



Braidwood & District Historical Society

PO Box 145 Braidwood NSW 2622

Newsletter

Number 17 June 2020

Message from the President.

While the coronavirus has kept the museum closed volunteers have been busy.

- The indefatigable Roger James is managing a plan to restore Braidwood Heritage celebrations. The suggested date is 1st May 2021. It will be run under the banner of Braidwood & District Historical Society, but with widespread community participation and organisation. Roger is approaching the various Braidwood groups and parties seeking their involvement and contribution. It is proposed that it be a widely publicised event possibly offering packages of accommodation, dinner, show, parade, film, street activities, sporting events and competitions. So far there has been much enthusiastic support for the idea from the community. Offers of help and suggestions will be much appreciated.
- Don Raper has taken on the task of restoring the sulky named 'Sally' that has been stored in the Dick and Olive Royds Shed. With some advice and generous assistance from Antony Davies it is hoped the sulky will be ready to be in the proposed heritage parade in May next year.



Don Raper, Roger James and 'Sally' the sulky

- Our thanks to Dan Hart who has replaced and fitted new light tracks in the upstairs area ready for the opening of the Law and Order display as well as the main downstairs exhibition area where the gold escort wagon is displayed.
- Our Master Plan for the creation of the Braidwood Heritage Centre has been circulated to members and is gathering momentum. There have been many supportive emails in response and it is heartening to see such enthusiasm from members, the community and QPRC. It can be viewed on our website, www.briadwoodmuseum.org.au

- Paris and Leanne have continued cataloguing and uploading photographs to our online database.

QPRC Mayor, Tim Overall has informed us "The BDHS Master Plan is receiving considerable interest and I understand has the support of the Tourism Advisory Panel. A report will be coming to a Meeting of Council shortly."

Also from the Mayor, "the Exec Director Heritage NSW has advised, given the resignation of the Minister, that her office will be in touch to organise a meeting acknowledging that Braidwood is an important heritage asset and provides planning, compliance, and funding challenges for Council." John Stahel and I will be attending that meeting with the Mayor and QPRC CEO, Peter Tegart.

The Master Plan and the proposed meeting with the State Government are separate items but it is hoped the Master Plan will provide the way forward for State Government assistance for council to provide the much needed support promised under the Braidwood 2006 State Heritage Listing.



John Tice Gellibrand

1934 - 2019

- We are saddened by the passing of former life member, John Gellibrand. John was a valued member of the Braidwood community and played an important role as President of this society. His legacy will continue with our

ongoing work in keeping the museum's collection of National and State significant items in our museum. By his goodwill, forward thinking and passion for Braidwood he honoured us with a bequest of \$3,464.14. We have written to his family thanking and informing them that the bequest funds have been put aside for use on a matter of importance to the Braidwood Community and Museum together with a commemorative recognition of his contribution.

- Finally, unfortunately with restrictions of coronavirus we have been unable to organise our annual dinner. However, if restrictions ease in the near future providing the timing allows, we will try to arrange the continuation of this long standing event.

We are all looking forward to better days.

Peter Smith
President

Brolgas at Araluen

contributed by Chris Woodland

Chris found this article in the Sydney newspaper the "Empire" dated **Tuesday 15th May 1860.**

NATIVE COMPANIONS. Some years ago the Araluen Plains were extensively resorted to by droves of birds styled 'Native Companions', but they recently disappeared, and in fact have not been met with for a very considerable period. On Thursday last, however, Mr. William Taylor, of the Welcome Inn, at the Farm,

Araluen, saw two walking on the plain, and with a great deal of difficulty dropped them with his gun. They each stood five feet eleven inches and a half in height and measured from the tip of one wing to the extremity of the other, 8 feet [2.5 kg]. Their weight was 29 lbs. [13 kg] each, and resemble in their conformation about the head, the turkey, with the exception of the bill. The colour is a most beautiful one, being of a silver grey.



Our beloved brolgas



**Artist Sydney Long
'The Spirit of the Land'**

HISTORY- GOES UP IN SMOKE

by Peter Smith

As of 9 March 2020, the fires Australia wide burnt an estimated 18.6 million hectares (46 million acres); 186,000 square kilometers; (72,000 square miles), destroyed over 5,900 buildings (including 2,779 homes) and killed at least 34 people. An estimated one billion animals have been killed and some endangered species may be driven to extinction.

The statistics are shocking, but seldom do we see the mention of LOST HISTORY. That is why I have included this wonderful story from the newspaper, **Farmer and Settler, Thursday 5 November 1942**, knowing the story makes the loss by fire even sadder.

Braidwood Women Prove Their Ability as Graziers

Two women residents of Braidwood district are nobly living up to the highest traditions of the pioneering days.

On a holding in wild, rugged country on the Deua River many miles beyond Araluen, accessible only by means of pack-horses, these women are furnishing an example of sacrifice and courage all too seldom seen to-day, says Braidwood "Review". At a sale in Braidwood Nellie Davis had the satisfaction of seeing her cattle realise remarkable prices and create considerable interest.

Not only did she breed them, but with her daughter, Nita [Neta], she did practically all the work of mustering etc. She rode to Braidwood for the sale and at the conclusion set out again that night for her lonely home in the mountains, a distance of 34 miles. She refused preferred hospitality at Araluen preferring to continue her long and arduous journey.

These two women, working unaided and with more or less primitive tools, built a new shearing shed this year. They cut the timber in the mountains, squared it, carried it in and erected the shed, which will stand comparison with any in the district. Stock yards built on the property by the two women are said to have no superior anywhere. Few of the graziers who lined the fences around the sale yards, and who drove up in big expensive cars would have believed that the trim, slight figure, in breeches and leggings could possibly have accomplished all the work entailed in the breeding and rearing of the cattle which created much interest that day.

A Sad Day for Woolla History.

On Saturday 1 February 2020 history went up in smoke at the Davis property, 'Woolla', when the Badja Forest Fire merged with the Clyde Mountain Fire causing a fire storm. The valiant efforts of friends and neighbours saved the old homestead but lost the old yards and sheds containing much of the Davis's legacy.



***Being sturdily built did not help.
The fire was indiscriminate***



***The generator shed housed the original
Moffat Virtue 36v system.***



Outstanding efforts of the fire fighters saved the new shed and houses. Pictured is Chris Peters lying down to brave the heat and was being hosed down to keep him cool.



Black lines on the ground are all that is left of the renowned Davis stock-yards. The post and rails in the foreground are part of the old lead in fence.

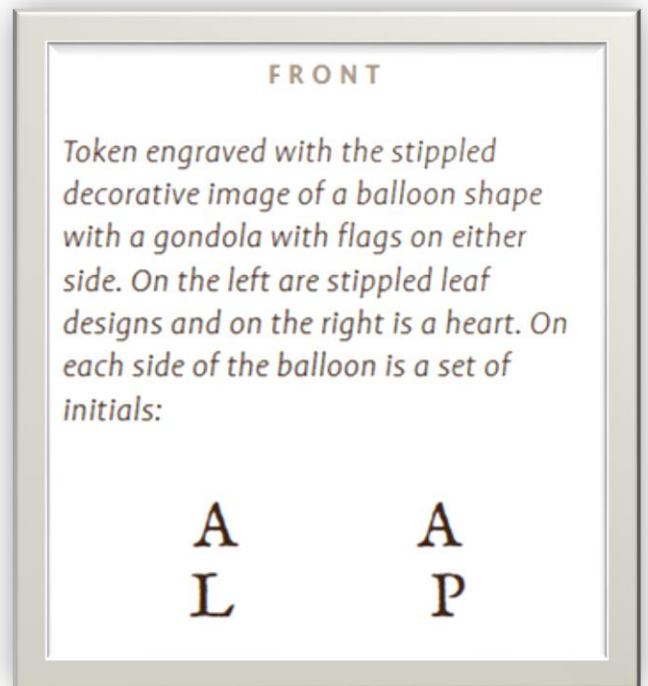
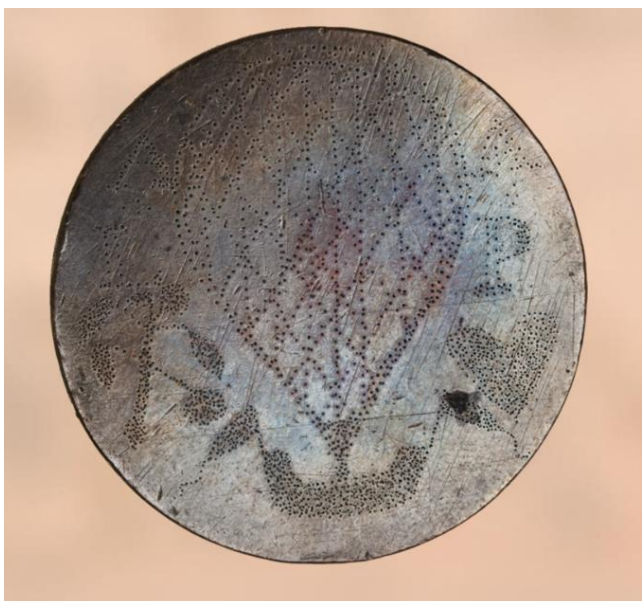
What is a Convict Love Token?

The National Museum of Australia holds the world's largest collection of convict love tokens, with more than 310 in the collection.

Smoothing and engraving a coin with a message of affection was one of the few ways a convict could leave a memento behind with loved ones in England before being transported. These small tokens are also known as 'leaden hearts'. They record personal and emotional responses from convicts whose lives are more often represented by official government records.

The tokens often include the names of the convict and their loved one, the length of the convict's sentence and popular phrases and rhymes of separation. They were frequently engraved around the time of conviction for a prisoner's loved one or family. The tokens were engraved or stippled, which involves making marks with a series of small pin pricks. They were crafted by professionals and amateurs.

Who was Abraham Lawley?



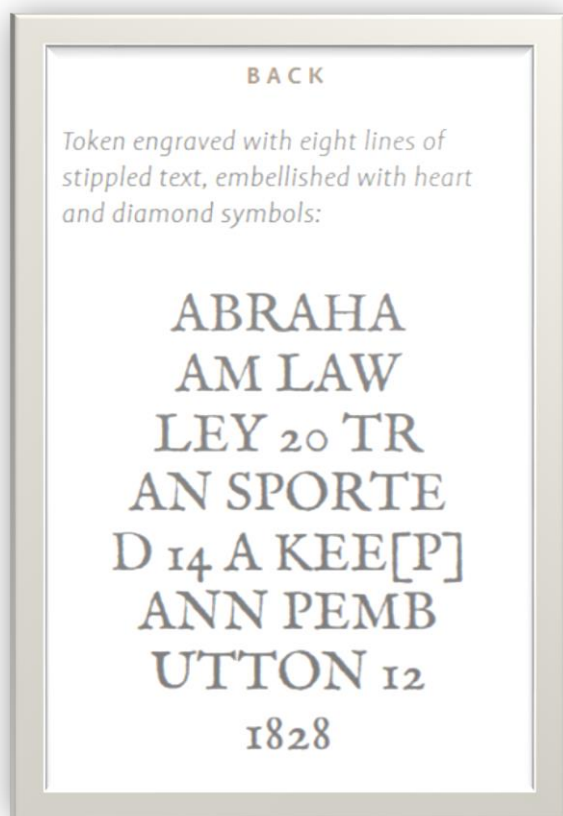
Abraham Lawley, 20, polisher, was convicted at the Warwick Quarter Sessions on 13 October 1828 for stealing a handkerchief. He was sentenced to 14 years' transportation. He had already served two years in prison for a previous conviction. He sailed for New South Wales on the *Layton* on 17 June 1829. On arrival in the colony, Lawley was assigned to W Shelly in Parramatta and later received his ticket of leave. He was recorded in the 1841 census as living in Goulburn, and later ran an inn at Araluen. He was listed for insolvency and last recorded at Port Macquarie in 1871 where he was on trial for four counts of larceny.

Diameter: 35.0mm, thickness: 2.0mm.
Object number: 2006.0086.0003



Looking for Blundell descendants.

We have had a request from Allan Hawke who is preparing a book on the Blundell family history. If anyone can assist would you please email allan.hawke@raiders.com.au



Our Society values the support of

Queanbeyan Palerang Council



Our Society values the support of

Braidwood & Districts Community Bank



To see this one and more, go to:

<http://love-tokens.nma.gov.au/highlights/2006.0086.0003>.

They can be enlarged for clarity.