

Vol 6 Issue 5 September–October 2008

# THE MILLSTONE

## 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

#### 2 Bryan Wyborn's wheels

Standouts at KCHS's exhibition at the Tourist Railway Association of Kurrajong's Hobby & Craft show were the wooden models of water-driven grain mills made by Bryan.

#### 9 Celebrating the phone

An article from an October 1905 issue of The Windsor & Richmond Gazette detailing a celebration of the success of the introduction of the telephone to Kurrajong. Forty-eight messages were received in the first three months.

#### 10 The Bells of Belmont

Joy Shepherd's article on the period Lieutenant Archibald Bell & his family spent in the local district from 1808 to 1849.

#### 11 June special meeting

An overview of the special general meeting held in June to discuss the issue of a permanent premises for the Society.

#### 12 Dates for your diary

Final reminders for a number of activities. The field trip to **Thirlmere Rail Museum** on Sat, 13 Sep; the **Annual General Meeting** on Mon, 22 Sep; the **Scarecrow Festival** weekend starting Sat, 25 Oct.

#### Annual reports

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### Mid-winter dinner

JOY SHEPHERD

On one of the coldest nights this winter, fifty-nine guests ventured to the Panthers at North Richmond for our Annual Dinner. It turned out to be a night to remember with special guests Philip and Marie Charley, our local State Member Allan Shearan and his wife Sharyn, Deputy Mayor Ted Books with his wife Noelene all mingling with the crowd. Another guest Paul Maher, of Loxley on Bellbird Hill fame spoke briefly on his continuing association and support of the Society, generously giving each guest a complimentary voucher for dessert in the **1864** old dining room at Loxley. One lucky guest, John Gardiner, was the winner of a three course meal at the restaurant.

A comprehensive photographic display featuring the Charley family and the famous **Belmont** on Richmond Hill, now known as St John of God Hospital, created much interest.

A delicious meal prepared and served by the staff of Panthers was followed by the highlight of the evening as Philip Charley IV OAM took to the podium to share some of the stories of his very famous family. It was in fact his grandfather, Philip Charley II who was the youngest member of the 'Syndicate of Seven', famous for their discovery of silver at Mount Gipps Station, now known as Broken Hill. It was young Philip who first recognised the silver chloride in what was thought to be low grade ore. This led to the formation of BHP and a huge amount of wealth was suddenly thrust upon the members of the syndicate.

Following Philip's marriage to Clara Ewens they purchased **Belmont Park** and employed artisans from around the world to build their magnificent home. On their many trips overseas, particularly to Japan, they purchased rare and beautiful artefacts for the mansion. Many of these are now safely stored at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.

Our guest speaker remembers his grandfather well and managed to humanise this amazing man to his audience. He told of their regular walks across the paddocks from **Belmont Cottage** where they lived to visit his grandparents at their opulent home for Sunday lunch. The afternoon would be spent on the lawns and quite often they would stay for tea.

On Australia Day, 26 January 2007 the Hawkesbury City Council dedicated a commemorative plaque in Philip Charley II's honour, marking his lifetime contributions to the district. The plaque is mounted on a wall at the Hawkesbury City



Philip & Marie Charley

Photo: Robyn Fuller

Continued page 2

## KCHS's model makers

VALERIE HOLLAND

Visitors to the KCHS exhibition at the recent Tourist Railway Association of Kurrajong's Model, Hobby and Craft Show were fascinated to see the fine workmanship achieved by Bryan Wyborn in producing a miniature wooden working water wheel, complete with mill pond and race. The wheel operated alongside a model of Benjamin Singleton's grain mill, another of Bryan's detailed and educational wooden models.

To enhance the public's understanding of both of Bryan's models, Anne Dollin fashioned meticulous models of a miller and his assistant working in the mill, while nearby stood storage barrels with small bags of grain under the close scrutiny of two mice and a cat. On the edge of the mill pond a fisherman accompanied by his dog, hauled in a fish. It was particularly pleasing to see the delight evident on the faces of the many children as they viewed the scene. Many encouraged their parents to accompany them and were keen to learn about the history of this bygone era. Les Dollin gave an added incentive to the children by handing sweets to those who identified the tiny mice on the grain bags.



Bryan Wyborn & Louise Markus, MP for Greenway at the KCHS exhibition

Photo: Les Dollin

We also used this educational opportunity afforded to us by TRAK to display photographic images from our recently published book *Glimpses of the Kurrajong*. Visitors enjoyed the display and a few bought the book after finding references to their suburb.

Our society maintains a keen interest in Benjamin Singleton and his brother James, who once operated two grain mills on Little Wheeny Creek at Mill Road, Kurrajong in the early 1800s. Disused millstones found in the creek and displayed in Kurrajong village at Memorial Park, were drawn by the late Tony Dixon and are prominent in our masthead. ❧



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Continued from front page



Belmont

Council chambers in Windsor. State Member for Hawkesbury Steven Pringle MP issued a Certificate of Achievement and it was presented to Philip's grandson, Philip Nivison Charley.

Philip went on to explain that there are actually six generations of Philip Charleys, all of them high achievers. The audience were treated with some rare glimpses of all of these amazing men, who have contributed so much to our country in the last century or so.

To help cover the costs of the evening a DVD player and discs were raffled. The lucky winners of the main prize were Bryan and Marguerite Wyborn.

We sincerely thank Philip and Marie Charley for their considerable effort in helping make our mid-winter dinner one of the most memorable yet. ❧

**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,  
 Paul Hulbert

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



## From the Editor

This issue traditionally focuses on the activities of the Society over the previous financial year. In that respect I would like to thank those who have contributed articles which have appeared in the last five issues:

Les & Anne Dollin	Keith Freeman
Frank Holland	Valerie Holland
John Kelly	Ron Madden
Kathie McMahon	Steve Rawling
Joy Shepherd	Betty Upton

The regular columns of Frank and Valerie Holland and Joy Shepherd have been the backbone of the newsletter. The articles submitted by those named above were the icing on the cake. Each and every one of them created considerable comment, research and feedback. Rod and Wendy Gow's snippets from their archives of old newspapers were invaluable in balancing the newsletter and giving readers a snapshot of times past. I thank them again for forwarding them to Valerie Birch. Juggling all of the above, plus more, has been a challenge, but a very rewarding one.

The written word and old photographs and images have always been of interest to me, more so since I inherited the role of editor. While preparing the financial statements for this issue I could not help but notice just how much books have contributed to the Society's very healthy bottom line this past financial year.

Last year sales of books yielded a profit of just over one hundred and fifty dollars. This year it was more than nine thousand!

### New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following new members

**BRIAN (MATE) GOSPER**  
**JOHN HOWARD**  
**DAVID RANGER**



Surely this is a clear indication that the general public is interested in the history of our region and the Society is more than able to sate their needs.

Frank Holland, Valerie Holland and Joy Shepherd have thanked and mentioned all those involved in the production, distribution and selling of the various publications within their reports in this issue. I will not repeat their words but I will take my hat off to all those involved.

As to the coming financial year I would like to give a reminder to all readers that I have a dedicated filing cabinet for *The Millstone* and any contributions for future issues will be considered and cared for.

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

## CORRECTION

In its issue of January 1st our local contemporary published a paragraph among North Richmond news to the effect that Mr Joseph Ezzy had sold to Mr G. Woodhill the house which Mr A. Perry has for so many years occupied in Richmond. This was strange news to Mr Perry, who was not aware that he had ever parted with the property, which he owns and has occupied something like 30 years. Mr Perry on two occasions drew our friend's attention to this flagrant mistake with a request that it be corrected. He called at the office to do so. But no correction has appeared, and in fairness to Mr Perry we have stated the facts of the case.

*Windsor & Richmond Gazette*  
 13 Feb 1909

## The Family of Philip Charley the Second

1908



Photo courtesy: Philip Charley IV

Back row [L-R] John (Jack), Vera Agnes, Clara Charley (née Ewens) Philip's wife, Major Philip George Charley, Philip Belmont eldest son and later Sir Philip Charley.

Front row [L-R] Adeline May nursing Adrian Belmont, Wolford Belmont, Clara Belmont (Nell), Noel George (Bob) sitting on floor.

## President's Report

FRANK HOLLAND

It is pleasing to report that the Society has enjoyed a very successful year. Our membership has grown, our financial position has become stronger, more field trips were undertaken, the digital archive project continues to grow and other projects continue to be researched. The Society produced its first book, our newsletter *The Millstone* received acknowledgement for its quality, our Web site produced new contacts, interaction with other Societies increased and we became a member of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural and Heritage Associations (BMACHO). We held bi-monthly general meetings, a special general meeting and the committee met each month. In short we are an active and growing Society. This could not happen without the efforts of some very active members and the support of the entire membership.

I do not propose to outline details of all of our past activities as they have been covered or being covered by other reports. I will focus on the future. Over the next two years we will be building up to the event 'Kurrajong Remembers 1810-2010'. Rather than one event it will be a number of connected and inter-related events which will culminate in the celebration of Governor Macquarie's journey from Yarramundi to Kurrajong Heights and back to Windsor on December the first, 1810. This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for us to mark such an occasion. Various events will over the two years cover some history relating to the early Governors, the skill of the early surveyors, early grants in the area and their supporting documentation, re-creation of an early Inn, the *Donnybrook*, and of course a re-creation of Governor Macquarie's visit complete with a celebratory dinner. We are working towards raising community interest and involvement in our history through these series of events. Sub committees are working to make each of these activities a success. If you would like to be involved please phone me. The other future-based comment relates to our goals.

Two years ago we set out to establish an Internet presence, to develop a capability to hold portable displays and presentations and to explore options for a permanent home. The first two goals have been well and truly achieved whilst the third was the subject of our recent special general meeting and remains a goal to be achieved. This is covered in detail in a separate report on page eleven of this issue. I believe the Society is remaining true to its mission and vision:

### The Mission

To gather, record and preserve items of an historical nature relating to 'The Kurrajong' area of interest.

To present exhibitions of any such materials as may be held by the Society for public viewing.

To promote respect for the preservation of buildings, documents and items of an historical nature.

To document and/or publish audio, visual, electronic and written researched projects.

### The Vision

To be recognized as a highly competent historical society that seeks continuous improvement, with respect to the quality of its research, documentation and displays.

Lastly I would like to publicly record the Society's thanks to the members of the management committee. It takes a considerable amount of time and effort to keep the Society functioning and although many have contributed, the work of the secretary, Valerie Holland and treasurer, Joy Shepherd has been outstanding. Airdrie Martin in her role as vice president has stepped in on numerous occasions to maintain continuity and has been most successful with gathering donations and support. Others who should be mentioned are Les and Anne Dolin for their research and conduct of field trips, Bryan Wyborn for his precise and educational models, the Book Committee for producing *Glimpses of the Kurrajong*, Chris and Greg Upton for their work with *The Millstone* and Web site, and Robyn Fuller for maintaining the publicity links with the media.

I know that many others have made strong contributions to the well-being of the Society and I would like to name everyone. However, space is always a premium and I hope that you will accept my thanks to all. I am confident that 2008/09 will prove to be another successful year. ☺

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE.

## GUEST & SKUTHORP

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*Windsor & Richmond Gazette*  
19 Sept 1896

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## Secretary's Report

VALERIE HOLLAND

We are delighted to note the increase in membership of our society and thank all members who have supported the work of the committee during this growth phase. This goodwill has been projected into the community, as has been evident by the support of non-members attending our functions and field trips.

Our 2007 AGM was held at Comleroy Road School, Kurrajong. President Frank Holland thanked the retiring committee members and those not seeking re-election - Vice President Kathie McMahon and committee members Marguerite Wyborn and Robyn Fuller for their commitment and work for the Society. New committee members elected were Frank Holland President, Airdrie Martin Vice-President, Valerie Holland Secretary, Joy Shepherd Treasurer, Patricia O'Toole Minute Secretary, Steve Rawling AM, Greg Upton webmaster, John Howard (retired 2008) and Janet Zerbin.

### Society awards

Australia Day 2008. Australia Day award to Vera Bentvelzen in recognition of her contribution to the recording of the history of the Kurrajong district through her publication *Diggers Hill*.

Achievement certificates to Rod and Wendy Gow for recording some of the history of the Kurrajong district through the publication of *World War One Hawkesbury Heroes*. Valerie Birch for her contribution to the recording of the history of the Kurrajong district through her publication *On the Kurrajong* and assistance with the publication *World War One Hawkesbury Heroes*.

Certificates of appreciation to Ellen and David Hegarty of the Kurmond Post Office for valued assistance. Kurrajong North schoolchildren Cassandra Stringfellow, Ursula Aczel, Luka Brodie, Rachel Humphries, Jacinda Stevenson, Madeline Stevenson and Olivia Suman for successfully completing a history project conducted by KCHS member Kathie McMahon with assistance from Steve Rawling AM and KCHS. Tony Dixon (deceased) and The Rotary Club of North Richmond-Kurrajong for the publishing of sketches of *The Kurrajong*. Shirley and Brian Mangold for helping to preserve the history of the Kurrajong district and the donation of two historic sketches.

### Grants

Federal Government 2007 VESEG Small Equipment Grant to purchase a data projector and portable screen. Hawkesbury City Council - \$500 toward 'Glimpses of the Kurrajong'.

### Donations to the Society

Australia Day raffle from: Kurrajong Heights Hotel, Kurrajong Butchery, Enniskillen, Kurrajong Friendly Grocer, Kurrajong Bakehouse and Goodies Café & Confectionary.

### Research papers

Some of the history of the Pitt and John families donated by Lynne James. *Kurrajong Oasis* a letter relating to two McMahon guest houses by John Kelly, forwarded by Geraldine Tilden. Notes and extracts from the Kurrajong School history donated by Lynne McLean. Insights into former Kurrajong poet Syd Sheldon written and donated by Keith Freeman. Booklet *Kurrajong & District Hospital Society Inc* written and donated by Anne Birdsey.

### Books

Vera Bentvelzen *Diggers Hill* continuing donation of excess of cost price of books that the Society sells. Mary Avern books

amongst which were: *The Blackets* and *Era of Australian Architecture, Pathways to History - Exploring the Blue Mountains* as well as slides.

### Millstone advertisers

We thank the following: Loxley on Bellbird Hill, Timeless Art, Opal Access, Kurrajong Antique Centre, Sassafras Creek, Peter of London, Kurrajong Pharmacy and Harmony Fashion Boutique.

### Publications

*Glimpses of the Kurrajong* our very successful publication was prepared by Airdrie Martin and committee Valerie Birch, David and Jenny Griffiths for formatting, Paul Hulbert who took photographic images and Joy Shepherd for accessing some of the over 4500 KCHS digital images she has scanned. *A History of the Establishment of a Community Bank at North Richmond NSW* by Valerie Holland. *Future History* by Paul Hulbert.

### Talks at general meetings

AGM - Professor Barrie Reynolds, 'BMACHO and what it means for us'. Scare Crow Festival - Shirley Seale 'The Walers'. Australia Day - Steve Rawling AM 'Louisa Atkinson'. Mid year - Professor Carol Liston 'Female Convicts - Female Factory'. Ian O'Toole 'Kurrajong Radio Museum'. Ian Small 'The Kurrajongs'.

### Presentations at other societies and organizations

Les and Ann Dollin 'Grain Mills of our Area'. David Griffiths 'Pansy Rail Line'. Kathie McMahon and Steve Rawling AM 'Schools History project'.

### Excursions

These were led by Kathie McMahon, David and Jenny Griffiths, Les and Anne Dollin and Valerie Holland.

### Functions and exhibitions

Australia Day breakfast was held at Kurrajong Heights Hotel. Airdrie Martin organised. 2007 July mid year dinner was held at Panthers, organised by Airdrie Martin. Our photographic exhibition for the 2007 Scarecrow Festival weekend was titled 'War and Peace in the Kurrajong'. Organised by Valerie Birch. Supper managed by Robyn Fuller. Christmas picnic tea gathering at Bowen Mountain Park. Organised by Valerie Holland. Photographic exhibition held for National

Continued page 10

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# Profit & Loss Statement

July 2007  
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June 2008

## Income

Membership subscriptions	2,702.50
Grants	
Hawkesbury City Council	500.00
DFACS – Small Equipment	2,800.00
Total Grants	3,300.00
Advertising	1,420.00
Donations received	621.35
Field trips	1,080.00
Workshops	27.00
Door takings	
General meetings	150.55
Special functions	3,680.00
Exhibitions	146.15
Day excursions	1,519.00
Total door takings	5,495.70
Raffle proceeds	545.00
Scarecrow Cup	95.00
Retail sales	
Teaspoons	6.00
Louisa Atkinson books	6.00
Photographs	110.00
'On the Kurrajong' book	209.85
'Kurrajong Walk' book	190.00
Commission on Rawling CD	40.00
Light Railways No. 89	42.00
'Diggers' Hill' book	1,491.60
'Glimpses of the Kurrajong' book	11,853.58
Total retail sales	13,949.03
Bank interest	369.02

**Total Income \$29,604.60**

## Cost of Sales

Purchases for resale	
'On the Kurrajong' book	79.20
Light Railways No. 89	27.30
'Diggers' Hill' book	918.00
'Glimpses of the Kurrajong' book	3,600.43
Total purchases for resale	4,624.93

**Total Cost of Sales \$4,624.93**

**Gross Profit \$24,979.67**

## Expenses

Accounting fees	42.80
Admission fees	190.00
Advertising	24.60
Awards	225.25
Bank charges	0.70
Coach hire	650.00
Computer expenses	49.50
Depreciation expense	1,680.14
Donations given	20.00
Dues & subscriptions	152.00
Display equipment	91.70
Gifts, flowers etc	179.19
Field trips	474.70
Functions	
Catering	2,891.24
Drinks	15.96
Hall hire	164.00
Total function expenses	3,071.20
Insurance	555.51
Library & literature	253.56
License fees	44.00
Office supplies & stationary	730.53
Photocopying & laminating	737.75
Photography & archiving	964.22
Postage	679.05
Publishing costs	267.40
Post Office box rental	70.00
Raffle prizes	20.00
Research	16.55
Schoolhouse hire	150.00
Website development	311.52

**Total Expenses \$11,651.87**

**Operating Profit \$13,327.80**

Other Income	0.00
Other Expenses	0.00

**Nett Profit \$13,327.80**

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# Balance Sheet

As of  
June 2008

# Treasurer's Report

JOY SHEPHERD

## Assets

Current Assets	
Cash on hand	
Cheque account - Bendigo Bank	1,885.20
ING Direct	6,243.68
<b>Total cash on hand</b>	<b>8,128.88</b>
Savings funds	
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit #1	5,000.00
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit #2	5,000.00
<b>Total savings funds</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
Trade debtors	160.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>18,288.88</b>
Other Assets	
Prepayments	554.40
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>554.40</b>
Property & Equipment	
Stock on hand	
'On the Kurrajong' books at cost	222.75
Light Railways No 89 at cost	3.90
'Diggers' Hill' books at cost	882.00
'Glimpses of the Kurrajong' books at cost	1,521.17
<b>Total Stock on Hand</b>	<b>2,629.82</b>
Equipment	
Audio visual at cost	3,263.10
Camera equipment at cost	410.00
Computer equipment at cost	6,862.50
Accumulated depreciation	- 5,975.06
<b>Total Equipment</b>	<b>4,560.54</b>
<b>Total Property &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>7,190.36</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$26,033.64</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current Liabilities	
Trade creditors	563.90
Memberships paid in advance	342.50
Special functions paid in advance	300.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,206.40</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,206.40</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$24,827.24</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Retained earnings	11,499.44
Current year earnings	13,327.80
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$24,827.24</b>

This financial year has been the most successful by far for the Society. This has mainly been because of the huge success of the coffee table book – *Glimpses of the Kurrajong*. Our thanks to the tenacious effort put in by Susan McMahon in negotiating an extremely good price for the production and Airdrie Martin in following this up and managing the whole project so superbly. This has meant that we have been able to produce a high quality publication at a very reasonable price and still make a good profit. The book did not come on the market until the end of February and sales at the close of the financial year had reached over the 700 mark. It was agreed that the profits be set aside to 'seed' our next publication.

Our figures have also been enhanced by continuing sales of our other publications, including Val Birch's *On the Kurrajong* and Ken Bennett's *Kurrajong Walk*. We are also grateful to Vera Bentvelzen for allowing us a share of the market of the *Diggers' Hill* book.

We are appreciative of the assistance given by Hawkesbury Council in the form of a grant of \$500 towards the production of the *Glimpses of the Kurrajong* book, and the Department of Family and Community Services for a Small Equipment Grant for the purchase of a data projector and screen. This has already been put to good use for presentations by members to various groups.

Seeking advertising has managed to cover the costs of producing and mailing out of *The Millstone*. Thanks to Peggy Israel for her efforts with this. We are grateful to those who support us in this way and to our wonderful Editor, Chris Upton for his artistic work and strategic placement of these advertisements.

We have again managed to run most of our events at a small profit, sometimes assisted by the running of a raffle at our major functions. This helps us to keep the larger functions at an affordable price.

We also achieved a record of 174 financial members for the year. Our membership continues to grow, along with our credibility. Our Management Committee, ably assisted by so many of our members, has worked extremely hard during this financial year. As a result we have continued to build a Society to be proud of.

We still desperately seek someone to take over the reins as Treasurer of the Society. My personal circumstances have changed considerably in the last twelve months, so it is becoming increasingly difficult to continue in the role. I would like to appeal once more for someone with accountancy and/or MYOB experience to take up the challenge for the coming year. ☺

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 From  
The Archives

### Fashionable swimwear 1930s



Photo courtesy: Joy Shepherd

The location of this photo is unknown but it has been confirmed *circa* 1930. Pictured left to right are Rita, Vida and Jean Shepherd. Their father, Wylla is seated in the background.

They are off for a swim and were all well-known to be always dressed in the height of fashion.

### The Black Horse Hotel Richmond



The Black Horse Hotel was built on the corner of Windsor and Bosworth Streets in 1819. It's licence for trading was transferred to the Kurrajong Heights Hotel on the completion of its construction on the First of June, 1928.

Licensing documents from that date have the owner of both hotels the same person; Archibald Tulloch, 7 Kia-Ora Road Double Bay.

The date of this photo is unknown. A number of shops are now built around this corner. The original building is behind them and its roof line can be seen from street level.

## Kurrajong Heights Hotel Letterette

On the Fertile Eastern Slopes of the Blue Mountains at an altitude of 2,000 feet is KURRAJONG HEIGHTS HOTEL, one of the most ideal holiday resorts in New South Wales.

Here, one may enjoy unsurpassed scenery, clear invigorating mountain air amid every comfort & luxury. From its spacious verandahs the Hotel commands an extensive panorama, which includes the beautiful orchard districts of Kurrajong, the old historic towns of Windsor, Richmond & the Hawkesbury River & Flats.



View from the bowling green

The Hotel offers an excellent tennis court, a magnificent bowling green and great care and forethought has been given to the construction of an interesting nine-hole golf course.

Delightful short walks may be taken to surrounding look-outs and car trips may be arranged for your pleasure to all famous beauty spots in the Blue Mountain Plateau.



The lounge

At KURRAJONG HEIGHTS HOTEL, with its comfortable lounges and every modern convenience which adds so much to one's pleasure, an ideal holiday is ensured and its easy accessibility from the City over excellent roads is yet another reason for the Hotel's popularity.

The above text and photos are from a letterette printed in the 1930s. It and other items were sent to the Society by Graham Richardson from Templestowe Lower in Victoria. As executor to his late aunt's estate he found the items in her possession and thought they would be of interest to our members. We thank Graham for the effort he went to in finding them a home and appreciative audience.

## Musical Evening at Comleroy.

THE schoolroom at Comleroy Road was crowded on Friday night last week, when an assemblage of over 60 persons, called together by invitation from the Kurrajong Progress Association, to celebrate the opening of the telephone. Chief among the promoters were Mr. and Mrs. Dingwall, Messrs Arthur Anderson, F. J. Norris, P. Norris, Chas. Fraser, P. B. McMahon, and Misses Tessie McMahon and E. Anderson. Punctually at 8 p.m. the overture was played by the Misses Kent, who gave a very fine violin and piano selection. Their appearance was greeted with very hearty applause, and they played Irish National Airs (Volti). Then came a nicely rendered song by Miss May Cohen (Sydney), 'Flight of ages,' which was also well received. Miss Emily Anderson played a pianoforte solo in her usual finished style. Mr. Dingwall, who possesses a pleasing tenor voice, sang 'Sailing,' the audience taking up the chorus with great gusto. Master Percy Anderson, a visitor from Sydney, then convulsed the audience with the comic song 'Come out,' and although it was announced by the chairman, Mr. Dingwall, that encores were to be tabooed, he yielded to the prolonged demonstration given the boy, who sang again. He possesses remarkable talents without a doubt. The following programme was then proceeded with :- Recitation, Master Pearson Dingwall ; song, 'Don't come in the morning,' Mr. A. Anderson ; selection (piano and violin), 'Swiss air' (Farmer), Misses A. and E. Kent ; song, 'Listening,' Mr. A. Gibbs ; duet, 'Life's dream is o'er,' Miss A. Kent and Mr. E. McMahon ; pianoforte solo, Mrs. Dingwall ; recitation, 'Grandma,' Nancy Dingwall, a tiny dot of about four summers ; comic song, 'Like that,' Mr. P. B. McMahon ; song, 'Bid me to love,' Miss A. Kent ; comic song, 'Wild man from Woolloomooloo,' Mr. A. Anderson, which was a decided hit ; song, 'Echo,' Mr. Dingwall ; song and chorus, 'Soldier's farewell,' Mr. A. Anderson; recitation, 'Fireman's wedding,' Mrs. John McMahon, which was a splendid item, song and chorus, 'I've got my eyes on you oo-oo,' Miss A. Kent ; song and chorus, 'Good old Jeff,' Miss Emily Anderson. Supper was then partaken of, and the choicest of viands had been prepared by the good ladies of Comleroy.

Supper over, Mr. Arthur Anderson, in a neat speech, tendered, on behalf of the Kurrajong Progress Association, hearty thanks to the friends who attended in such

large numbers, and to their estimable host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Dingwall. Mr. Anderson referred to the opposition to the telephone received from a certain quarter, but in spite of all objections they had succeeded. Certain persons had prophesied that not more than three or four messages would go through in a year. (A voice : Probably the wish was father to the thought.) But the facts proved that in the two or three months of its existence, something like 48 messages had gone through. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Anderson touched on the School of Arts question. He said that so satisfactory was the progress being made that they hoped before another twelve months to be holding their entertainments in their School of Arts. (Applause.) He again thanked Mr. and Mrs. Dingwall for the use of their beautiful piano, and their assistance in various ways.



Photo courtesy: Jan Livingstone

The 'Old' Comleroy Road Schoolhouse  
Opened 1885, demolished 1966

Mr. P. B. McMahon, was called on to support Mr. Anderson's remarks, and made a humorous speech. He endorsed all that Mr. Anderson had said. They were just emerging from a state of slumber, and the dreams with which their slumbers had been disturbed were just approaching realisation.

The vote was carried with musical honors.

Mr. Dingwall briefly responded.

Mr. W. Fraser proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the ladies, in a capital speech.

Mrs. Dingwall responded, and a very pleasant evening terminated at 11.30 with the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne' and the National anthem.

The accompaniments were played by the Misses A. and E. Kent, Mrs. Dingwall, Miss Anderson, Miss May Colvin, and Miss Ethel McMahon.

*The Windsor & Richmond Gazette*  
Saturday, 7 October 1905

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### Committee Nominations

At the closing date of 20 July the following nominations have been received for positions on the committee:

President	Frank Holland
Vice President	Airdrie Martin
Committee	Patricia O'Toole Steve Rawling

*Frank Holland*  
President

## The Bells of Belmont

JOY SHEPHERD

The Certificate of Title of Belmont Park reads as follows: "That piece of land situated in the Shire of Colo Parish of Kurrajong and County of Cook containing one hundred and fifteen acres, thirty perches or thereabouts ... and being part of 500 acres and part of 1,000 acres originally granted to Archibald Bell by Two several Grants dated the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, 1810."

In April 1788 Governor Arthur Phillip 'from high ground north of Port Jackson' sighted and named several landmarks. One prominent feature named was 'Richmond Hill'. This is the prominence on which later stood the property *Belmont Park*.

After later exploration in 1794, twenty-two settlers received grants on the eastern bank of the Hawkesbury River. However, it was not until 1804 that Governor King made a grant of some 40 acres to John Bowman at Richmond Hill on the western side.

Lieutenant Archibald Bell and his family arrived in New South Wales on 12 July 1807. In 1808 he was granted 500 acres and in 1809 a further 1,000 acres. This also took in the 40 acres formerly owned by John Bowman. He established a flourishing farm with the aid of convict and ticket of leave labour. He became a magistrate and a strict enforcer of the law.

Bell was sent back to England as a witness in the Major Johnston trial following the rebellion against Governor Bligh and he lost his original grants. However, in 1810, while still in England, Governor Macquarie made a visit to the 'Kurri Jung' making a courtesy call to *Belmont*. Quoting Governor Macquarie's own words:

"We rode up the Hill to call on Mrs Bell who resides in her farm on the summit of this beautiful Hill from which there is a very fine 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." The grant was reinstated.

Bell returned to Australia in 1812, becoming a prosperous farmer and grazier, holding many official positions including being a foundation member of the Australian Racing Club.

His greatest colonial activity began with his appointment in 1820 as chief police magistrate in the Windsor area, where he was the first paid magistrate and occupied a government house valued at £1,000, as well as his own *Belmont*.

It is assumed that the first home at *Belmont Park* was a wooden structure as no details are recorded. However, a stone dwelling was erected in 1834 and only part of the foundations of that building remain today.

Archibald Bell died on 28 April 1837 and was interred in a special burial ground at *Belmont Park*. This small area is excluded from the Certificate of Title and does not form part of the estate. His wife and grand-daughter are also buried there.

Members of his large family also achieved distinction. Some of his daughters married men who became the first settlers of Queensland. One son, William Sims, explored part of the Hunter Valley in 1820 and later settled near Singleton. Another, James Thomas, was a local magistrate in Windsor from 1839 to 1844. In 1823 Archibald Bell Junior, with the help of native guides, discovered the route across Mount Tomah to the west now known as the Bells Line of Road. He was twenty-three years old at the time. The village of Bell on the Darling Causeway is named after him.

Following bank failure in 1849, the Bell family were forced to sell and the property was split into smaller holdings.

**Notes from:**

*The Story of Belmont Park* Richard A Shanley

*Exploring the Blue Mountains* M E Hungerford & J K Donald



Lieutenant Archibald Bell

*Continued from page 5*

Trust programme at the University of Western Sydney. Airdrie Martin and Valerie Holland organised. TRAK Hobby, Model and Craft Show organised by Frank Holland. A display of our images and fine models of Singleton's mill and a working water mill by Bryan Wyborn. Anne Dollin's miniature people and animal models enhanced the scene.

We have valued the assistance from those who are not always noticed by members; Greg Upton - webmaster, Chris Upton - *The Millstone* editor, Patricia O'Toole - minute secretary and mailout of *The Millstone* with husband Ian, Robyn Fuller and Peggy Israel for publicity and advertising, Marguerite Wyborn - cardboard backing for our photographs, Philip Shepherd - Brian Wyborn exhibitions, Airdrie Martin - favourable printing costs for *Glimpses of the Kurrajong*, Valerie Birch - accession and family history, Paul Hulbert - photography, Vera Bentvelzen - filing, Carolynne Cooper - typing, and Jim Israel - Finance & Planning Committee, Awards Committee - Airdrie Martin chairperson, Ron Rozzoli assisted by wife Margaret and Max Doyle assisted by wife Gwen, Kathie McMahon (retired). ☺

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## Social.

AN impromptu fancy dress ball was held at Belmore Lodge, Kurrajong, on Tuesday evening, by the many visitors thereto. It had rained incessantly for two days (for which let us be thankful), so the visitors naturally got very tired of staying in doors, and at 2 o'clock in the day a fancy dress ball was mooted. It was worked up in an energetic fashion, especially by the ladies. Characters were thought of; then the trouble was to make them up. However, by 8 o'clock in the evening, there was quite a transformation scene. The characters were taken as follows : Mrs Pateson, Britannia ; Mr and Mrs Dunston, Prince and Princess of Wales ; Mrs Oehel, French Coquette ; Miss Boland, Colleen Bawn ; Miss E Boland, My Sweetheart ; Mrs Pemhors, The lass that loved a sailor ; Mrs Tapson, Lady Teazle ; Mrs Stawt, Madame Vine ; Miss M Dunston, Buttercup ; Miss Ivy Dunston, Little Red Riding Hood ; Mr Lacy, Private Detective ; Mr Wilson, Bull-fighter ; Mr Creslipson, Cow-boy ; Mr Johns, Jockey ; Mr Mildie, Stockman ; Mr Pateson, Old English Gentleman ; Master H Dunston, Father Xmas ; Master Fritz Oehel, Postman ; Master H Pateson, Comic Singer ; Mr Day, Sweep. Dancing, singing, and recitations were then the order of the evening, and everybody appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly—in fact, the wet weather was voted to have been an advantage rather than otherwise. So well did

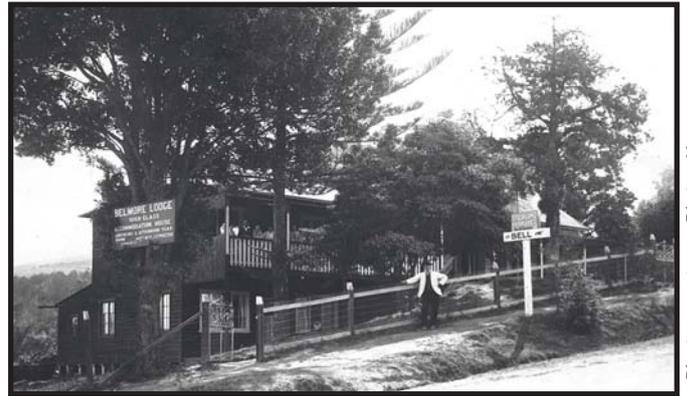


Photo courtesy: Pieter Huvener

Belmore Lodge - high class accommodation house - luncheons & afternoon teas [Date unknown]

all enjoy it that they are thinking of treating it only as a dress rehearsal—many expressing the opinion that it would be well to hold another such gathering on a more extensive scale at a not very distant date. The hospitable host and hostess (Mr and Mrs Steve Dunston) provided supper on their usual liberal scale, and nothing could have gone off better.

*The Windsor & Richmond Gazette*  
6 March 1897

### Ebenezer Church bicentenary

In June 2009 the oldest church in Australia, Ebenezer Uniting Church, will be 200 years old. John Turnbull was one of fifteen pioneers who were instrumental in the church's construction. Descendants of John Turnbull will be involved in the celebrations in 2009 with a marquee on site.

All Turnbull descendants are cordially invited to attend and participate in this very special event. The organisers would be grateful to receive old photos and memorabilia which people would be willing to loan for the display.

For further information please contact:

**Percy Harrison** (02) 9808 3181  
perch@ol.com.au

**Marie Turnbull** (02) 4285 7495  
goose2fly@yahoo.com.au

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### June special general meeting

FRANK HOLLAND

The special meeting on 24 June commenced with twenty-one members in attendance. This meeting was convened to discuss the issue of permanent premises for the Society with the goal of providing direction for the management committee. Some members who were not able to be present submitted written comments. These expressed support for continuing the search for permanent premises.

Members present freely expressed their views which whilst generally acknowledging the need for premises, varied in how this could be achieved. Options included: the leasing of premises, seeking shed storage on private property, entering into a partnership with a supportive business and the Society establishing a retail business in its own right. In time, some office space may become available at the proposed Community Centre in McMahon Park. Some spoke of the need for a research capability accessible by the general public whilst others saw a need for 'hands on' displays. Support was not voiced for a museum.

A formal motion was not moved and the management committee was asked to try and ascertain how other Societies dealt with the funding of their premises. A survey has been distributed through the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural and Heritage Organisations to gather this data. The committee was also asked to consider the options that had been presented and to report back at a future general meeting.

Although a clear cut direction was not achieved members felt that they had the opportunity to voice their opinion. The search will continue. ❧

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

VALERIE HOLLAND

## 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.

For further details contact Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.

## Monday, 22 September

**The Annual General Meeting** will be held at Comleroy Road Public School commencing at 7.30 p.m.

At the conclusion of the meeting Frank Holland will present an update on the progress of our 2009/10 celebrations.

Supper will be served and a gold coin donation would be welcomed. It would also help if members could supply their own cup.

For further details contact Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.

## Sat 25 & Sun 26 October

**The Scarecrow Festival** weekend begins Saturday, 25 October. The Society will have an exhibition at the Kurrajong CWA hall entitled 'Uncovering your property's heritage'.

Invite your friends and neighbours for the opportunity to learn about and share information relating to many properties in the Kurrajong district.

Early parish maps will be available for viewing and there will be ample opportunity to talk with and learn from a number of people with a wealth of local knowledge.

For further details contact Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.

## Feedback



### Kurrajong Heights bunkers

Jul-Aug 2008, Page 10.

Phil Peck, Thelma Groch and Geoff Stoneman have supplied some feedback, all agreeing that the central figure was Don Gowing.

When Don Gowing, an electrician by trade, came to Kurrajong Heights he rented a room or flat at Allambie Guest House. He later bought some land along the eastern side of Buralow Road near the power lines.

Phil believes the bunkers were built by Don Gowing but they, like many of his projects were never completed and he never gave an explanation of their purpose. Phil and other fire brigade members have often hazard-reduced the bushland in that area.

Geoff Stoneman is of the opinion that the bunkers were built by the previous owner of Don Gowing's property and they were possibly used to store ammunition and food. Geoff knew Don who was at the time working as a butcher at Stapleton's Butchery in Kurmond.

According to Phil, Don married Harry Hibble's daughter Lin and later bought Arthur Poole's property, less the area where Arthur had constructed a new home. They later sold and moved to Tuncurry. Thelma's memory has Don moving to Lithgow.

### Future History

by Paul Hulbert

This book profiles over one hundred individuals and families of the Kurrajong district.

It will have a strictly limited print release and orders are now being taken for delivery in the very near future.

Cost is \$80 and orders can be placed by contacting:

**Valerie Holland**

4573 2226



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- 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