



Braidwood & District Historical Society

PO Box 145 Braidwood NSW 2622

Newsletter

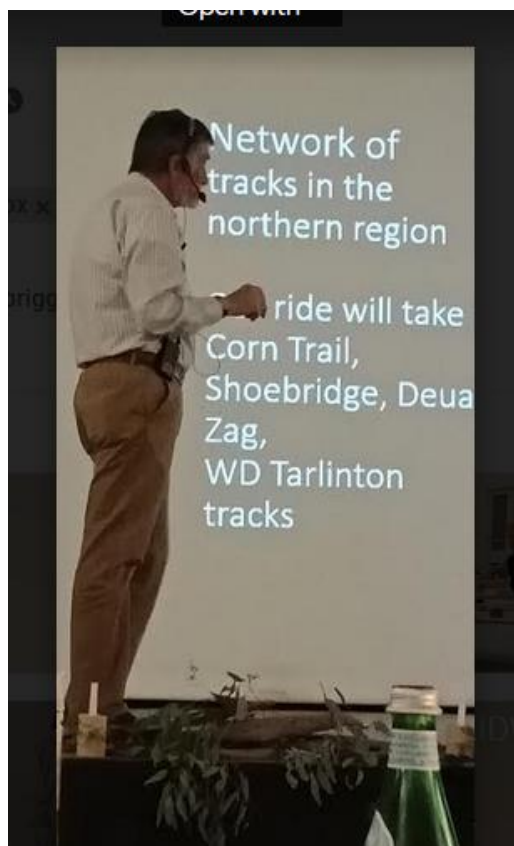
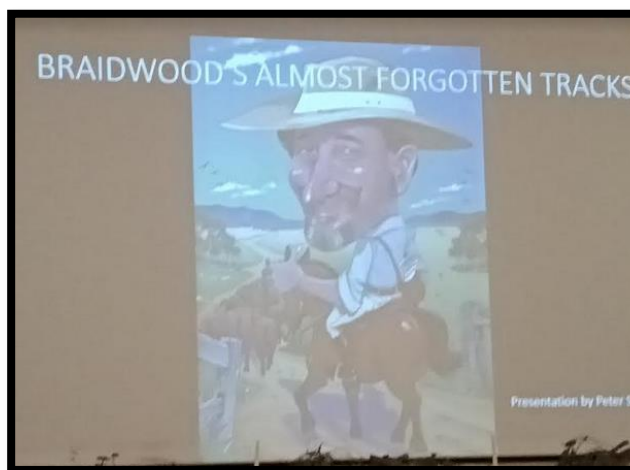
Number 14 September 2019

Society Annual Dinner 2019

Our Annual Dinner, held in August was very successful, with almost 100 persons attending and enjoying the evening.

Our President, Peter Smith, was our speaker, presenting a talk on **“Braidwood’s Almost Forgotten Tracks.”**

It illuminated the history of the many bridle tracks and pack tracks that served Braidwood and the goldfields.



Peter Smith's screen presentation



John Stahel and Richard Elliot champion sound man.



There are always nice surprises for our appreciated speakers.



Scotty Page, Triathlon marathon runner who was running from Braidwood to Cobargo along the Tarlington Track to honour his forebears. He is the grandson of Superintendent Sutherland and WD Tarlington.



Some of our happy attendees.

John Higgins and the Braidwood Map

This event is being held on 7th December in the Oddfellows Hall in the Museum. John will discuss the Braidwood town layout From about 1830-1860. Please email pabriggs999@gmail.com if you are still coming and have not yet confirmed your attendance.

The Newest Exhibition of the Oldest History

contributed by Julia Green

“From the moment of first contact, settler history became part of Indigenous history and Indigenous history became part of settler history”

Mark McKenna, historian (“From The Edge, Australia’s Lost Histories” Miegunya Press 2016, xvii)

“All the riches of the oldest human culture on earth is available to Australians; very little of it is prohibited to the uninitiated or those of a different race”

Bruce Pascoe, Indigenous writer and historian (2016 Lin Onus Oration)

“You aren’t going to lose 250 years of history, you will gain 65,000 years of history”

Recent Indigenous quote, unknown source

In April 2016 a small sub-committee of BDHS Members (Richard Green, Janene Collins and Julia Green) formed to discuss ways of respectfully highlighting the long and rich Aboriginal history of the Braidwood area. We developed an initial plan for an exhibition with three elements: a timeline from 65,000 years ago to the present, displays of artefacts already held in the Museum, and screens with relevant images and audiovisuals.



Stone axes with string binding and pecking decoration.

We researched, and consulted widely during the following months and years. We were particularly keen to engage with Aboriginal people with family links to this region, many of whom have reconnected with Braidwood through the biennial Two Fires Festivals. Budawang Elder Noel Butler advised us on identification and signage for the artefacts that had been donated by the Ellis Family many years ago. Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison was consulted early in the planning, and many others provided us with the quotes that form part of the exhibition.



Expert help from Andrew Moynihan hanging the timeline.

In April 2019 the exhibition was ready, and its earliest visitors were Indigenous individuals and groups attending the 2019 Two Fires Festival. Their feedback was good, they were impressed. Uncle Max spent a lot of time showing younger Aboriginal men the artefacts and teaching them how they were made and used.



Woomera – made from tree root and xanthorea sap rather than spinifex.



This is regarded as the beginning stage of an evolving exhibition. We consider it important to include more Aboriginal voices, and we are in touch with families who have expressed interest in researching and sharing stories about their ancestral links with country here. And perhaps oral histories from local Braidwoodians with stories they are happy to share about early contact with the First People here would add significantly to our historical records.

If any BDHS Members are interested in discussing or helping develop this project, please contact the Museum, or Julia on 0402 605 945.

Our Society values the support of

Braidwood & Districts Community Bank



Kate Bagnall and the Chinese of Jembaicumbene

Kate Bagnall will be giving a fascinating talk at Millpond Farm, Jembaicumbene on 5th December 2019, on the early Chinese of the Jembaicumbene Braidwood goldfields. Those who have registered please be punctual as the doors will close at 6pm promptly.

Memberships

Memberships are always due after the AGM which was in September.

Our member list is very important to the Society as it shows our strength and gives us greater credibility when we apply for grants. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please find attached to this Newsletter a Renewal Form.

Museum Research Room

The Society now has a new computer and printer courtesy of a grant from the Braidwood Community Bank. Our records and family history databases are slowly being loaded onto our system and we are open to all researchers.



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Queanbeyan Palerang council

