My Dad much more reserved disciplined, probably as a result of his military training where he became a Captain in the Mounted Light Horse Regiment in the First World War. Our family was fortunate that he did not have to serve overseas. My Dad was a Probationary officer for the town, and I remember the boys who'd been in trouble with the police, coming to see him on Saturday mornings, where they would sit and chat with him about how they were getting on. My Dad did this work for quite a few years.

My parents loved their garden and Dad was at one stage the President of the

Horticultural Society in Echuca. He really enjoyed exhibiting his flowers and specialized in growing orchids, chrysanthemums and roses. Mother had the prettiest cottage garden in which she had a myriad of plants which she grew from cuttings taken from her many friends gardens. She would often refer to a plant by the name of her friend rather than by its correct botanical name. Mother also kept chooks for a regular supply of fresh eggs and meat as we needed it. Dad grew grapes beside the house which provided us with shade and delicious grapes to eat during the hot dry northern summers.

It was under the shade of the vines where Mother hung the coolgardie safe. My sister Ann was an attractive and talented girl, who contracted infantile paralysis when she was very young and it badly affected her leg. Ann had surgery to straighten her leg and the operation was done by a Dr Colin McKenzie. Night after night Mother used to massage warm olive oil into Ann's leg, then carefully place the leg into a cotton wool lined metal splint for sleeping. My caring and observant parents undertook this treatment for Ann, enabling her to live a reasonably normal life. She grew up as a normal happy girl and eventually worked in the Echuca Post Office as a telephone operator. Our family was very grateful to the expertise of Dr Colin McKenzie and during her continued treatment.

My dad was the owner of a small shop which sold amongst other things, lollies and ice cream. Dad made his own ice cream from milk, sugar, gelatin and vanilla flavouring. It was mixed and churned in a wooden barrel with a big egg beater surrounded with ice and salt. The ice cream was sold by the scoop in cones.

Later Dad changed his career and became a reporter for the Echuca local paper called the *Riverine Herald*, he was eventually appointed as the editor of the paper which was his job until he retired. He worked nights preparing the articles and news items for the printers. Our next door neighbors were the Moreland's the local Bakers

When I was growing up there were not many cars in Echuca. Dad had a horse and a buggy in which we used to visit and get about the town and to visit our relatives on the other side of Goulburn River. Dad would hitch the horse to the buggy, Ann and I would sit facing Mum and Dad with our backs to the foot board, and off we'd go. When we reached the river, Dad would call "Cooee" to the punt man who would bring the punt across the river. We'd drive on and the punt man would pull on a heavy metal chain to make the punt move and we would be taken over the river, drive off and then repeat the procedure on the way home. My Dad never owned a car he didn't see the need for one, he enjoyed his horses much

There was no electricity when I was little. Our house was lit by candles and kerosene lamps. Mother would make sure that we had plenty of kerosene and that the glass around the wick was kept clean, so we had good light. Ann and I were quite grown up before we were allowed to carry 'lit lamps' to our bedrooms.

The next step for me growing up was primary school at the Echuca State School. There was no uniform required and they were carefree days. Miss Ryrie was my grade two teacher, she was a gracious white-haired lady but do you think I could spell the word remember for her? I would either put too many em's or not enough em's! Mr White was the headmaster, Mr. Shattock, Miss Scott, Miss McFadven were other teachers I remember. On the way to school, we had to pass two Blacksmiths, the Rye's and the Michaelowski's, one on either side of the road. The smell of singed horse hair is in my nostrils as I write. We were scared of the furnace and the sparks, and were not allowed to loiter outside the Smithy's Each week I attended kindergarten at the Echuca Presbyterian Church. It was conducted in the basement of the church by dear Mrs Steele; a gentle and old but so loving lady. There was a special cane chair with a ribbon on it for the birthday person, and a cane cradle which the birthday person could rock while we sang an appropriate song. Miss Simmie played the "March from Scipio" at the end of Sunday school as we marched out. She was still doing this when my girls attended Sunday school in Echuca and they may remember this too. My Dad was superintendent of the Sunday School for twenty-six years, and then handed over the responsibility to Alan Mierisch, soon after he came to Echuca.

Sunday school was held at 10.00am; prior to the 11.00am church service when we went into church, to sit with our parents. The McLennan Family paid pew rental, which was an annual subscription which assisted in the up-keep of the church buildings. We shared our pew with the local GP, Dr Pearce. When we grew up we were promoted to the church choir and sat in the choir stalls.

Gwen Mierisch

(This is just a very small, slightly edited part of the fascinating story by Gwen. The full story is in the EMFHG library) SD

### In which State was the death registered?

The Murray River which divides New South Wales and Victoria, is actually in New South Wales. The state border is the high water mark on the south bank of the river. This means that anyone who has the misfortune to drown in the Murray is deemed to have died in New South Wales This however, was not always the case. Until 1863, the Murray River was officially territory shared by the two states. But, different laws in the two states, including years, when each state charged duty on goods and people entering and or leaving their territory, made the joint territory arrangement quite unworkable.

Recently while looking through a number of death certificates registered in the 1870's and 1880's, I was struck by the number of people who had drowned in the Murray. Most of these deaths were registered in Victoria, which is contrary to what I would have expected.

At my first port of call to find an explanation I was told, despite having a number of certificates, that "the Murray has always been in NSW and drownings in the river have always been recorded in NSW." Although somewhat taken back at the time, I soon found this was the popular belief. Obviously, I had to go further afield for the answer.

I wrote to our two local MP's. Living on the state border, does have some plusses. Paul Weller MP, forwarded my request on to the Victorian Registrar of Births, Deaths & Marriages, while John Williams MP sent my request to the NSW Attorney General. The reply from the Victorian BDM virtually admitted that they had no idea why this was the case but suggested that the isolation of the Echuca area at the time, may have been the explanation. But, I have found cases of drowning in the Murray in 1925 recorded in Victoria, when Echuca was really not that isolated. The reply went on to state, "you are right in believing that people who drown in the Murray River are deemed to have died in New South Wales. Registration of the death in Victoria does not change this fact."

The NSW Attorney General stated that "I am advised by the NSW Coroner that deaths in the Murray which are reported to the NSW Coroner are those of bodies found in the river itself. If a body is located on the Victorian side of the Murray River on or above the high water mark it is then reportable to the Victorian Coroner." (an interesting concept for a drowning)

It would seem that originally, deaths by drowning in the Murray River were recorded in the state which retrieved the body. But they are still deemed to have died in New South Wales. When this practise stopped, I have not been able to determine.

This discrepancy may be something to keep in mind when searching for records of deaths close to the state border, especially if drowning is a possible cause of death.

Shirley Durant

|                                 | <b>New Members</b>  |                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Sue Auditori                    | John Britten        | Glen Fracaro    |
| Renee Fraser                    | Daryl Frawley       | Phillip Johnson |
| Alan Richardson<br>Joy Sipthorp | Gordon H. Rickard   | Gaynor Robson   |
|                                 | Welcome to you all. |                 |

### **Moama Cemetery Project**

Some time ago, Anita Bartlett, a member of the EMFHG, took on the massive task of trying to identify all those who have been buried at the Echuca Cemetery. To achieve this she has been using the Cemetery Burial Records, which are reasonably comprehensive, the cemetery headstones and death certificates.

From the death certificates she has become aware of the number of people who died in Echuca but who were buried, across the border at Moama.. This has set her on an even bigger mission - that of identifying all those who are buried in the Moama Cemetery.

With the assistance of a small group of helpers the plan is to start the project officially from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

Moama is a much smaller cemetery than Echuca. Before the Murray Shire took over management of the cemetery in the 1970's, there were no existing burial records.

The Shire,s first task on taking control was to approach the churches for help and also record all the names and date on the headstones in the cemetery. This became the base for their records. These of course are a far from complete list of those who were buried in the cemetery. There is also the problem that headstones are memorials and may be only that. The person may be buried elsewhere.

As a group we have access to the Register of Deaths at Moama Index for the period from 1858 to 1943. From this index they can identify all those who were buried at Moama in the period. This still leaves a gap of more than 30 years for which there are no records. There are also those who died elsewhere but who are buried at Moama.

We need your help! Do you know of anybody who was buried at Moama? The group is especially keen to find any who died elsewhere but who were buried at Moama, and or any who died in the years between 1943 and the mid 1970's.

Could you help us by providing a copy of death certificates but any names and dates would be most helpful.

The Moama Cemetery Group can be contacted at Box 707 Echuca 3564 or email at - emfhg9@hotmail.com

### Flying High!

During the second World War, an Airforce Training School was established at Deniliquin in southern NSW. The training planes flew exercises over surrounding districts including Walliston, where a practice bombing range was set up in the form of a timber outline in the shape of a battleship. It was situated on the South side of the Deniliquin - Barham Road.

Wirraways, Tiger Moths and Avro Ansons were commonly seen causing much excitement by flying low over school children making their way to the Walliston School. The planes often became the subject of target practise by some of the

more daring would-by footballers.

One of the Wirraways developed a mechanical problem and was forced to land in Harold Gamble's paddock, where he and Ossie Streckfuss were cleaning out a dam nearby using horse teams and mud scoops. Fortunately the two pilots, presumable an instructor and student, were unhurt but the plane was grounded.

A man was posted to the site all night to guard the plane. Next morning a new tail was brought by truck and fitted, enabling it to be flown back to Deniliquin.

Wilma Gamble

### Memoirs of Herbert Elisha Barker (23<sup>rd</sup> June 1885 - 27<sup>th</sup> December 1973) Written in 1964

I was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1885 in a little cottage in Goulburn Road, Echuca. Mrs McLean helped to bring me into the world and always claimed me as her first payable baby, but I don't think much could have been paid for me as I believe things were tough.

About the first things I remember would be over Nathalia way at a place called Waaia. I believe the family went there to look after a farm for a Mr Trethowan. I can recall seeing my brother Jim fall off a horse and I also remember seeing a good many snakes. Also opossums seemed to be very plentiful as they were snared and trapped and shot, the fur singed off and fed to the pigs. I don't think we were long in that district, although some relatives and connections I believe are there in the district till this day - Walshes and Quintons. Moving back to Echuca we moved about a good deal, but the next place of interest to me was living on the river bank. If you travel straight out east along Packenham Street to the river, on the left alongside the street was Macintosh's saw mill in full work at that time 1892, so also was Luker & Whitley's. On the opposite side of the road was a Chinese garden and the chief thing I can remember about that was a huge mulberry tree and how good were the fruit thereof. Downstream from the mill about 200 yards you came to the home of the Allen family. Mr Allen was a professional fisherman. Much of the water for the house had to be carried from the river about 60 or 70 yards away. We youngsters used to love being in the big slab kitchen when the crayfish were being cooked. The Allen boys used to take the crays into town about a mile away, where there was a good demand for them. I remember going with some of the bigger boys over to O'Laughton's 'boiling down', where sheep were boiled to get what little fat there was on them and we could buy a good quality leg of mutton. Talking of meat, there were a great number of goats kept in those parts and as much goat's milk as cow's milk was used, also a lot of goat's meat eaten, the white flesh of a kid being very good. My Dad was a good gardener and we had a large garden. Stinging nettles grew profusely in the garden between other sowings and when young make a very good and tasty dish, in fact I don't think you could tell it from spinach. About a hundred yards down stream from the Allens and across a gully was where we lived. We took over after the Blakey family lived there. It was an old and scattered house but it suited us alright. On the river bank just a few feet from the steep bank stood a hut where old Mr Harvey lived. That hut was later undermined by the river. Bowers was always a great place for swimming. I was a nervous kid and was a bit scared of the water, perhaps because the bigger boys used to duck us smaller ones. Of course in those days mixed bathing was unheard of. Some of the bigger chaps occasionally swam the river and raided Chambers garden for water melons. I was never a good swimmer but brother Jim was like a duck in the water. Mother was a Salvationist and used to go frequently into town for the meetings and also sell the War Cry. We had a bitza black and tan dog smooth haired and about the size of a heeler. He used to go off and meet Mother coming home at night. The highlight of the

year for us youngsters was the Sunday School picnic. Father was a teacher there. The lads of the far east were loyal to every boat which brought the logs down in barges and outriggers to Macintosh's Mill. The old *Elizabeth* had quite a different exhaust from the now famous *Adelaide*. The exhausts could be heard for a long while before they could be sighted and any of us youngsters could tell which one was coming. The *Elizabeth* was 'Well done Macintosh' and the *Adelaide* was known to us boys as 'Get along you lazy wretch'.

My sister Flo, who was like a mother to me was also a very close pal. At that time she was working for Mrs J. Freeman and on one occasion she brought young Harry out home in a pram. I took him for a walk along the creek bank and tipped the lot over. He howled but was not much hurt as he is still going strong and this is 1964, and that was about 1892. Flo also used to take me about and on one occasion I recall her taking me to the Brewery to buy yeast.

It was a sad day for the far east when Macintosh's Mill closed in the midnineties as at that time it was what most of the people depended on for their living. It was the biggest depression Australia has known when the land boom burst and the banks closed their doors and nothing could be done about it. There was no child endowment, baby bonus, age pension and very few other pensions. Many a home was short of food but we got through.

When the sawmill closed Dad was out of work and he just had to take anything he could find to do, with the result he was away from home a lot, scrub cutting and clearing land. We moved in nearer the shops.

I remember seeing the wharf lined from

end to end with barges and boats loaded down till only about 1ft of barge was still above water and about 4 or 5 bales of wool high above deck. It was something we will never see again.

Mother, Alf, Flo and Jim all became members of the Salvation Army. It was definitely the poor people's religion and although I never became a Salvationist I had a good deal of respect for them.

One cottage in Hume Street had some nice orange and lemon trees and I can remember selling some to a little shop in Packenham Street and with the money buying Camel cigarettes. I don't think I did it more than two or three times.

For firewood I used to go to the mill (which was only a few hundred yards away) with a billycart and get mostly bark and some scraps of more solid wood. I often went early in the morning and would stay away till it was too late to go to school. I'm afraid I missed far too much school. On one occasion I remember being away for three weeks at one time. Of course I did not know the work when I got back and was in trouble with the teacher, which meant I kept away all I could. There was not the effort to keep children at school and little notice was taken of absenteeism.

At the day school in those days the boys used to play 'Kings Men', two bases one at each side of the yard and there would be teams, one team occupying the bases and the other to catch them out of the bases while running from one to the other. If they would not run they could be taken from the bases by force. It was a rough game but it seemed to be 'the rougher the better'.

Another job I had before I left school was to take some cows owned by our neighbour Dick O'Brien, down to a

paddock about three quarters of a mile away in Shin Bone Alley, take them in the morning and bring them back at night. He usually kept three cows and sold milk to nearby people. On leaving school at twelve and only in the 5<sup>th</sup> class I was a paper boy and my round was all Echuca East and Echuca West.

My next job was down at the slip where the river barge Ada was being built. Part of my job was to pick up all the nuts and bolts about the place and run the stocks and dies over them. At that time Alf got a job from an old chap Lew Harrison, who had a high sided dray and a white horse nearly as old as Lew. His job was to cart sawdust from the mill a few hundred yards from the mill and to burn it and to cart wood down to the river bank for the Adelaide and Little Wonder, two boats which were hauling the big barges and outriggers for the Murray River Saw Mill Co. Alf had an accident that put him out of action so I took over the job on the dray. Mr Harrison died and his turnout was sold. So a horse Skipper, and dray were procured for me and I took over the job and carted many hundreds of loads of wood to the boats and sawdust to be burned. The last load of the day I used to take out to the freezing works, which had just opened up.

While at the mill I had a job on the swinging docking saw for a few days, on account of the regular operator being off sick. That was the mill nearest 'Shin Bone Alley' which on New Years Day about

1961 was burnt out along with another mill down near the river. It is a wonder it lasted as long as it did as the whole surroundings were built up with sawdust. When first noticed the fire could have been put out with a bucket of water, but the north wind sprang up suddenly and it was a very hot day and it got right out of hand.

At about 13 years of age I joined up with a class to learn to play a brass instrument under Mr. W McLoughlin. He was band master of the Rangers Band and he played the clarinet. His regular job was bookkeeper at McLoughlin and McLoughlin, butchers, and he was also choirmaster and organist at St. Mary's. Others in the class were L. Burgess, C. Stretch, and Albert Dean. It was not long before we were playing or pretending to with the band. There was nothing to be earned from playing in those days except free entrance to a show or concert when we were playing in front of hall for half an hour to draw the people.

On one particular day I remember being away with the band at the Goulburn, where we had been engaged to play for the day. I had had a poisoned hand and used my left fingers on the keys and the hit tune at that time was "Alice, where art thou?"

And I think on the whole the people of those days were really happier than those of today. What they got they earned and what they never had they never missed. People read more and enjoyed simpler pleasures than those of today.

### Many Thanks

Thank you to all members who wished me well earlier in the year when my heart was being reconditioned. Surgery is always anxiety producing but your warm wishes, cards, food, phone calls and much needed support to Colin and I was really appreciated. In fact you made the difference. I'm glad I belong to such a supportive friendly Group.

Thank you Pearl

# **MEMBERS'** Profiles

Please contact EMFHG Inc for a printed copy of our newsletter if you would like to read our members profiles.
Fees may apply.

### Vale- Carole Ann Trevillian nee Brennan

18<sup>th</sup> January1948 -27<sup>th</sup> May.2009

Carole joined the Echuca Moama Family History Group Inc on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1993. She had been told that her great (something) grandmother had entertained bushrangers and determined to find the truth in the statement. Her people "The Warby's" lived near Wangaratta. They had come from Campbelltown near Sydney and were early Fleeters to Australia. It was indeed all true and Carole found great pleasure in documenting her family details. Carole took up the challenge of being President of the Group in 2001 and directed proceedings of publishing our third Pioneers of Echuca Moama District Pre 1940. Her tour of duty completed and when husband John retired from teaching as Vice Principal of Echuca High School they moved to Mount Martha beside Port Phillip Bay. Carole maintained her membership and visited as she could.

She became unwell a year ago and treatment was a temporary measure. Robert Kelly, Shirley Durrant, Wendy Hicks and I travelled to Mount Martha for a service honouring her life and to support husband John and children Stuart, Richard and Caroline. Carole had many qualities- an excellent hostess, made many of her own clothes (with flair), involved in community activities and made many friends. One of her hallmarks was her care and concern for others. I counted it a privilege to be one of her friends.

About 100 people were present at the service as we said goodbye. Members will, I'm sure, be richer in spirit for having known Carole.

Pearl Collins

### **Help Wanted**

John Paterson from Westerwick Sweden c 1834 and Maria Mountford born Dublin c 1833 married in Moama on 7.1.1868 and lived in Echuca. On the marriage certificate it appears that the witnesses are George Linklater and Lucy Southey. John's father appears to be Ealen Lafrook Paterson and his occupation is turner. They had 4 children all born Echuca. The third child is our Great Grandfather who married Mary De la Haye. If anyone can help it would be appreciated.

Maureen Cattanach, 27 Warringa Cres, Hoppers Crossing 3029

### **More Help Wanted!**

- 1. Nattrass / Natrass / Nattras. Aaron Nattrass and his wife Julia nee Doyle ran the Half-Way House Hotel at Torrumbarry in 1874 located on the north side of Terricks Rd just west of the present Torrumbarry -Kotta Road Junction roughly half way between Echuca and Mitiamo. Of the family of 7 children, 4 were born at Torrumbarry & Echuca Ralph 1877, Sarah Adeline 1878, Matthew 1880 and Daniel James 1882. If these names are familiar to you, I have a contact.
- 2. Thomas Edward & James Dawson brothers, worked on the Echuca Moama Railways in the early days. James b. England 1863 d 11.10.1931 Thomas b 1868 Aust d 15.07.1940. Whilst Thomas has married Catherine Dillon, James married Margaret Farrell. James was a gate keeper at the Navarino Railway Crossing just out of Moama. Thomas and James were brothers to Maria who married James Edward Marsh. All four mentioned are buried in the Moama Cemetery along with their parents Thomas Dawson and Jane nee Kentfield. Contact Pearl if you have information on these families

### The Pastoral Times

150 years of publishing.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1859 the first issue of the *Pastoral Times* was published in Deniliquin. Now, one hundred and fifty years later and still in production, must make it one of the oldest provincial newspapers in the country.

Dr David Griffith Jones was the founder and first editor of the paper, and remained so until his death in 1876. James Strode was the first printer and he brought the first press to Deniliquin, along with the typecases which held hundreds and hundreds of lead letters in a range of sizes. At that time the letters for the headlines were carved from wood - usually cherry wood.

To create a page, each letter and each space had to be set in a frame manually. Just to make the process more challenging, each letter was back to front and upside down. When a page was set, it was inked and a sheet of paper was placed on it, and a roller pressed the paper onto the type. The sheet was then left to dry.

The original Pastoral Times was just four pages, but a single page could take a day to setup, so it is not surprising that just one edition was printed each week. The manual typesetting continued until 1908.

The *Pastoral Times* was founded eight years before the *Riverine Herald* in Echuca, which makes it a vital source of information about events in the district, in those early years. The EMFHG holds microfilm copied of the *Pastoral Times* from 1858 to 1881

The above was taken from the Pastoral Times 150th Birthday Commemorative Feature

### Wirringan School

Following the closure of the Walliston School on the Gulpa Road, it was apparent a new school was required. Classes were held in the double garage of Cliff Adams, during which time the parents planned the construction of a new school building. A site was chosen on the property of Harold Gamble, approximately 13km North East of Bunnaloo. The name Wirringan was chosen because the school was situated in the parish on Wirringan in the Murray Shire.

Construction was entirely carried out by the school parents. Pise rammed earth, with good quality loam being used. Finally it was rough-cast using cement to render the building weatherproof. It consisted of a single room, iron roof, caneite ceiling, with a verandahs on the North and West and an open fireplace for heating.

The school was opened in 1946. On completion on construction, the Government provide the necessary accessories, such as books, pencils, blackboard, etc. Also they paid for a teacher, Mark Siebler, who was later replaced by Ross Smyth for the dozen or so pupils who travelled on horseback, in gigs, by bicycles and walking. A nearby paddock was provided for the horses.

The school closed in 1950 and the Bunnaloo School reopened in 1951. Wilma Gamble

### Help, Help, Help

Our Duty Roster **urgently** needs additional helpers. Are you a starter? Phone Pearl 5482 1139 or Shirley 5482 4632. Select a suitable time to be on duty. Just think of the added bonus. You learn more about what extensive holdings we have.

\*Pearl Collins\*\*

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## New to Library — 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 \_- 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2009

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Anderson, David Roy 1960
Anset, John 1951
Appleton, Stephen James 1981
Armstrong, Catherine 1954
Ashwell, Arthur Charles 1957
Atkins, Denis John 1982
Andrew, Wm Thomas 1939
Anstee, William 1926
Archibald, Olive 1968
Ash, Richard Theo 1978
Athorn, William Albert 1979
Atkinson, Valmai M. 1945

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