



Braidwood & District Historical Society

PO Box 145 Braidwood NSW 2622

Newsletter

Number 29 June 2023

President's Report

The big news is that we have been successful in gaining a further Bush Fire Recovery Grant for \$1,250,000 for the construction of the Braidwood Heritage Centre. This is in addition to the original \$2,500,000. As with most great projects there have been ups and downs, but good plans and perseverance pays off.

In my last report I said we had turned the first sod for construction, but that turned out to be not quite the case. Heritage NSW required a further archaeology survey. This caused delays. Then following the survey, we had to wait for an assessment to determine if there needed to be changes to the design of the centre. The survey revealed some unidentifiable structures located at the rear of the block including post holes, where the proposed accommodation building will be sited. Subsequently it has been decided that no alterations are required for the building plans.

All of the exhibits from the rear sheds have been moved into temporary storage offsite to allow construction to begin, thanks to a big effort by John Stahel and his team of volunteers. The museum will continue to function normally but there will be no visitor access to the rear of the site.

Public Works Advisory have undertaken a complex protocol which, with approval, will enable us to negotiate directly with the builder for some cost saving ideas. This should enable the whole project to be fully supplied including the lift and air conditioning for the museum, but

unfortunately, the museum will remain cold for another winter.

Our thanks to all who have helped and supported this project- you will not be disappointed.

Peter Smith

Another of Our Volunteers



Annette Briggs
Secretary, Committee Member

For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a Librarian 'when I grew up'. This eventually led to my becoming the Local History Librarian for my local council. As one consequence of that, I formed a local Family History Society and oversaw the beginnings of a good relationship with the local District Historical Society. We then shared databases and with the

assistance of Government Grants, had their photographic collection digitised and loaded onto the council website. It gave me experience in working with a community and the benefits of developing working relationships in partnership to share valuable resources.

Upon leaving Sydney to retire in this region, I decided to renew involvement with my family roots in the Braidwood area. I have known Peter Smith for a long time in a voluntary capacity, having assisted him with research on the Clarke Gang book. I have been Secretary of the Society for seven years and I have seen the benefits of having the right people on a committee to achieve great things. The current project for the Heritage Centre will succeed because of the diligence and commitment we have to our services to the Braidwood community, even though I now live in Yass.

Our Clever Committee Member

Our Cathy has acquired a grant to cover costs to go to Sydney and participate in a Volunteer Placement Program at the State Archives to develop skills that meet the needs within our museum and that she can share with her colleagues.

Congratulations Cathy!!

Vale Anthony “Tony” Shepherd



We have lost a great supporter of our Museum. He was a member of several other clubs including Folk club, various car clubs, The Men's Shed, The RSL, The Grumpy Old Men's lunch group, The Ol' Codgers coffee club, the County Class Trust in the UK which is rebuilding a steam locomotive partly with his money, and St Andrew's Church where he mowed the lawns. Friends and family were a big influence on his life and we will miss him. In his own words

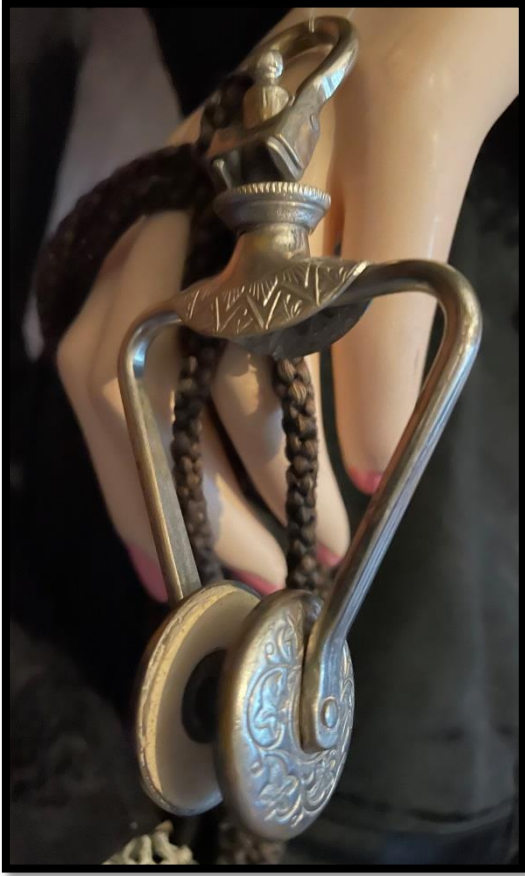
*For folly escapades over just about a century
Enacted with the tactics of a high class
penitentiary
But still in matter vegetable, animal and
mineral,
He is our own beloved Braidwood Modern
Academical.*

Kerrie's Corner of Unique Museum Artefacts

Kerrie has selected this unusual artefact from our collection to highlight Victorian ladies' concerns when it came to their dresses becoming soiled as they walk. The lifter also allowed the ladies' hands to be free to carry packages and children etc.

It is called a train lifter, also known as a dress lifter, skirt grip, dress suspender, hem-holder, page or porte-jupe, and it was a device for lifting a long skirt train or to facilitate movement to avoid dirt along the rough, dusty or muddy streets in Braidwood.. They were clipped onto ladies' petticoats and then onto the hem of their skirt to stop them trailing on the floor. When climbing stairs or avoiding puddles the Victorian lady would pull on a leather strap, ribbon or cord attached to the lifter and up comes the skirt!

The first lifters date from around 1846 and they were most popular in the 1860s-1880s and this one is made of silver.



This one was donated by Elaine McPhie as part of the Louisa Matilda Brooks (from Bungendore) Pryce family collection of late 19th and early 20th Century dresses. They can all be admired upstairs in the museum in the room just above the staircase.

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome:

Francine Magsino
Gary Lewis

We hope you enjoy our Newsletters

Braidwood Old Cemetery Tour: Sunday 23rd April

A large group of locals and visitors enjoyed a sunny Sunday morning as they were given a tour of some of the graves at the Old Braidwood Cemetery. Margaret Royds, Jill Clarke and Peter Smith shared some interesting family histories and

gossip as the group moved amongst the headstones: some dating back to the 1840s. All agreed that this is a must to repeat event, maybe in the warmer weather though!

If anyone is interested to assist the small cemetery committee to help upkeep the grave sites, please contact the Historical Society for more details. Remember it is the family's responsibility to clean and repair the headstone if required.



Margaret Royds on the left.
Photo courtesy of Tim the Yowie Man

Bus Trip to Majors Creek

A wonderful group of Major's Creek and Braidwood residents and others from further afield gathered to learn from Brian McDonald about the history of Majors Creek. We learnt about the residents and where they lived, the interconnections of the families, the businesses, the gold mines, the schools of the little district and the significant structure of the village such as St Stephen's Church, The Majors Creek Public School, the police Station, and the Elrington Hotel. A visit to the historic cemetery also resulted in some interesting stories. We also heard from Peter Smith the story of the holdup of the gold coach at the top of the mountain. A light lunch provided by the Majors Creek Hotel was enjoyed and more stories told of the Community Hall and the New

Year's Day sports event. If you missed this tour watch out for further expeditions.



Well behaved 'school bus' on our way. Terry Hart, driver, well experienced at tossing off rowdy passengers.



Well fed after lunch, outside the showground hall.



Brian McDonald at his best on history of St Stephen's church.



At the graves of Catherine and Elizabeth Hennessy



John Maddrell great to see you along.

Bits and Pieces

Well this shows just how committed members are to the museum. Gary Lewis has just walked in to join and started work immediately!!



Good on ya mate.

We often have visitors to the museum who are looking for their ancestor's homes or history.



Left to right: Mrs Maureen Moon, Terry Lake and Narelle Appleby

The descendants of the Piggott family from Araluen visited and gave us a glimpse of the Gold Rush times by showing their treasured family gold scales, which were used by the family in Araluen and Major's Creek. Lovely to

meet you and to hear about your family history!




Arthur Marrin was a cordial manufacturer in Braidwood and does he had a story !! His granddaughter Jean Young, Noel Young, Amy and Ethan Czulowski visited our museum several weeks ago. They shared some memories of the incident of 'the Wild monster'. The family wished to view a cordial bottle from the cordial factory that Arthur Marrin managed. This cordial factory was located in Ryrie St and owned by Mr J McKay. The rare cordial bottles are hard to find... as they had prized marble sized glass balls in the neck of the cordial bottle (to help keep the drink fizzy) and of course these bottles are rare because they were often broken by young children to add the marble to their collection. We promised to see if we could find one amongst our community. And sure enough one was found in Robert and Fran McGrath's bottle collection... and what a story to tell how Robert came across the rare artifact Robert told us that in the backyard of the old hotel (the Australian Arms Hotel) which was located on the corner of Lascelles and Monkitee St where the garden beds that had borders of upside down cordial bottles... Robert can


remember collecting the glass balls from this collection after the building was burnt down. He also was able to find an intact specimen and is now a prized addition in his exceptional bottle collection. The Marrin family were delighted to see a photo of the cordial bottle. The cordial bottle below on the left is the McKay cordial bottle and the one on the right is the Young Cordial factory bottle (Harold Young took over from McKay and Marrin in the 1930s and manufactured cordial on the Ryrie St site for many years).




— BRAIDWOOD —
CORDIAL WORKS



The Purest and Best Ingredients
Only Used in their Manufacture

 All Classes of Drinks
Are Stocked.



Try Our LIME Flavour and ORANGE Flavour

Also our Raspberry, Cloves, Lime Juice,
Lemon Squash, Peppermint, Strawberry
:: and other Choice Cordials ::

INQUIRIES to
H. T. YOUNG
And SONS

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A Wild Monster.

MR. ARTHUR MARRIN, cordial manufacturer, met with a rather awkward reception as he was going into Captain's Flat on Friday last with a load of cordials (says the Braidwood DISPATCH). Shortly after getting upon the turn-off road from the Cooma road, within two or three miles of the Flat township, he noticed his dog running up out of the bush at full tear, and clear off down the road in a terrible scare. He got down to see what had frightened him, when a formidable animal, with which he was entirely unacquainted, jumped up the lower bank on to the road. It frightened him quite as much as it did the dog, as it was standing up on its hind legs with its fore feet stretched out like the arms of a man. The road, being a cutting on a hill side, was narrow, and the animal was making for him, either to follow the dog or spring upon himself. Being unarmed, having only the whip in his hand, which would have very little impression upon such an antagonist, he dropped the whip and picked up a stone which lay close to him, and threw it at the beast, striking it on the temple and bringing it to the ground. He then ran up and finished it with the but end of the whip. On his return to Braidwood he put its body in the cart and brought it home with him. We paid a visit to Mr. Marrin's factory on Saturday, and inspected it. It was four feet long, 11 inches across the forehead, and had a face very much like a polar bear. It weighed over seven stone. Its forearms were very strong with great paws that would be capable of giving a terrible grip. It was a tan color like a 'possum, with strong hair on its skin. When Mr. Marrin encountered it it stood between 6ft. and 7ft. high. Some people think it is identical with a beast which has frightened several teamsters travelling through Parker's Gap on the Cooma road at various times, so much so that they have left their horses and ran away. Such an animal has been reported as visiting selectors' places various times, so much so that they have left their horses and ran away. Such an animal has been reported as visiting selectors' places at Molonglo and Foxlow, and there have been reports of the presence of similar ones in the Budawang and Sassafras ranges. It has gone by the name of the hairy man. Other persons maintain it is merely a wombat, and perfectly harmless. Met under such circumstances as those which Mr. Marrin met it most persons, however, would be inclined to give it a wide berth if possible, but as Mr. Marrin could not get away he had to face it. The beast was a female.

A Big Thanks to Our Members

Our Society would like to thank and highlight the valuable contribution of the following members: We have a great group of people who have given us assistance over the last months and years.

We wish to thank Bente Jensen for all her hard work in creating searchable databases from many of our collection of books and business correspondence. This process is significant, and we would like to thank Bente for her dedication and her focus on detail.

We would like to thank Jon Stuart, a new member who helps us in all things technology including video and audios. He also aids us by scanning our vast family research files... cheers Jon.

Thanks to Adrian who helps out with our computer systems. Adrian helps us to fix concerns and to set up our new networks.

Thanks to Rod McClure for his assistance in all things. He helps us to record artefacts and is always there to help us move and shift.

One of our very able and dedicated members is Kerrie Beers, who is not only the guru in relation to accessions, she also has a real bent for setting up our valuable exhibitions. Thank you, Kerrie, for all the hard work you do for the Braidwood Museum.

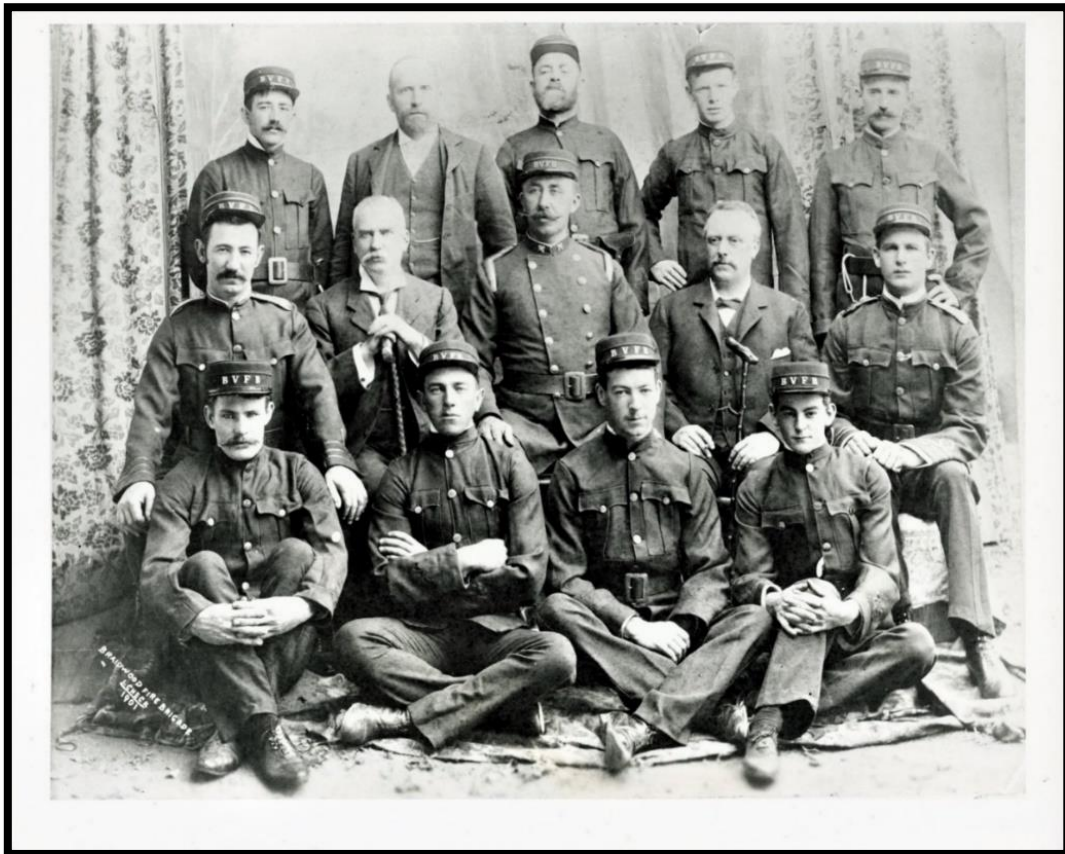
Henry Luttwitz Mater



Henry L Mater



Mary M Mater



Back Row: left to right: William Williams (Engine Keeper), Julius Vider (Secretary), M. O'Connell, F. Sullivan, H. Parnell

Middle Row left to right: W. H. Campbell (1st officer), R.M. Higgins (Treasurer), H.L. Mater (Captain), Dr Read (Hon Medical Officer), H. Campbell

Front Row left to right: T. Sullivan, David Grady, J. Stoyles, L. Dietz

Henry was born in Paris, France in December 1858 to parents Charles Albert Frederick Mater and Jane Charlotte Simson nee Coghill. His father was a German born in NeuStrelitz Prussia (now Germany) and his mother was the eldest daughter of John Coghill of 'Bedervale' Braidwood. Henry was educated in Homburg and Switzerland. After his mother's death in Homburg in September 1872, young 17-year-old Henry departed from London on the 'Baron Blantyre' arriving in Sydney on 9th February 1875. It is assumed that Henry would have travelled to his mother's hometown and met his relatives at 'Bedervale' on the outskirts of Braidwood. From records a Henry Mater also travelled to Melbourne and Brisbane in early 1880s.

Henry was quite an athlete. "The first championship of NSW was contested in 1880 at the Corporation Baths under the auspices of the Port Jackson Swimming Club formed only a few weeks before. The distance was half a mile, and the winner was Mr. Watkin Wynne. Mr. H.L. Mater, one of the finest breaststroke swimmers Australia has known, swam second on that occasion."

The records of today easily eclipse what were considered the marvellous performers of the old race of champions.... including HL Mater.



Henry was a great friend and colleague of John William Bunn local magistrate, Public Officer, and local Braidwood Mayor. They often spent time at the Literacy Institute playing scat and crib. They also exchanged reading books and other reading material. JW Bunn writes that HL Mater gave him a letter lock in 1892.

Henry settled in Braidwood and was distinguished as being a grazier. He operated a small holding that he called 'Homburg' (now Coobidja) adjacent to Mount Jillamatong west of the

Braidwood township. Henry had a small herd of Ayrshire milking cows and often exhibited them in the local show. He also bred pony hacks had some harness horses. Henry was appointed the Sheep Inspector for the Braidwood District in January 1883. This position he held until 1927.

No. 130 ✓

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE NATURALIZATION ACT OF NEW SOUTH WALES,
39 VICTORIA No. 19.

Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of an Act of the Governor and Legislature of New South Wales, passed in the thirty-ninth year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act to amend the law relating to Aliens," application to be naturalized has been made by Heinrich Luttwitz Muter ✓

a native of France aged 23 years, who is a Grazier and arrived in the Colony of New South Wales by the Ship Baron Blantyre in the year 1875 ✓ and who has resided in the said Colony for 4 years, and intends to continue to reside therein: AND WHEREAS the said Heinrich Luttwitz Muter ✓

has duly taken the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by the said Act: Now, therefore, I, the Governor of New South Wales, do, with the advice of the Executive Council thereof, hereby GRANT unto the said Heinrich Luttwitz Muter ✓

all the rights and capacities within the said Colony of New South Wales of a natural born British subject.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal, at Government House, Sydney, in New South Wales aforesaid, this twenty sixth day of May One thousand eight hundred and eighty two (L.S.)

13th Augustus Loftus

By His Excellency's Command,
13th John Robertson

ENTERED on Record, this twenty seventh day of May one thousand eight hundred and eighty two ✓

For the Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Records,
Hubert Walker
Principal Under Secretary

Henry was naturalized on the 26th of May 1882.

On August 14, 1885, Henry was appointed Second Lieutenant in the Braidwood Reserve Corps of the Volunteer Infantry. Just three months later he was declared the First Lieutenant. Henry held this position until the Corps was disbanded in 1888.

BRAIDWOOD VOLUNTEERS.

BRAIDWOOD, Saturday.---On Wednesday Captain Bayley, of the Reserve Forces, inspected the volunteer corps here. Those who attended went through their drill splendidly, and gained great praise. Drill-sergeant Gibson has been unremitting in his endeavors to bring them forward. On Thursday the captain was in Araluen, and inspected the corps there, who go on capitally. Yesterday Captain Bayley, before leaving for Goulburn, reviewed 28 of the Braidwood volunteers in the playground of the public school, and though it rained all the time they acquitted themselves admirably and were all passed into the ranks, and will now get their uniforms.



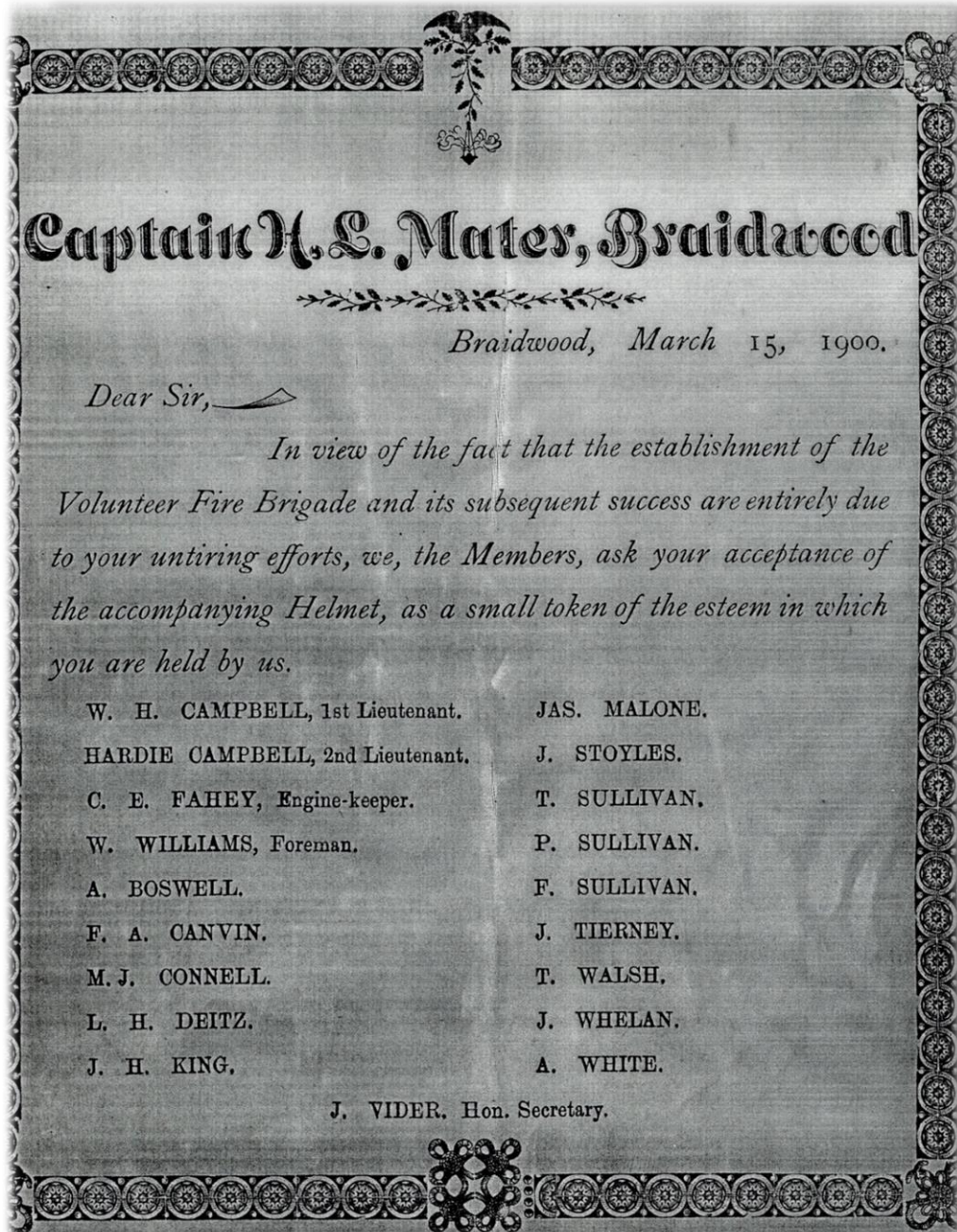
Henry married Mary Canvin in 1888 in Sydney. They settled in Braidwood and had a family of two daughters (Olga and Blanche) and three sons (Rudolf, Ferdi and Otto).



The family lived on the grazing property they called 'Homburg' now known as 'Coobidja'. Mary (seated) two daughters and one of her sons to the left.



In March 1900 the fire brigade members presented Captain Henry Mater with a written address and a brass helmet suitably inscribed



Henry was named the captain of the newly appointed Fire Brigade in February 1899. Henry served as captain from 1900 until 1906.

These artifacts are exhibited at the Fire Brigade exhibition, and both were donated to the Braidwood Museum by Henry's descendants.

After Henry retired from the Fire Brigade he went on to participate in many of the societies and organisations in Braidwood.

Part 2 of this article will be continued in the September Newsletter.

The Restoration of Museum's 1930 Dodge

'Gellibrand' Takes Shape in Dodge City

Our museum's 1930 Dodge 'Gellibrand' restoration has genuinely become a community project. We have a core of regular volunteers, supported by many others who are on hand to help with specific jobs or expertise. In turn, we are all supported by the crowds of residents and visitors who drop by the garage to encourage us and keep us enthused. We open up the garage every Friday and Saturday mornings and we are happy to show you our progress and plans.

The plan is still to make the vehicle roadworthy to use as the museum's public relations car, but it's immediate value is the benefits generated by the co-operative spirit and personal satisfaction that participants all gain from volunteering.





The garage now hosts another museum project as volunteer Paul Robinson has begun work on restoring the old steam engine that has sat in the museum machinery shed for many years. If we can keep the momentum going we plan to restore other items in the collection. Come and help or cheer us on.

Written by John Stahel, Vice President

Moving the Collection



The Museum Machinery Collection had to go, to allow construction work for our new development the machinery from the shed has been moved into safe storage. Volunteers joined forces with contractors, who had lots of hydraulic assistance, to load and unload our diverse collection. We also took the opportunity to enhance the Council's program of relocating items from our collection around town. The successful placement of the gold stamper in Ryrie Park two years ago was considered very successful and it has now inspired the placement of an old dray on the Common. Some other items, such as the Apple Cider crusher, have been taken to workshops in the area to be restored.



**Thank you to all those
who helped. We could
not have done it without
you
*John Stahel***



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



FRRR

Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal

