



The Faraday Farrago

NEWSLETTER OF THE FARADAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

ISSUE NO. 17 : January 2013

DONALD FRASER GILLIES 21st January 1933 - December 27th 2012

Alan J. Elliot

After an interesting and diverse career which included farming in northern Victoria, sales manager in Melbourne, Liberal Party candidate for Albert Park and property manager in Perth, Don moved to Faraday in 1992 after purchasing the original granite property Lanark which had been built by the Gillies family (on his great-grandmother's side) in the 1850's.

The Gillies family (pronounced Gillis) originated from Lanarkshire, Scotland and Don was very proud of his heritage and corrected anyone who mispronounced the name.

Don was amongst the handful of locals who attended the inaugural meeting at which our Association was formed.

Although unwell in recent years, Don was a very community minded man; involved in many local organisations including the Castlemaine branch of the Liberal Party, local car clubs and tennis clubs.

Being fiercely patriotic, Don can be credited with having initiated a local Australia Day party in Faraday some 20 years ago, which incidentally almost coincided with his birthday

each year.

Don passed away on 27th December, only a few weeks short of his 80th birthday.



PHASCOGALES IN FARADAY Charlie Ross

As everybody in the area knows, Faraday has a number of native animals including Roos, Wallabies, Echidnas, Possums, Magpies, Gliders and many more. Some of you might have noticed that Faraday is also home to many Brush Tailed Phascogales. For those of you who might not be a native animal expert, a Brush Tailed Phascogale is an endangered member of Australia's Phascogale family.

The Brush Tailed Phascogale is a rat-sized nocturnal marsupial that lives in trees. Being highly endangered, it is only found in patches around the borders of Australia (including central Victoria). I have seen many Brush Tailed Phascogales in the area lately, very amazing.

One night after I had seen the black shadow of a Brush Tailed Phascogale lurking up a high Gum tree around my house, I began to wonder; What would make so many animals, including the Brush Tailed Phascogale come to Faraday and happily roam about? I believe that one of the reasons why animals enjoy the area is the quietness and the open friendly vibe of the bush, and the obvious amount of insects, grass and hollow logs.

I saw a Phascogale for the first time about two years ago. There was a rat-like creature that scrambled under the kitchen cupboard before I could get a good look at it. I pulled the cupboard out of the way, and managed to catch the creature. I discovered that it was not a rat, but a Brush Tailed Phascogale. I was amazed to see a Phascogale. I put the uninjured Phascogale back outside. I heard the sound of sticks snapping, as it tore away.

Earlier last year I saw a Brush Tailed Phascogale up in the trees at night. At around the same time I noticed new scratch marks on a nesting

box near my house. (A Sugar Glider had previously been living in the box) I climbed up a ladder and found a big nest with a sleeping animal inside. My Grandmother's partner, Robert English (wildlife rescue) confirmed that the animal sleeping inside the nesting box was a Brush-Tailed Phascogale. The Phascogale had made a big nest out of bark, grass, leaves and it had cleverly used some wool and fabric scraps nicked from my mother's knitwear studio. The phascogale buried herself in her nest, and seemed to stay covered most of the time. It was winter at the time, which is when Phascogales breed.

We suspected that this Brush Tailed Phascogale was a female. As a Phascogale's gestation period takes about 30 days, we thought that it might soon be about to have some babies. Unfortunately the



Brush Tailed Phascogale : Courtesy Connecting Country Website

Phascogale disappeared at the end of winter, and we never saw the babies. Because Faraday is a home to the endangered Brush Tailed Phascogales, and many other native animals it is extremely important that we care for the animals and land. We are very lucky to have the precious land and animals that make Faraday special, so it is up to everyone to care for it properly. So go easy on using hollow logs for firewood, and

watch the cat! You may also find a surprise in the nesting boxes.

Renaming of Old Calder Highway

Peter McCarthy

Following transfer from VicRoads into control of Mount Alexander Shire Council, the section of the former Calder Highway which runs from Elphinstone to Harcourt North has been renamed Harmony Way. The

Office of Geographic Names approved the names prior to their Gazette.

Historic background to the naming was provided to councillors at their May meeting. Harmony Way was named for Henry "Harmony Nelson," believed to be a significant member of the Dja Dja Wurrung, traditional custodians of the lands now occupied by Mount Alexander

Shire. However, in a letter to the Midland Express (Jan 1, 2013) researcher John Tully of Carisbrook pointed out that Harmony Nelson's father was Harry Karakum from the Moomoon gundidj clan of the Daung wurrung (Goulburn River) aborigines, and not Harry Karkom who was of the Dja Dja Wurrung in this district. Harmony Nelson went to school at Franklinford then lived near Healsville and may never have visited the area now known as Harmony Way.

It is now the responsibility of those who reside along these two roads to notify all interested parties of their change of address.

Faraday History Project

Compilation of material has commenced for our proposed history of Faraday book. Members and readers of the Faraday Farrago are encouraged to contribute historical material and photographs for possible publication.

Funds for the project have been obtained in the form of a Community Grant supported by Mount Alexander Shire.

Material may be sent by email or mail to our Association address.

Email: faradayfarrago@yahoo.com.au

Mail: PO Box 257 Chewton 3451.

Photos from our working bee and Christmas function



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
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Matthew Hough	Elphinstone Firewood Supplies	0458 387 378
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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	0431 389 201

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.

**Australia Day Celebrations : Dunstons Flat
Saturday 26th January 2013**

All members and friends are invited to celebrate Australia Day from 10:30am. Our Marquee will provide shade from the heat or shelter from the wishful deluge. The programme will include a flag-raising, ceremonial firing of the 'cannon' and a short Australian poem. Due to the unpredictable weather a BYO picnic lunch is advised. A barbeque may not be possible.

Thank You Again To

AMC CONSULTANTS

for the printing of the

FARADAY FARRAGO

Faraday Rainfall (or lack of it)

Oct 2012	12.5mm	2011	35.5mm
Nov 2012	12.0mm	2011	50.5mm
Dec 2012	7.5mm	2011	46.0mm
Jan 2013 (to 12th)	NIL	2012	14.5mm

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