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Have you ever wanted to revisit the 'good old days' of dancing in the Town Hall, minus the sawdust? Well, the Murraylands Ballroom Dance Group's first dance, was held Saturday, February 16, in the Tailem Bend Town Hall. With 71 dancers travelling from the Barossa, Bordertown and the Riverland. Many locals also attended, making the evening a huge success. Before heading home, a delicious shared supper was enjoyed by all, just like the 'good old days!' Cont page 3 - Image G Power



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Murraylands Ballroom Dance



Murraylands Ballroom Dance Group's first dance, was held Saturday, February 16, 2019 at the Taillem Bend Town Hall.



With 71 dancers travelling from the Barossa, Bordertown and the Riverland, the night was a great success. All dancers entered into the spirit of the occasion and a huge variety of Ballroom Dancing was enjoyed by all. The door prize for the evening - comprising a dinner voucher for two, was sponsored by the Riverland Hotel and believe it or not, was won by a Taillem Bend couple who expressed their gratitude for

such support. The ladies attending were very generous with offerings for supper, creating a fantastic spread and adding to the atmosphere.

The beautiful restored floor, is one of the most spacious in the area and was still packed with dancers, come the final dance of the evening.

All comments on the evening were very positive. These images are from the second dance, held March 16. August and December's Balls will be held at Burdett. See Taillem Topics "What's ON" - page 26, for details.



Submitted by Bernie Biggs
 Images G Power
 No names supplied



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The Changing Face of Tailem Bend #85

The Brion Family - Jervois

Apart from fierce rivalry on the sporting field, the Jervois and Tailem Bend communities get along very well and why shouldn't we? Only a short trip on the Ferry separates us and many friendships have evolved over the years. While I am talking about the Ferry it is interesting to note that there is a tug of war going on about it, the Jervois residents claim it as theirs while the Tailem folk argue that the Ferry master once lived in Tailem Bend and feel that is enough to declare ownership.

The dairy industry is still strong, but at one time it was so powerful that milking sheds stretched from Wellington to Monteith.

I want to do a story on long-time residents Lui and Maria Brion, who each spent a life time in the dairy industry and still reside in the original family home at Jervois. Before that though, I will go back to where it all started with Lui's father, Narciso Brion or Jack, as everyone knew him, was born on the 25th September 1904 in Italy.

Work and money being very scarce, Jack decided to immigrate to Australia to try and make a new life for himself – once settled, he would then send for his sweetheart, Maria to join him. In 1927, he left the security of his family and home and after many days on the ship, found himself in Australia. Life was very hard with the language barrier and as there was not much work to be found either, he would tackle any offered to him and spent time cutting timber in the Adelaide hills and on Kangaroo Island.

There were times when he hardly earned enough to feed himself, but he never gave up hope.

Eventually, when blocks of land became available at Jervois, Jack and Bob Guglielmin purchased a block between them in 1928. In 1932, Jack bought Bob's share and set up a tent as his home, with a straw mattress bed. He would tie his horse to the tent post and one particular night, woke up with the tent collapsed on him, when the horse had pulled it down. Life continued to be hard and was made even worse with no family - money remained short as Jack had to invest in cattle as well as farm equipment. He purchased the cattle from farmers in the hills, but because of the price per head to deliver them, Jack would walk them to his farm.

His main diet for some time, consisted of boiled soup bones slowly cooked over an open fire in a four gallon can, while he was off working from daylight to dark - don't we love our pioneers!!!

Twice a day, the cows had to be milked by hand and then the milk had to be delivered down to the river, where a boat would pick it up and take it to Murray Bridge. To add a bit of humour to their day, sometimes the farmers had a race with their horses and carts and the empty cans they were bringing back from the river. Quite often they had to back track to collect empty cans.

BELOW: Jack and Maria Brion on their Wedding Day in 1933.

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The Changing Face of Taillem Bend #85

In 1933, Maria left Italy and joined Jack - they had not seen each other for six years and by this time Jack with the help of Oscar Chesio, had built a house on his block - that same home, with additions and renovations, is still in the Brion family today, with his son Lui and wife Maria, in residence.

Life for Maria was very difficult, as she always worked alongside Jack, milking about 38 cows by hand, morning and night and lifting heavy buckets of milk, as well as other farm duties.

Maria and Jack loved their life in Australia and never complained. They always felt very privileged to be allowed to settle here and make a good life for themselves and their children. In 1935, Jack was naturalised and Maria became an Australian Citizen soon after - they always said that this was a very proud moment for them both. As time went by, things got a bit easier for them, three children were born Alice, Lui and Denis. Jack would often relate an incident with his neighbour, Charlie McCulloch - they had had a disagreement about a fence, while they were standing either side of it, Charlie was cursing in English and Jack in Italian, neither knew what the other was saying and in the end they looked at each other and laughed. The argument must have strengthened their friendship, as they went on to be great neighbours sharing many good times together.

At Christmas time, Jack and his mates would organise families to gather at the Lake, for a giant picnic as photo shows below.

Eventually, a factory was built at Jervois and the farmers had their milk picked up by truck - Jack built a track and made a cart to load up the cans of milk to be wheeled down to the pickup truck and then back to the dairy. In 1939, Jack and Maria bought their pride and joy, a Ford V8 truck and for a long time they could not believe it was theirs. Soon after, they were able to pay off all the farm debt and Maria used to say it was one of the happiest times of her life.



ABOVE, THE BRION FAMILY L-R: Maria, Denis, Alice, Jack and Lui.

The hessian bag box Maria had made for the meat was replaced with an ice chest and then upgraded to a kerosene refrigerator. It sometimes smoked the house out, but the Brion's thought they were the luckiest people in Australia to own a refrigerator that kept food cold and the home grown vegetables fresh. In 1959, Maria and Jack moved to Murray Bridge where they enjoyed their retirement until Jack died in 1981, Maria then moved to St Agnes in Adelaide in 1982, where she remained until she died in 1996. Thank you to those who contributed to this story and also for the extracts from Laura Mason's book on Jervois settlers.

Still to come Lui and Maria take over the dairy, Anne Howell is coming up and Ian Millard is in my sights as well.

See you next time,
Peter Connolly

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Ladies Outdoor Bowls Championships

The Taillem Bend Ladies Outdoor Bowls Championship was held over two weeks - February 12 and 19, at the Taillem Bend Bowling Club.



ABOVE: Singles Champion is Ruth Cross.

BELOW: Pairs Winners - Julia Teusner and Tess Bereton,



Winners of the Triples are Ruth Cross, Coral Bristow and Lyn Weckert - **PICTURED TOP RIGHT.**

MIDDLE RIGHT: Fours Champions - Christine Baughanhall, Tess Bereton, Margaret Woidt, and Kathy Liebeich.

The Taillem Bend Bowling Club has had a great season and winning more games than last year, so we all must be improving. **BELOW:** A lovely photo of patroness, Faye Brook (centre) with long time bowler friends, Ruth Cross and Coral Bristow.

We are all looking forward to next year - Bowls is an amazing sport to learn and enjoy. New members are always welcome. Submission and Images - Pauline Merritt



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