



The Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society is dedicated to researching, recording, preserving and championing the history of "the Kurrajong", the district bounded by the Hawkesbury River at North Richmond, the Grose River, "Cut Rock" at Kurrajong Heights, along Comleroy and Blaxlands Ridge Roads to East Kurrajong, and to the Colo River. "The Millstone" refers to the Little Wheeney Creek millstones on display at Kurrajong Memorial Park. Logo designed for the Society by artist Tony Dixon.

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Proudly displaying their awards: KCHS members Joy Shepherd (above) and Johnathon Auld (below) at the Hawkesbury City Council Australia Day Awards. Details inside in 'News'.

News

Compiled by Jennifer Stackhouse

Hawkesbury City Council Australia Day Awards 2006

On Australia Day an enthusiastic audience gathered at the Richmond Club for the presentation of Hawkesbury City Council's Australia Day Awards. Awards included 12 Citizens of the Month, Young Citizen of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year, Community Arts Award, Community Organisation of the Year, Special Achievement Award, Commemorative Plaque and Citizen of the Year.

Tim Pethick, the founder of Nudie Juice, was the Hawkesbury's Australia Day Ambassador and spoke about the importance of Australia Day. He espoused the virtues of never giving up and to follow one's dreams, no matter what happens. Tim gave his own business trials as an example of how to achieve regardless of adversity. Award recipients supported this theme as well as the need for all to support the less fortunate in the community.

The Citizen of the Year was Carolyn Byers for her work with LINCS. Two members of the Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society received framed Citizen of the Month awards from Mayor Bart Bassett. Our society is fortunate to have as members, Joy Shepherd and Johnathon Auld, who are both dedicated to historical research of our district.

Joy Shepherd, who is our treasurer, was nominated by the historical society and by an individual. She received the award for her considerable effort in the Federal Government's Work for the Dole program, which has allowed this society to work with Hawkesbury Skill Share to digitally archive more than 2500 images. Over the past three years Joy has overseen participants of the Work for the Dole program gain valuable work experience during the digital archiving of a range of photographs and documents relating to The Kurrajong's history. Joy also was commended for her participation in local church and school organisations. Joy says she "was honoured and privileged" to be acknowledged in the company of so many worthy volunteers. Joy was accompanied by her husband Phillip, mother Gladys Vincent, sisters Pam and Susan, and their husbands Ken Bennett and Ron Coleman. The society was represented by Frank and Valerie Holland.

We were also delighted to see another society member, Johnathon Auld, presented with a Citizen of the Month award for the establishment of a web-based directory to the Hawkesbury at www.hawkesbury.net.au. This site, which is still being developed, will be a valuable tool for many historians and visitors to the Hawkesbury. It includes a calendar of events and accommodation options, as well as a wealth of information for historians in the recorded registers of our district's cemeteries, memorials, the 1901 census and the landholders return for 1885. Johnathon was accompanied by his wife Michelle Nichols, and his parents Peter and Carolyn Auld of Tizzana Winery. Also attending were his sister Gillian and her husband Andrew, and nephew James.

For full details of all awards see www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/news.html

History honoured

As well as commemorating living Hawkesbury residents on Australia Day, a commemorative plaque was given to honour of Richard Fitzgerald (1772 - 1840). Richard Fitzgerald who was a government official and who built a Windsor hotel, was nominated by John Miller of Windsor.

Richard Fitzgerald came to in Sydney in 1791 as a convict and served his time at Toongabbie until 1794. In 1802 he was appointed Inspector Government Agriculture Concerns in 1802 and appointed Clerk, Commissariat Department, in Windsor 1813. Richard owned and constructed the Macquarie Arms Inn, which was officially opened by Governor Macquarie on 26 July, 1815.

The inn was built on the land given to him in 1811 by the Governor on the condition that he build immediately thereon "a handsome commodious inn of brick or stone two storeys high". In 1836 Richard was Elected President of Hawkesbury Benevolent Society and remained in this position until his death in 1840. In his will he left an annuity for charitable purposes of the Benevolent Society. Richard was known as an "honest, upright and good man" who was important to the penal settlement and development of the Hawkesbury.

Raffle winners

Airdrie Martin, Kathie McMahan and Pat O'Toole out-did themselves when they canvassed for raffle prizes for our Australia

Day raffle. Prizes from fresh local produce to dinners at local restaurants ensured lots of ticket sales. The raffle raised \$234.50.

Prize winners

First prize (DIY roast dinner with thanks to Kurrajong Butchers for a delicious leg of lamb and Kurrajong Friendly Grocer and local gardens for the trimmings): Eleanor Taylor

Second prize (Dinner for two at Al's Steakhouse, Richmond): Steve Vella.

Third prize (Kurmond Wine Bar and Grill voucher): Pat O'Toole

Fourth prize (Kurmond wine Bar and Grill voucher): Valerie Bradley

Fifth prize (Box of peaches, Great Eastern Pines, Bilpin): Austin Buttsworth

Celebrate Upper Colo Church centenary

A memorial function at the Upper Colo Church will be held on the 2 April at 10am to celebrate the Church's centenary. The function will be followed by a light luncheon on Wal Jones property. Any members who would like to take part in the celebration should contact Valerie Holland.

Reprinting of East Kurrajong Book - expressions of Interest

The Kurrajong East Public School History Committee is considering reprinting the publication 'Footsteps Along the Ridge: The First 125 Years of Kurrajong East Public School', which was produced by the committee to celebrate the sesqui-centenary of the school in March 2003. It is envisaged that copies of the book will sell for approximately \$30.00 per copy with postage and packing at an extra cost.

Please contact Cathy McHardy by email: cathy@nisch.org; or by mail: PO Box 258, Kurrajong NSW 2758; or phone: (02) 4576 3506 (evenings only) if you may be interested in purchasing a copy.

Reminiscences of Richmond to be reindexed

Cathy McHardy also informs us that she and her "little band of helpers" have commenced work retyping and indexing Reminiscences of Richmond by Sam Boughton, which was published as a weekly column in the Hawkesbury Herald in 1904. She is sure many readers and members of the KCHS will have an interest in this project. As the work progresses (Kurrajong comes up about

midway), Cathy says she would be happy to check the index for anyone and supply them with details.

Cathy can be contacted at the Hawkesbury Central Library at Windsor on (02) 4560 4460.

Vale: Falconer Mackenzie

It is with regret we announce the death of long-time Kurrajong resident, Falconer Mackenzie. Falconer died on Thursday 17 February, just short of his 90th birthday. Falconer grew up on Mackenzie Farm on Bells Line of Road, one of the soldier settlement properties in the district. He lived on the farm for most of his life.

Current owners of Mackenzie Farm, Gerry and Vera Bentvelzen, have restored the farm and out buildings. Vera is compiling a book on the Soldier Settlement properties, which includes Falconer's memories of his life in Kurrajong.

New Members

By Joy Shepherd

We welcome our first new member for 2006 – **Barbara Clout**.

Kathie McMahan invited Barbara Clout of East Kurrajong to help out with the singing at our Australia Day breakfast at 'Wynella Gardens'. Barbara has always been musical, and lived for some years in a church at Gunderman. When her parents became older and more dependent on her, she moved to Glenorie to be closer to them.

Barbara, now retired, has moved to East Kurrajong in the past few months. She has always been interested in the history of the district, so felt right at home with our society members.

Barbara, in earlier days, was a very keen square dancer. She was instrumental in the forming of Windsor Theatre Inc. and is currently working on a production with this group.

We look forward to Barbara's active involvement in our society as well.

AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society celebrates 5 years. Robyn Fuller reports on a wonderful event.

Australia Day, 26 January, is always a special celebration for the Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society as it is the birthday of the society. This year we celebrated our fifth birthday with 60 members and friends at breakfast at 'Wynella Gardens'.

Our hosts were Al and Noelle McPhee, who have owned historic 'Wynella Gardens' for many years. The McPhees served a delicious breakfast, which began with poached local peaches. Society president, Jennifer Stackhouse, welcomed members and their guests while Steve Rawling proved to be an able compere through out the morning. Kathie McMahan, who organised the morning, had gathered together an instrumental and singing group who added a truly Australian flavour with their Aussie songs. Those who offered their talents included Sonia Bennett, John

Coombs, Jamie Carlin, Tony Jones, John Ferris, Ruth Hart, Ian Henry and Barbara Clout, and in the chorus, Robyn Fuller, Jenny Griffiths, Trish Macguire, John Thorpe and Jane Zerbini.

Research excellence rewarded

The highlight of the morning was the presentation of the society's annual award for outstanding contribution to local history research. This year the recipient was Cathy McHardy for her thorough research of the history of East Kurrajong and in particular the property of the Buttsworths. The award, presented by Austin Buttsworth, was a framed collection of photographs of the East Kurrajong property taken in the 1950s by George Veicherts. Photographer George Veicherts was on hand to help with the presentation.

Cathy works at the Windsor Library and is in charge of the Information and Lending Services. She lives at East Kurrajong.



Cathy McHardy proudly showing her award for research excellence presented to her by Austin Buttsworth on behalf of the Society. The photos displayed in the award are shown on page 5 of this issue of 'The Millstone'.

My Memories of 'Wynella'

Airdrie Martin was a child when 'Wynella' was built by the Misses Cahill. She spent time at the property nextdoor, her grandparents home 'Wotonga'. On Australia Day during the breakfast at Wynella Gardens she shared her memories.

My grandparents were Michael and Phyllis Minnett, known locally and affectionately as Mick and Min and always known to me as Grandpa and Grandma. They bought the property Lot 3 Northfield, part of James Comries grant, in 1919 for 360 pounds. The property was the northern neighbour of what as to become 'Wynella' and was called 'Wotonga'.

Grandma and Grandpa moved permanently to 'Wotonga' in 1935 when Grandpa retired from the employ of the Royal Botanic Gardens, after 31 years service, 25 of which he was Head Gardener of Admiralty House (previously named 'Wotonga').

The Misses Cahill – Theresa and her aunt – opened the first of their restaurants in Martin Place in the early 1930s and built 'Wynella' between 1940 and 1944. The land had been burnt out by bushfires in the late '30s when the summers were particularly hot.

Grandpa kept diaries throughout his life, which are now in my possession. In December 1938 he wrote: "During the above month we experienced a very trying time in the orchard and garden – heat, scorching winds, and for 5 weeks the dry wind removed a lot of fruit from the trees – the temperature was over 100 degrees on several occasions."

Cahill's land was cleared by Theiss Bros in about 1940 and Phil Peck, son of Les Peck, who owned the property to the north of Grandpa opposite the Heights Hotel, helped me put together some memories we both have of 'Wynella'.

During the clearing and after tree removal, tree stumps were blown out. Part of a stump landed on Grandpa's open verandah roof resulting in a large dent in the iron. This piece of stump must have traveled some 75 to 100 metres.

'Wynella' was built during a period when building materials were in short supply. Construction was slow. Memories exist of two 2000 gallon corrugated tanks being placed under the house behind the garages to collect roof water. Later a large concrete

tank/well was constructed just below and opposite the south east end of the building. Overflow water from the under house tanks flowed into this tank. A circular tool shed was constructed on the flat top of the tank. The huge kitchen contained a four-oven Aga stove.

A hot water donkey was located in the laundry to the eastern side of the garages. Hot water from this heater also heated free-standing coil heaters situated throughout the house for winter warmth. On the western wall of the large lounge room adjacent to the staircase was a fireplace with a large surround of the most beautiful pink shaded marble. That fireplace remains intact today in what is now the dining room for the guest-house.

Theresa and her aunt would arrive usually on a Friday with the butler cum driver in a black Daimler. Grandma would have opened up and aired the house and lit the Aga, and I would have been in trouble for rolling on the white wool shag carpet that 'filled' the house - especially as Grandma's dog, Peter, was my constant companion.

The interaction between 'Wynella' and the neighbours is evident from Grandpa's diaries.

May 12th, 1944: "Our cottage was painted 2 coats by Miss Cahill's painters" – evidently as Wynella was being "finished".

September 2nd, 1945: "Refrigerator installed in house – Miss Cahill had the same put in."

The garden

The extensive garden was laid out by Michael Minnett (Grandpa), who supervised the planting of trees and shrubs as

well as the care of the extensive lawn areas. A small orchard/vegetable garden was established and flourished to the north of the main garden/lawn area.

The main entry to the property was dominated by a curved stone wall and gates, which led to a gravel driveway to the home. A stone wall ran along the left-hand side while on the opposite side a row of azalea completed a picturesque entry.

I was eight when Grandpa and I planted the Japanese maples down the Old Bells Line of Road alignment of 'Wynella' and 'Wotonga' – some of which still stand. I loved helping him with his and the 'Wynella' gardens and fish ponds.



Airdrie Martin at the Society's Australia Day breakfast held at 'Wynella' (see adjacent story page 5)

A fashion for grapefruit

During the 1940s and post war a demand for grapefruit became evident in Sydney restaurants. American servicemen at the time contributed to the craving for the fruit. Eager for a fresh supply of fruit and having two acres or so (one hectare) of land below the main garden area, Miss Cahill had several rows of grapefruit planted. These eventually bore fruit and harvesting continued from the early 1950s through to late 1955. Phil Peck worked these orchards. Unfortunately demand declined when the trees were at their peak, as plantings in other areas had contributed to the supply.

Local fruit stallholders were able to dispose of some of the fruit in season. One such

gentleman, Kevin McMahon at Kurrajong Hills, was a regular purchaser of the fruit. Eventually only a few trees remained in the orchard for personal use.

During the mid 1950s a bore was sunk some short distance below the entry gates on the boundary line between 'Wynella' and 'Carrisbrook'. The bore yielded adequate water for garden watering. It is possible that this bore was part of a water spring that once fed a horse trough which had been located on the opposite side of the old road prior to realignment of Bells Line of Road during 1951.

'Carrisbrook' was a cottage constructed and used by Miss Cahill's aunt and husband, Mr and Mrs O'Neil, for a number of years. It was also used by caretakers and other relatives at different times.

Later years

Grandpa died in 1951. 'Wynella' was sold in 1956 to Norman Bennett (we think), Phil Peck bought some of the 'Wynella' tools and machinery. 'Carrisbrook' was sold separately to Jim and Joan Raine. Grandma lived on alone until 1967 and 'Wotonga' was sold in 1969.

Miss Cahill gave Grandma and Grandpa lovely gifts of appreciation, two chairs I still use. One last memory – we all enjoyed Cahill's caramel sauce that we were brought as gifts.



Airdrie's grandparents Michael and Phyllis Minnett in their gardens 'Wotonga' at Kurrajong Heights circa 1947. Photo from the KCHS archives.



FIRST BULL RIDGE PROPERTY

By Joy Shepherd

These photographs are of what is known as the "Green" property, the first property settled on the "Bull Ridge". This was the site of the original Bull Ridge Post Office (shown in the photograph) run by the Green family, and was situated on the corner of East Kurrajong and Old East Kurrajong Road.

This property fell into disrepair in the 1950s. Around 1959 a migrant from Holland, Mr Kloot, was doing some work in the area for Mr Alex Teale, a former Colo Shire Councillor. Mr Teale ran out of work, and Mr Kloot approached Austin Buttsworth for work. He really had not much going at the time, but he thought of the Green property. He knew it had been on the market, so he contacted Jack Bennett, Real Estate Agent at Kurrajong. He found out it was still for sale, and had been for 8 to 10 years.

Austin purchased the property to find work for Mr Kloot, and they proceeded to clean it up. George Veicherts was the teacher at East Kurrajong School at the time, and a family friend. These photographs were taken by George during the clean-up procedure.

The property was later sold to a poultry farming company.



Circa 1960s: Early buildings on the first block to be settled at the Bull Ridge.

TOP: The small flat-roofed building in the foreground was the original Bull Ridge Post Office on the corner of Old East Kurrajong and East Kurrajong Road. The property was originally owned by the Green family, and was purchased by Austin Buttsworth at this time.

ABOVE: A view of the old chimney on one of the buildings in disrepair.

From the collection of Austin and Pat Buttsworth. Photography by George Veicherts.

Copies of these photos were framed and presented by the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society on Australia Day 2006 to Cathy McHardy, in recognition of her dedication to the research of the history of this area.



OVERNIGHT TOUR



EARLY HISTORY OF BELLS LINE OF ROAD

Chain Gangs, Cattle Drives, Colonial Pioneers and Good Old Country Cooking

TOUR LEADER LES DOLLIN

Enjoy beautiful gardens, hearty soups, candle-lit dinners (with sticky date pudding!), majestic mountain vistas and colonial architecture as you learn all about Aboriginal history, the convict stockades, the vast cattle drives, the gold rush era and the early pioneer families of Bells Line of Road.

Following the outstanding success of the two-day KCHS Road to Comleroy trip last year, don't miss out on this year's special overnight trip.

HURRY! There are still just a few places left! Send your booking fee to Joy Shepherd now - see below.

Day1 Tuesday 9th May 2006

10:00 start at Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens. Enjoy morning tea and lunch as you listen to speakers Andy Macqueen, Airdrie Martin and Les Dollin.

Drive along Bells Line of Road to Clarence to see historic Clarence House.

Brian Wyborn hopes to arrange a talk and tour of the house.

Check into the old Manor House at Mount Victoria for a wonderful country dinner and overnight stay. Trish Downes will be our guest speaker for the night, speaking on her research on the Upper Bells Line of Road. The Manor House was built in 1876 by architect/builder Alexander Dean.

Day2 Wednesday 10th May 2006

Visit Mount York Lookout to see the convict built embankment on the Victoria Pass and the site of the Mount Victoria Convict Stockade. Visit his-

toric Hartley and the early Inns of Hartley Valley before a hearty country soup and damper lunch at Comets Inn.

There are five convict stockade sites in the Lithgow area. These convict stockades were constructed to house convicts that were working on roads and bridges. We need to learn more about the history, dimensions and layouts of these convict stockades so we can understand our own convict work camp site which has evidence of a stockade at Roxana Road, Kurrajong.

In the afternoon we hope to arrange for a renowned expert on convict stockades to show us one of the Lithgow sites and explain his research to us. For example, the biggest stockade at Mount Walker was thought to house over 500 convicts. Unfortunately this site has been flooded by a dam, but due to the drought this site is currently out of the water.

In the evening we will visit the Family History Society's Library at Lithgow.

Optional overnight stay at the Lithgow Zig Zag Motel. Phone for bookings: 02 6352 2477

These details are only tentative as the trip is still two months away. For further information please contact Valerie or Frank Holland on 02 4573 2226.

TRIP COSTS

Booking Fee for the Trip: \$5 per person.

Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens:

Entry and parking Fee (pay at gate): \$4.40 adults, \$3.30 Seniors Card

Morning tea and lunch - Either bring your own or purchase food at the Botanical Gardens Cafeteria.

The Manor House (3 1/2 star accommodation):

The normal price is \$180 - \$310 but we have obtained a fantastic discount deal of \$99 per person for a two course dinner with bed and breakfast.

Comet Inn Lunch:

A hearty soup and damper lunch is available for \$10. We need to book in for this in advance.

To secure your booking, send a cheque for \$30 per person payable to the Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society to Joy Shepherd, Treasurer, PO Box 174, Kurmond NSW 2757, being for:

Booking Fee - \$5; and
Advance deposit for the Manor House - \$25

Also please indicate:

-- your preference for single, double or twin accommodation; and

-- whether you wish to book in for the Comet Inn lunch.

HURRY – Complete your booking now! Only a few places left!



Our overnight accommodation - The elegant Manor House at Mount Victoria built in 1876. [Photo courtesy of Colin and Annete Lenton, owners].

IN DARWIN'S FOOTSTEPS

Valerie Holland recounts a day in the Blue Mountains combining history with nature



After the tour of the Cottage we visited the gardens of Hugh Bickford, BMHS President, who lives next door to the cottage. His garden is a beautifully maintained Blue Mountains masterpiece which we all delighted in, particularly Jennifer. Next on the agenda was a return to the Research Centre where we met other members of BMHS

precipice”, an observation that holds 170 years on .

Eventually we made our way up to the parking lot via a winding path with some 100 steps. Here we thanked our hosts for a most informative and enjoyable day. Their hospitality and help was first class.

To finish the day some of the group decided to call into Wentworth Falls village for a cup of coffee and refreshments. We were not surprised when the rest of our group also turned up. This provided a happy finish to a most enjoyable day.

Eight members of our society took up the invitation of the Blue Mountains Historical Society to visit their establishment at Wentworth Falls on Friday, 20 January 2006. The day was cool with a threat of rain but a pleasant relief from a spell of hot weather. On the road to Wentworth Falls we passed through a number of heavy rain showers and were somewhat concerned that we may not be able to undertake the promised guided tour of the ‘Charles Darwin Walk’ later in the day.

As we approached historic Tarella Cottage and the Blue Mountains Historical Society’s (BMHS) head quarters at ‘Hobby’s Reach’, 99 Blaxland Road, the rain ceased and heralded a brighter day.

We were welcomed by Susan Warmbath and Peter Rickwood of BMHS. After a cup of tea we enjoyed a tour of their purpose built research centre and Susan gave a talk on the development of the centre and an outline of the Charles Darwin walk. Following this we were given a guided visit of Tarella Cottage the former home of Beryl McLaughlin. This magnificent cottage had been opened especially for our visit. We were impressed by the amount of restorative work and maintenance effort required to preserve the building. The contents form a museum of yester-year items and memorabilia. Many items in the house were original items from the McLaughlin family whilst others were items that have donated over time. This property is well worth a visit if you are in the area. The next open days are 22-23 April, 16-17 September and 14-15 October.

and were given the opportunity to explore their resources. We came away with many worthwhile suggestions and leads for further development of our own society. The members of BMHS went out of their way to assist us and stated that we were welcome to access their resources.

We sat down to lunch in the centre with the members who would be leading us on the Charles Darwin Walk. These were Peter and Anne Rickwood, Joan Smith and Jo Adams. Peter advised us that the track may be a bit wet in places in view of the rain but thought it would be passable. Having fortified ourselves with another cup of tea we drove to Wilson Park for the start of the walk. The walk is roughly a two-hour journey but is mostly along boardwalks and level trails.

In 1836, naturalist Charles Darwin visited the area following Jamison Creek to Wentworth Falls. Our group followed the route taken by Charles Darwin down along Jamison Creek. We all made it OK and came across some beautiful views. We saw indigenous wildflowers, small waterfalls and fast flowing waterways as the creek led ever down towards Wentworth Falls. Mention was made that there was more water flowing down the creek than people had seen before, this made for some spectacular sights.

We made our way to Wentworth Falls, which we viewed from many vantage points. Charles Darwin described the view as: “...an immense gulf is unexpectedly seen through the trees...walking on a few yards one stands on the brink of a vast



Tarella Cottage. Front row: Eleanor Taylor, Jennifer Stackhouse, Kathie MacMahon, Irene Dowse; Back row: Valerie Holland, Marguerite Wyborn, Valerie Birch & Frank Holland



Eleanor Taylor takes the lead on the Charles Darwin Walk. With her are Irene Dowse, Valerie Holland, Marguerite Wyborn, Jennifer Stackhouse, Kathie McMahon, some members of the Blue Mountains Historical Society, and Val Birch leading up the rear.



Dates for your diary

* Monday 27 March – Yarramundi Mills

Join historian Robert Ellis for an evening lecture about Howells mills at Yarramundi. Built in the early 1800s the mills were destroyed by flood in 1857. Robert Ellis now lives in Oberon but is a descendent of the Howell family. He will share his information about the Howells and other Kurrajong families as he recounts the fascinating history of the mills.

Where: Blaxlands Ridge School House, Blaxlands Ridge Road (adjacent to Fire Station and Community Centre)

Time: 7.30pm

Cost: Gold coin donation (bring a mug for supper)

More information: Jennifer Stackhouse, 4573 0836

* Tuesday 4 April – Bye Bye Bellbird

Gather at Kathie McMahon's home to see a DVD and share memories of the Bellbird Echo from guesthouse to roadside stall and beyond. The DVD was made at a dinner to mark the sale of this historic site. Enjoy reminiscences from the family, guests at the guesthouse, fruit stall customers and neighbours and see historic photos and other records.

Where: 954 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Hills (home of Kathie McMahon)

Time: 11am

Cost: \$5 (bring a plate to share in a pot luck lunch; tea and coffee provided)

More information: Kathie McMahon, 4567 7105

* Monday 9 to Tuesday May – On the Bell's Line of Road

There is still a chance to join our exciting overnight exploration of the Bells Line of Road from Kurrajong to Hartley. We will visit Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens, Bell, Mt Victoria and Hartley and many other points of interest. Learn how the road was built and find out about the families who lived on and used the road. The tour is led by Les Dollin. Guest speaker at our evening dinner will be Trish Downes, who will talk about families of the area.

Where: Travel by individual car (car pooling available).

Time: 9.00am departure

Cost: \$99 (accommodation, dinner and breakfast). All other meals at own expense. Overnight accommodation including dinner, bed and breakfast has been arranged at the Manor House, Mt Victoria for \$99 (per person, twin share). If you are intending to join this excursion, please forward a deposit and booking fee of \$30 in total as soon as possible.

More information: Frank and Valerie Holland (02) 4573 2226 (and see full program page 6 of this newsletter).

Coming events

* Monday 24 July: Midwinter dinner and speaker

* Monday 25 September: AGM and trivia night

* Monday 27 November: Lecture evening with Laurie Duffy

Bookings

To book for any of these events, call Joy Shepherd on (02) 4571 1524. All cheques should be made out to the Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society and posted to

KCHS, PO Box 174, Kurmond, 2757. Include your name, address and phone number along with the event you are booking for and the names of those attending.

Venues

Activities will be scheduled at different venues to make use of halls, meeting rooms and restaurants throughout the district. Check venues carefully before setting off. Any problems en route contact Jennifer on 0417 692 133.

Next newsletter

The next issue of 'The Millstone' will be published in May 2006. If you have an item to include in the newsletter please contact Jennifer Stackhouse on 4573 0836. Copy deadline is 14 April 2006.

COMMITTEE

President: Jennifer Stackhouse

Vice President: Kathie McMahon

Secretary: Valerie Holland

Treasurer: Joy Shepherd

Minute Secretary: Pat O'Toole

Committee Members: Airdrie Martin, Marguerite Wyborn, Robyn Fuller, Les Dollin

Project Officer: Frank Holland

Acquisitions Officer: Val Birch

Millstone Editor: Greg Upton



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*Loxley on Bellbird Hill
is delighted to be a member of the
Kurrajong - Comleroy Historical Society Inc.*

Loxley specialises in

- Special Events
- Anniversaries
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- Weddings
- Private Dining
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Helen Lord's wedding 16th March 1921

- Winner of Parramatta Regional Awards for Excellence in Sales and Marketing 2005
- Western Sydney Vocational Excellence Award for Help and Support for School Based Trainees 2005
- Highly commended Western Sydney Industry Awards for Regional Excellence in Outstanding Regional Promotion 2005
- Highly commended Western Sydney Industry Awards for Entrepreneur of the Year 2004
- Winner of Hawkesbury Excellence in Business Presentation for Ten or More Employees 2004
- Winner of Western Sydney Industry Awards for Tourism Most Outstanding Contribution to Western Sydney Tourism by a Small Business 2003
- Winner of Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Meetings and Business Tourism 2003
- Winner of the HMAA Best Short Break Accommodation in NSW/ACT 2003
- Business Advisory Service Inc. Best Home Based Business of the Year Award 2003
- Winner of Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Hosted Accommodation 2002