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5 CWA meeting 1930

An article from the Windsor & Richmond Gazette March 1930, detailing the Kurrajong CWA's Annual Meeting and elections.

6 Early notice of the AGM

A reminder to members that an important meeting will soon be upon us. The voting process is explained and a nomination form is provided.

7 Gladys' story

Part three of Gladys Vincent's life story covering the years 1935–1954. She would have been 16 to 35 years of age.

8 Mystery picture

This month's photo is the inaugural committee of the Kurrajong CWA. The article on page 5 might help to identify those who are unknown.

9 Obituary

A brief outline of the life of Meredyth Hungerford, a noted local historian and one of the foundation members of the Society.

History House visit

VALERIE HOLLAND

On 13th February 19 members and friends set off from Richmond to Sydney to visit History House, the home of the Royal Australian Historical Society. The aim of the visit was to learn about the content of their library collection and to collect some old journals that had been put aside for our Society.

RAHS Manager Mari Metzke welcomed us and imparted to us some of the history of the RAHS and its building. The pathway to Federation in 1901 stimulated the growing interest of some distinguished gentlemen for the preservation of Australia's history and resulted in the Society's formation in March 1901. Until the 1930's historical research was presented in lectures before being typed, then linotyped and printed in journals. This created a priceless record of the oral history of the time researched by historians only a generation or two after the times of our pioneers.

The Society was homeless for the first few decades then spent 20 years at 8 Young Street in a building adjacent to the original AMP Building. In the 1960's the AMP wanted to build another tower on the site of their building, so negotiations led to them finding and fitting out the History House property at 133 Macquarie Street. The RAHS took possession in the 1960's and owns the building outright.

History House is a gracious heritage Victorian-styled building typical of the former upper middle class town houses and gentlemen's family residences once present in Macquarie Street. It was originally designed in 1871 for George Oakes, a well known pastoralist and politician whose primary residence was at Parramatta. Subsequently many doctors carried on their profession from the premises including a Doctor Bell who had quite an imposing presence.

As the RAHS does not receive Government funding it relies upon the income from tenants plus hire for special occasions of the former dining and drawing rooms and the auditorium. Income is used for the ongoing maintenance of the building and funding the important work of the Society, including indexing and expanding the library collection and the Outreach programme. There are few paid staff members so volunteers provide invaluable assistance.

Continued page 2



Photo: Les Dollin

Members in the library of History House listening to a presentation by Mari Metzke

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 Wheeny Creek millstones on display at Kurrajong Memorial Park.

Logo designed for the Society by artist Tony Dixon

Continued from page 1

There are 360 affiliated historical societies within the RAHS and these have a minimum of 30,000 members. The Society is a membership based organisation so members are an important component of the organisation.

Mari explained the many varied research possibilities within the library. Some of this significant collection includes a local history section larger than that of the State Library; pamphlets, souvenir programmes, 7500 glass slides including the Walker collection which were used with a lantern projector to illustrate early historic lectures, 7500 paper-based photographs including a large number of originals, paper clippings, indexed manuscripts, letters, theses and books including Sands and biographical directories.

Gradually the focus of the Society has become one of research so most of the earlier museum items, once held by the RAHS, have been handed to Sydney's Power House Museum.

After this talk RAHS Administrative Officer Leanne Richards kindly escorted us down the solid timber staircase past some fascinating pictures. One panorama particularly interested some of us because it showed some early windmills in the Sydney landscape, including a couple of fascinating mills mounted on poles.

Downstairs, we were ushered into the former gracious drawing and dining rooms with their grand solid arched wooden window frames and elaborate cornices where we enjoyed morning tea before retracing our steps to the library.

Leann kindly gave us a couple of boxes of RAHS journals full of intriguing articles dating back to 1901. She also searched the computer index for any other journal articles that would be of interest. While some of us packed the journals for the homeward journey other members conducted some personal research before we all went our separate ways, some to visit current city exhibitions and others to enjoy the sights of Sydney. We are grateful to Mari and Leanne for providing their time to show us some of the fascinating and valuable resources in the RAHS library at History House.

Members belonging to historical societies affiliated with the RAHS, including KCHS, are given free access to engage in research in the History House library between the hours of 10:00AM and 4:00PM Monday to Friday. ■



Photo: Mari Metzke

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

FRANK HOLLAND

Hello and best wishes to all readers. You will have noticed that this issue of *The Millstone* is a little larger than previous issues. The committee decided to seek some advertising so as to offset the cost of production and postage of the newsletter. Peggy Israel was most successful in obtaining the advertisements for us. *The Millstone* will still have its primary focus on providing information for members and the recording of articles of an historical nature.

The Society has been most fortunate over the past year in receiving a donation of \$2500 to allow us to purchase mobile display boards, a donation of \$300 to assist with purchasing some external hard drives for our computer archive and more recently a commitment to fund the printing of a coffee table photographic book of locations around The Kurrajong district. The photographs will be selected from our collection and where possible a recent photograph from a similar angle will be included to provide a 'then and now' comparison. The committee expects that the proceeds from the sale of this book will, in time, provide on-going funding for further productions.

Perhaps you or someone you know may be able to help with this project. The biggest need will be when we try to move our physical photographs into an acceptable format a printer will be able to deal with. Computer skills and/or design skills would be a requirement. If you can help please give me call on 4573 2226.

A big thank you goes to Mary Avern for stepping in at short notice to be the guest speaker at our last general meeting. The advertised speaker had to pull out, however, all who attended thoroughly enjoyed Mary's word pictures of early Richmond and the meeting room at the Deerubbin Centre, Windsor. This was a daytime meeting with 28 members attending and it would seem worthwhile to plan for at least one daytime meeting each year. ■

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Photo courtesy Ken Bennett

Longview was built by Ken Bennett's grandparents, the Merimans and is situated in the main street of Kurmond. The following is an extract from the book 'Longleat to Kurmond - The Journey of a Soldier Settlement School'.

"Ernest and Rosa Merriman also arrived from England on the 'SS Bendigo' with six of their seven children, and their furniture including a baby grand piano, in 1929. Originally intending to settle in Maroota, they somehow arrived in Kurmond, and decided to buy the property 'Salopia Orchards' on the corner of Longleat Road and Bells Line of Road. There they built their two-storey home known as 'Longview', opening on 14th June 1930 with a general store at the front of the building."

John and Ethel Navin bought it as a guesthouse and general store in 1939 and renamed it 'Kamilaroi'. The building still overlooks the commercial precinct of Kurmond, albeit in a dilapidated condition.

Longview (Kamilaroi)



Photo: Greg Upton

This photo, taken in April 2007 shows that the overall structure of the building remains as it was built. The only major alterations appear to be the addition of a door, windows and awning on the left and the addition of a door, window and steps in the centre.

Most of the other changes are minor, as would happen with normal upkeep of a building this age. Nearly all of the windows and some of the frames appear to have been replaced, downpipes from the guttering have been added and the paint colour is clearly opposite to what the original had, if it was painted when built.

The condition of the building has been sadly neglected. It would make the ideal bed & breakfast or backpackers accommodation as both groups could utilise Kurmond as their base whilst they travel through our area. They would also be staying in a building with a guest house tradition.

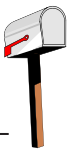
**Kurrajong - Comleroy
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PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757
www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

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Letters to the Editor



2nd April 2007

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate you on the wonderful magazine I receive, *The Millstone*.

Thank you for all the old articles which bring back such happy memories of my childhood. I was especially proud to see my father, the late Norman Minturn, on his motorbike outside our general store in Kurrajong so many years ago. Dad always spoke fondly of his bike.

My many memories include being wheeled in a wheelbarrow down to the railway station each morning to meet 'Pansy' and get the morning papers. I would then be allowed to ride in the driver's van, whilst it was shunted, to begin the trip back to Richmond.

The article on Gladys Taylor also brings back happy memories of Christmas days at 'Burnside' with "Uncle" Les and "Aunty" Gladys. After attending church we kids would run wild with the Taylor children, while Mum and Dad, Les and Gladys would have a few nips in the front room. Uncle Les always hid the grog behind the lemonade.

Congratulations for bringing back so many lovely memories of Kurrajong in the 'good old days'.

Yours sincerely,

Clr. Dianne Finch (nee Minturn).

The night the pub burnt down

AS TOLD TO JOY SHEPHERD BY JOHN MORRISON

John Morrison of Kurrajong Heights will never forget 14 April, 1975 — the fateful night that Kurrajong Heights Hotel burnt down.

John was an employee of the hotel, owned by Trevor Shelley. He and fellow employee Charlie Waddell also worked in the slacker times at a pub at Balmain. He and Charlie had come home from town late that afternoon, tired after a long shift and had a beer together. John decided to have an early night and went home to where he lived next door. He was roused by Neil Webster close to 11 o'clock telling him the pub was alight.

Charlie lived at the hotel. After his one beer with John he went on up to the kitchens to cadge some dinner from the cook. He decided on some prawn cutlets and took them to his room to wash down with a second beer while he watched the television. He fell asleep in the chair until he was awakened by the noise of the fire. As he raced down the staircase he remembered his coin collection and decided to go back to retrieve it. The fire had quickly taken hold and when he returned the staircase was alight making it impassable. Running to the bathroom he managed to squeeze through the bathroom window and jump to the garden below. He hit the stone wall breaking his ankle.

John and his mate Neil decided to get a better view from the back of the hotel and while racing up the hill heard some moaning. Upon investigation they discovered poor Charlie in the overgrown garden and were able to pull him out. John remembers that the fire was so hot that the timbers became white as they crashed to the ground.

Luckily there were only four other people in the hotel at the time. Richard Dwyer and his wife were baby-sitting Trevor Shelley's two children while Trevor and his wife were at a function in town. They all managed to get away and clear of the hotel in the early stages of the fire.



Far left in the photo is Ian Haggart, Ken Haggart is to his right

Photo courtesy of Laurie Duffy

The hotel had a huge neon sign at the front, about thirty feet high and in three stages, indicating the three sections of the building. Trevor was very conscious of the cost of running this sign and got upset if it was left on all night. He was driving a borrowed Oldsmobile home when he noticed the lights on the mountain. He increased his anger and his speed when he decided that the sign had not been switched off. However, when he realised that the pub was actually alight the Oldsmobile had the fastest trip of its life. Imagine his devastation at finding his beautiful building almost burnt to the ground, but his relief to find his family had been saved.

Trevor had just completed some renovations, especially in the bar area, installing a self serve bottle shop. He had spent a lot of money in stocking it with all kinds of fancy spirits. Of course these fuelled the fire and caused the very colourful fireworks display.

It was all over in no time at all. This magnificent edifice was lost forever. Detective Sergeant Kenny of Richmond Police came out to conduct the investigation and no conclusions were really ever reached as to the cause of the fire. ■

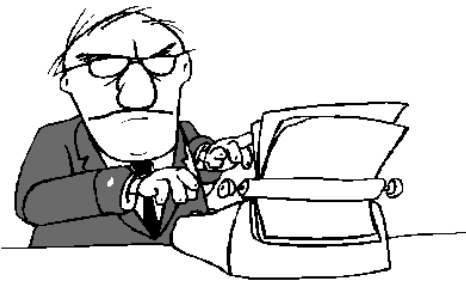


Not long before

This photo is from a Kurrajong Heights tourist folder sold at the Heights post office in the 1970's. The photo is believed to have been taken in 1974, not long before the hotel burnt down.

The hotel underwent many changes during its life, not just structurally but also to the surrounds. This is how the hotel would have appeared to an observer on its final day.

The cars parked nose-in next to the hotel are predominately HQ model Holdens, the one parked at the front is an earlier model Holden. The HQ model commenced production in 1972, so the photo can be no older than this date. ■



From the Editor

I feel privileged to have been asked to help ensure the Society's digital photo archives will be available to future generations. I am assisting Joy Shepherd in copying the CD collection to a much more secure form:— external hard drive.

As the original, rather than emailed images are now also directly accessible for use in *The Millstone*, readers should see a further improvement in the clarity of photos.

It is a time consuming and laborious process but I do not mind in the least as I have been rewarded with viewing some very nice moments, views, and people taken in an instant of time during the district's past. I have seen but a part of the Society's collection so far, and even though it is young there are many gems within it.

Members should be proud of the collection, appreciative of the efforts of those who have helped in its formation and upkeep, and reward their efforts by passing on photos for inclusion in the archive, regardless of their own opinion of their worth.

Councillor Dianne Finch's letter on page three is testament to how the Society is able to benefit the wider community. Her family were pioneers in the district. We appreciate her encouragement and support and hope she is able to further help the Society in preserving and detailing our district's history.

notpuc@bigpond.com

Kurrajong CWA Annual Meeting 1930

WINDSOR & RICHMOND GAZETTE MARCH 7TH 1930

Members of the above association held their second annual meeting in the Parish Hall on the 19th February. The President, Mrs Lord was in the chair.

Secretary's Report

The Following report was submitted by the Secretary, Mrs V. E. John.

The branch has had a very successful year, and has held eleven monthly meetings which were well attended. The number of members enrolled during the past year was fifty.

The efforts of the members have been mainly directed in helping the Windsor and Richmond Hospitals and the Home for the Infirm, Windsor. Mrs Hamlin, Mrs Lord and Mrs Ziems attended as delegates the Annual Conference in Sydney. In June we held a very successful euchre party and dance in aid of the Windsor Hospital. Mrs I. S. Dunston was the Secretary of this function, which resulted in a net profit of £20.

At the July meeting Mrs Blessing (Penrith) gave an interesting address dealing with the social activities of the CWA. In August Mrs Ziems sent in her resignation as Secretary which was received with regret. Mrs Hamlin and Mrs I. S. Dunston attended as delegates the meeting of the Cumberland branch on August 28th. Mrs H. Dunston and Mrs Hamlin were the hostesses at a linen gift afternoon held on 3rd October. The gifts received included many useful articles which were equally divided between the Windsor and Richmond Hospitals.

An egg day was held in October in aid of the House of Infirm, Windsor and fifteen dozen eggs were collected. Gifts of

cake were also sent to this home at different times during the year.

A layette for the use of needy maternal cases in the public ward of the Richmond Hospital was generously donated by members and handed over to the Trustees of that institution.

Mrs Lord and Mrs I. S. Dunston attended the group conference in November. Two resolutions were placed on the Agenda paper.

Our last effort of the year was the 'Australian Supper and Gift Afternoon' in aid of the funds and country work [or week]. It proved a great success, both socially and financially.

A Christmas party was given to members' children at the close of the last meeting of the year. Each child received a gift.

In conclusion I would like to pay a tribute to our President for the capable and tactful manner in which she has conducted all meetings, for the help and considerations extended to me at all times. I would ask Madam President and the members to accept my sincere thanks.

Balance Sheet

The Treasurer, Miss Halstead, then presented the balance sheet, which was satisfactory. A balance of £7/17/7 was credited.

In moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, the President thanked the Secretary, Treasurer and members for their hearty support and co-operation during the past year.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:— President — Mrs Lord (re-elected), Vice Presidents — Mesdames Hemsworth, Dillon, H. Dunston and Hayden. Secretary — Mrs V. John (re-elected), Treasurer — Miss John. ■

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Early Notice of the Annual General Meeting & Voting Process

The 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on September the 24th. The venue will be Comleroy Road Primary School and proceedings will start at 7:30PM. A reminder will be provided in the July–August issue of *The Millstone*.

The election process will apply as follows.

All positions will be declared vacant and members are invited to nominate candidates for any or all of the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and five committee members. There is no need to make a nomination for every position. You can, if you wish, make a nomination for just one or as many as you prefer.

A nomination is not valid unless the nominee is *proposed* and *seconded* by financial members, and the nominee has *signed* the form stating that they are willing to accept the position, if elected.

The election will take place at the Annual General Meeting. If you would like to register your vote but will be unable to attend, a proxy form can be obtained by contacting the secretary. The names of those nominated will be included in the July–August issue of *The Millstone*. The proxy can be left open so that the nominated holder may vote on your behalf, or alternatively, you may nominate your selected candidates.

Our Constitution restricts the number of proxies which can be held by an individual member to three. Completed proxy forms need to be in the hands of the secretary no later than 5:00PM on the 21st of September.

**Nomination forms need to be received by
The Secretary, PO Box 174, Kurmond NSW 2757
no later than 5:00PM 30th June**

Nomination form – Annual General Meeting 2007

Position	Nominee (print)	Proposer signature	Seconder signature	Nominee signature
President				
Vice President				
Secretary				
Treasurer				
Committee 1				
Committee 2				
Committee 3				
Committee 4				
Committee 5				

Gladys' story

GLADYS VINCENT

Part three 1935 – 1954

January 1936 had us a big patch of potatoes on Timberinga. Les and his father dug them. Nana and I washed and bagged them. I can still see Bobby 6 months old sitting in the middle of this playing with potatoes, part of the team.

We spent the rest of the year trying to make a good living. It was very hard. Les decided we would have to try something else, we were expecting another baby. In January 1937 we went to Coogee for 6 weeks and Les took a six-week Hairdressing Course in Hay Street, Sydney. On my 23rd birthday we moved to Wallacia to open a Barber shop in the lounge room of a house we rented. Geoff was born on the 9th April, 1937 in Richmond Hospital. It was Les' 25th birthday.

We lived in Wallacia for just over 6½ years, and had two more children – Pam on the 20th August, 1938 and Joy on 3rd March, 1941. We now had two boys and two girls. After a couple of years we were able to build a fibro cottage with a shop in front. We made some good friends and stayed in touch for years afterwards.

Les was exempt from the Second World War as he had four children. In 1942 – 1943 he drove a truck on the site of the Warragamba Dam carrying explosives. I looked after the children and the shop. Then Les cut hair till midnight each night.

We got our first car in 1939 and were able to come back to Kurrajong on weekends. My sister Irene married Jim Vincent in December 1940. Irene spent a lot of time with us while Jim was overseas at war.

Mr & Mrs Herbert Giles lived at "Burnside", Kurrajong North. They had been there for 30 years and had no children.

Mr Giles was a very sick man and Les used to shave him each time we came to Kurrajong. There were a lot of acres in "Burnside", it was in 3 blocks divided by roads, and was for sale. We decided to buy one of the blocks and one day Mr Giles asked "Why don't you buy all of it?" Les said "I don't have enough for the deposit". Mr Giles said "The oranges need picking. If you pick them and send them you will have the money." So Les, I and two little boys, did it.

In the Spring we moved to Burnside to go farming again. We were there for 30 years and had a very busy life. I think our first outing was to Kathie McMahon's first birthday party. The McMahons lived not far from us and Kevin sold some of our fruit on his stall at different times.

When Jim Vincent came back from the war, he and Irene settled in Vincent Road and started their family. They built a new home on Redbank Road. Through the years we would take it in turn for Sunday night's tea. One Sunday, at our place, the next at Irene and Jim's. That was until television, and we stayed home a night more often. We also worked on St Stephen's Church Fete for years. We had the fruit and vegie stall, Irene and Jim had the flower stall.

Les' mother died on 19th December, 1941 before we left Wallacia. His father married again a couple of years later. He married Annie Robinson (nee Lord) and they had a son Albert.

Lots of things happened over the Burnside years, including lots of work on the farm. My sister Lil married Vic Robinson. My brother Jim married Pat Degotardi. My Dad died of cancer in October 1950. My sister Gwen married Geoff Burgess. My Mum went back to Scotland to visit her brother Walter, and stayed a few months.

Our daughter Susan was born on 5 July, 1952, over 11 years between her and Joy. Neil our last child was born on 13 April, 1954. Our eldest, Bobby, married Joan O'Donnell in 1955.

Mr Pross used to live in the stationmaster's house, his wife and baby died of TB. He built the new theatre and three adjoining houses on Old Bells Line of Road, they were all built with the same kind of brick.

A few years after Dad died Mum sold "Bonnie View", and bought one of Mr Pross' houses. There is no sign of a farm or orchard on "Bonnie View" it was subdivided and is all covered with houses now.

After we came back to Kurrajong our children went to Netley Hill School (now Kurrajong North) for a while before going to Kurrajong school. Later they went to Richmond High on the train. When Bob left school we worked on the farm for a while, then decided he would sooner drive trucks. Geoff also worked on the farm for three years. He decided to become an Anglican Minister, so returned to school to gain his Leaving Certificate and go on to Moore College. Pam worked in Woodhills Store at Kurrajong in the office, and Joy in the office of the Hawkesbury Development Company in Richmond, the local electricity undertaking.

We had our first big bushfire in 1944. There were a long row of bamboos at 'Burnside' near the house and the fire was coming over the mountains with a strong wind blowing. There were fires on Kurrajong side as well. We put the girls in the open paddock at the back of the house. The 2 boys had a bucket of water each at the bamboos to put out any sparks. Luckily the wind changed and we were safe. ■



Photo taken at 'Bonnie View' 1942. Les Taylor, his wife & family, and 1938 Ford V8
L - R Geoffrey, Pamela, Gladys nursing Joy, & Robert (Bobby)

Mystery Picture



Photo: Eileen Ford collection

Kurrajong CWA 1928

EILEEN FORD

The Country Womens Association was formed in New South Wales and Queensland in 1922. This photo was taken six years later in 1928 on the verandah of St Stephen's Church of England parish hall. The hall was originally located at the corner of Comleroy and Roxana Roads but was later moved and placed next to the church in Grose Vale Road.

The ladies present formed the original branch of the Kurrajong CWA. The identity of some is without question, others are doubtful and some are unknown.

Front row L-R (unknown), Mrs Grace Lord, Mrs Arthur Dunston, Mrs Horan, Mrs Phyllis Tate, Mrs John.

Back row L-R (unknown), (unknown), (unknown), (unknown), Marg Roberts, Mrs Quin, (unknown), Mrs Stella Turner.

If you have any thoughts on the identity of the unknown people, or you might have information on the others, please feel free to pass them on to the treasurer or editor.

EDITORS NOTE Mrs John, front row far right – some think it should be *Miss Mary* John. Miss Mary would have been very young in 1928 and unlikely to be wearing a wedding ring, not obvious in this printed photo but clear in the original.

From the Archive

Neville and 'friend'

This photograph is of Philip Shepherds' uncle, Neville Shepherd. The photo is believed to have been taken circa 1927.

The description on the photo reads: "A young Neville Shepherd, decked out in boots, hat, toy gun and with his little friend."

Neville tragically died whilst attending the Hawkesbury races in September 1950, at the young age of 43 years.

Neville's son Max has had a copy of this photo framed and he regards it as one of his proudest possessions.



Photo: Joy Shepherd collection

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

An open letter

RICHARD & JOAN PEAK

Since I was unable to express myself on Australia Day I would just like to say how much Joan and I have appreciated the camaraderie, or should I just say mateship brought to our lives through KCHS and the efforts of many in its ranks.

I have always thought that the real interest in history lies in the day to day details of the lives of our forebears, how they survived, what were their motivations, what tools did they use and did they imagine their valued place in their lives?

Through the efforts of many people the KCHS has provided the means by which those who follow after us may know our forebears for the Heroes they were, which is surely invaluable if any lessons are to be learned from history.

Thank you Joy and others for your kind words and the most interesting memento, 'The Top Ten of Everything', which we note does not rate Historical Societies; if it did we know which one would be number 1.

We intend to keep in touch but would like all our friends to know our future address where they will be welcome at any time. It will be:

R & J Peak
No. 22 Eaglebrook
3/13 Cook Road
Eagle Heights
QLD 4271 Mobile 0415 219 456

Thank you all.

Kind regards,
Richard and Joan

New members

VALERIE HOLLAND

Ruth Barber

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our latest new member Ruth Barber and hope that she enjoys our friendship during meetings and outings.

At the same time we are sorry to see that two of our long-term members, Richard and Joan Peak, are about to depart the district to be closer to family members. We appreciate the warmth of Richard's letter of thanks to the Society and its members, and wish both Richard and Joan a very happy life in their surroundings in Queensland.

Member email details

Email is proving a very effective way of informing members of late changes to all of the Society's activities at short notice, between issues of *The Millstone*.

To receive regular updates you need to ensure your email address is registered with the Treasurer and if you change any of your details, including residential, a short email will ensure your records are kept up to date.

An email notification can be delivered at little cost, negating the need of telephone calls.

Email your details to Joy Shepherd:
joyshep1@bigpond.com

OBITUARY

Meredyth Effie Hungerford 1917 – 2007

Loving wife to Antony Guy (deceased), much loved mother to Lesley Jane, Keith, Rosalind, Sylvia. Grandmother to Kathy, Craig, Lynette, Jeffrey, Jocelyn, Guy, Zoe and Jude. Great-grandmother to Ben, Patrick and Samantha. Loved sister of Helen.

Meredyth Hungerford, one of the foundation members of the Society, passed away at Kurrajong Nursing Home on the morning of the 29th March.

She was a noted local historian, particularly well-known for her publication 'Bilpin – The Apple Country.' Wisemans Books in Richmond rate this book amongst their most popular and sought after publications these last few years. She was also the recipient of the Society's first Australia Day award in January 2005.

Meredyth's ancestors came to Australia from England, Ireland and Scotland. She was born on the 5th of February 1917 at St. Kilda, Victoria to Laurence Eliot Thomson and Sylvia Fawcett. They were married in 1916.

When Meredyth was five her parents moved to Sydney, settling in Pymble. She later spent six months in Perth helping her uncle Bill. She learnt to touch-type and to do shorthand at Miss Hale's Business College and followed this with a job in the research department at J. Walter Thompson advertising agency, later teaching at St. Catherine's Clergy Daughters College at Waverley.

Continued page 10

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

VALERIE HOLLAND

Saturday 26th May

The fourth of Hawkesbury City Council Library's 'Hawkesbury Heritage' seminar series will be held at the historic Rouse Hill Farm. Speakers will be Fergus Clune and Dr. Donald Elsemore. Donald is the council's heritage advisor.

The subject will be: 'Reading a Building – Understanding the Conservation Environment'. There will be an inspection of the outbuildings, interiors, wallpapers, fabrics and furnishings, plus sourcing materials. The seminar is free of charge. Those who would like to attend can contact Michelle Nichols on 4560 4460.

Monday 28th May

A general meeting will be held at the North Richmond Community Centre, William Street, North Richmond at 7:30PM. Guest speaker will be Laurie Forth, an author who will share with us some of the fascinating life of former convict and North Richmond midwife, Margaret Catchpole.

Copies of Laurie's book on Margaret Catchpole will be available for sale and supper will be served. A gold coin donation will be appreciated.

Tuesday 5th June

Marguerite Wyborn has arranged a tour of historic 'Wivenhoe' at 229 Macquarie Grove Road Camden. It is the former home of five-times Premier of NSW Sir Charles Cowper, from 1837-1873, and the house has been owned by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan since 1910. We will leave from Kurrajong Village at 9:00AM, possibly by car pool and expect to arrive at Wivenhoe 10:30AM. Please bring your own morning tea to have before the tour of Wivenhoe. After the tour there will be an optional lunch at the Camden Valley Inn, at each member's expense. Prices are very moderate.

Bookings are essential and the cost is \$10. Contact Joy Shepherd on 4571 1524 by the 22nd of May.

Friday 29th June – Sunday 1st July

TRAK has asked the Society to mount and man a display during their 2nd Annual Hawkesbury Hobby & Model Show at Clarendon Showground. This is an outreach opportunity to showcase some of our photos and assist us to interact with members of the community. Frank Holland would appreciate the assistance of members for this event. Contact him on 4573 2226.

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Meredyth and Antony were married on 22nd December 1941 at Chatswood. Antony joined the army and was posted to New Guinea in 1942.

Their first child, Lesley Jane was born on Christmas day 1943. In 1946 Antony was discharged and the family moved to Berambing where they lived in a shack called 'Whyelan.' When Keith was born in mid 1946 and Rosalind arrived in 1948 the family needed more space and moved to 'Cadelgo' which Antony's father had built.

Antony developed the apple and stone fruit orchards that his father had planted and worked in the sawmill with his father.

Sylvia arrived in 1950. In 1958 Cadelgo was supplemented by a tram to provide additional accommodation and it remained the family home until 1992.

Meredyth and Antony then moved to 'Gadara' a new house built by Rosalind's husband Frank Allat. Soon after they moved there Antony died but Meredyth lived there alone for about a decade until Rosalind and Frank retired.

Throughout her life Meredyth took an active role in community activities. She was a long term member of the Bilpin District Womens Association and provided guidance and inspiration in the formation of the historical society at Comleroy Road. She spent 17 years teaching English and History at Richmond High School from 1959 to 1976. Many of her students remember her with a special fondness.



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Helen Lord's wedding 16th March 1921

- Winner Western Sydney Industry Awards for Regional Excellence in Outstanding Service 2006
- Winner Suncorp Parramatta Regional Awards for Excellence in Customer Service & Chairman's Choice 2006
- Winner Parramatta Regional Awards for Excellence in Sales & Marketing 2005
- Western Sydney Vocational Excellence Award for Help & Support for School-based Trainees 2005
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- Winner Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Meetings & Business Tourism 2003
- Winner HMAA Best Short Break Accommodation in NSW/ACT 2003
- Winner Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Hosted Accommodation 2002