



The Faraday Farrago

NEWSLETTER OF THE FARADAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

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The Water Race

Trazel Elliot

The water race was a major attraction of childhood in Faraday. Like the highway, it is a man-made pathway through the area that ties us together. With frequent droughts, the water race carried water to farms, irrigating crops, orchards and providing water for stock.

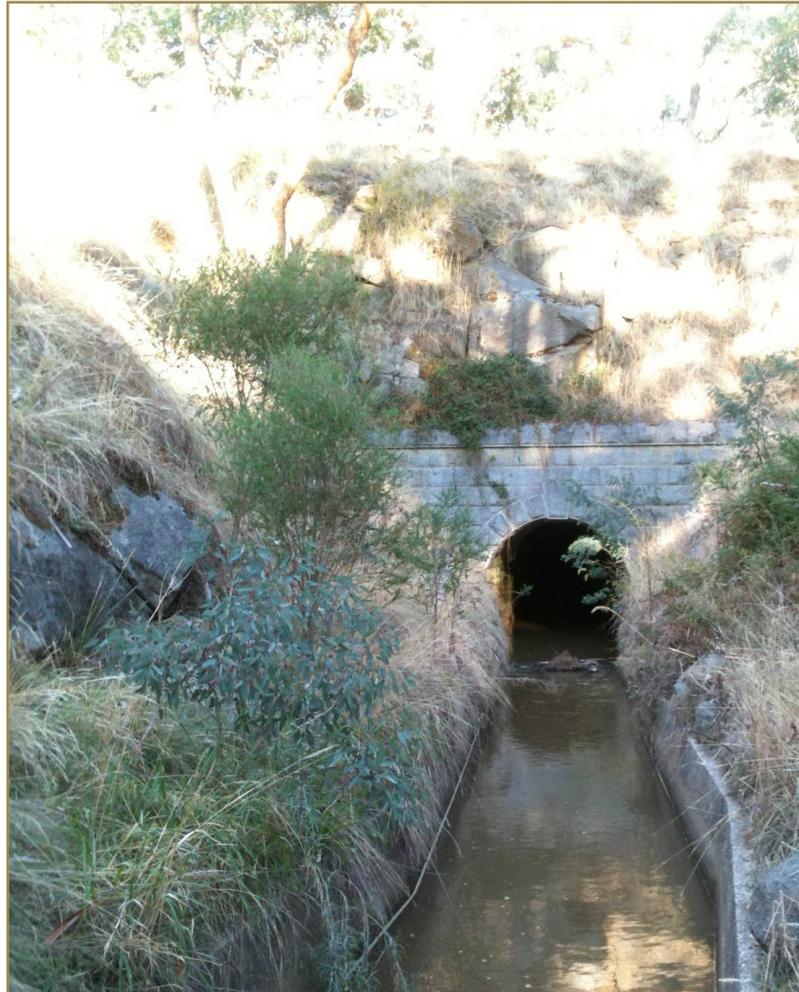
For children growing up in an isolated country area, the water race was a source of interest and adventure. Having no playgrounds nearby, no shops, no parks, the bush became the playground of our youth. And the water race a place of wonder.

Behind our place it was an empty concrete channel during the winter but school holidays over summer gave many weeks of time for exploring the bush and the race; a place to run and climb and play, and swim. The slow moving, shallow water, with the straight sides along the race became our sandpit, monkey bars and swings. There were always tadpoles, leeches and yabbies to be lured and caught. As the sides of the race were concrete, and about a metre apart, it was a challenge to jump successfully from one side to the other. (There were many scraped and bruised

shins from the failed attempts) Also a challenge to walk balancing along the narrow

little paradise, the Sucker was hell. Any animal falling into that swirling fast water would

be drawn to a certain watery grave. It was the scary death to be carefully avoided at all costs. Once a stray calf fell into this trap. Dad rallied us all, but even with us kids helping with ropes and the old Grey Fergie pulling, the poor calf was sadly lost. That horrifying



walls, side by side, as far as we could go. We were always warned about the terrible dangers of the wider parts where the water was deeper and the sides sloped on an angle that would make it difficult to get out of. And when the flow was rapid in mid-summer, the 'scariest' place of all was the "water sucker" where the water was drawn fast into an underground channel. In our

experience reinforced the terror of the Sucker!

We were sure to treat that place with the utmost respect! And then there was The Tunnel. Behind our old property, the slowly meandering race ended in the north at the 'Sucker', and the southern end at the Tunnel. One of two tunnels along the length of the race, this is the longer of the two. It travels underground

for about 800 meters below the entrances to Faradale drive and under Houghs house (Boyles Inn). Built by convicts and carved through solid granite stone, it is a lasting historic monument to their hard work. It was a big scary adventure for a few kids looking for something to do, one that we would eventually brave for the ultimate adventure: 'TUNNEL WALKING'! For serious Tunnel Walkers, the expedition must be accomplished at night. A sufficiently prepared group of intrepid explorers required no more equipment than a light, and courage. And sometimes the 'older' explorers carried a 'hip flask' for 'inner comfort', or perhaps to ward off the snakes which slid into the race and were carried down stream; and of which we were not aware. The goal was to traverse the length of the tunnel, upstream, from the end below our property, walking in the water against the current, through the darkness until emerging at the far end... wherever that was....

Light shafts up to the surface every 200 odd metres shone an eyrie glow on the water flowing below, to momentarily light the way, and eventually a tiny speck of moon light grew bigger as we reached the end.

Wet and cold, we would walk home along the surface!

Faraday-Location and Local Governance

theblacksheep

On the basis that order is better than chaos, the Greeks introduced democracy

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in the 6th century BC.

This quaint and now universal 'free' world system of course means taxes, and all the rules and regulations of governance including ownership of property.

The fact that there are now more people of Greek origin in Australia than anywhere else in the world outside Athens, may make democracy a rather difficult concept to reconcile.

Where we live, and where we are democratically represented do not necessarily coincide, and there are anomalies and apparent contradictions on local maps of properties when compared to electoral boundaries.

The annual rates notice is regarded by many as our principal annual contact with Council, and hence with a degree of negativity.

What hasn't changed over the years is our 'place' on the map. From the earliest maps of the Parish of Faraday produced by the Surveyor Generals Office in 1855, and the Department of Lands and Survey of 1915 and 1957, the Parish boundary has never changed.

Much of what is known as the 'Chewton Bushlands' is in the Parish of Faraday, as is a considerable area to the west and north of the Faraday-Chewton road. A check of any property title will confirm which Parish it is in regardless of the date of occupation.

In contrast, over the years the ridings, wards or even Shires representing Faraday residents has altered.

In 1860 the Metcalfe Road Board was proclaimed as the first local government body in the area and included the

Parish of Faraday. Following the passing of the Local Government Act in 1862 moves began by Roads Boards to form Shires. The requirements for a Shire included a contiguous area of 100sq miles and an annual revenue of at least 1000 pounds.

As annual revenue fell well short of this requirement a rate increase on all rateable property for a period of twelve months was approved by the Local Government Act, and the Roads Board evolved into the Metcalfe Shire in 1865 with all the existing Parishes including Faraday.

In 1870 representations were made to the Borough of Taradale and with this amalgamation the United Shire of Metcalfe was born. The United Shire comprised four ridings—Taradale, North, South and West. Faraday was included in the West riding.

In 1917 the Borough of Chewton joined the United Shire which was then renamed the Shire of Metcalfe with five ridings—Chewton, North, South, Taradale and West. Each riding was represented by three councillors and Faraday was included in both the Chewton riding and partially in the West riding.

The Metcalfe Shire continued as above until 1995 when, shortly prior to the Kennet amalgamation of Shires throughout the state, the South and North ridings were dissolved and replaced by an East and Harcourt riding.

Amalgamation absorbed the Shire of Newstead, most of the Shires of Maldon and Metcalfe and the City of Castlemaine to form the present Shire of Mount

Alexander.

Faraday is now in the larger Calder Ward with one Councillor, as is Colliban, Loddon and Tarrengower, with three Councillors representing Castlemaine.

158 Years after Local Government was first inflicted on Faraday (as of 2013) we still get the annual rates notice to remind us that taxes are one of the two certainties of life.

During all those years I can only find records of eight former councillors of the Shire of Metcalfe that lived in the Parish of Faraday whilst serving; one Faraday resident who served on the City of Castlemaine and one on the Shire of Mount Alexander.

Our present representative in Cr Tim Barber, a third generation farmer who resides in Sutton Grange, which of course is part of Calder Ward.

Latest Association News

A committee meeting was held on 4th April. Currently 80% of members have paid their membership. The committee is approaching the unfinancial members.

A copy of the film *Fortress*, which is very loosely based on the Faraday kidnappings, has been obtained for an upcoming social event - possible venue and date still to be decided.

The association was represented at a consultation which was intended to be a conversation with the community and other interested parties on sustainability but it

was not a productive meeting.

It was noted that a tree has come down at Dunstan's flat during recent strong winds but fortunately no damage was done to the nearby sign.

Research to support the proposed publication of a History of Faraday has progressed. A grant for this work was obtained last year. The committee hopes to have a first draft ready by the end of 2013 and invites contact with anyone who can contribute information or suggestions to the researchers.

Impact of the Freeway

Faraday was further physically divided when the freeway opened in 2009. A number of our members were affected in one way or other—some positively, others negatively. Properties or part of existing holdings were compulsorily acquired, rates of compensation varied considerably, and several long-term residents simply had had enough and sold up and moved on. The Faraday Farrago would be interested in your experiences of the freeway project, from the initial planning phase with many possible routes considered, through the acquisition and construction phase to how it is today. Any stories would be welcomed by the Editors.

Kevin Wilson

Kevin (Casha) Wilson passed away after a long illness in mid-January. Casha was a

descendant of Faraday pioneer John Musselwhite through John's daughter Emily, who married Hugh Wilson from Taradale in 1895. Casha loved his Faraday property, which was part of the original Musselwhite holding, and enjoyed running cattle and later, sheep on it.

Casha was well known in the district as an earthmoving contractor and generally handy person. He enjoyed fishing and brought back many a Murray Cod from his river trips. Casha is survived by his wife Marion and children Kevin and Helen.

Rural Water Supply

Coliban Water has advised that the Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project will proceed, and it is offering to buy back existing water licenses. The new system will provide a continuously pressurised supply through a pipeline. There will be a substantial saving of water that previously drained or evaporated from open channels. So far 141 customers have registered for the new supply, while another 73 are not interested or haven't responded. A new pipeline will run up the Faraday-Sutton Grange Road as far as Moons Lane, offering piped water to vineyards, olive groves, orchards and graziers in that area. Construction will start later this year and should be completed by the end of 2014. Overall the project is expected to cost about \$40 million.

LIST OF MEMBER'S GOODS AND SERVICES

Support these members who support our Association

Terry Collins	Plumber, Faradale Drive	0438 504 353
Rev. Mark Dunn (Uniting Church)	Marriage Celebrant, the setting is your choice	0409 009 443
Ray Fowler	Master Painter, Faraday-Sutton Grange Road	5474 3109
Heather & Alan Harris	East End Servo, Chewton Service Station	5470 5444
Matthew Hough	Elphinstone Firewood Supplies	0458 387 378
Bianca Joyce	http://thoroughbredsoffthetrack.com.au	5657 3302
J & P Leishman	Olive oil, electric and general rural fencing, agricultural consultant	0427 931 391
Brendan McCarthy	Photographer, Faraday-Sutton Grange Road	0402 077 137
Anthea Matley	Olive oil	5474 2601
Simon Moten	Sanctuary Hill Wines, Faraday-SG Road	0447 733 242
"Mister Workman" (Grant)	Home handyman services: carpentry, building, painting, landscape design	0414 269 842

Any financial member may have their goods and services listed free in each issue. Please contact The Editor: 5474 2601 or email: faradayfarrago@yahoo.com.au.

Thank You Again To

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FARADAY FARRAGO

Faraday Rainfall

Jan 2013	NIL	2012	23.0mm
Feb 2013	41.53	2012	158.5mm
Mar 2013	24mm	2012	94.5mm
Apr 2013 (to 8th)	1.5mm	2012	8.0mm

Our modest journal takes considerable volunteer time and resources to produce, and distribute. We appreciate the assistance provided by the organisations acknowledged for the printing and paper costs. The 'Farrago does NOT accept paid advertising and hence has no source of revenue other than members' subscriptions. Non-members are encouraged to contribute the modest sum of \$10 (\$15 for families) for annual membership.

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Please forward articles to be considered for inclusion in the next newsletter to PO Box 257 Chewton 3451 to the attention of the Editors (Anthea Matley & Peter McCarthy) or to our email address:

faradayfarrago@yahoo.com.au

For new membership please contact Robert English at renglish@melbpc.org.au

For renewal : direct credit Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-108 a/c no. 137897070 in the name of Faraday Community Association. Please put in sender's name and initials. Family/couple \$15.00

Individuals \$10.00