

Senior Citizens Club

Bert A. Munro

The Tarooma Senior Citizens Club had its first meeting at the Ex-Servicemen's Club in Jenkins Street on the 3rd of April 1972.

The first President was Keith George, and an able and popular man he was. He was extremely democratic, putting all suggestions to the meeting and asking for a show of hands. The other members of the original Committee were:

Mrs Moorehouse, Secretary,
Mr Doug Crouch, Treasurer,
Mr Darbie Bonnitcha,
Mr Bert Munro.

One of the chief aims of the Club is to visit country places and enjoy afternoon tea there.

During the year the Club participates in a meeting with other similar clubs in the district, i.e. Snug and Kingborough. This enjoyable evening, with dancing, and singing and musical items is very ably sponsored by the Kingborough Lions Club. The Kingborough Senior Citizens choir generally provides the entertainment, followed by a nice supper.

At Christmas time the members always enjoy their Christmas dinner together, often held at the Tarooma Hotel.

Darby Bonnitcha looks after the afternoon teas and is the Club's caller at Bingo. Bert Munro is the present President and has always organised the buses and venues for our country visits.

These two stalwarts were members of the first committee.

All members appreciate the Community Hall, built by the Kingborough Council for the use of Tarooma residents.

Indoor bowls is played on Tuesdays and Fridays each week and we participate by sending a team along to the Tasmanian Championships.

New members to our Club will be made very welcome.

Committee Members (Oct. 1986)

President:	Mr B.A. Munro
Secretary:	Mrs J. Cripps
Treasurer:	Mrs R. Hughes
Members:	Mr D. Bonnitcha
	Mr E. Locke
	Mrs T. Vallerine

Stewart Players

Jasmine Lawrence

The Stewart players were formed in 1958 when a group of friends decided to get together and enter a play in the Drama Festival held at the Hobart Playhouse each July. From Stewart Crescent were Doug and Irene Duncan, Pat and Les Young and Jasmine Lawrence. Hence the name *Stewart Players* was adopted. We also had Greg and Wynn Gregson of Oakleigh Avenue, Guy Barrett of Sandy Bay, and later John Newton of Tarooma and Deidre McIndoe of Sandy Bay.

For the first play we chose J.M. Synge's *A Tinker's Wedding*. Jasmine played Sarah Casey, and Les was her husband. Pat played the mother and Guy the priest. As Guy was in his eighties we were all very anxious when we had to knock him down, tie him up in a sack and sit on him. He insisted that we act roughly at all rehearsals, as well as on the night.

The play was entered in the Drama Festival of 1958 and we received good marks, although "friends" said our Irish accents were so authentic they could not understand a word! The play was repeated with Deidre McIndoe taking over Pat Young's part, as Pat was offered a part in the Tarooma Theatre Guild production.

The following year we produced a play called *Three Birds in a Cage*. John Newton joined us and played the part of the "lift-man", while Doug, Jasmine and Pat were the three people stuck in the lift of an underground railway in London. This was entered in the Drama Festival and we were the third play, on the 21st July 1959 at the Playhouse. The set was commended for its originality and the realistic posters designed by Les Young.

Our last performance was in Geeveston at their Drama Festival on the 4th September 1959. After that the Stewart Players disbanded, due to members moving or having more children.

It was an entertaining and challenging two years in the days when television was a novelty. Often rehearsals were called two or three nights a week. We rehearsed in cold rooms and had great arguments, until our director, Wynn Gregson, finally formed us into a team.