

Kurrajong - Comleroy Historical Society Newsletter

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

THIS ISSUE

3 Macquarie re-enactment

The final event held by the Society to commemorate Lachlan & Elizabeth Macquarie's visit to the local district. 400 school children plus guests were entertained & educated by members of the Society dressed in period costume

5 Vale: Dennis Kelvin Simmons

Dennis was a valued member of the Society and the local district. Joy Shepherd's article paints a clear picture of why he had such an impact on many people

6 Old times versus new

Kathie McMahon has utilised an article from an April 1908 issue of the *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* to draw parallels with an event held in present times

7 From the archives

A photo of the Catholic Debutante Ball held in 1948. This photo has been passed through many hands and only two participants remain unidentified. There are also two photos of the Simmons family on fishing and shooting trips, very timely with Joy's article on page five

8 Dates for your diary

Final reminder for the Australia Day breakfast being held at the Kurrajong Heights hotel on Wednesday, 26 January

New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following new member

BONNIE TOSSWILL

Vice Regal dinner

FRANK HOLLAND

Wednesday, 1 December was chosen as the date for our formal dinner to honour the memory and accomplishments of Governor Lachlan Macquarie and his wife Elizabeth. This date was 200 years since the vice regal party crossed the Hawkesbury on 1 December 1810 and then made their way to the summit of the 'Kurry Jung'. Loxley was chosen for the venue as it is located close to where the governor would have passed.

A great deal of planning and preparation went into making this event one to remember. The planning began over two years ago and became fairly demanding over the past eighteen months. Every opportunity was taken to ensure that our NSW Governor, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO would accept our invitation to attend and once that commitment was in

place, work began in earnest to prepare for the evening. Negotiations with Loxley, the writing of a script for a pre-recorded historical presentation, negotiations with the Richmond Players, building of stage props, editing, recording sessions, the search for suitable scenes of the early 1800s era and the creation of the final production. This was followed by rehearsals, a search for sound and lighting solutions, advertising, printing of invitations and programmes and finally the decoration of the Kauri Room at Loxley. A big thank you to Bilpin Wild Flower Farm and Airdrie Martin for flowers.

It is rare when everything runs to plan and we experienced some last minute dramas. The main issue being a very late change to the arrival time of the Governor and Sir Nicholas Shehadie which was originally planned for 7 pm but delayed an hour. This was due to the Governor being required to fill in for the Governor General who was out of Australia. This meant that at the last minute additional security was allocated and of course additional meals were required. Paul Maher and the staff at Loxley rose to the occasion and provided exceptional service, nothing was a problem. Paul underwrote a number of meals, provided drinks at reduced rates and provided reduced cost accommodation for those staying over, a gesture that was not only generous but very helpful in reducing the cost to the Society. Thank you Paul and thank you Loxley staff.

The guests began to arrive about 6 pm all dressed for the occasion and looking particularly beautiful or handsome. About 50% of the guests were members of KCHS with the rest representing Bilpin, Kurrajong Heights, Glossodia, Pitt Town, Richmond, Windsor, Wilberforce, Castlereagh and Oakville. Richard & Joan Peak came down from Queensland for the occasion.



Governor Marie Bashir & Frank Holland mingling with guests after the superb dinner

Photo: Carolyne Cooper

Continued page 2

President's Corner

I am pleased to report that we have successfully completed our goal of commemorating the two hundredth anniversary of the passage of Governor Macquarie, his wife Elizabeth and their party through Kurrajong. It was a mammoth effort but what occasions they were. The reports on these events appear elsewhere in this issue so I will not delve into detail except to say what an honour it was to welcome our thirty-seventh governor, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO and her husband Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC OBE to our dinner at Loxley and the re-enactment of Macquarie's journey which entertained the four hundred pupils who participated.

Those who had the opportunity to meet our guests of honour were greatly impressed by their warm and friendly approach. I suspect that Lachlan Macquarie would have applauded their ability to mix so freely.

Many thanks go to those who worked behind the scenes to make the night a success, in particular Valerie Holland, Ron and Margaret Rozzoli, Bryan Wyborn and Ian O'Toole. There are others who contributed as well and I thank you also.

The second event was the re-enactment of the Macquarie party passing through Kurrajong for the benefit of school children of the area. Four hundred children plus adults attended with twenty-one of our members dressed in period costume to assist the group from the NSW Corps of Marines. Five children received awards for their project work and the nine schools were presented with a commemorative framed parchment. The sub-committee of Patricia O'Toole, Jan Livingstone and Bea Horacek put in a wonderful effort.

What next you might ask. 2011 is our tenth year and will kick off with our Australia Day birthday breakfast at Kurrajong Heights Hotel. There are also a number of events in the planning stage.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2011.

Continued from front page

The rain held off for the arrival of the Governor and Sir Nicholas who were greeted by Frank and Valerie Holland acting as hosts, Mayor Bart Bassett and Bronwyn Bassett and Paul Maher. The master of ceremonies, Steve Rawling AM and wife Judie were presented to the governor along with other main table guests Ron and Margaret Rozzoli.

The official party made its way to the table for the singing of the national anthem followed by a welcome speech by president, Frank Holland and grace said by Robyn Fuller.

The 120 guests tucked into a meal of seafood entrée, followed by rolled chicken leg filled with roast garlic and thyme farce, roasted leg of lamb, baked potato, pumpkin, sweet potato and broccolini with mint sauce and red wine jus. This was a meal similar to that described in Elizabeth Macquarie's journal.

The MC proposed the loyal toast and this was followed with dessert of pavlova and pastry cream roulade & seasonal fruits or double chocolate parfait with stewed raspberries and rhubarb.

Ron Rozzoli then provided an introduction to the audiovisual production 'Birth of a Nation'. The introduction provided the background to the appointment of Colonel Lachlan Macquarie as the fifth Governor of the Colony of NSW.



Richmond Players being congratulated for a fine performance

Photo: Carolynne Cooper

The audio visual presentation picked up the story with the voyage from England and focused on the journey that the vice regal couple made to the 'Kurry Jung' and thence on to name the five Macquarie towns. The story continued with a brief overview of the period between 1810 and the Macquarie's departure in 1822 and concluded with his death in 1824. The production was enhanced by the appearance of actors from Richmond players at key moments in the story. The actors were

Continued page 8

Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society Incorporated

PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757

www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

COMMITTEE

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Vice President Airdrie Martin

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Schools re-enactment

FRANK HOLLAND



The musket salute took many of the assembled schoolchildren by surprise

Photo: Anne Dollin



From the Editor

One of the many things an editor must do is pay attention to detail as what may be a molehill to some can be a mountain to others. I am not talking so much about the accuracy of the words printed, but rather how well the I's and have been dotted and the T's have been crossed.

In days not long passed 'proofreader' was an occupation, well paid and in high demand. It was a highly-developed skill but one which has become virtually redundant thanks to 'Spell Checker'. In the early days of word processors the spell check was used as an initial filter to get rid of obvious errors then the copy was passed to proofreaders before final publication. The spelling errors I have noticed in the national press of late has me convinced that they are relying solely on Spell Checker and proofreaders have become obsolete.

The quality of writing rests not just on the words which are chosen and how they are arranged, but also on how they are written. Is uppercase correctly used? Should that comma be there, or should it be a semi-colon?

I am pleased to have the resource of a small group of proofreaders. Their commentary and attention to detail has often brought to notice what my eyes have missed.

As this is the first issue of 2011 I would like to take the opportunity to welcome all of you to a new year and hope that the festive season has been an enjoyable and safe one for you, your family and friends.

notpuc@bigpond.com

The last event in our salute to Governor Lachlan Macquarie and his wife Elizabeth was the re-enactment of the vice regal party passing through the 'Kurry Jung'.

The original plan was to hold this event in Memorial Park, Kurrajong, however as the weather prediction was not promising an approach was made to the Principal of Kurrajong Public School to have access to their new school hall as a fall back location. The principal, Mrs Judy McKeown, readily agreed.

About twenty-one members of the Society, dressed in period costume, met at the Kurrajong fire station at 8.30 am for a quick briefing relating to the changed venue and then with the Corps of Marines paraded through the streets of Kurrajong Village.

The organising committee consisting of KCHS members Patricia O'Toole, Bea Horacek and Jan Livingstone created a series of activities, information sources and background material and placed it on our web site for use by the children if they wished to learn more about the Macquarie era and perhaps enter an historical competition by creating a poster or by writing a letter supposedly to Mrs Macquarie, Lachlan's mother, in Scotland.

Around 400 school children arrived on Friday morning to be greeted at the entry to the school grounds by a guard of honour made up of members of the NSW Corps of Marines re-enactment group. Represented were: Bilpin, Comleroy Road, Glossodia, Grose View, Kurmond, Kurrajong North, Kurrajong, Kurrajong East, and Wilberforce.

The children were entertained by Ian Henry playing bagpipes and Wendy Kilroy playing the fiddle whilst awaiting the start of proceedings.

Guests of honour were Councillor Bart Bassett, Mayor of Hawkesbury and councillors Jill Reardon and Kim Ford. After acknowledging the traditional owners of the land Mrs Judy McKeown welcomed the guests and other schools and expressed her delight that the new hall was being used for a community event relating to history. She then handed proceedings over to Roland Edwards.

Roland Edwards was one of the twenty-three settlers granted land in the area in 1809 and ratified by Governor Macquarie in 1810. Roland Edwards was played by the president of KCHS, Frank Holland, dressed in appropriate period costume. Frank acted as a story teller providing background information about Governor Macquarie, hopes and fears of settlers and exploration in the area. Whilst he was speaking members of the Society in their period costumes made their way through the assembled children and up on to the stage.

The governor, Sean Duff, Anne Duff as Elizabeth, accompanied by the Marine Corps and others dressed in period costume

Continued page 4

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Continued from page 3

entered the hall and made their way to the stage. After the marines presented arms and the settlers cheered, the governor made a speech outlining his journey and his hopes and plans for the colony.

Two children dressed up for the occasion were then presented to the governor. Ella Bagley of Bilpin Public School was invited to read the letter she wrote to Lachlan Macquarie's mother in Scotland.

The names of five children, one from each school who submitted entries, were announced and the children came forward to receive their prize and certificate from the governor and Mrs Macquarie. The children were: Ella Bagley (Bilpin), Tilly Harry (Kurrajong), Olivia Brooks (Comleroy Road), Kelly Burgman (Grose View) and Michael Friend (Wilberforce).

The mayor, Bart Bassett, then presented framed commemorative parchments from KCHS to each of the schools who took part. The mayor provided an overview of the events to take place on Sunday 5 in Windsor to commemorate the naming of the five Macquarie towns and he invited the children to come along and take part in this celebration. We were grateful to be the recipients of seed funding for this event through Hawkesbury City Council's Macquarie 2010 committee.

The Governor, Elizabeth, Marines and settlers then left the hall. The marines formed up outside for inspection whilst the school children lined up to witness the firing of a musket salute. Two volleys were fired then the vice regal party were led from the grounds by Ian Henry playing the bagpipes.

Many thanks go to all who took part: The NSW Marine Corps, Sean and Anne Duff, our members who dressed up, the musicians, St John's Ambulance and members of Kurrajong Rural Fire Brigade. Particular thanks go to the organising committee and to the principal, staff and children of Kurrajong Public School and to all the children present on the day.

The event concluded with a final parade around Kurrajong Village and morning tea at the Rural Fire Station. ☸

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Empire Day.

Comleroy Road.

The Comleroy Road, Bullridge, and Blaxland's Ridge schools amalgamated and followed the same course as last year, holding their sports in the grounds kindly lent for the occasion by Mr Robert Pitt, of "Trafalgar." At 10 a.m. the teachers, parents, and scholars assembled at the Comleroy Road school where speeches were delivered by Messrs Anderson and W. Fraser. Patriotic songs, recitations, etc., were given by the scholars. After saluting the Union Jack, the children marched to the above grounds where all seemed to enjoy themselves immensely, especially during luncheon and tea hours. Once again our kind friend, Mr Ted Smith, with his untiring energy, greatly contributed towards the success of the outing. Each enrolled scholar received an Empire gift provided by the funds subscribed by parents and friends. Various races were run during the afternoon and a very enjoyable day was brought to a close about 5 p.m.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette
6 June 1908

KURRAJONG.

A valuable cow, the property of Mr. John, of "Burnside," had her leg broken on Saturday. Mr. John has the sympathy of his friends in this loss, for he was making 11 lbs of butter per week from her at the time.

The Kurrajong Cricket Club was re-formed at a meeting held at Mr. H. John's 'Burnside' on Saturday last, and it promises to be stronger than ever. 19 members joined. Mr. J. Cook, M.H.R., was elected patron, and Mr. B. Hall, M.P., president. Six vice-presidents were appointed; Mr. S. Douglass was elected hon. sec., Mr. J. Roberts hon. treasurer, and Mr. W. Douglass chairman. Mr. Roberts was deputed to purchase a mat and tools. A concert will be shortly held in aid of the funds of the club.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette
17 September 1904



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VALE: *Dennis Kelvin Simmons*

1932 - 2010

JOY SHEPHERD

On 26 November 1932 Dennis Simmons was born at Wheeney Creek at Kurrajong, near McMahon Park. He was the fifth child of Ted and Ruth Simmons, née Males, and five more children were to follow. While he was growing up his parents moved around living at Colo, Kurmond, Kurrajong and Windsor. Dennis, with his outgoing nature, made many lifelong friends at the various schools that he attended. He was also very involved with his church, preaching in the Church of Christ from seventeen years of age.

His family had a strong love for the bush, and he was taught many skills as he was growing up, to survive and to enjoy nature to its fullest. His dad and brothers would regularly ride their bikes from Kurrajong down to Boggie Wheeney to fish for the day, catching horse stingers for bait on the way. Or they would go shooting, ferreting, searching for wild bees, having great fun together, all of this to help feed their family of twelve. Many other skills for survival, learnt from the Aborigines in the early days, were passed down through the generations.

Dennis met Dorothy Heterick when he was working at Pulsfords' Department Store in Windsor, and they married in 1954. She was his best friend and greatest supporter for fifty-six years, and they proudly raised four children. Later eight wonderful grandchildren completed the picture.

In the 1960s Dennis became a bricklayer. He and his dad built our first home in 1964, a fantastic job, done with Dennis' flair for perfection.

In December 1971 Dennis graduated from the Macquarie School of Preaching and became a Minister of Religion in the non-denominational Church of Christ. The family lived in the suburbs of Sydney including Eastwood for many years as he pursued his calling. They returned to Windsor in 1979 and built their dream home in James Ruse Close where they have lived for 28 years.

Dennis and Dorothy became involved with the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society in 2003. Their daughter Sandy, in a chance conversation with secretary Louise McMahon, spoke of her 'amazing' father Dennis. Louise decided to invite him to be guest speaker at our first mid-winter dinner, hosted at the North Richmond Panthers as a joint Society-Rotary event. From then on Dennis and Dorothy opened their hearts and home to us, sharing with us their incredible photographs and their wonderful memories of early Kurrajong. This has been ongoing for the last seven years.

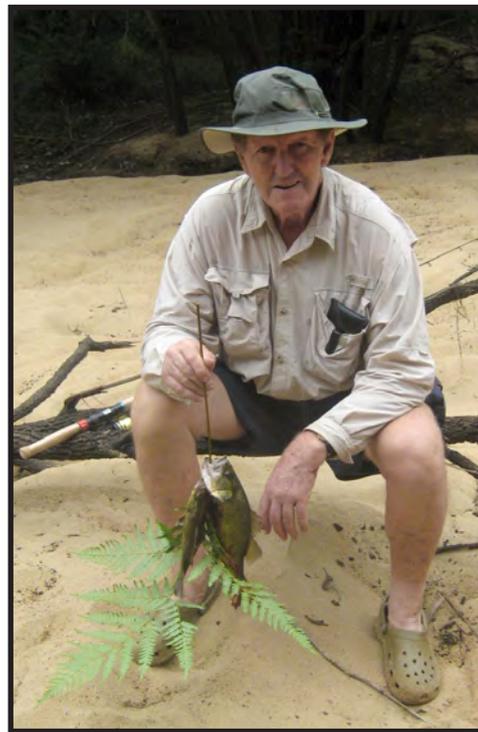


Photo courtesy: Dorothy Simmons

I am fortunate enough to share some ancestors, the Males side of the family, so it has been even more special for me.

Dennis battled melanoma for some time, finally succumbing on 18 September 2010. He is now with his Redeemer and free from pain.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dorothy and the family as they adjust to the loss of such a dynamic and wise man.

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The more things change the more they stay the same

contributed by

KATHIE MCMAHON-NOLF

1908

In the evening an open-air concert was held in the grounds of Mr Walker's cottage, adjoining the church grounds. The night was a glorious one, and as a result the attendance was well up to expectations. The lawn was illuminated with Chinese lanterns, and the side verandah served as a platform. The chairman was the Rev W.R. Milne. Some very good tableaux, wand exercises and club swinging were given by the pupils under the able direction of the Misses Douglass, who were, indeed, very much in evidence throughout. The following pleasing programme of music and mirth was rendered:— Tableau, Pupils; recitation, Mr S. Boughton; song, "The old soldier", Mr P. Biddle; recitation, "Only a pin", Mr G.H. Adam; song, "Home, boys, home", Mr J.M. Evans (encored); duet, the Misses Mitchell; song, "The wishing cap", Miss Matheson; wand exercises, Pupils; duet, "A.B.C.", Mr and Miss Matheson (encored); gramophone selections, Mr Lord; tableaux, "Joan of Arc" and "Floral tableau", Pupils; song, "The sleeping camp", Mr H. Matheson; recitation, "A case of snake bite in harvest time", Mr S. Boughton (encored); trio, "A little farm well tilled", Messrs Biddle, Matheson and Evans (doubly encored); song, "I'se going back to Dixie", Mr J.M. Evans; club swinging, Pupils; recitation, Mr G.H. Adam; song, "Doreen", Mr P. Biddle; song, Miss Mitchell; male chorus. Several of these items won great favor with the audience, especially the trio by Messrs Biddle, Matheson and Evans, in which the flights and falsetto and the ludicrous renditions of other fine points of harmony and inharmony were a revelation. A number of the contributors were members of the North Richmond Glee Club, while Messrs Evans and Adam were from Marrickville. Mrs Alwyn and Misses Matheson and Douglass gave valuable assistance as accompanists.

At the conclusion of the programme, on the motion of Mr W. Douglass, a vote of thanks was accorded the various contributors to the evening's entertainment, those who had assisted in the work of organisation, the chairman and the press. Mr Douglass explained that this was the first occasion on which a representative of the press had attended a function of this nature at the Heights. A GAZETTE representative responded.

The gathering dispersed after 10 o'clock, and many expressions of full appreciations of the hospitality of the people of the Heights were ventured by the visitors.

The Windsor & Richmond Gazette
25 April 1908

2010

A concert was held in St David's Uniting Church on Sunday, 17 October 2010. The afternoon was a glorious one, and as a result the attendance was well up to expectations. The church was decorated with flowers, and the back room was used for serving afternoon tea prepared by St David's Church parishioners. The chairman was Mrs Kathleen McMahon-Nolf. Some very good tableaux, (vivid scene or a striking group of people) was given by the choral group 'Chorella' under the direction of Mr Anthony Linden-Jones, who were, indeed, very much in evidence throughout. The following pleasing programme of music and mirth entitled 'Songs from Around the World and Songs Old and New' was rendered:- Tableau, Chorella; song, "Blackbird, Ah Robin Gentle Robin, Sweet Suffolk Owl", Chorella featuring Mrs. John Maguire (encored) "The bluebird" composed by Charles Stanford 1852-1924," Chorella choir; song, "Adios Nonino" a tango by Piazzolla requiring mandatory dancing, Choir gospel songs "Down to the River to Pray" and "Rhythm of Life" (encored).

Also in attendance to entertain were singers and instrumentalists 'The Muso Mates' with musical director Mrs Kilroy. Renditions included Mr Coombs and Mrs Kilroy duet, pipes and fiddle, Mr Henry and Mrs Kilroy; tune "Lindisfarne", Mr McFetridge (encored), "Faded Love" and "Ashokens Farewell", poem Mr Hamilton "You will find our dust" Mr Sobiesiak; fiddle, "Ave Maria" and "The Wedding", Miss de Burca; song "Lambs in the green field" Mr Coombs (encored); song "Mockingbird Hill" Mrs Kilroy, Mr Henry and Mr Coombs; tune, Baidin Fheilimi.

After a delicious afternoon tea Mr Henry played a tune 'I See Mull' on his bagpipes which was enjoyed by all who heard it. Mull is the burial place of our Governor Lachlan Macquarie. The raffle was then drawn. Prizes for this raffle were provided by the very generous spirit of Kurrajong businesses: Carey and Co, Bellbird Echo Centre and Peter of London.

The second half of the concert had several musical items that won great favour with the audience, especially Chorella song from Henry Purcell's opera The Fairy Queen "Hush no more be silent" (double encore), The flights and falsetto and the ludicrous renditions of the other fine points of harmony and inharmony were a revelation.

Muso mates featured Mr Henry; song, "Mountains of Mourn", Mr Hamilton; song, "The Christmas Wish" and a finale "Hundred Piper Set".

At the conclusion of the programme, on the motion of Mrs McMahon-Nolf a vote of thanks was accorded the various contributors to the afternoon's entertainment, those who had assisted in the work of organization, the chairman and the press. The gathering dispersed after 5 o'clock and the visitors ventured many expressions of full appreciations of the hospitality of the people of the Heights.

 From
THE ARCHIVES

Catholic Debutante Ball 1948



The Kurrajong picture theatre was the venue for the Catholic Debutante Ball held in 1948. This photo was forwarded to the Society by Joan Mullins and she is pictured in the back row, third from the right.

Back row L-R; Gwen Davis, later Burgess, partnered by Vince McMahon, Betty Walsh, Margaret Cleary, partnered by Max Doyle, Ethel Willmott, later Drury, Josie Grearly, Joan Shepherd, later Mullins, Mary Turner, Maureen Savage, later Chynoweth, a teacher at Kurmond School.

Front row L-R; Unidentified - this young girl and the one on the far right, also unidentified, were sisters who lived on Comleroy Road for a short period, Robyn Armstrong, later Pratt, Mrs Guitenich with her son John, Mrs Wholahan, Patricia Guitenich.

Joy Shepherd had a wonderful time putting names to faces. When the photo was initially forwarded to the Society there were few details of those present and some doubt as to the accuracy of the detail.

By passing the photo to others Joy was able to fill in many of the blanks and add snippets of conversation to the record, such as: Robyn Armstrong is wearing the flower girl dress she wore at Olive Clancy's wedding; Olive's father was the headmaster at Kurmond School. Mrs Guitenich, John and her family lived in a soldier settlement home on the Bells Line of Road opposite what was once the Kurrajong Motel. Patricia Guitenich had a heart condition and died at the young age of twelve years.

Simmons family at play



Photo courtesy: Dennis Simmons

This photo was taken at North Richmond circa 1950s. The Simmons family are about to leave on a shooting and fishing trip. From left to right are Dennis, Cliff and father Ted. Younger brother Bruce is standing behind their Oakland truck.



Photo courtesy: Dennis Simmons

On a fishing trip to Wheeny Creek. Ted with sons Cliff and Dennis. The horse stinger bushes Ted is carrying were used to obtain natural bait.

EDITOR'S NOTE Another photo of the family on a fishing trip, using pushbikes for transport and taken in 1948, was published in the Sep/Oct issue p10.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday, 26 January

The Society's Australia Day breakfast at the Kurrajong Heights Hotel commencing 9 a.m. This celebration also coincides with the tenth birthday of the Society.

Cost per person is \$25 and bookings are essential. Payment please no later than 10 January. Please contact Airdrie Martin on 4567 7921 or Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.

Monday, 7 March

Meet at 9.30 a.m. at the Pioneer Village, Rose Street Wilberforce for a tour of the site then an afternoon visit to the historic buildings of the old Agricultural College in the grounds of the Richmond campus of UWS.

Cost approx. \$10 and lunch at own cost, either picnic or purchased after we leave the village. For further information contact Valerie Holland 4573 2226.

Monday, 28 March

March general meeting, venue to be advised. Guest speaker will be the historian Andy McQueen and his talk will cover the research he has done relating to his great, great grandfather Frederick Robert D'Arcy, colonial surveyor, explorer and artist 1809-1875. A gold coin donation for supper will be appreciated.

The President K.C.H.S.

Dear Sir,

Having travelled from sunny Queensland to attend the Governor Macquarie dinner, Joan and I were amply rewarded by the most professionally produced and immensely enjoyable recreation of a momentous phase in the history of Australia.

Governor Macquarie certainly knew his business, as did the many people whose efforts made the night what it was.

The people of KCHS and Richmond Players, and their many helpers, deserve the appreciation of the whole community for bringing history to life, and for reminding us that goodness and honour in public office has its reward in the love and gratitude of those served - even 200 years later.

We will regale our friends in the Moreton (Q) chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, when next we meet, with all the details of that evening, which will live in our memories for many a year to come.

Sincerely,

Joan and Richard Peak

6 December 2010

Continued from page 2

Sean Duff (Lachlan Macquarie), Anne Duff (Elizabeth Macquarie), Greg Todd (James Meehan), Nathan Zamprogno provided the narration and Tracy Stedman provided Elizabeth's voice and back stage management. The production ran for thirty minutes and was very favourably received by the governor and other guests.

The governor then addressed the guests. She spoke most eloquently and without reference to notes for forty minutes. We were delighted as we had been advised that it was rare for her to speak longer than ten minutes. She was speaking on a favourite topic, Macquarie, and gave an in-depth view of the contribution made by the vice regal couple. It was a truly absorbing speech. Our vice president, Airdrie Martin, then presented the governor with a selection of our books as a memento of the evening.

The governor mingled with guests and spoke to as many as time would allow. Everybody who spoke with the governor commented on how relaxed and natural she was and so easy with whom to have a conversation with. At just after 11 p.m. the vice regal party departed bringing a most memorable night to a close.

Special mention must go to script writers Ron and Margaret Rozzoli, sound and voice editor Ian O'Toole and props designer Bryan Wyborn. Also many thanks go to Paul Harrigan and staff of Eyes and Ears Entertainment Services. There are too many people to thank all individually, however the event would not have been a success without the willing participation of members of our Society. Thank you all.



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- 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