



The Faraday Farrago

NEWSLETTER OF THE FARADAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

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LIVING IN FARADAY

by Missy Moke

Having visited Australia previously and enjoyed living for some time in both New South Wales and Queensland, the opportunity to stay with another expatriate 'Kiwi' and visit Victoria seemed appealing.



My friend Dion Pedersen, who has settled permanently in Faraday, offered his home as an initial base while I got my bearings and made more long-term plans. So with a suitcase and my Teddy Bear I arrived in Melbourne.

On the trip to Faraday from the airport we passed through places with familiar names to

towns back home including Gisborne and Taradale and the beauty of the rural countryside transported my mind back to New Zealand; what a contrast from the hustle and bustle of the city.

The following day a tour of Faraday and the surrounding area further reminded me of where I was born.

Tapanui is situated thirty miles inland from Gore, a town in South Otago, between Dudedin and Invercargil. In the 1970's it boasted a population of two hundred and had a dairy and a service station. In the 1980's the township was afflicted with a condition known as the 'Tapanui Flu', today recognised as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Tapanui is a rural community surrounded by snow-capped mountains on three sides providing stunning views. Its best attribute however, is the local community spirit, exemplified by the Town and Country Club.

My parents were co-founders of the Club, which is situated in the previously run down Town Hall. After much hard work by my parents and friends, the renewed Tapanui Town and Country Club was completed and the whole community turned out for the opening night which featured a BBQ and traditional Hangi, with pints for twenty cents and spirits for fifty cents!!

The local men worked in forestry and the women in town or in the home. Saturday nights were party times, with friends gathering for a BBQ or to listen to records on the very few record players in the township. My parents owned one Neil Diamond record, but no player, so it featured on many Saturday nights along with guitars and singing, often with invented lyrics!

Tapanui is a place where community spirit is evident in many ways. Neighbours chat over fences, homemade food is shared freely and 'runaway' dogs and children are always

safely returned. In short, a rural town with a big heart.

In many ways Faraday shares these values. Neighbours are friendly and the community spirit is alive and well; people support each other and gather together socially.

I am enjoying living in Faraday and appreciate its similarity to my place of birth.

THE STRANGE HISTORY OF SHIRE BOUNDARIES IN METCALFE SHIRE

By Ian Johnson

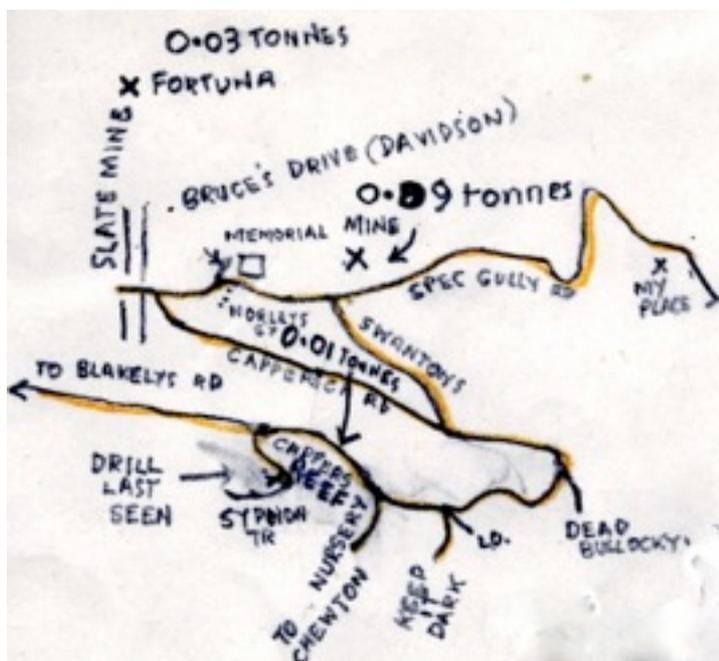
The Shire of Metcalfe was made up of large grazier landholders at the time of the gold rush, and was also the site of a Road Board. Why it should have a great lump of unviable grazing land in it is not clear. The parish of Faraday existed before the town of Faraday was laid out. Anyway, that odd and apparently useless part of the shire produced the most income over the shortest term, as it enclosed about 75 mines and some very rich alluvial deposits that any man with a shovel and mattock could access.

The four shepherds working for Dr Barker were looking for any small patches of pasture after the great drought and fires of the previous spring and summer and the overgrazing of the ones on the high slopes of the granite. That is why they were in Specimen Gully at a very small area of granite-based soil and kangaroo grass called Colonial

Oats. Near where the grass still is, but not much of it now, there is a gully running Northeast. This contains a rock step and as by August it had been raining again, and quite well, the creek was flowing and so using very common practice at that time with servants, they looked at the foot of the rock step and found gold. They wanted a reward so they wrote a letter to the Argus in Geelong and started a rush, which was not wanted by the graziers. The graziers were little worried about digging holes in unviable land, but they were

(Forest Creek) that could still have pasture beside it, although it wasn't Colonial Oats and was used by Mr Campbell's shepherds. Gold had been found there earlier. They found a great deal and were filling pannikins and the like with it when officials arrived and were not handing out the rewards they hoped for, but were looking for licences which they did not have. So they were fined and only ever years later, got some of the reward.

Better miners went up the nearby gully named after the donkeys



worried about losing their low paid workers and putting costs up, or perhaps losing stock to predators including gold miners.

There was little gold in Worley's Gully. There was more in the low hill to the east, which was deposits from a long-ago creek junction, but they only look at the quartz reef, which was too hard to break up. They then tried over the ranges to another creek

that the shepherds had called themselves, perhaps for not being more secretive. By digging all over that gully, which contained the erosion of a long ago rich reef on the ridge top, the miners found over 1 tonne of gold. If made into a slab it would make a rather rich carpet say 2.5m by 2m by 1cm thick, or perhaps a nice step in the kitchen so that short maids could reach the taps over the sink. Today that gold would be

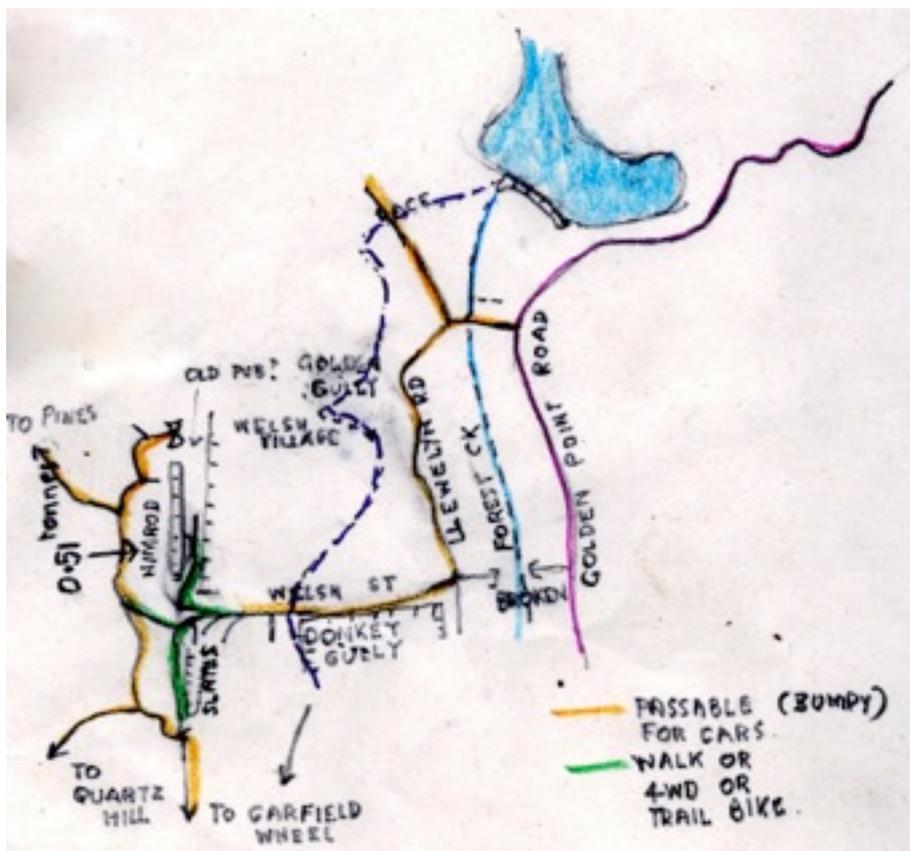
worth \$55 million and could buy a block of apartments with views over Docklands or a great fleet of motorbikes for all the possible riders in Castlemaine.

Eventually when no more easy gold was found, miners from Wales and Cornwall went to the ridge top looking for the original gold reef, which wasn't there, but smaller remnants were so they

the Faraday parish, not quite as far as Quartz Hill which had layers of gold on the outside ready to be rolled off. We do have a saddle reef called Capper's reef still being drilled into today by a gold mining company. If you run off that reef to the southeast, you will find a grassy patch then a gully leading to the present reservoir but though unviable grazing areas

WHAT FARADAY DID FOR WOMEN

Women owe more to Faraday than almost any great man. While he was making his discovery of electromagnetic induction which was to change the face of the world, one hundred years ago, his wife, probably, was laboriously sweeping the dusty carpets and stoking the cumbrous kitchen stove. Her evenings, perhaps, were spent straining her eyes in the weak light of tallow candles over a piece of needlework. For her there were no electric switches in every room, vacuum cleaners, or electric ovens and irons. At night there were no radio sets or talkies to amuse her. The exhibition staged in the Albert Hall in September to celebrate the centenary of her husband's greatest discovery showed some of the boons which he gave to women. Electric cookers and toasters and water heaters, hot plates and frigerators and coffee machines and floor polishers showed household work was being turned from drudgery into entertainment. Gadgets like; an electric hot water bottle, consisting of resistance wires in asbestos fabric sown into a blanket or pad, artificial sunshine lamps and automatic time switches which turn out the light in the hall after bed time and regulate the central heating, attracted crowds of women of every nation.



opened pits all along the ridge and named it from a biblical character named Nimrod. Allegedly Nimrod was a great hunter, but probably a great organising genius of military might. How Welsh fiery preachers thought that a suitable name is not known. (Read Genesis 10 verses 8 to 10 in particular).

that were better for slate mining. As for the Road Board that is another matter worth researching, as well as who was responsible for the building of the Specimen Gully water race when no town, was there and it was supposed to be for town supplies in Bendigo and Castlemaine, something that only came much later.

Over the ridge is Scotsman's Gully and only some of this is in

Central Queensland Herald 12 Nov 1931

LIST OF MEMBER’S GOODS AND SERVICES

Support these members who support our Association

- Terry Collins..... Plumber, Faradale Drive.....0438 504 353
- Ray Fowler.....Master Painter, Faraday-Sutton Grange Road.....54743109
- Heather & Alan Harris East End Servo, Chewton Service Station.....54705444
- Matthew Hough.....Elphinstone Firewood Supplies.....0458 387 378
- Bianca Joyce.....http://thoroughbredsoffthetrack.com.au
- J & P Leishman Pryor’s Paddock Olive Oil, locally grown produce.....0427 931 391
- Paul Leishman Electric and General Rural Fencing,
Agricultural Consultant.....0427 931 391
- Brendan McCarthy.....Photographer, Faraday-Sutton Grange Road.....0402 077 137
- Anthea Matley..... Granite Springs Olive Oil, Faraday-Sutton Grange Road...54742601
- Simon Moten.....Sanctuary Ridge Wines, Faraday-Sutton Grange Road..0431389201



RAINFALL

February	2012	158.5mm
March	2012	94.5mm
April	2012	1.5mm to 17 th
Year to date	2012	254.5mm
Year to date	2011	419.0mm

New Councillor

Our new Calder Ward Councillor following the recent by-election, is Cr Tim Barber. Tim is a third generation farmer from Sutton Grange. He may be contacted on 0466004629, or his Council email address: calder@mountalexander.vic.gov.au



Thanks once again to AMC Consultants for printing this edition of the Faraday Farrago

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Please forward articles to be considered for inclusion in the next newsletter which will be end June/early July 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 renghish@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.