



The Faraday Farrago

NEWSLETTER OF THE FARADAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

ISSUE NO. 10 March 2011

Wildlife Rescue

Jane Ross & Robert English

Jane bought the old Faraday Methodist Church (circa 1873) about ten years ago. The building was restored. New bathroom, verandah /porch built, a larger watertank installed and the garden landscaped. The Church was then made available for holiday letting. We moved to Castlemaine four years ago as we enjoyed the area so much.

nearly every rescue we learn something new. At that stage there was only one other rescuer in the Mount Alexander Shire. As a result of local training days we have an extra three rescuers.

Most rescue calls occur in the early morning. Our job is to assess an animal, then transport it to either a vet or a wildlife shelter as quickly as possible. Large roos and wallabies with bad injuries

road with a cross on it, you can tell its pouch has been checked.

Every now and then we can spend up to 15 hours trying to rescue one critter. At other times we have had three to four rescues in a day and then go over a week without a call-out. Now that we have more trained rescuers in the area, the frequency has been reduced. A couple of our unusual rescues occurred in



Photos courtesy of the Hepburn Shelter Website

We continually saw injured wildlife on Golden Point Rd and the (Old) Calder Highway. Not long after we had a young bird blown out of its nest. We contacted a rescuer who told us there was a wildlife training course coming up at Glenlyon in a couple of weeks. We attended the all day course, given some basic equipment, and were thrown into the fray straight away. We have taken part in a number of different training days since then. In

frequently have to be euthenased. The Castlemaine Police are excellent in responding; when they can. They sometimes call us to rescue an injured roo or a joey. Pinky roos and wallabies (joeys without any fur), if got to care promptly, have an excellent survival rate. We recently had a 100gm wallaby pinkie, whose mother was hit in Chewton, make a remarkable recovery in a specialised shelter. If you see a roo/wallaby on the side of the

Maldon late last year. The first one was at the Goldfields Railway when a mother and father duck and their seven ducklings got into the railways turntable. Luckily we were able to net them all to get them out of the sunken turntable and the locomotives were able to run the next day. The other call was to the South German Mine dam where the dam had flooded from the heavy rain and the water dissolved the earth blocking an old shaft.

The water gushed out of the dam, into the shaft and sucked 15 Long-necked Turtles into the shaft. Most hung on to rocks in the bottom of the shaft. We had to get an extension ladder and a bucket on a rope and haul them up the smooth sided shaft, and return them to the dam with the help from a neighbour.

Other rescued animals include Koalas, echidnas, possums, bats, Sugar Gliders, Feather-tailed Gliders, lizards and all types of birds. Some of the magnificent birds have included a Swamp Harrier, Barn Owl, Owlet Nightjar, Peregrine Falcon, Powerful Owl and a Square-tailed Kite. The last three are both rare birds in Victoria. We have had a magpie and a galah that had got covered in sump oil that had been left lying about in a container. All animals that survive are released back into the wild. Being territorial most animals are released back to near where they were recovered from.

If you come across any injured wildlife, call Wildlife Victoria's 24 Hour Emergency number 13000 94535.

Further information can be found at "www.wildlifevictoria.org.au" and "www.hepburnwildlifeshelter.com" The story of the Square-tailed Kite from Strangways, can be found on "geoffpark.wordpress.com" under "Older posts" and then "comments". The Kite is still making steady progress.

Faraday the Town By Peter McCarthy

Today, people ask - where were the business houses of Faraday? The shops, pubs, banks and so on. Well, Faraday always struggled on the edge of being a town, and never really made it.

Prior to 1855 there was only Short's Coffee Tent where the Methodist church stands today and a police station in Commissioner's Gully. Then when the town was surveyed and the town blocks sold, many buyers were speculators who never intended to build and settle. The dense town blocks on the survey plan give a false impression of the reality on the ground.

The fortunes of the town, and the money to be made by speculators, would depend on the route taken by the Bendigo railway. Unfortunately for Faraday, Castlemaine successfully lobbied for the railway to take the longer route. All of the towns to the south, right up to Elphinstone, got railway stations. So did the towns to the north, starting with Harcourt. Within five years of the survey, Faraday became the poor relation with no easy way to transport produce to market. Faraday also lost its importance as the turnoff to Chewton when the steeper but more direct route from Elphinstone to Chewton became established.

These factors had their effect in a wave of insolvencies in the late 1860s, once it became clear that Faraday was unlikely to become a proper town and the local tradesmen were caught up in a general recession. Examples include Charles King, whose

boarding house was sold off in 1867 at reduced value by the bank when he experienced bad debts and James Eva, a storekeeper who suffered bad debts in the same year and whose partner failed to contribute his share of the costs. Store keeper Thomas Bentley became insolvent in 1870 and in 1874 John Flume, a cattle drover, became insolvent due to losses in the purchase and sale of cattle and the death of horses. Metcalfe's hotel, opposite the Methodist church, burnt down in February 1870.

A Welsh Calvinist church opened in Donkey Gully (the Welsh Village) in 1859 and was later used as a Sunday School before being demolished in 1924. The brick Methodist church was bought in Elphinstone, dismantled and rebuilt on its present site in 1876.

The pubs were described in our September 2010 issue. We know little about the shops except for the insolvencies mentioned earlier and that John Musselwhite kept a store on the south-east corner of the Sutton Grange Road intersection, augmenting his income from dairying. School sports and picnics were held at Dunstan's Flat. Concerts and dances were held at the school.

More research will undoubtedly fill in the scant picture given here. Some of it comes from a booklet published for the Faraday School centenary in 1969, when old people could still fill in some of the details. Now we rely on newspapers and archive documents, so research is a slow process.

The 1926 Bushfire

From the Argus, 2 February
1926

Described as the most disastrous fire experienced in the district, a fire burnt out thousands of acres of grass country between Elphinstone and Sutton Grange.

Shortly before noon on Monday a devastating bush fire began on the banks of the Coliban River, near Elphinstone, where several fishing parties were spending the holiday. Fanned by a strong wind, it swept the property of Mr. W. Mactier and the fringe of Mr. R. Oliver's estate. Hundreds of people soon reached the scene in motor-cars, but strenuous efforts to check the spread of the fire were futile against the strong wind. The area of the fire soon extended to a width of five miles, and thousands of acres of grass lands were laid bare.

As the fire extended towards Sutton Grange, the properties of J. Owen and J. Hansford were swept by the fire, and so fierce were the flames that the homestead of Mr. Hansford narrowly escaped destruction. It was only the heroic efforts of a large army of fire-fighters that saved the home and farm buildings from destruction.

Portion of the Coliban Park estate of Mr. A. Barbour was traversed and at Faraday more than 1,000 acres of good grass pastures on Mr. D. McCrae's estate were destroyed. The farm of Mr. H. Moon was traversed by the fire, and approaching Sutton Grange, Mr. T. H. Smith's property was devastated. Sheep and cattle were released from paddocks and scattered frantically as they sought shelter from the dense smoke. Rabbits and hares, terrified by the roaring flames, could be seen everywhere

running for safety from the oncoming wall of fire.

When the fire reached Jennings Hill about five miles from Elphinstone it spread in two directions. One fork of fire skirted the hillside towards Metcalfe, and the flames swept on towards Sutton Grange. Nearly all the country over which the fire swept was grass lands, and as the day wore on the army of fire-fighters increased. The workers were transported by motor-cars from homestead to homestead in an effort to save the buildings. It was little use attempting to stem the onward rush of the fire in the grass paddocks so great had the area of fire become. At 6 o'clock the advance front of the fire reached Sutton Grange township. As the flame swept down the hillsides stock fled and people rushed for safety. The bridges spanning the creek at Sutton Grange were in grave danger of destruction as the flames swept along the banks, and reached the piles and understructure. They were saved only by the united efforts of the fire-fighters.

After passing Sutton Grange the fire entered the property of Mr. P. Byrne, and destroyed 100 acres of grass pastures. At nightfall the flames were checked at the Redesdale road, and though fences and trees were burning fiercely, it was hoped that the cordon of workers would prevent its extending into the Myrtle Creek valley.

The area swept covered a distance of about 12 miles, and in places reached a width of more than five miles. So dense was the smoke that traffic on the roads was endangered. In Bendigo the smoke enveloped the city in the afternoon, and many citizens motored to the scene. The fire is the most disastrous known in the

district, and the full extent of the damage will not be determined for a few days.

Bits and Pieces

Shire Community Grants

Successful Community Grant applicants were recognised at a ceremony hosted by Mayor Cr Janet Cropley, at the Phee Broadway theatre last month.

A total of 106 applications were received including seventy five in the Community, Arts and Culture category. Forty seven applicants in this category were successful, including the Faraday Community Association Inc.

Our association received \$2,533 which has been applied to the purchase of a demountable marquee to be erected at Dunstans Flat. The marquee has been paid for and ordered and volunteers will be called on to assist in levelling a site, laying concrete pavers and erecting the marquee.

To celebrate our success a bbq/picnic lunch will be held in our new marquee at Dunstans Flat on Sunday 27th March. BYO everything.

Faraday Rainfall

"The terrain retains the rain again across our plain, when will it ever drain or wane?"

December 2010 62mm
Jan 2011 206mm
Feb 2011 339mm
March 2011 (to 10th) 23mm
Summer 2010-2011 total: 607mm
Total: 2010-1030mm
(highest in 35 years of local records)

**Mount Alexander News
(an edited extract)**

from Cr. Brook Acklom
Calder Ward, Mount Alexander
Shire Council
PO Box 185, Castlemaine 3450
Tel: 0466 004 629

Dear Resident,

Firstly, thanks to those who contacted me to say they liked the idea of a Shire Councillor sending out some news.

As email is not the ideal vehicle for sending sometimes-lengthy articles (plus pictures on occasions) I developed a web site called The Castlemainian <<http://www.castlemainian.com>> .

The following is a list of current articles on the site.

1. I received a great response to the Speed Signs article (thank you to the many concerned residents who contacted me).
2. The condition of roads was also a subject on which many had a few words to say. You can also see a photo of a lady standing in a local "Grand Canyon" (which the Shire is attending to).
3. Frustrated by NRS (No Response Syndrome) from Council? No excuses, but Council is aware of the problem and is taking action to fix it.
4. Apples, I provide my take on the matter of imported apples and why I'm not going to buy them.
5. You may have seen the Media Release on the Shire's web site about Council considering the way forward for the proposed Aquatic Centre. I'm very interested in what my constituents think, so there's a simple Yes/No Poll.
6. Finally, if you live reasonably close to Castlemaine you're

hopefully a regular listener to our local radio station, WMAfm. I'm pleased to report the station's having an upgrade.

What else is on The Castlemainian? Quite a few links to sources of information on a couple of my favourite subjects - climate and wind farms. Unlike most web sites which only provide information of a "pro" or "con" bias, you'll find links to information from both sides of the arguments.

Regards,
Brook

List of Member's Goods and Services

Terry Collins, **Plumber**
0438504353

Ray Fowler, **Master Painter**,
54743109

Matthew Hough, **Firewood**,
0458387378

Bianca Joyce, **Horses**, <http://thoroughbredsoffthetrack.com.au>

Brendan McCarthy,
Photographer, 0402077137

Anthea Matley, **Olive Oil**,
54742601

Simon Moten, **Sanctuary Ridge Wine**, 0431389201

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome our newest members, Wanda and Peter Gordon, bringing total numbers to 46.

Thank you to AMC
Consultants

For the printing of
this edition of the
Faraday Farrago

24 Hour Wildlife Emergency
13 000 WILDLIFE
13 000 94535
 www.wildlifevictoria.org.au



A familiar scene over the summer – water flows under Musselwhite Drive on its way to the Expedition Pass Reservoir.

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Please forward articles to be considered for inclusion in the next newsletter to PO Box 58 Elphinstone 3448 to the attention of the Editor 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.

Member's fees include a family/couple's fee of \$15.00 p.a. in addition to the single membership fee of \$10.00 for individuals.