

## Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society Newsletter

*The Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society is dedicated to researching, recording, preserving and promoting the growth of interest in the history of the Kurrajong district, the area west of the Hawkesbury River bounded by Bilpin and the Grose and Colo rivers*

### THIS ISSUE

#### 3 History through music

Kathie McMahon gives a detailed explanation of the programme she has put together allowing school children a better understanding of local history.

#### 4 Powerhouse field trip

The Powerhouse Discovery Centre at Castle Hill was the venue for the Society's May field trip.

#### 5 Kurrajong remembers

Frank Holland explains the purpose of one of the most ambitious programmes to be undertaken by the Society – 'Kurrajong Remembers 1810 – 2010'.

#### 7 Rev Leonard Daniels

Final instalment of Betty Upton's article concerning the life of Rev Leonard Daniels.

#### 8 Richmond cannon

Brief article on the history of the cannon in Richmond Park accompanied by two photos.

#### 9 Tennis news

Article from an early newspaper detailing the opening of the North Richmond Tennis Club courts.

#### 10 Mystery photo

Greg Upton stumbled upon some mysterious bunkers while bushwalking near Burralow Road but cannot find anyone who can confirm their origin.

#### 12 Dates for your diary

Final reminders of two of the Society's activities - the mid year dinner meeting on Tuesday, 22 July and a field trip to the remains of Benjamin Singleton's grain mill on Saturday, 30 August.

### Kurrajong CWA 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary

VALERIE HOLLAND

A meeting was convened by Mrs R. Lord and Mrs Zeims on 17 April 1928 in the parish hall of St Stephens Church of England, Kurrajong, for the purpose of forming a branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) of New South Wales in Kurrajong. From the small gathering of eight women Mrs Lord was elected president of the new branch. The parish hall was the branch's home from 1928 – 1936 after which they met in the Kurrajong Theatre, opposite the present Memorial Park from 1936 – 1956, before moving to the Returned Services League Hall in the village.

Kurrajong branch joined eight other branches to form the Nepean Group on 30 November 1930 and Mrs Lord was elected group president.

From these small beginnings members of the Kurrajong branch prospered and have become a respected group of women within the community. Members have worked tirelessly to support the community and beyond through the Great Depression, world conflicts, successive droughts, floods and fires, and to address present day community difficulties.

2008 marked an important milestone for the Kurrajong branch of the CWA of New South Wales. The members celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a luncheon held at the Richmond Club in Richmond, Wednesday, 16 April 2008.

Dignitaries who joined in celebrating this valued achievement included Margaret Roberts, Madam State President of the CWA of NSW, Louise Markus, Federal Member for Greenway, Alan Shearan, State member for Londonderry and Bart Bassett, Mayor of Hawkesbury City council. The large gathering of CWA members and friends included CWA representatives from Castle Hill, Toongabbie, St Marys, Fairfield, Nepean, Hawkesbury, Richmond and members of the Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society.

Two awards were presented to mark the occasion. Beryl Wells was awarded a life membership for years of dedicated work within the CWA by Mrs Roberts, who also presented Wendy Dunston with her twenty year long service badge.

Kurrajong CWA Branch President Lynn Griffith received a certificate of congratulations for the branch's eighty years of service to the community from MP Louise Markus. Members of Kurrajong branch were congratulated by their state president and encouraged to continue their good work.

During the afternoon guests happily chatted about the achievements of the CWA while enjoying lunch and being entertained by the male a cappella group, the Silver Fox Quartet.



Valerie Holland & CWA member Dianne Fenech

*Continued back page*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

FRANK HOLLAND

The committee has met in May and June to attend to affairs of the Society and it is with regret we advise that John Howard has resigned from the committee. John has found he is unable to maintain regular attendance at meetings due to competing personal interests. I thank John for his contribution over the last year.

A number of actions and activities have commenced or been completed since the publication of the previous issue of *The Millstone*. Nineteen members and friends visited the Powerhouse Discovery Centre at Castle Hill on 13 May. An article on the trip is on page four.

At the May general meeting twenty-nine members and friends received a presentation from Ian Small, author of the semi historic-fictional book, *The Kurrajongs*. The book chronicles a contingent of men who enlisted from the Inverell district and served on the Western Front in the First World War. Having read the book I have no hesitation in recommending it to members.

A motion was passed at the general meeting endorsing the committee's proposal to stage a series of events to celebrate the 1810 journey of Governor Macquarie to Kurrajong Heights. This will be a once-off opportunity to celebrate the 200 year anniversary of this early journey. A full account of the planned activities appears on page five.

This will be a major undertaking for the Society and will require the assistance and input of many members. We have a solid group of people who have indicated their willingness to help but more will be needed. If you have an interest in any event or would like to help please contact either myself, Valerie Birch, Les Dollin or any member of the committee.

Valerie and I attended the AGM of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations at Woodford Academy on 31 May. A major theme of the meeting dealt with the difficulties surrounding the maintenance of an independent voice in heritage matters as a result of the absorption of heritage offices into branches of planning departments. The impacts are likely to be detrimental for all interested in the preservation of history and heritage.

The fifth and sixth of July will see our involvement in the third TRAK Hobby and Model Exhibition at Clarendon. We will be mounting as a centrepiece the model of Singleton's Mill together with a working model of the water wheel. Thanks are due to Bryan Wyborn and Les and Anne Dollin for the construction of the models and sets. ❧



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## Serious Mishap at North Richmond

Mr Ernest Myers and Mr Page Price had a rather unenviable experience at North Richmond on Tuesday. Mr Myers was engaged sinking a well at "Hilly Cottage," the property of Mr James Price. They were down some 40 feet, and on Tuesday fired a shot of blasting powder. After waiting until he thought the fumes had cleared Mr Myers went down. Ten minutes or so elapsed, and Mr Price became alarmed, on account of the unusual quiet below, and decided to go down. He had hardly reached the bottom when he was almost overcome by the fumes and gases, and signalled to be raised to the surface. He saw Myers prostrate at the bottom of the well, overcome. Further help was summoned, (Messrs T. Wheeler and A. Phipps arriving) and Mr Will Allen, who had been there, went down to Myers assistance. He had hardly time to tie a rope round the unfortunate man before he became overpowered by the fumes and was pulled up unconscious, but soon recovered. Myers was got up, and appeared to be dead. Dr Helsham was sent for, and attended Messrs Myers and Price. The latter come round in half an hour, but was ill from the effects of the strange experience for a couple of days. Mr Myers was unconscious for seven or eight hours, and is now, as also Mr Price, doing well.

*Windsor & Richmond Gazette*  
17 October 1905

**Kurrajong - Comleroy  
Historical Society Incorporated**  
PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757  
[www.kurrajonghistory.org.au](http://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au)

### COMMITTEE

*President* Frank Holland  
*Vice President* Airdrie Martin  
*Secretary* Valerie Holland  
*Treasurer* Joy Shepherd  
*Minutes Secretary* Pat O'Toole  
*Committee Members* Steve Rawling AM,  
 Greg Upton, Pat O'Toole,  
 Janet Zerbini

*Projects Officer* Janet Zerbini  
*Grants Officer* Garth Smith  
*Media Relations* Robyn Fuller  
*Millstone Editor* Chris Upton  
*Webmaster* Greg Upton



## From the Editor

John Leary OAM, president of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations, concluded his address at the Annual General Meeting held on 31 May with the mention of two 'extraordinary' people; Florence Smart, president of the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society and myself, editor of *The Millstone*.

Our society was represented at the meeting and I was forwarded a transcript of his report. In part it states, "... and I refer to the work of that history society's newsletter editor, Chris Upton. Having been a newspaper editor for a major part of my working life, I tend to be unfairly critical of the quality of societies' newsletters, but I want to commend to you the work of Chris Upton. The professionalism of Comleroy-Kurrajong Historical Society's newsletter, *The Millstone* is outstanding. The well written and edited articles are displayed for easy reading and cover a wide range of topics."

I have received much praise, thanks and encouragement from many people since inheriting the position from my brother Greg. It was only on reading John Leary's comments that I realised my efforts have also been recognised by my peers.

A newsletter is an evolving work in progress with minor changes over time helping to develop it into a readable, informative and cohesive layout. The groundwork Greg passed on to me nearly two years ago was a great foundation. The content people have sent and promptness of replies for feedback have been invaluable in the development of *The Millstone*.

[notpuc@bigpond.com](mailto:notpuc@bigpond.com)

### New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following new members

**SANDRA McEWAN**  
**MARGARET PIERCE**

## Teaching history through music

KATHIE MCMAHON

A very successful workshop was presented at the 2008 National Folk Festival in Canberra entitled 'Music Brings Local History Alive'. It was designed by Kathie McMahon and Steve Rawling. It outlined a method of teaching grade three and four students their local history using songs related to that history.

The songs were from the disc and book *Memories of Kurrajong* by Steve Rawling covering aspects of the history of the Kurrajong area. The songs were performed by a band comprising the Sommers family, Evan Mathieson, Duncan Chalmers, Steve Rawling and Kathie McMahon. The songs covered early exploration, agriculture, farming, bushranging, transport and other aspects of the history of the Kurrajong district.

The purpose of the workshop was to demonstrate how such songs might be found, adapted and created in a local area and how teachers, musicians and history enthusiasts can work together to use music as the basis for teaching local history, aligning with the themes the NSW Department of Education has set for the teaching of local history.

Kathie distributed documents which she had prepared to obtain information from all those present, local musicians, historical societies, schools and the Education Department.

There is nothing new about the relationship between music in the folk tradition and history. The significant element of the workshop was that it showed how this connection can be used to bring local history alive when, as is often the case, neither pupils or their teachers know a great deal about it.

The model has been tested in a series of lessons which Kathie delivered at Kurrajong North Public School where she found great enthusiasm amongst the pupils for songs with catchy tunes and choruses. The lessons clearly showed that the idea works.

Kathie also presented a similar workshop at the Dorrigo Musical Festival last year which involved the Sommers family. Bridget Sommers is keen to apply the model in that area and has identified some local songs which she performed at the workshop. The Sommers family band included Angela on vocals and fiddle, Mathew on mandolin, Alex on fiddle, Matilda on vocals, Mum Bridget on guitar and vocals and Dad Ken on double bass completed the family band.

Well-known and experienced performers Evan Mathieson on autoharp and Duncan Chalmers on guitar rounded off the workshop with examples of songs from other regions. Evan performed the poem *Newfield Bell* from the shipwreck coast of Victoria, where he was raised, and Duncan sang a song from the rich history of the mining industry.

There is a kit available, at a small charge, for anyone who might be interested in further information concerning the workshops and the material used. It consists of a sample letter which can be sent to your local historical society for information and is based on HSIE Classification, a sample letter to send to the local school to gauge their interest in the project, ideas on how to put local history to music and a sample project book created by grade three and four pupils.

If you would like further information concerning the workshops or the materials used to present them you are welcome to contact:

**Kathie McMahon**

4567 7105 [bellbird1@hotmail.net.au](mailto:bellbird1@hotmail.net.au)

**Steve Rawling**

4567 7979 [casrawling@bigpond.com](mailto:casrawling@bigpond.com)

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## KEITH FORD

1931 – 2008

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IT WAS WITH MUCH REGRET that we learned of the passing of one of our members, Keith Ford, on 13 March following a long period of ill health.

Keith Edward Ford was born at Bowral in September 1931. He moved to *Bullridge Farm* at East Kurrajong in 1940, along with his parents Reg and Rachel, and brothers Albert and Don.

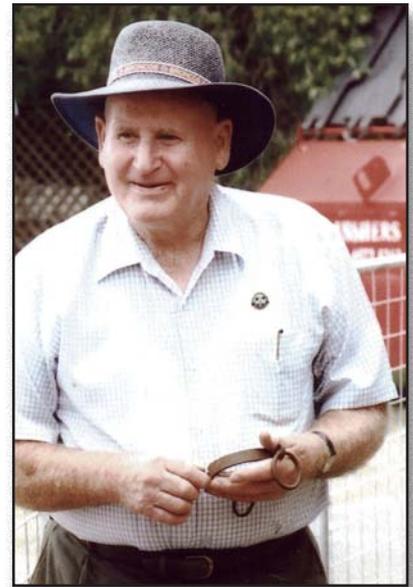
After leaving school he worked with his father for twenty-seven years. They worked a dairy on their property *Sunnyridge*, as well as cutting bakers' wood, mine props, fence posts, telephone and power poles.

In 1954 Keith married Eileen Drury, and they made their home at *Fordsdale*. Here they reared their four children,

Wendy, Kevin, Robyn and Allen. Keith retired in 1993 and spent a lot of time in his garden, before moving to Bligh Park.

Keith and Eileen have been members of our Society almost since its inception. They, along with Keith's brothers Albert and Don were among the first to share their knowledge of the history of the district and they have been tireless in their support of our events. They can always be relied on to contribute something special to enhance our theme.

In his final years Keith enjoyed his family and friends and his work with the Hawkesbury Show. This quiet, friendly and giving man is severely missed by everyone within his large family, the Society, the wider community and all who knew him.



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## Powerhouse Discovery Centre

VALERIE HOLLAND

On 13 May nineteen members and friends travelled to the Discovery Centre at Castle Hill and enjoyed a guided tour of a wide variety of interesting and unusual exhibits.

We were split into two groups and escorted by volunteer Powerhouse guides who told of the history of the site including its original function, to experiment with the process of oil extraction from eucalyptus trees.

Our groups were informed of the various functions of the many exhibits in the large transport store where some exhibits have been restored and more recent acquisitions have been left in their natural condition, which is the current curatorial practice. In this area there were items varying from an old sulky which was formerly used to carry mail to Windsor, to an undertaker's tram trailer, assorted large transport vehicles and farming machinery.

In the store area, where a constant temperature is maintained to preserve items, we were shown some of the thousands of artefacts that the Discovery Centre holds including costing and items from the 2000 Olympic Games, a piano once

owned by Dame Nellie Melba, and a chair fashioned from papier mâché.

Finally we were escorted to the display store where numerous fascinating exhibits are stored in glass cabinets and in sealed drawers. Some items that were of particular interest were the original 'Mastertouch' pianola roll cutting implements, a display cabinet containing many beautiful delicate china pieces and old surveying and medical instruments.

One would need many hours to view the thousands of exhibits so many of our members plan future visits to this worthwhile resource centre. ❧



A horse-drawn Cobb & Co. coach used for carrying passengers and mail. It was built by the Cobb & Co. Coach and Buggy Factory Charleville Queensland 1890

Photo: Anne Dollin

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## Kurrajong remembers 1810 – 2010

FRANK HOLLAND

In recognition and celebration of 200 years of European settlement in the Kurrajong district the Society has commenced a programme which will culminate in a series of special events including a recreation of Governor Macquarie's visit to Kurrajong Heights on 1 December 1810.

Our major events leading up to December 2010 will be linked by this theme. These events include our annual dinners in July and 'Back to the Kurrajong' in October.

Considerable time and thought has been spent on the planning stages of this programme. The committee is grateful to all who have helped in its formative stage. For this project to be successful it will need considerable support over the next three years from not only our members but the wider community as well.

It is the 200 year anniversary of the above mentioned journey to Kurry-Jung Hill that we propose to celebrate in 2010. On Wednesday, 1 December 2010, the plan is to conduct a coach tour covering the journey from Government House Parramatta to Kurrajong Heights tracing as far as possible the route taken by Governor Macquarie and his party. This tour will be followed by a formal dinner in the evening with a distinguished guest of honour. It is also proposed that later in the week a parade complete with soldiers, the Governor, Mrs Macquarie and other actors making up the party, would proceed along Old Bells Line of Road to Memorial Park. At the park Governor Macquarie would make a small speech, present school children with prizes for project work and each school with a commemorative document.

To support the plan a number of sub-committees have been created covering research, funding, publicity, schools liaison, the Donnybrook Inn, coach tour and re-enactment activities.

Although each sub-committee has at least one person as a member more helpers are needed. You can help even if you are unable to devote time to a sub-committee. There will be many varied tasks which need to be completed for which you may be able to provide some assistance.

Proposed activities will be discussed in detail at the programme's launch during our annual dinner at Panther's in July.

A brief summary of some of the activities are: Research and learn of land grants in the area prior to Macquarie's arrival and to access and obtain copies of documents of importance held by community members. Study, discuss and record methods used and difficulties encountered by the early surveyors. Display the full collection of the Society's documents in the CWA hall. A guest speaker giving an overview of the early government with an emphasis on Governor Macquarie and his impact on the Kurrajong district and surrounding areas. Recreate the Donnybrook Inn at the CWA hall with a bush band playing music from the 1800s. Retrace the route taken by Governor and Mrs Macquarie from Government House to Kurrajong. A weekday event involving local school children with actors portraying Macquarie and his party passing through Kurrajong with a proclamation at Memorial Park.

In our lifetime we will only have one chance to mark such an important event. Contact either myself or any committee member for further details of the programme. ☞

## Governor Macquarie's Diary

— 1 December 1810 —

We breakfasted at 9 o'clock this morning, having been joined previous thereto by Mr. Cox, Mr & Mrs Evans, Mr. Forest and some other visitors.

Having sent off our servants & baggage and carriage by the direct road to the Government Cottage at the Green Hills [present day Windsor] on the right bank of the Hawkesbury, we mounted our horses to make an excursion to Richmond Hill, the Kurry Jung Brush and Richmond Terrace on the left bank of the Hawkesbury; setting out from the Yellow-mundie Lagoon at 10 o'clock, accompanied by Mrs Macquarie, the gentlemen of our own family, Mr Cox & Mr. Evans, we crossed the Hawkesbury about a mile from our last encampment, in a boat to Richmond Hill, our horses crossing the river by a bad ford about a half mile higher up, and which we mounted again on landing at Richmond Hill.

We rode up the hill to call on Mrs Bell [the wife of Lieut. Bell of the 102nd Regt.] who resides on her farm on the summit of this beautiful hill, from which there is a very fine commanding Prospect of the River Hawkesbury and adjacent country.

We found Mrs. Bell and her family at home, and after sitting with them for about an hour, we again mounted our horses to prosecute our excursion, directing our course for the Kurry Jung Hill.

We rode through a fine open Forest and hilly country for about 5 miles to the foot of the Curry [sic] Jung Hill, which is very long and steep to ascend, arriving on the summit of it at 12 o'clock, and from whence we had a very grand and noble Prospect of the low grounds on both Banks of the River Hawkesbury as far as the Green Hills.

Having feasted our eyes with this fine prospect on the one hand, and with that of the Blue Mountains (here quite close to us) on the other, we began to descend the hill on the opposite side to that we ascended it, and the descent was so very steep that we had great difficulty to sit our horses.

We arrived, however, safe and without meeting with any accident at the bottom of the hill, which from the summit to the foot cannot be less than a mile long, excessively steep, and covered with thick Brush-wood; but

*Continued page 6*

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## Back to the Kurrajong 24 – 26 October

FRANK HOLLAND

This annual event will be taking a different direction this year. As well as being a part of the series of events building up to celebrating Governor Macquarie's visit to the area through a guest speaker talking about the influence of Governor Bligh on the area, we will be seeking to engage the wider community in finding out more about where they live.

The Friday night supper opening will focus on the presentation about Governor Bligh supported by a display of early grant maps and related documents. These early documents will be used to provide residents of the Kurrajong district with information about the early settlers and grants pertaining to their current address. We will be encouraging local residents and others to bring forward any early documents that may be in their possession so that a record of those documents can be made and if possible for the Society to take a digital image as a permanent record. We have called it "Back to the Kurrajong - Show & Tell". Workstations will be established for key areas of 'The Kurrajong' and be manned by Society members with local historical knowledge so as to provide visitors with accurate information.

We need every member and reader to take some time to think about early documentation, some may be in your possession, you may know someone who has such documents or it may be that you can help by asking your neighbours or friends if they have or know of such documents. Recently a neighbour of a member produced an original grant document signed by Governor Macquarie. We just do not know how many other documents still may be around. Please let any committee member know if you have a lead and we will arrange follow-up. We will be communicating with the wider community in our search for early documents. ☞

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### Choice Agricultural Farm. W. Gosper

HAS received instructions from JAMES TURNBULL, Esq., to sell by Auction at the ROYAL EXCHANGE HOTEL, WINDSOR, at 2 p.m. on

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26,

All that choice Agricultural Farm, containing 44 acres 2 roods, 20 perches of first-class land, not to be surpassed, known as Mud Island, with a comfortable cottage, shed, and out-buildings, together with 5 acres of choice fruit trees, and 6 acres planted with corn, the balance ready for planting ; bounded by the Hawkesbury River ; with communication with Sydney three times a week by steamer.

Intending purchasers on the look-out for a first-class farm are invited to inspect this property prior to day of sale.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette  
19 September 1896

Continued from page 5

through which Mr. Evans had had made a small passage or Road some little time before, with the view to mark out the best Path to descend the hill.

The Brush-wood that covers the sides of this hill is full of small sort of leech, which fasten on horses feet and annoy & fret them very much.

Mrs. M. had two or three of them on her ankles at one time, and all our horses were attacked by them, but they were soon shook off.

We found plenty of Wild Raspberries on the sides of this hill, but they were without any flavour and not worth eating. On leaving the Kurry Jung Hill, (named by the late Mr. Thompson "Mount Maurice" out of compliment to Lt. Col. O'Connell), we pursued our way through that District of Country called the Kurry-Jung Brush, which is a fine range of Hill & Dale alternately, and admirably well calculated for Pasturage, being well watered and abounding in good grass and good shelter for both Black Cattle and Sheep. Several farms having been located in this fine tract of country to different individuals in the time of the Usurped Government, I desired Mr. Meehan the Acting Surveyor to point them out to me as we rode along.

About 2 p.m. we quitted the Kurry-Jung Brush and arrived on what is called Richmond Terrace.

*The diary goes on to record the continuation of the journey which culminated in the naming of the new townships Windsor, Richmond, Castlereagh, Wilberforce and Pitt Town on 6 December 1810.*

**Source**

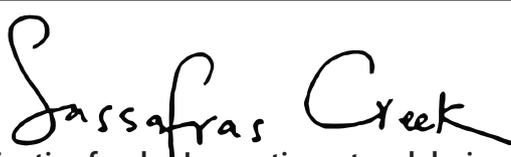
Macquarie, Lachlan. *Journal of a Tour of Governor Macquarie's first Inspection of the Interior of the Colony* 6 November 1810 – 15 January 1811.

*The Lachlan & Elizabeth Macquarie Archive.*

[www.library.mq.edu.au/digital/lema](http://www.library.mq.edu.au/digital/lema)

**Pugh's Lagoon.**—A great many complaints have reached us, as to the dangerous state of the road across Pugh's Lagoon, below St. Peter's Church, Richmond. The roadway is unprotected by any side-rail, and is from its narrowness, a very dangerous place to pass over with a restless horse, or a team of bullocks. The Trustees should see to this, so as to prevent accidents.

*Australian—Windsor, Richmond & Hawkesbury Advertiser 21 October 1876*

  
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## The Reverend Leonard Daniels

BETTY UPTON

### PART THREE (FINAL)

Reverend Leonard Daniels was inducted as rector of St Pauls Anglican Church at Lithgow on Friday, 15 April by his friend Sydney Kirkby who at that time was The Venerable Sydney J Kirkby BA, L, TH, Archdeacon of Camden.

The *Lithgow Mercury* reported at length on the impressive induction ceremony held in the church followed by the warm public welcome held in the parish hall. Both events were well attended by visiting clergy, various public dignitaries and a large congregation.

Len and Emily spent nearly nine years in Lithgow and in that time endeared themselves by their unassuming example and hard work to the parishioners of St Pauls and even to many who took no interest at all in the church. All expressed sincere regret when it was time for Len and Emily to leave them. For two years Emily's health had been failing and a change was considered essential. St Stephens, Kurrajong, was to be Len's next incumbency.

The *Lithgow Mercury* again reported at length on events surrounding Len and Emily's departure and the sadness expressed by all including other parishes and denominations.

In his own comprehensive farewell address Len gave special mention to his pleasure in having worked with the young people of the parish, of his admiration for the church music and choir and for the local Toc H group of which he was padre.

On the morning of Monday, 6 January 1941 Len and Emily left Lithgow to take over the extensive parish of St Stephens, centred at Kurrajong but stretching from Bilpin to the river at North Richmond.

As time went on even though his parish stretched over such a wide area Len came to know each of his parishioners personally and made a point of visiting each one regularly, particularly the aged, sick and bereaved. During the Second World War his cheerful disposition brought hope to many and his sincere warmth brought comfort to those who had lost loved ones or feared for their safety. Being a veteran himself he knew what horrors war inflicted on many.

From his initial curacy in Woking, continuing through Wilcannia and Lithgow, his work with children and young people remained an important thread in his life. As well as his religious instruction in schools he set up a well-attended Young Peoples Fellowship at St Stephens for Bible study and discussion. Most of all he enjoyed joining the children in their games of marbles, skipping and so on, even climbing trees with them, dog collar and all. Memories of those times remain.

Many of Len's old parishioners will well remember the simple dignity of the services he conducted in old St Stephens.

Whatever the occasion he brought warmth and sincerity to it and as Archbishop Donald Robinson was to say in later years, he was a man of God and used all his gifts to make Christ known.

As well as being rector of the Parish of St Stephens, in 1951 he was given the added responsibility as the Rural Dean of Hawkesbury, a post he held until his retirement in 1959. He was locum-tenens at St Matthews, Windsor, during 1960/61.

After his retirement in 1959 Len and Emily lived in the home previously owned by Emily's father, William Tietkens, off Warks Hill Road, Kurrajong Heights, in what is now Bennets Lane. Here Len wrote his book *Far West* which told of his years in the outback parish of Wilcannia. A wonderful story by a brave little Englishman whose ancestors were seafarers but he gained prominence as a pioneering pilot in the Australian outback.

It is fitting that Len's name is included on the Unsung Heroes of the Outback panel in the Stockman's Hall of Fame, Longreach, Queensland.

Emily died in 1966 and was buried in St James cemetery, Kurrajong Heights, near her brother Jack who had died of pneumonia in a Richmond private hospital on 18 December 1921. Jack had been an orchardist on the Heights, had built a home there and was only thirty-eight years old when he died.

In 1974, aged eighty-three, Len moved to Kilvinton Village, part of the Mowll Retirement Complex at Castle Hill. Even during the last seven years of his life he continued to take an active interest in all around him. He visited the sick, joined in entertainments particularly at the piano and assisted at religious services. He kept close contact with the Kurrajong district and attended church at St Peters, Richmond, once a month.

Early in 1981 he was present at the launching of the Bush Church Aid Society book *Australians Outback* and was photographed as bright and spry as ever walking without a stick with his friend the renowned aviatrix Nancy Bird – Walton.



Len Daniels & Nancy Bird-Walton  
Early 1981

Len died quietly at Kilvinton Village on 28 December 1981. His funeral service was held at St Stephens, Kurrajong. It was conducted by Rev. Neil Prott and tributes were led by the Archbishop of Sydney, the Right Reverend D W B Robinson. His body was interred in St James Cemetery, Kurrajong Heights, beside Emily Mary.

The epitaph on his headstone mentions Isaiah 40: 31  
THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR  
STRENGTH, THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS  
AS EAGLES, THEY SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY,  
THEY SHALL WALK AND NOT FAINT

## Richmond Park cannon

The cannon on display in Richmond Park are believed to have been transferred from Wollongong in late 1904 or early 1905. An article in the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* dated 11 March 1905 reported, “The Mayor stated that there was one thing to be done now they had the cannon in their places, and that was to put sleepers under the wheels to prevent them slipping into the earth.”

At some stage between 1912 and 1921 they were buried where they stood. Mr Ron Sullivan remembered the cannon in Richmond Park from as early as 1904. As a child he often played on them when in the park. He recalls the wooden spokes in the wheels were deteriorating even as early as 1904. He left the area in 1912 returning in 1921. On his return he noticed their absence.

Mr Alex Hendrikson, of the Windsor Businessmen Association, said there were several reasons the cannon were buried. “One was because the undercarriages were rotten and had fallen to bits and the easiest way of disposing of them was to bury them on site because of their weight.”



Photo: Arthur Cooper

Robyn & Kevin Cooper, 26 February 1985

After many attempts by prospectors and locals, both past and present, of locating the buried cannon they were finally found on 26 February 1985. An article in the *Hawkesbury Gazette*, 27 February 1985 states in part: “Two 19<sup>th</sup> century cannon, buried on Richmond oval for more than sixty years, were excavated yesterday. They were found in a search on Sunday with equipment owned by an amateur prospector and unearthed by council equipment yesterday morning. Preliminary examinations indicate the cannon are 120 to 180 years old, possibly of Crimean War vintage and of the type issued to many parts of the colony when fears were held of a Russian invasion. The cannon are believed to have been buried about sixty years ago.”

A beer bottle dated 1927 was found in the barrel of the southernmost cannon and a 1935 penny alongside the northernmost cannon.

After excavation the cannon were taken to the RAAF base at Richmond where they were restored by the No. 2 Aircraft Depot Armament Section. The wheels and carriages were recreated with the aid of sketches of the original cannon.

The Hawkesbury Historical Society’s Web site has a large amount of information concerning the history, burial and re-discovery of the cannon. It can be found under *Ghosts, Myths and Legends of the Hawkesbury* by Rex Stubbs. ☞



Photo courtesy: Thelma Groch

Richmond Park, date unknown

### Three Days’ Excursion Down the River FOR LADIES ONLY

Should sufficient inducement offer, the Steamer St. Albans will leave WINDSOR Wharf on WEDNESDAY NEXT, 26th, at 11 a.m. For further information apply to MISS SLY, Black Horse Hotel, Richmond, Mrs ORR, Windsor, or the promoter, MISS CLARA WALL, George Street, Windsor, to whom applications for passage are to be made before noon of TUESDAY.

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*Windsor & Richmond Gazette*  
22 Feb 1896

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## Tennis News

### North Richmond Tennis Club

A very pleasant afternoon was spent at North Richmond on Wednesday, 30th ult., by members of the N. R. Tennis Club and about 100 guests, who had assembled to witness the opening ceremony of the courts by Mrs. P. Charley.

Mr. C. W. Clarke, the secretary, gave a short history of the club, and stated that the object of its formation was for pleasure and social intercourse. Mr. Clarke spoke on the influence of choirs for matrimony, and hoped that this club would be free from such influences.

Mrs. Charley then formally opened the court, and expressed her delight at officiating on such an occasion. She wished the club every success.

Rev. Dr. Cameron then addressed the gathering, wished the club every success, and complimented the workers on the success they had achieved. The venerable doctor strongly objected to Mr. Clarke's statement re matrimony, and hoped the contrary would result from the formation of the club.

Rev. H. Jones congratulated Mr. Clarke and his workers on their accomplishments. The surroundings, he said, were delightful, and the court and enclosure all that could be desired. The future of the club was bright, and he hoped the young people would rally round Mr. Clarke in his efforts to brighten the surroundings of the people.

Mr. Clarke then called on the Rev. H. Tate, as the representative of the Kurrajong Tennis Club, just opened.

Mr. Tate said he completed the clerical trinity, and felt that what had been said could only be endorsed by himself. He wished the club every success, and hoped that much good would result from its reunions.

The club had designed a special flag, which was unfurled for the first time by Mrs. P. Charley.

The younger members, wishing to show their appreciation of Mrs. Charley's kindness in opening the courts, presented her with a basket of flowers, with streamers of pale blue and white ribbon, the club's colours. The presentation was made by Miss Carrie Phipps.

Three sets were then played. In the first Mr. Carson and Mrs. Skuthorp played Miss Simpson and Miss Hall, and resulted in a victory for the latter by 6 to 2. Second set: Rev. H. Tate and Miss McLean v Mr. Clarrie Price and Miss \_\_\_ the latter winning by 6 to 4. A gentleman's set was then arranged between Messrs McCoy and Smith v Messrs P. and H. Price, the latter winning by 6 to 4.

During the set the ladies busied themselves in providing the visitors with afternoon tea.

At night a moonlight concert was held amidst heavy rain. About 100 people assembled, notwithstanding the adverse circumstances, and a very pleasant time was spent. Miss Simpson, of Wilberforce, delighted the audience with the display of her rare talent in the overture, and also in a pianoforte solo. Mr. McCoy's comic selections – recitation and song – were much appreciated, and he was encored on three occasions. The quartette party, of which Mr. McCoy is the leader, was also very successful, securing an encore on each occasion. Miss Boughton, who is ever willing to assist in such functions, delighted the audience in the recitation of "The Ocean," from Byron. Songs were given by Mr. Claude Price and Mr. Albert Price, of Richmond, also Mr. Clarke and Miss Jessie Price. The latter lady and Miss Brenda Myers played a duet. Refreshments were provided on the ground.

*Windsor and Richmond Gazette*  
9 April 1904

### From The Archives

#### Tennis players early 1900s



Photo courtesy: Dennis Hurst

This photo is believed to have been taken in the Kurrajong Heights or Bilpin areas in the early 1900s. Noted on the back:

"A great gathering of tennis players of all ages. Great grandfather of Dennis Hurst, Alf Richards, is standing at the back of the tennis group with Clem Pittman."

#### Giggle suit

This is Private Reginald Walter Arthur Males known as Arthur, the son of George Males from Colo. Arthur enlisted on 29 February 1916 with his uncle William Ernest Males.

The term 'giggle suit' was largely military slang, widely used during the First and Second World Wars and to a lesser extent during the Vietnam War. It generally refers to a hastily put together uniform lacking fit, function and style given to a group of new recruits.

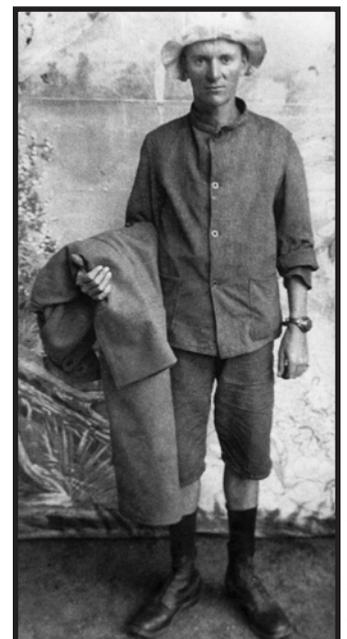


Photo courtesy: Joan Mullins

# MYSTERY PHOTO

## Kurrajong Heights bunkers



Photo: Greg Upton



Photo: Greg Upton

These photos are of mysterious 'bunkers' hidden in the bush along Buralow Road at Kurrajong Heights. The word bunkers is loosely used as their original purpose appears unknown.

Greg Upton has been trying to research their history yet is unable to find anyone who can confirm when they were built and why. There are a few local rumours which describe them of being associated with the First or Second World Wars and another that has them used for food storage.

If any reader is able to shed some light on their origin please feel free to pass on the details to any member of the committee and they will forward it to Greg. ☞☞

## Digital archive

JOY SHEPHERD

I am really appreciative of the wide team of people who help me find details for the old photos that keep popping up. As soon as I see an old photograph someone generally springs to mind who may be able to help me in this area.

A lot of them are in the Kurrajong and Hawkesbury area but some are as far afield as Wauchope, Canberra and even the USA. As soon as I email them they get straight to work finding out everything possible.

Recent examples were three photos given to me by Joan Mullins vaguely labelled "Males photos". Eight emails back and forth to Dennis and Dorothy Simmons' daughter in the USA and I have plenty of information on each.

Several really interesting old photos have surfaced regarding the Peck family. I was able to scan some of these and send them to fellow member Phil Peck in Wauchope. In turn Phil printed them and mailed them to his brother Robin in Frenchs Forest. Robin lives not far from cousin Neville Peck, son of Alice and Alwin. They spent time together helping to fit names to faces. In addition Neville came up with further family information including a copy of the family tree. This was all posted back to Phil who copied everything and forwarded it to me.

A lot of detail has been forwarded by readers of *The Millstone* regarding the photos included in the newsletter. This has helped greatly in filling in the missing details in a number of photos in the Society's archives. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and I can assure you that the smallest piece of information would be as welcome as a life story. ☞☞

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## Letters to the Editor



It has been with great pleasure that I have found time to re-read the stories of Ron Madden and Austin Buttsworth's lives. They have brought back many memories of years past.

My great great-grandfather came to Australia in 1839. He brought his wife and only child and settled on the main road at Enfield as it was then known, now North Richmond. His name was Thomas Patrick Sullivan, not related to others of that name in Australia.

He was a cabinet maker, but as there was no work at the time he started his own little school and shop. His day book-diary has been handed down to my sister, Beth Johnston

His son William grew up in "Northy", North Richmond, and had ninety acres of land at Grose Vale next to John Ezzy and George Woodhill. John Ezzy was to become his father-in-law later in life.

About 1860 William opened a leather and boot shop in Windsor Street, Richmond. Here he lived until his retirement in 1898 when he built a new home on "The Common" on the corner past the Catholic Church. During these years he was very busy. He had thirteen children, was on Richmond's first council, was a trustee of the Methodist Church and was one of the instigators of The School of Arts, Richmond. One of his sons, Ben Sullivan was Mayor of Richmond in 1921 and 1922.

Arthur Sullivan, my dad, owned and ran the Richmond Newsagency for many years. This is where I was born, lived, and later worked. During these years I met many folk from "The Kurrajong". Some from KCHS are still friends. I remember Charlie Khan very well as he was the newsagent and everything else at the time.

The article on Austin Buttsworth was great. I remember Vern, my husband, and I sold Austin's farm for him to a couple of "green horns". She was an English nurse and he a German toolmaker straight from back-packing through India. They had been in Australia for about eight weeks and wanted a piece of land in the country. They arrived in Richmond by train and walked into our office. Four hours later they left after signing up for

Austin's farm. They knew nothing about farming and referred to Vern as each little trouble turned up.

Vern soon became Dad to them. If he didn't know the answer to a problem he was off to the Agricultural Bureau at Windsor. This was back in the late 1960s. I became godmother to their first son who now lives in Perth. Seige and Caroline own their own beef property now. They are still great friends and we keep in touch.

Thanks for *The Millstone*, it's a great little paper.

*Mary Avern*

### Committee Nominations

At the closing date of 20 June 2008 no nominations were received for the committee positions. As a result the closing date and time has been reset to 5.00 p.m. 20 July 2008.

Although my personal plan was not to stand for president so that I could focus on the 2010 Macquarie celebrations, I have decided that I will again nominate for the president's position for 2008 – 2009.

I invite other members to join me in ensuring the continuation of the Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society.

*Frank Holland*  
President

## Ladies' Swimming Club.

In response to an advertisement in last week's issue, calling a meeting of ladies desirous of forming a swimming club in Windsor, something like thirty ladies turned up at the School of Arts on Tuesday evening last.

Mr. W. H. H. Becke, who occupied the chair explained the object of the meeting, and said he was pleased to see so many ladies present.

Mr. F. Collison moved, and Mr. H. R. Buttsworth seconded, on behalf of the ladies, "That a ladies' branch of the N.S.W. Swimming Association be formed in Windsor." Carried unanimously.

The following ladies were proposed as a committee:—Misses Becke, Linsley, Wood, Branker, D. Walker, Barnett, M. Dunstan, Cobcroft, Ward, A. Dunstan, Callaghan, J. Tebutt.

It was proposed by Miss Ada Dunstan, seconded by Miss Barnett, and carried, "That the annual meeting be fixed for Monday next."

The meeting then closed.

*Windsor & Richmond Gazette*  
18 January 1896

## Feedback



### No Manure

Mar–Apr 2008, Page 7.

Phil Peck has added weight to Valerie Birch and Betty Upton's opinions that Koowong Estate was located in the local area. He thinks that it may have been the name of the Frank George estate which was located between Phil's father's property and *Northfield* and straddled both the old and current Bells Line of Road. ☞

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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

VALERIE HOLLAND

## Tuesday, 22 July

Our mid-year dinner meeting at Panthers Club North Richmond. Meeting at 7 p.m. dinner served at 7.30 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Philip Charley OAM, the fourth generation family member to be so named. Philip will share some of the interesting history of his family and their beautiful former home *Belmont*, now the Saint John of God Hospital.

Cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Bookings are essential. It would be appreciated if bookings could be placed by 15 July.

For further information and to book places contact Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.

## Saturday, 30 August

Visit the remains of Benjamin Singleton's old grain mill site on Little Wheeny Creek, Kurrajong.

Meet at 10.30 a.m. Blaxland Ridge Old School House, 227 Blaxland Ridge Road, Kurrajong adjacent to Blaxland Ridge Rural Fire Station.

Les and Anne Dollin will give us a Powerpoint presentation on Benjamin and James Singleton's water-operated grain mills before Les leads us to the site of one of the old grain mills which was operated by Benjamin Singleton circa 1810.

We will be joined by members of the Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society who hosted our visit to

their historic sites last year. Please wear walking shoes.

Cost is \$10 which includes presentation and morning tea. Bring a packed lunch to have in Memorial Park or visit one of the cafes or restaurants in the Kurrajong village.

Bookings by 23 August. Please contact Valerie Holland on 4573 2226

## Saturday, 13 September

Day Field Trip to visit a 'Pansy' style train at Thirlmere Rail Museum.

A day coach tour to the Thirlmere Rail Museum will be led by two of the Museum's volunteer guides, David and Jenny Griffith, who previously escorted us through the old 'Pansy' rail sites of Kurrajong.

At 8.30 a.m. a Bilpin coach will pick us up at Memorial Park Kurrajong and take us through some scenic countryside to Thirlmere. Cost including coach hire, morning tea and museum entry will be about \$30 for members and \$35 for friends. Cost may vary a little depending on the numbers participating. Bring a packed lunch and enjoy the day with friends.

Bookings no later than 15 August so that we can make a firm booking with Bilpin Coaches.

Please contact Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.

Continued from front page

At the time of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Kurrajong branch there were forty-nine members and four junior members listed on the anniversary luncheon order of the day.

We congratulate the Kurrajong branch of the CWA for their continuing dedication to service within the community.

### Sources

*A History of 80 Years of Kurrajong CWA* compiled by Lynn Griffith & Dianne Fenech from old Kurrajong CWA branch minute books.

The Kurrajong branch of the CWA programme for its 80th anniversary celebration compiled by Dianne Fenech from *A History of 80 Years of Kurrajong CWA* and old Kurrajong CWA minute books.

## Membership renewal reminder

Membership subscriptions for the financial year 2008–2009 are now due and payable. The rates have remained the same:

Single	\$25.00
Seniors (75 yo+)	\$12.50
Household	\$30.00
Household senior (75 yo+)	\$15.00

For your convenience an invoice is included with this issue with a handy tear-off slip for return with your payment.

***The Society has achieved a considerable amount this past year and the support of members is greatly appreciated.***



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- Winner of Parramatta Regional Awards for Business Excellence in Customer Service & Chairman's Choice Award 2006
- Winner of Western Sydney Industry Awards for Regional Excellence in Outstanding Service 2006
- Winner of Parramatta Regional Awards for Excellence in Sales & Marketing 2005
- Winner of Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Meetings & Business Tourism & Most Outstanding Contribution to Western Sydney Tourism by a Small Business 2003
- Winner of the HMAA Best Short Break Accommodation in NSW for 2003
- Winner of Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Hosted Accommodation 2002