

## 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 Riverstone Meatworks

A report on KCHS's visit to Riverstone Historical Society's museum and the informative presentation on the Riverstone Meatworks given by Clarrie Neal

#### 8 John Tebbutt

"There will never be another Australian astronomer like John Tebbutt, who with modest equipment, self taught, and unbounded enthusiasm challenged the great astronomers of his time." - Graeme White, head of the CSIRO radiophysics division

#### 9 Pea rifle tournament

A report from the Windsor & Richmond Gazette, December 1905 on a pea rifle shooting tournament held at J McMahon's property at Kurrajong. The day was as much a social event as a sporting one

#### 10 From the Archives

The Simmons family, George Hawkins, the Sullivan boys, push-bikes, fishing and shooting feature in the two photos displayed from the Society's digital archive

#### 12 Dates for your Diary

Final reminders on the Annual General Meeting at Comleroy Road Public School on Monday, 28 September and the various activities the Society will be conducting during the Scarecrow Festival over the weekend of 23–25 October

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### Hawkesbury Ho

VALERIE HOLLAND

A function room in the pleasant surroundings of North Richmond Panthers Club was the venue where forty-six members and friends of KCHS gathered for our mid year dinner and July general meeting. After the main course surveyor and historian John Brock gave a very interesting presentation entitled 'Hawkesbury Ho', during which he related some of the historical development of surveying and the early granting of title to land in the colony of NSW.

John told of the exploratory journeys that Governor Arthur Phillip made accompanied by an aboriginal named Colbee. One of these journeys included a fifteen mile excursion up the Hawkesbury River where he named the area of Richmond Hill, the area west of the Hawkesbury River, on 6 July 1789. Other early explorers named were Captain John Hunter and Watkin Tench, Captain of Marines.

Grants at Parramatta and Rose Hill were said to be the earliest in the colony, the first three being to James Ruse, Webb and Reid. Ruse and Webb were later given grants in the Hawkesbury region. At the time of the first grants Parramatta consisted of a few convict huts and a small wooden dwelling for the Governor.

The original copy of the land grant for Experiment Farm, Rose Hill, the property of James Ruse, was written on vellum and signed by Captain Arthur Phillip in 1790. John explained that vellum was calf skin. Later, paper was used for documents. A more recent version of the Ruse grant was recorded on parchment in 1791. The present home on the former Ruse property was built by surgeon John Harris circa 1830.

John mentioned that in many instances after grants were made the appropriate paperwork was delayed or not completed therefore giving rise to variations in the dates and acquisitions of title documents.

Augustus Ault, the first surveyor in the Colony of NSW, laid out the 'Hawkesbury Allotments' on a map on 28 April 1794. At this time the 'circumferator', a saucer sized instrument containing a compass, rather like a simple sextant, was the main tool of the surveyor. To mark a survey point the surveyor carved a shield into a tree then cut in a broad arrow and a lot number. A trig marker placed on a high piece of land was used as a reference point.

The 'Gunter Chain', designed in 1620 by mathematician and inventor Edmund Gunter from Gresham College London, was used by surveyors to measure distance. A Gunter Chain consisted of linked metal chains, each link measuring 21.77 metres or the length of a cricket pitch. 100 links equalled one chain and 100,000 square links measured one acre. Most of the old roads were 100 links in width, being one chain. This early measurement system was rather like an early metric measurement.

Thomas Mitchell, the longest serving colonial surveyor, introduced a more complex surveying instrument, a theodolite in 1828. It was used for measuring



A circumferator from the early 20th century

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horizontal and vertical angles, with a rotating telescope. A theodolite was a more effective tool than a circumferator but it was far more expensive. As a result it was only used during more important surveys, while the circumferator remained for everyday usage.

Thomas Mitchell was very scientific in his approach to surveying and mapping and produced maps of nineteen counties. In 1837 Surveyor Dixon reproduced Mitchell's maps in colour after adding some of the grantees names before selling the maps. This was unfortunate for Mitchell who had produced the maps at his own cost. Dixon was later admonished and not reappointed.

Another point of interest in John's presentation was the mention of the *Norfolk*, a merchant ship, which was the first ship built at Norfolk Island in 1798. After it had been used by Bass and Flinders to prove that Tasmania was a separate island the ship was put into service on the Hawkesbury River. Unfortunately in 1800 it was commandeered by fifteen convicts and sank at the mouth of the Hawkesbury River.

After his arrival in the colony, Governor Lachlan Macquarie appeared pleased with the development of the Hawkesbury and proclaimed the Macquarie towns of Windsor, Richmond, Wilberforce, Pitt Town and Castlereagh at a dinner in the government cottage in Windsor on 6 December 1810.

During Macquarie's tenure as Governor, gold was found over the mountains before 1822 and explorations were made into the Blue Mountains and beyond, including that of Richmond Hill. Resident Alexander Bell Jnr., who with aboriginal assistance, in 1823 explored the route that was later named Bell's Line of Road after being surveyed by Robert Hoddle.

The presentation concluded with John referring to the debate that has surrounded the naming of our continent as Australia. Surveyor John Oxley's 1817 map 'A General Outline of Australia', is one of the earliest colonial maps to place the name Australia as the former colony's name. The map also referred 'Corry Jong', one of the earlier names for Kurrajong. Mathew Flinders has also been credited with the naming of Australia. However, it appears that the earliest map naming Australia was on a 1545 wood carving produced by Cyraico Jacob zum Bath at Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany.

Governor Lachlan Macquarie in his official correspondence with the British Admiralty suggested calling New Holland, Australia. This suggestion was not acknowledged and the name Australia never confirmed, however, common usage appears to have won the day. ❧

## Kurrajong's link with Riverstone Meatworks

VALERIE HOLLAND

On a very cool Monday morning on 3 August, sixteen of our members visited the Riverstone Historical Society museum and received a warm welcome from members of that society.

One member, Clarrie Neal, a former meat inspector, gave a very informative presentation on the history of the former vast enterprise of the Riverstone Meatworks, a name that was synonymous with quality products. We learned of the vital importance the meatworks held for employment in the community and its support role for Australia during the First and Second World Wars when shipping supply lines to Australia were at risk.

The Riverstone Meatworks was established in 1878 by Benjamin Richards. Benjamin was born in Richmond and at one time owned the substantial old home in Windsor Street Richmond named *Kamilaroi*. The home later operated as Richmond Rural School before its demolition. Now only the gate posts are evident as the entry to Richmond Public School.

In the early days, Comleroi in the Hunter Valley, was part of a chain of stock reserves for the drovers to rest their mobs before heading them down the route formed by the Putty, Comleroy and Bells Line Roads via Richmond to Riverstone. Cattle and sheep were herded into the yards built for drovers to rest their charges after their arrival from a variety of areas, some as far as away as Queensland. Later, when the Flemington Markets opened, stock arrived mostly by rail and for a long while Clydesdale horses assisted at the rail head. Finally, as roads improved, rail transport was superseded by road.

Initially the meatworks processed beef and mutton products. Over time additional buildings were constructed to allow for



### 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* Greg Upton
- Minutes Secretary* Patricia O'Toole
- Committee Members* Carolynne Cooper, Paul Hulbert, Kathie McMahon, Steve Rawling AM
- Accessions/Librarian* Valerie Birch
- Millstone Editor* Chris Upton
- Webmaster* Greg Upton

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diversification. Buildings included beef and mutton production, rabbit and goat processing, a piggery towards Marsden Park, a boning room, the manufacture of smallgoods and pet food rooms, an ice making plant, a fell-mongery and tannery. Other associated plants and products included offal and calves blood, margarine, the 'Imperial' brand of products including the well known 'Camp Pie', a tin shop for can production, an egg plant for the manufacture of powdered eggs, a textile plant whose wool was marketed under the once well known brand 'Villawool' and items made from bone such as buttons and handles for cutlery and toothbrushes. At one time crystallised ginger and cashew nuts were marketed from Riverstone.



## From the Editor

The September – October issue has traditionally been our 'annual' issue as it contains the financial statements for the past year and reports from our President, Secretary and Treasurer on the Society's activities. I have in the past listed and thanked those who contributed articles for publication, but on compiling the list this year I realised that it would be so long that it might bore readers to tears. The number of contributors, the quality of their submissions and the varied subjects they covered made the newsletter a pleasant and informative read. I thank all those who contributed articles this past year as I am sure our readers have not only enjoyed the varied and well written content but also learned more or been introduced to our district's history, heritage and people.

Producing a quality newsletter is not a one man band, and as well as the contributors of articles I would like to thank all who helped to ensure *The Millstone* made it to your letter boxes in a timely fashion. From Lynette Parry, our printer, Pat O'Toole and others involved in collating and distribution, to Joy Shepherd and my mother, who both could be considered sub-editors as I pass most of the content to them. They not only have a good knowledge of the district but also a keen eye for typographic whoopsies, an editor's bane.

While browsing through past issues formulating ideas for this month's column it occurred to me that this issue is also my 'birthday' issue. It has been three years since I was thrown in the deep end and the editor's baton was passed to me. Time flies when you're having fun and it has not only been a privilege to oversee the production of the newsletter but in doing so I have learnt a considerable amount of the Kurrajong district's history and the many colourful characters which make it unique.

The Society's activities will soon be ramping up a gear in preparation of the events planned for 2010. I will do my best to ensure that all those who are involved, or those who would like further information are kept fully informed.

notpuc@bigpond.com

Photo courtesy: Peter Fowler



Sausage making in the smallgoods section  
Circa 1950

The company provided playing fields and sporting amenities for the workers and this helped to bond the community. Workers who were needed to oversee the plant were provided with accommodation. Conditions in the early days were difficult for manual workers with some living in tents as there was a lack of local accommodation. From time to time floods and fires caused tragic losses in both human and animal lives. Strikes at the works were not uncommon as workers and unions endeavoured to improve conditions. These strikes were particularly devastating for young families.

Owners of the Riverstone Meatworks following the Richards family were W. Anglis & Co. Pty Ltd and the Vestey family company Weddel & Co. Ltd. The Riverstone community was devastated when the last owner, The Smorgan Meat Group, closed the meatworks on Friday, 18 March 1994, as a result of reduced profitability and increasing pressure from imports. The enterprise was sold to Roadmaster Haulage Pty Ltd, after which much of the land was sold off, many of the older buildings demolished and the era of the meatworks came to a close.

Clarrie completed his presentation with a slide show of floods and fires at the meatworks. ☹️



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# President's Report

FRANK HOLLAND

Another year has past, but one that the Society can look back on with a sense of achievement. Our membership continues to increase and our projects continue to prosper. The Society has maintained its sound financial position and is well positioned to handle the challenges of the coming year as we celebrate the 200 year anniversary of European settlement in the Kurrajong and Governor Macquarie's visit.

In the next issue of *The Millstone* we will be including a calendar of all events planned for 2010 together with explanatory notes. I know that these events will prove popular and bookings have already commenced, my advice is to book in early as numbers will be limited.

Chris Upton has continued to produce *The Millstone* at his very high standard and I know that members look forward to receiving their copies. Well done Chris and thank you on behalf of members.

This year our digital image collection has been made available through our website due to some hard work by Greg Upton and Joy Shepherd. The collection itself continues to grow each year. On the financial front sale of 'Glimpses of the Kurrajong' has meant that we are well placed to fund the publication of a new book and provide cover for the various Macquarie celebrations planned for 2010. Many members have been and are working on sub committees and project teams to ensure that those activities are successful. There are too many to thank individually however this is a collective thank you to you all.

Recently a family history group has been formed with Carolynne Cooper as project leader. This group is gathering together and researching the histories of the early settler families ready for our 'Back to the Kurrajong' display in October. If you have information or would like to join this group please contact Carolynne. Les Dollin has been actively locating and procuring early maps of the district and he will be our key speaker in October.

Members would be aware that the new Kurrajong Community Centre is currently being built in McMahan Park. Although the Society maintained an interest in the project we have been advised that all space has been allocated to other organisations. Having a presence in Kurrajong Village remains our focus and we will continue to explore options.

Our thoughts at this time are with all members who may not be enjoying the best of health and wish Kathie McMahon a speedy recovery from her recent surgery.

My thanks to the committee who have worked diligently this past year to ensure the smooth running of the Society's activities and its affairs. I wish the incoming committee and executive every success for 2009/10.

Greg Upton stepped in to take on the Treasurer's position at last year's AGM. Unfortunately, Greg is unable to continue in this role. Many thanks Greg for all your expertise and efforts and we hope that the coming year will be less hectic for you. If you know of anyone who might be able to take on this very important position please feel free to contact either myself, or the Secretary personally. We can be contacted on 4573 2226 or via email frank.holland@bigpond.com.au

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# Secretary's Report

VALERIE HOLLAND

Thank you to all KCHS members for supporting the work of the committee during the past year.

Our 2008 AGM was held at Comleroy Road School, Kurrajong. President Frank Holland thanked the retiring committee and those not seeking re-election. 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 and Janet Zerbini (retired). Joy Shepherd later resigned for family reasons after a very commendable term as treasurer, so we were grateful to Greg Upton who offered to fill this position.

## Society's Awards

**Australia Day 2008.** Presented to Joy Shepherd for her ongoing commitment to our digital imaging project and her years of work as treasurer and to Les and Anne Dollin for their commitment to researching, designing and operating historic tours.

**Merit Awards 2008.** Presented to Greg Upton as former editor of *The Millstone* and for later setting up and managing our website. To Chris Upton as our current editor of *The Millstone*. To Bryan Wyborn for his intricate grain mill models of the former Singleton brothers' mills on Little Wheeney Creek.

**Achievement Certificate.** Presented to Rita Crane author of 'St Gregory's Catholic Church - Bells Line of Road'.

## Grants

Bendigo Bank's grant of \$538.50 for copies of early parish maps has been of considerable assistance to our research.

## Donations of books & other items

'Future History' by Paul Hulbert. Paul donated two copies of his book.

'Kurrajong' by J Lindsey donated by Frank Holland.

'Blaxland Ridge Community School Centenary 1892-1992' donated by Paul Hulbert.

'The Everingham Letter Book' by Valerie Ross donated by Ron & Margaret Rozzoli.

'A Small Place in the Country' by Toni Mackenzie donated by Frank & Valerie Holland.

'Watkin Tench 1788 edited & introduced by Tim Flannery' donated by Frank & Valerie Holland.

'The Sirius Letters - The complete letters of Newton Howell 1786-1790' edited with commentary by Nance Irvine donated by Ron & Margaret Rozzoli.

'Baulkham Hills A District Second to None...' by Pam Trimmer donated by Mary Avern.

'The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke' by C J Dennis donated by Mary Avern.

Sepia prints of early Sydney and Rockdale scenes and a mud map of the district donated by Elsie Nairne.

'XYZ goes North'. An Account of a Trip to Hunter's River & visit to Wollombi & the Cummaroy, edited & annotated by Ian Grantham donated by Brenda Smith.

'Convict Road gangs 1826-1836' by Ian Webb donated by Brenda Smith.

'St Stephens Anglican Church Kurrajong 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary' collated and donated by Kathie McMahan.

'Henry Norris - The Comleroy Connection' donated by Kathie McMahan.

A microfiche reader donated by Thompson's Real Estate, Richmond, and a metal map cabinet donated by Lynn and Bill McLean.

## Research papers

Jenny Griffiths donated a copy of 'John Mathew Pittman 1789-1863 from Convict to Landholder', her research relating to her property. Stuart Phipps donated research on the property known as *Avondale* built 1860-65.

## Old Grants

'George Edwards - 40 acres for £40 in the parish of Currency on 13<sup>th</sup> Aug 1888' donated by John Edwards.

## Millstone Advertisers

We thank the following local businesses for their ongoing support: Loxley on Bellbird, Opals, Kurrajong Antique Centre, Sassafras Creek, Carey & Co, Kurrajong Pharmacy, Harmony Fashion Boutique and Peter of London.

## Talks at General Meetings

The 2008 special general meeting discussed the CWA Hall, Kurrajong, as a possible KCHS home. At the mid year dinner Philip Charley IV OAM spoke of the Charley families of Belmont Park. At the September AGM the November Christmas party in Jenny and David Griffith's garden was discussed. At the Australia Day breakfast at Loxley Brian Dunston, Betty Upton and Joan Stoneman spoke of their memories of the old Lord home. During the meeting at St David's Uniting Church in March we learned about a Kurrajong film. Guest speaker at the May general meeting was Jan French who spoke on the Lindsay Museum.

## Excursions and leaders

Les and Ann Dollin: presentation and visit to former Singleton Mill sites on little Wheeney Creek. David and Jenny Griffiths: a visit to a 'Pansy' style locomotive and other exhibits at Thirlmere rail museum. Valerie Holland: tours of Rouse Hill House and Farm and of Dight's House, Richmond. Joy Shepherd: tour of *Belmont* (St. John of God) at North Richmond. Les and Anne Dollin: 'Hidden secrets of the Blue Mountains' including Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson Historical Society's historic buildings and museum. Frank and Valerie Holland - two day visit to Lithgow's Family History Group and three Lithgow museums.

Continued page 9

## KURRAJONG CELLARS

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# Treasurer's Report

GREG UPTON

At the close of the 2008/09 fiscal year our society's financial position was solid, finishing with an operating surplus of \$2,888 and total equity of \$27,715.

It has been a very busy year and some of the highlights have been the following:

- Net income from retail sales has been \$4,272. Of this, 73% (\$3,115) has been derived from the sale of the *Glimpses of the Kurrajong* coffee table book
- The costs to stage all functions and field trips has been fully met returning a surplus of \$1,857. This surplus is in addition to income from raffles and donations
- Production and distribution costs for *The Millstone* have been fully met by advertising revenue returning a surplus of \$1,653
- The society's image library has been launched on the website at an all up cost of \$3,410

Our society continues to grow. After just eight years our equity is almost \$28,000 and membership is fast approaching 200. As you can see in the charts below, this growth has been at a phenomenal rate. Our sound position and strong growth is a product of the hard work that your current and past committees have put in. Please keep this in mind when nominations are sought for committee and volunteer roles, as a turnover of effort from all members is required if our society is to continue to grow and prosper in its endeavour to preserve and promote the heritage of the Kurrajong region.

For further details please refer to the Profit and Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet as at end of June 2009, both of which accompany this report. At the time of writing the society's financial books are with our Honorary Auditor, Mr Paul Nelson of Nelson Business Consultants. Paul provides his services to the society at no cost and for this we express our sincere gratitude and appreciation.

# Balance Sheet

## As of June 2009

### Assets

Current assets			
Cash on hand:			
Cheque account - Bendigo Bank	5,517.50		
ING Direct	12,574.78		
Undeposited funds	173.00		
Total cash on hand		18,265.28	
Trade debtors		1,460.00	
Total current assets			19,725.28
Other assets			
Prepayments	795.93		
Total other assets		795.93	
Property & equipment			
Stock on hand (at cost):			
On the Kurrajong books	168.30		
Light Railways No 89 books	3.90		
Diggers Hill books	810.00		
Glimpses of the Kurrajong books	291.94		
Future History books	3,541.78		
Total stock on hand		4,815.92	
Equipment (at cost):			
Audio visual	3,263.10		
Camera equipment	410.00		
Computer equipment	6,862.50		
Equipment accum depreciation	-8,115.49		
Total equipment		2,420.11	
Total property & equipment			7,236.03
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>\$27,757.24</b>

### Liabilities

Current liabilities			
Trade creditors	-150.00		
Membership paid in advance	192.50		
Total current liabilities		42.50	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>			<b>\$42.50</b>

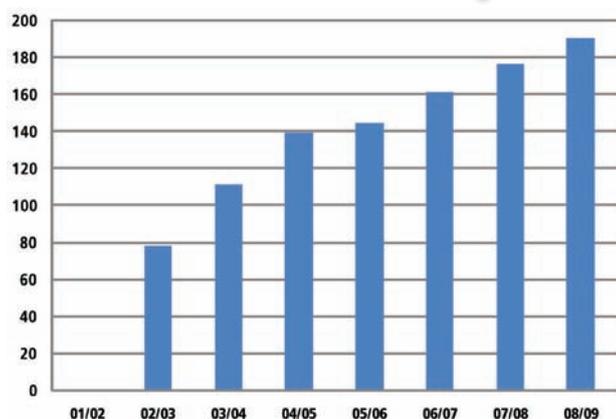
### Nett Assets

**\$27,714.74**

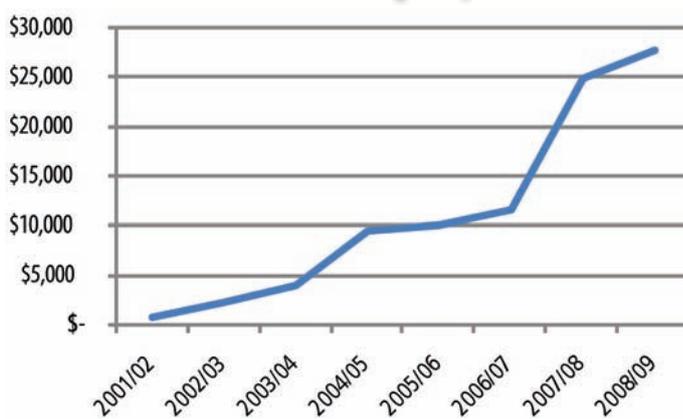
### Equity

Retained earnings	24,827.24
Current year earnings	2,887.50
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$27,714.74</b>

### KCHS Membership



### KCHS Equity



# Profit & Loss Statement

## July 2008 – June 2009

### Income

Membership subscriptions	3,192.50
Grants:	
Bendigo Bank	538.50
Total grants	538.50
Advertising	2,400.00
Donations received	458.10
Field trips	1,238.00
Door takings:	
General meetings	27.00
Special functions	3,333.65
Day excursions	1,197.00
Total door takings	4,557.65
Raffle proceeds	477.00
Postage received	6.00
Retail sales:	
Louisa Atkinson books	2.00
Photographs	218.00
On the Kurrajong books	165.00
Kurrajong Walk books	115.00
Diggers Hill books	149.75
Glimpses of the Kurrajong books	4,338.00
Future History books	8,160.00
Total retail sales	13,147.75
Bank interest	1,278.06
Sales returns & allowances	-10.00

**Total Income** **\$27,283.56**

### Cost of Sales

Purchases for resale:	
On the Kurrajong books	54.45
Diggers Hill books	72.00
Glimpses of the Kurrajong books	1,223.23
Future History books	7,526.48
Total purchases for resale	8,876.16

**Total Cost of Sales** **\$8,876.16**

**Gross Profit** **\$18,407.40**

### Expenses

Admission fees	462.00
Awards	350.66
Archiving materials	81.45
Bad debts	135.00
Bank charges	6.45
Coach hire	126.48
Computer expenses	49.95
Depreciation	2,140.43
Donations given	100.00
Dues & subscriptions	213.50
Display equipment	11.95
Field trips	475.00
Functions:	
Catering	3,275.08
Hall hire	185.00
Total function expenses	3,460.08
Insurance	543.59
Library & literature	534.45
Office supplies & stationary	1,361.69
Photocopying & laminating	336.79
Photography & archiving	180.37
Postage	638.35
Publishing costs	40.00
Post office box rental	24.86
Raffle prizes	113.90
Research	415.00
Schoolhouse hire	410.00
Website development	3,083.43
Website operation	224.52

**Total Expenses** **\$15,519.90**

**Operating profit** **\$2,887.50**

Other income	0.00
Other expenses	0.00

**Nett Profit** **\$2,887.50**

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## John Tebbutt

1834 - 1916

CHRIS UPTON

With 2009 being the International Year of Astronomy and 21 July marking the 40th anniversary of the first manned moon landing it is appropriate to visit one of the Hawkesbury district's astronomical ties.

John Tebbutt was born on 25 May 1834 to John and Virginia Tebbutt née Saunders. He was a grandson of another John who arrived free in the colony on the *Nile* in 1801. He had a sibling, Ann, but she died in her infancy.

The family operated a general store between 1834 and 1843 which proved quite profitable. After he retired John's father purchased some land at the eastern end of Windsor and built a residence there.

John started his schooling at the local Church of England Parish school where he was tutored by Edward Quaife and Edward's interest in astronomy was passed on to his pupil. In 1843 John went to the Presbyterian school overseen by Rev. Mathew Adam and completed his education under H T Stiles during 1845-49. The religious nature of his schooling left a lasting impression on John.

John married Jane Pendergast at St Matthew's Church of England, Windsor, on 8 September 1857. They had six daughters and one son.



John Tebbutt's observatories circa 1895

John constructed his first observatory in 1863 on the family's property. It had walls of pine and a slate roof. He wrote at the time that he acted as "...the carpenter, the bricklayer and the slater". In 1874 a second building was added which was circular, twelve feet in diameter and constructed of pine. The third and largest building was added in 1879. It was of solid brick and the roof was covered with six shutters which, when opened, allowed a view from one horizon to the other. In 1894 the pine building that was erected in 1874 was demolished and replaced with a larger brick one.

He soon received considerable academic recognition for his research as he often outdid his professional colleagues in the accuracy and quantity of data he collected. By choice he decided to remain an amateur, having declined the post of Government Astronomer in 1862. There is much conjecture as to his reasons but his young wife and three daughters would have played some part in his decision.

Bickering between amateur and professional members of the Royal Society of New South Wales led to John's involvement in the formation of a NSW branch of the British Astronomical Association. John was appointed the first president, a post he held from 1895 to 1897. He was also elected a Fellow of

the Royal Astronomical Society of London in 1873. The British Association for the Advancement of Science met in Sydney in 1914 and some of the astronomers paid a personal visit to John's property.

His main focus was on the observation of comets and the calculations of their orbits. During the period 1880 to 1899 he plotted 700 comet and asteroid positions, more than twice that of all the government observatories combined.

Two comets were discovered by him and named after him. The first he discovered in 1861 and the second in 1881. The latter was the first comet to be photographed successfully and able to be studied for its chemical composition.

The quality and accuracy of John's observations and records are such that they are held as a benchmark for current world best practice. The data he collected remains scientifically valuable to the present day. His records on the orbit of Halley's comet played a major part in the European Space Agency's successful rendezvous of the Giotto spacecraft and Halley's comet on 13 March 1986.

John had over 350 papers published in scientific journals and he also produced an annual report on the operations of his observatories. He published extensive meteorological observations and flood records from 1863 to 1896.

He was a prolific writer of letters to the press on many subjects, including sunspots, comets, religion, science and rural politics. As he was very religious he was especially outspoken on issues concerning morality. In 1877 he asked Sir Henry Parkes for leniency towards settlers in paying their government land dues.

John Tebbutt died on 29 November 1916, aged eighty-two. He was survived by a son, John Thomas, and three daughters, Virginia Sarah, Emily Frances and Jane Margaret. He was buried at St Matthew's Church cemetery in a vault designed and built under his supervision.

In recognition of his achievements he was awarded the Silver Medal of the Paris Exhibition in 1867 and the Jackson-Gwilt Medal and Gift from the Royal Astronomical Society of London in 1905. In more recent times a crater on the moon was named in his honour in 1973 and a portrait of him and his observatories was used as the image for the obverse of the first one hundred dollar note printed in Australia in 1984.

As no other family member had an interest in astronomy the observatories he built ceased operations on his death. ☸

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## KURRAJONG

THE pea-rifle tournament shot off on Saturday last in Mr J E McMahon's paddock was numerously attended by both spectators and competitors — about twenty of the latter exercising their keen sight, steady nerve and skill with the toy like but useful and accurate little weapon. The temperature was comfortable and the general aspect of the paddock and surrounding country was pleasant to the eye and cheering to the heart, the grass and foliage showing a healthy green hue consequent upon the recent beneficent rains. The light was perfect, but the wind was somewhat against good scoring, coming from the south west in tricky puffs; but notwithstanding this difficulty all the shooters put up creditable scores. The prizes were won by: J E McMahon 1st. T H Norris and D Douglass divided 2nd and 3rd. The pleasure of those present was enhanced by a good supply of delectable refreshments, which were kindly provided and served by the ladies of the district.

Mr J Lewis, to whose efforts and energies the successful arranging and carrying through of the function was to a large extent due, was thanked in an appropriate speech on behalf of those present by Mr F J Norris, his commendatory remarks being frequently punctuated by general applause.

In responding, Mr Lewis said that although not long amongst them they had made him feel at home from the moment of his arrival, and it gave him the keenest pleasure in being able to assist to further anything which brought them all together in friendly emulation and good fellowship. He greatly appreciated their approval of his efforts. (Applause).

A programme of musical, terpsichorean and histrionic performances was then given to the unqualified approval of a highly entertained audience. The items of chief note were: Cake walk and songs, Miss Kent; comic song and recitation, Mr P McMahon; song, Mr D Douglass; song, Mr J E McMahon; song, Mr A Pye. "God save the King" lustily sung by all concluded the programme.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette  
16 Dec 1905

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Continued from page 5

### Exhibitions

Scarecrow Festival exhibition in CWA Hall Kurrajong with a visit by Les and Anne Dollin's 'Clampett family' scarecrows. Exhibition of photos and Bryan Wyborn's grain mill replicas at Clarendon Hobby Craft and Model Show. Exhibition of wedding photos for 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Stephen's Anglican Church, Kurrajong, prepared by Joy Shepherd.

This past year has been a very interesting and productive one and we have appreciated the assistance and support from the committee and society members. Thank you to Airdrie Martin and Carolynne Cooper who took over the roles of president and secretary while Frank and I were recently on holidays.

Behind the scenes there have been many helpers: Patricia O'Toole minute secretary and Millstone mailout with her husband Ian, Robyn Fuller and Peggy Israel for publicity and advertising, Marguerite Wyborn cardboard backing for our photographs, Brian Wyborn, Les and Anne Dollin, Peter Martin and Frank Holland for assisting the committee by carrying equipment, setting up and removing exhibitions, Airdrie Martin, Paul Hulbert, Valerie Birch and David Griffiths Book Committee. Vera Benveltzen filing, Carolynne Cooper family history, Awards Committee Airdrie Martin chairperson, Ron Rozzoli assisted by wife Margaret and Max Doyle assisted by wife Gwen, Kathie McMahon (retired). We thank all committee members who are diligently preparing for what should be a series of very enjoyable celebrations for 2010. ☸

### St Stephen's Anglican Church Kurrajong

## Back to the Chapel

Saturday, 24 October 3 p.m.

A service of celebration followed by a special wedding style afternoon tea will be held at St Stephen's Anglican Church 1005 Grose Vale Rd, Kurrajong, in conjunction with the Scarecrow Festival.

Displays of photographs, wedding memorabilia and the opportunity to renew marriage vows combine to make this a day not just for those who were married at St Stephen's but also for their families, friends and everyone from the wider community.

If you were married at St Stephen's please contact Shaun McGregor as soon as possible so that personal invitations can be sent to you, your family and friends. Shaun is also the contact if you are able to contribute wedding memorabilia for the display and if you would like your wedding photo included please contact Joy Shepherd.

There is no charge to partake in the celebration.

**Shaun McGregor 4573 2183**

shaun@kac.asn.au

**Joy Shepherd 4571 1524**

joyshep1@bigpond.com

From THE ARCHIVES

The Simmons family's fishing trips



Photo courtesy: Dennis & Dorothy Simmons

Ted Simmons with sons Cliff & Dennis at Blaxlands Ridge circa 1948

Ted Simmons and his family lived in Greggs Road, Kurrajong during the 1940s. He, his family and some of their friends would often enjoy a fishing trip to Wheeny Creek. It required considerable organisation and a high level of fitness as the journey was approximately three hours each way. They would usually leave home in the dark, around 3 a.m. as day-break was the ideal time of day to catch fish.

They would ride their push-bikes from Kurrajong to Comleroy Road, which in those days was tarred only as far as Merindah Road. They would then continue along Blaxlands Ridge Road and on to Ironbark Ridge. It was here that the mail was delivered to a box for the residents of the top end of Wheeny Creek, including the Singleton family. The party would leave their bikes at the top of the mountain walking down to the deep water to fish.

On their way they would collect horse stinger bushes, so-called because the ends would fan out. This would enable them to hit insects, mainly horse stingers (dragonflies), that would hover over the top of the water. The hit would stun them and they could be used as natural bait. Crickets and beetles were also excellent perch bait.

On cold mornings there was another way to catch dragonflies. The extreme cold would freeze the insects to the grasses. As the day began to warm the frozen insects would fall to the ground. They could then be picked up and used for bait. This freezing did not affect the dragonflies and as they warmed up they would fly away.

Once the fish were caught, bracken fern was collected and parts of the fronds were threaded through the gills of the fish. They would then be kept cool and moist hanging in the water. If the fishermen moved their position, they would transfer the bracken fern laden with fish to the next spot in the creek. At the end of the day the fish would be scaled, cleaned and salted inside. They would then be put into flour bags, brought along for the purpose, wrapped and ready for transport home.

The tired and happy fishermen would then climb the mountain to collect their bikes for the return journey to Kurrajong.

As told by Dennis Simmons

Sports and Bicycle Races

TO BE HELD AT

Mr H. Wholohan's, Comleroy Road,

ON

Wednesday, January 26.

Everybody Invited. A Good Day's Fun.

- (1.) Handicap bicycle race, to start at 2 p.m., all-comers, post entry, prize £2. Distance about 3 miles.
(2.) Quoit match, 2.30, prize 10/-.
(3.) Foot race, 100 yards, 3 p.m.
(4.) Local handicap bicycle race, 3.15 p.m. For Kurrajong residents only, prize £1/1.
(5.) Ladies' nail driving competition. Prize by subscription.

In addition to the above, sports of various kinds will be held during the afternoon, including old buffer's race, tilting the ring, obstacle race, Gentlemen's needle threading competition, etc.

Everybody cordially invited. No admission charged.

P. S. McMAHON, Hon. Sec.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette 22 Jan 1910

Ready for an adventure



Photo courtesy: Ern Hawkins

This photo was taken circa 1948 and shows George Hawkins taking his brothers in law, the Sullivan boys, and their friends up to Haughey's hut for a few days shooting. They would camp in the hut and shoot rabbits, foxes and dingoes.

The location is off the Singleton Road about twenty-eight kilometres north of Upper Colo.

The men in the photo are, left to right: George Hawkins, Ken Sullivan, Billy Walls, Morris Hawkins (George's son) and Ray Sullivan.

The truck is George Hawkins' Chevrolet. It appears to be a 1925 model and its condition indicates that it might not have been registered for road use at the time.

Margaret Rozzoli

# MYSTERY PHOTO



Photo courtesy: Pieter Huveneers

Not long after purchasing a property at Kurrajong Heights Pieter Huveneers found a number of old photos during some renovations. He was most generous in donating them to the Society and they have been added to the archives.

The featured photo is from the collection. It was taken at the studios of 'T Boston of Windsor'. However, no other details are noted on the photo. Another photo in the collection shows an older woman with a striking resemblance to this young lady, but it as well has no details recorded.

Most of the photos in the collection are of people and appear to be formal family snaps. In all cases the people are attired in what would have been the period's high class fashion. The family or families were clearly not working class.

Pieter's assumption that the photos might be of an early landholder family of the district has merit. When viewed as a whole the collection depicts people with large, established and well-maintained orchards and gardens. The houses are spacious, well-constructed and would have cost a considerable sum to design and build.

If any reader is able to shed some light on the identity of this young lady please pass the details on to the secretary or editor and they will see that the details are forwarded to Pieter. Other examples from the collection will be featured in future issues of *The Millstone*. ☞

## A MOTHER'S THANKS

(To the Editor.)

Dear Sir,—I enclose herewith copy of a letter which Mr. John McCabe, of The Slopes, Kurrajong, received from Mrs. Knappsberg, of Finland, showing her appreciation of his kindness to her and her son. I may mention the son, Bruno Knappsberg, was killed at the front in one of the big stunts, and prior to enlisting here, spent most of his time about the Kurrajong Slopes, as an orchard hand, during which time he became acquainted with Mr. McCabe, and being a lad of good character, Mr. McCabe looked upon him as a stranger in a strange land, and tried to make life as pleasant as he could for him in many ways of hospitality. Naturally, for this he won Bruno's admiration, and prior to sailing for the front, he instructed Mr. McCabe to collect his pay, and to use his own words, "If oi gets shot, Jocks, send my moneys to my modder." This the genial "Jocks" carried out. Trusting you will find space in your valuable paper for this.—Yours truly, W. HORNER, manager "Koowong," Kurrajong Heights.

Rodbergsgatan,  
Helsingfors,  
Finland,  
16, A.L., '13.

To Dear John McCabe.

Dear Sir,—Mrs. Knappsberg wants me to write to you and thank you for all the kindness you have bestowed her for letter writing and for the money that she received, if course the £10/0/0 has she not become, but it was war time when they was sent by post so they may have been loost, but in the same time you have my warmest sympathy and best wishes from all of us, for all the kindness you have showed Bruno and to Mrs. Knappsberg the heavens shoisest blessings to you and Mrs. McCabe is prayed of Mrs. Knappsberg and me.

Yours faithfully,  
MR. G. R. LINDROOS.

P.S.—It is because Mrs. Knappsberg can't write the English Langwitsh, that I am writing for her all that she wants, but excuse me if I myself is not so competent in it.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette  
2 July 1920

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Monday, 28 September

The AGM will be held at Comleroy Road Public School commencing 7.30 p.m. Following the meeting the guest speaker, Cathy McHardy will give a presentation on a recently released book 'Glossodia, A Peep into the Past around Currency Creek' by Arthur Cooper with assistance from Cathy McHardy.

### Fri 23 - Sun 25 October

We commemorate 200 years of European settlement in the Kurrajong district at Kurrajong CWA Hall, in conjunction with the Scarecrow Festival.

On Friday at 7 p.m. Les Dollin will explain the colourful history of the first land grants made in Kurrajong and the earliest records of surveying and agriculture in the area. On Saturday and Sunday KCHS will present an exhibition of some early land grants between 1810 - 1823 with the use of old and present-day maps, family photographs and documents.

### Found

**F**OUND, at Richmond, Saturday, the 23rd, a PURSE, containing money; owner can have same by giving description and paying expenses.

J. MADDEN,  
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A light supper will be served, cost \$2 to cover expenses. Please pay at the door.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. for further details and to make your bookings please contact Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.

### Saturday, 28 November

Our annual Christmas gathering will be held at the property of John and Carolynne Cooper, 13 Turpentine Grove, Kurrajong. Further details will be published in the next issue of *The Millstone*.

### Volunteer Treasurer

Greg Upton, the current Treasurer, will be vacating the position after the forthcoming AGM on 28 September and has advised that he will not be renominating to be elected. Forward notice is therefore being given as the position has proved difficult to fill in the past.

Greg has offered to assist the new Treasurer for the first few months, if required, in order to ensure a comfortable transition.

If you would like to nominate for this position please contact:

The Secretary, Valerie Holland  
(02) 4573 2226  
frank.holland@bigpond.com.au

## Digital image library now online

KCHS's digital image library is now accessible on the Internet from the Society's home page. The archive currently comprises 4,500 photos and documents.

Searching on subjects can easily be done with just a keyword or further refined by specifying decades, localities or subject.

As well as viewing the photos and reading the associated details of each it is possible, in just a few easy steps, to order printed copies at very reasonable rates.

Ian Walker of SearchTech and Greg Upton should be applauded for their efforts and time they spent in ensuring the end result met their high standards and that it has been achieved at a very affordable expense to the Society.

[www.kurrajonghistory.org.au](http://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au)

### Committee Nominations

The following nominations have been received for positions on the committee:

President	Frank Holland
Vice President	Airdrie Martin
Secretary	Valerie Holland
Committee	Patricia O'Toole
	Carolynne Cooper
	Paul Hulbert
	Steve Rawling

993 Bells Line of Road  
Kurrajong Hills 2758  
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[www.loxleyonbellbirdhill.com.au](http://www.loxleyonbellbirdhill.com.au)

- Australian Hotels Association Best Regional Mid-market Hotel of the Year 2008 & '09
- Australian Bridal Industry Academy National Award Best Resort / Motel Reception 2008
- Hills Excellence in Business Awards for Excellence in Customer Service Environmental Management & Sustainability 2008
- Parramatta Regional Awards for Business Excellence in Sales & Marketing Customer Service, Chairman's Choice Contributing to the Environment 2005 '06 '07 & '08
- Western Sydney Industry Awards Excellence 2002 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 & 08
- Hotel Motel & Accommodation Association Best Short Break Accommodation in NSW 2003



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