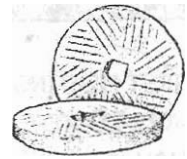


KURRAJONG - COMLERROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 174 KURMOND, 2757



The Millstone

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WELCOME TO THE FIRST NEWSLETTER FOR THE
KURRAJONG-COMLERROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK ON THE MASTHEAD ARE
WELCOME.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! THE SOCIETY HAD ITS
INAUGURAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 28,
2001 (THE AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND).

WORKING BEE. JAN 27, 2002

AN ENERGETIC TEAM OF MEMBERS CELEBRATED OUR
ANNIVERSARY WITH A WORKING BEE TO ESTABLISH A
MUSEUM AT THE BELLBIRD ECHO CENTRE, ON BELLS
LINE OF ROAD, KURRAJONG HILLS.

PRESIDENT KATHIE MCMAHON HAS OFFERED TO
DONATE, RENT-FREE, TWO ROOMS AT HER CENTRE
TO THE SOCIETY.

THANKS TO OUR "BEES": BRYAN WYBORN, VAL
HOLLAND, BRENDA SMITH, STEVE RAWLING,
STEVE VELLA, VAL BIRCH, ROGER HOLLIDAY, BEA
HORACEK, KAY VELLA, JEAN AND LOUISE
MCMAHON, KATHIE MCMAHON.

WALLS WERE WASHED AND A FIRST COAT OF PAINT
APPLIED. A FOLLOW-UP EFFORT WILL BE ON
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10 FROM 10AM.

"BEES" JOINING FOR THIS SESSION WILL DISCOVER
THE SECOND COAT IS THE ONE THAT SHOWS THE BEST
RESULTS, SO COME ALONG AND HELP US PUT THE FINAL
TOUCHES TO OUR VERY OWN MUSEUM.

LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED. WEAR WORK
CLOTHES AND BRING GLOVES, SPONGES, BUCKETS
PAINT BRUSHES AND ROLLERS.

AMP TREASURE CHEST

CHRIS AND ROBYN PARSONS FROM THE AMP
INSURANCE OFFICE IN RICHMOND HAVE DONATED TO
THE SOCIETY AN AMP TREASURE CHEST. THIS IS
BENCH HEIGHT WITH A GLASS DOME WHICH ALLOWS
US TO DISPLAY SOME OF OUR MEMORABILIA.
TO THANK CHRIS AND ROBYN WE INTEND INVITING
THEM ALONG TO A CHEESE AND WINE EVENING WHEN
WE OPEN OUR MUSEUM.

COMLERROY KITCHEN

THANKS ALSO TO BILL AND JAN LIVINGSTONE WHO
HAVE INSTALLED BRENDA AND GARTH SMITH'S PRE-
LOVED KITCHEN AT THE COMLERROY SCHOOL OF ARTS
HALL. THE NEW KITCHEN REALLY IMPROVES THE
HALL AND WILL HELP WHEN WE HOLD OUR MEETINGS
AND OTHER FUNCTIONS THERE.

**PLEASE SAY A BIG "THANKS !!!!!" TO JAN AND
BILL, AND TO BRENDA AND GARTH.**

FIRST MEETING, 2002

OUR FIRST MEETING FOR 2002 WILL BE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AT THE COMLERoy ROAD SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL AT 7.45PM, SHARP.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MEETING NIGHT: THE FIRST ITEM UP FOR DISCUSSION IS OUR MEETING DATE.

IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF VERY SECOND MONTH SUITABLE FOR THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE? THERE IS A BELIEF THAT SOME PEOPLE, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF SERVICE CLUBS, WOULD ALSO LIKE TO JOIN OUR SOCIETY, BUT THE MEETINGS CLASH.

A SUGGESTION IS FOR US TO CHANGE OUR MEETING TO THE FIRST TUESDAY OR TO THE FIRST OR SECOND WEDNESDAY.

BRING YOUR DIARIES ALONG AND WE CAN NUT OUT A NIGHT AND TIME THAT SUITS THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE - IT MAY WELL BE THAT OUR EXISTING NIGHT IS THE BEST ONE FOR OUR MEMBERS.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: UNDER THE TERMS OF INCORPORATION, A GROUP MUST HOLD AN AGM WITHIN 18 MONTHS OF INCORPORATION BEING GRANTED. WE INCORPORATED ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2001, MEANING WE MUST HOLD AN AGM BEFORE MARCH 2003. GIVEN WE HAD OUR ESTABLISHMENT MEETING IN JANUARY, 2001, THIS SEEMS TOO LONG. WE WILL HOLD OUR AGM IN AUGUST. DATE WILL DEPEND ON OUR DECISION REGARDING MEETING NIGHTS.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: MEMBERSHIPS WILL FALL DUE ON JULY 1, 2002. PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE RECEIVING INFORMATION UNTIL OCTOBER 2002. AFTER THAT, PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT FINANCIAL WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST. WE HOPE THAT THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SIGNALLED INTEREST, BUT WHO HAVE NOT YET OFFICIALLY JOINED, WILL DO SO BEFORE THE AUGUST AGM.

FEES FOR 2001-2002 ARE: FAMILY, \$25; SINGLE, \$20; OVER 75, \$5.

PROJECTS FOR 2002:

- ESTABLISHING MUSEUM: KATHIE MCMAHON
- MILLSTONES RESEARCH: LES DOLLIN
- LOUISA ATKINSON: JENNIFER STACKHOUSE
- GUEST HOUSES: VAL BIRCH
- CAMP MACKAY: VAL HOLLAND
- COMLERoy SCHOOL OF ARTS: LOUISE MCMAHON
- HERITAGE LISTINGS: STEVE RAWLINGS
- FIELD TRIPS: THE MILL SITE AT WHEENY CREEK; THE GROSE VALE BUSHRANGER'S CAVE; CUT ROCK BUSHWALK; VISITS TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUMS AT PROSPECT, RIVERSTONE, MT WILSON (TURKISH BATH) AND HAWKESBURY'S AT WINDSOR; RESEARCH DAYS AT STATE ARCHIVES AT KINGSWOOD, WEEKDAY TRIPS TO LAND TITLES OFFICE AND MITCHELL LIBRARY.

IT LOOKS LIKE WE WILL HAVE A VERY BUSY 2002!

WATCH DOG ROLE: WITH DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE INCREASING IN "THE KURRAJONG", WE MAY FIND OUR SOCIETY NEEDS TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN LOBBYING TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE OUR HISTORIC HERITAGE. OUR FIRST BATTLE MIGHT BE TO HELP SAVE "LA TOSCA" AT THE CORNER OF WOODBURN ROAD AND HORANS LANE. THIS IS A "DUNSTAN HOUSE" ALONG WITH WESTBURY, CURRABA, WARRENAVE (NOW KNOWN AS CALOOL), SPRING GROVE AND INVERARY. SPRING GROVE WAS LOST TO FIRE, LET'S NOT LOSE "LA TOSCA" TO BULLDOZERS.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT HAWKESBURY COUNCIL'S HERITAGE LIST INCLUDES ALL SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS IN THE KURRAJONG. STEVE RAWLING IS LEADING THIS EFFORT AND WOULD APPRECIATE HELP FROM OTHER MEMBERS.

SPECIAL THANKS:

TO *JENNIFER STACKHOUSE* FOR ASSISTANCE IN PREPARATION AND MAIL OUT OF AGENDAS, MINUTES AND OTHER COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS. TO *VAL BIRCH* FOR HER WORK AS OUR ARCHIVIST. COLLECTING MATERIAL IS ONE THING, KNOWING WHAT WE'VE GOT AND HOW TO RETRIEVE IT IS ANOTHER, AND TO *DAPHNE KINGSTON* FOR COPIES OF HER BOOK, "HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS".

2001 IN REVIEW

JANUARY: WE HOLD OUR FIRST "LET'S FORM A SOCIETY" MEETING ON JANUARY 28, THE AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND. (WE WERE TOLD IT WAS A "BAD" WEEKEND TO CHOOSE FOR A FIRST MEETING, BUT WE HAD SOME 50 OR SO PEOPLE ALONG!)

FEBRUARY: KATHIE'S CONTACTS LEAD HER TO A WORLD-CLASS INTERNATIONAL TOURING IRISH DUO, "DUCHAS". WE HAVE A FUNDRAISING CONCERT, RAISE \$1,000, AND ENJOY AN ENORMOUSLY FUN NIGHT. PEOPLE SAY IT'S "FANTASTIC".

MARCH: WE VISIT THE LOCAL STUDIES COLLECTION AT WINDSOR LIBRARY. MICHELLE NICHOLS (NOW OAM) AND CATHY MCHARDY EXPLAIN WHAT'S AVAILABLE AND GIVE US TIPS ON RESEARCHING.

WE ADOPT BEN SINGLETON'S MILLSTONES AS OUR LOGO BECAUSE THEY ARE THE OLDEST EUROPEAN RELIC IN "THE KURRAJONG" AND BECAUSE THEIR CHEQUERED TREATMENT (DUMPED IN THE CREEK, [1860] RETRIEVED AND USED AS WAR MEMORIAL [1920], DISCARDED DURING ROAD WIDENING [1945], RESCUED [1958], FORGOTTEN, RESCUED AGAIN, [1988]) IS SYMBOLIC OF HOW KURRAJONG HISTORY HAS BEEN TREATED.

APRIL: COLLEEN FITZGERALD OF CREATIVE MEMORIES SHOWS US HOW TO PRESERVE PHOTOS IN ACID-FREE ALBUMS, AND TO DOCUMENT PHOTOS SO THEY HAVE MEANING TO LATER GENERATIONS. "WE ARE TOMORROW'S HISTORY," SHE SAYS.

GUEST SPEAKER IS JOHN LOVE OF NORTHFIELD, KURRAJONG HEIGHTS, WHO TELLS OF THIS EXTENSIVE ESTATE OF 1840-1902.

MAY: PROFESSOR IAN JACK IS GUEST SPEAKER. HE TALKS ABOUT HARDY WILSON (OF ERYLDENE FAME) WHO, LIKE THE WATERHOUSE FAMILY, HAD A PASSION FOR KURRAJONG.

JUNE: ARTIST TONY DIXON PROVIDES US WITH A PEN SKETCH OF BEN SINGLETON'S MILLSTONES TO USE IN OUR LETTERHEAD.
WE AFFILIATE WITH THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

GUEST SPEAKER IS FALCONER MCKENZIE, WHO WAS A CHILD OF THE 1920S KURMOND SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT.

JULY: WE DECIDE TO HOLD A "BACK TO THE KURRAJONG DAY" ON OCTOBER 13. WE THINK "A FEW PHOTOS AND A CUP OF TEA".

AUGUST: WE DISCUSS THE LOGISTICS FOR OUR "BACK TO THE KURRAJONG DAY" AND FIND JOBS FOR EVERY MEMBER.

SEPTEMBER: WE WORK ON OUR PHOTO DISPLAYS WITH WORKSHOPS AT KATHIE'S AND STEVE RAWLING. WE CONTINUE PLANNING THE "BACK TO THE KURRAJONG". LOTS OF DETAILS, LITTLE TIME! WE HAVE A WORKING BEE TO GET THE COMLERoy HALL AND GROUNDS READY FOR OUR BIG DAY.

OCTOBER: SATURDAY THE 13TH, THE "BIG DAY". ADDING TO THE ATMOSPHERE ARE THE AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE DANCERS; THE HAWKESBURY ANTIQUE MACHINERY GROUP (BECAUSE OURS WAS A BIG TIMBER-GETTING AREA IN THE 1800S); POET AND MUSICIAN, JOHN DENGATE, AND A MAGNIFICENT LOCAL SINGER, TRISH MAQUIRE. THE DAY IS A HUGE SUCCESS. A CLASH OF HALL-HIRE BOOKINGS SEES US PACK UP IN 90-MINUTES. SETTING UP, PACKING DOWN, HOSTING THE DAY, (FOLLOWED BY THE NEXT WEEKEND AT THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL) - THANKS TO **ALL** MEMBERS, IT WAS A TRULY OLYMPIC TEAM EFFORT- A BIG SUCCESS IS OUR REWARD!
WE COLLABORATE MORE THAN 250 PHOTOS FOR TO START OUR COLLECTION, AND AN ESTIMATED 300 PEOPLE VISIT DURING THE DAY.

NOVEMBER: BUS TRIP FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS, LOUISE MCMAHON PREPARES A 30,000 WORD COMMENTARY FOR THE DAY, WHICH INCLUDES VISITS TO BELLBIRD ECHO; STEVE AND JUDY RAWLING'S HOME, ST CLEMENTS AT KURRAJONG HEIGHTS AND LUNCH AT BRYAN AND MARGUERITE WYBORN'S JACARANDA FARM AT BLAXLANDS RIDGE.

DECEMBER: IN THE 12TH MONTH WE RESTED!!!!

**THE MILLSTONES AND MEMORIAL PARK,
KURRAJONG:**

HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL HAS PUT A PLAN ON PUBLIC DISPLAY AND IS SEEKING COMMENT REGARDING THE UPGRADE OF MEMORIAL PARK, KURRAJONG.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS MAKING A SUBMISSION. THE PLAN SHOWS THE MILLSTONES ARE TO BE MOVED, BUT DOES NOT INDICATE WHERE.

WE ARE DRAWING COUNCIL'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THESE MILLSTONES ARE OF ENORMOUS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, THE EARLIEST EVIDENCE OF EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT WEST OF THE RIVER.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE MILLSTONES CAREFULLY REMOVED FROM THE CONCRETE AND MOUNTED IN A WAY THAT WILL HELP PRESERVE THEM. (THE CONCRETE WILL SLOWLY CAUSE THE SANDSTONE TO DISOLVE, SO IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE SOLUTION.)

WE URGE COUNCIL TO SEEK EXPERT ADVICE ON THE BEST WAY TO BOTH DISPLAY THESE ITEMS AND PRESERVE THEM FROM BOTH WEATHER AND PETTY VANDALISM.

WE WILL RECOMMEND COUNCIL MOVE THE MILLSTONES INTO THE PRECINCT WITH THE EXISTING WAR MEMORIAL.

IN THE DAYS OF THE WW1 SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT THE MILLSTONES FORMED PART OF THE WW1 MEMORIAL. (SEE PART OF THE 1992 GAZETTE ARTICLE REPORTING ON THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MILLSTONE WAR MEMORIAL):

Editor's Note: This is the first issue of the Historical Society's newsletter. If you have any feedback, or want to contribute an item for the next edition, please send to the Editor and Society Secretary, Louise McMahon at PO Box 174 Kurmond, NSW 2757, by **March 20**.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and I welcome any comments. *Louise*

1922 GAZETTE ARTICLE (EXTRACT)

On the 28th ultimo the machine gun that has been allotted to the Kurrajong Soldier Settlement, which is housed in a neat kiosk erected on the administrative block of the settlement, was unveiled in the presence of a large gathering of residents of Kurrajong and visitors from Richmond and elsewhere.

The chair was taken by Cr J.E. McMahon, who, after the singing of the National Anthem, called on Colonel Helsham to perform the unveiling ceremony.

In a fitting speech Colonel Helsham performed the ceremony, after which hearty cheers were given.

The machine gun bears the following inscription: "This heavy machine gun, number 6243, captured from the Germans on the Western Front, 1917, by the 18th Battalion AIF, was unveiled by Colonel Helsham, VD, October 21st, 1922.

After the children had sung "Advance Australia Fair", Mr W.S. Arnold read the following interesting references to the old millstones that support the gun: "The millstones were found along Wheeney Creek on the Soldier Settlement.

The upper stone was dug out of the bed of the creek when putting in piers for a bridge. This was evidently from the top mill which was driven by an overshoot wheel. The lower stone was found nearby, buried below the second dam site, and was apparently the nether stone of the bottom under shoot mill.

It is believed that both mills were Government, and built by Benjamin Singleton (a millwright) about 1810.

On 23rd March, 1816, the top mill was offered for sale by private contract.

The advertisement in the "Sydney Gazette" stated that the mill was capable of grinding 40 bushels of wheat daily.

- Les Dollin and Louise McMahon are energetically researching both the mill, the millstones and origins of "the currion" (1804). Les will be a guest speaker in 2002.