

## 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*

## Australia Day breakfast

VALERIE HOLLAND

### THIS ISSUE

#### 3 Inaugural meeting minutes

The minutes of the inaugural meeting of KCHS. Thought lost, a copy was found on Steve Rawling's computer. Our anniversary is the ideal time to reflect on our founders' ideals and goals, and the achievements the Society has made over the past ten years

#### 4 General Orders (1803)

This article reproduced from a newspaper published in 1803 reminds us that flooding is not a recent phenomenon and was a concern to the authorities in the very early years of the colony. They appear to have had a better understanding of mother nature than our current lot of bureaucrats

#### 5 Fred Stephens

A brief account of the life and achievements of Fred Stephens. There is also a notice concerning his latest book on cancer which should be available in bookshops soon

#### 6 Margaret Andrews school days

Margaret recalls fond memories she has of the years she spent at Kurrajong School including the many friendships formed and the quality of the education she received

#### 8 Dates for your diary

Final reminders: **Monday, 7 March** a day trip to the Pioneer Village at Wilberforce and the old Agricultural College at Richmond campus of UWS. **Monday, 28 March** the general meeting commencing at 7.30 p.m. at McMahons Park, Kurrajong

The two hundred and twenty-third anniversary of Captain Arthur Phillip formally taking possession of the colony at Port Jackson coincided with the tenth anniversary of the formation of our Society. To celebrate both occasions thirty eight members and friends gathered at the Kurrajong Heights Hotel for what has become our traditional Australia Day breakfast.



Anne & Les Dollin receiving their RAHS Certificate of Achievement from Kathie McMahon

President Frank Holland conducted a short general meeting to receive apologies from Phil and Joy Shepherd, Cathy and Geoff McHardy, Debra Whalan, Louise Markus and Mayor Bart Bassett. Frank then read the minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Society held on 28 January 2001. These minutes were provided by Steve Rawling, the inaugural minute secretary, who had kept a copy on his computer, the original minutes having been lost.

Frank then launched our latest publication *Kurrajong Collections* which the book committee had been working on over the past two years. This latest book will retail at \$28, \$20 for members.

Frank outlined proceedings for the day which were somewhat different than in past years as a dedicated key speaker was to be replaced with an opportunity for any member to speak on any topic they wished.

After breakfast Frank provided a brief history of celebrations of Australia Day or Anniversary Day as it was previously known. Some of the key points were: 26 January 1788 Captain Arthur Phillip formally took possession of the colony at Port Jackson. One of the first recordings of celebrating Anniversary Day was on 26 January 1808 when John Macarthur saw to the lighting of bonfires and ensuring that a good supply of liquor was on hand. In 1817 the *Sydney Gazette* recorded a typical Anniversary Dinner in the house of Isaac Nichols, our first postmaster. In 1818 Governor Macquarie ordered a thirty gun salute to be fired from Dawes Point to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary. In the mid 1820s W. C. Wentworth coined a toast to be used: 'To the land we live in'.

In the early nineteenth century 26 January was also known as Foundation Day and sporting events became part of the celebrations. In 1836 the first sailing regatta was held and continues to this day. It is the oldest continuous regatta in the world.

On the fiftieth anniversary in 1838 a public holiday was proclaimed in most states. At the one hundredth anniversary in 1888 a public holiday was held everywhere except Adelaide and it was still called 'Anniversary Day'. In 1938 the

*Continued page 2*

## President's Corner

I am astounded by how many activities the Society undertook in 2010 and it is very gratifying to note how many members were involved in the various events.

Valerie and I were looking forward to a break and we had a Christmas cruise to New Zealand. We have returned refreshed and ready to take on 2011.

Our first activity for the year was the Australia Day breakfast which I will spend little time on as it is reported on elsewhere. However, I do think it is worthwhile to note the points I made about the Society's achievements as we celebrate our tenth anniversary.

The major points I mentioned were:- from an initial thirty members to 160 plus; a large and growing digital archive; funding reserves of a few hundred dollars to \$18,000; from no equipment to a number of desktop and laptop computers, printers, scanners, digital recorder, camera, display boards and a library; a continuous bimonthly newsletter; a growing web site accessed worldwide; numerous field trips highlighting the history of the Kurrajong district; a growing collection of recorded local histories; a dedicated family history group; a demonstrated ability to bring history to life through presentations and displays; published works, *Glimpses of the Kurrajong* and *Kurrajong Collections*; recognition from other historical societies and the general public.

I thank the many members of the Society who have contributed to making all this possible. I recognise the commitment of those who ten years ago formed the Society and in particular the twenty-eight members who have maintained their membership over the past ten years.

2011 will be a busy year with planning well in hand for a number of events. I believe our greatest challenge is to increase our locally based membership, so encourage your friends to participate in our many activities.

I look forward to catching up at a meeting or other event.

Continued from front page

first re-enactment of Phillip's landing was held. The only part played by aborigines was a corroboree at the beginning performed by people from western NSW while other aborigines called it a day of mourning. 1988 saw the tall ships in Sydney Harbour, however it was not until 1994 that an Australia-wide celebration of Australia Day was held on the 26 January.

Frank went on to say: "2011, the two hundred and twenty-third anniversary coincides with our own milestone of ten years as a society. Over the years contributions made by members have been noted in the *Millstone*, advised at general meetings or have been recognised with various awards so it is not my intention today to name everyone again. I think we can all look back and take pride in what has been achieved." He then outlined many achievements and that none of this could have happened without the dedication of members and we are indeed lucky to have a very solid core who have been prepared to work hard to make things happen. We are also lucky that many of the people who demonstrated an interest in forming the Society are still with us today. He also mentioned the strong contributions made by those who have joined in later years. He stated a challenge for the future is the further engagement of our local community in the history of the area, a task for all members.

Frank then asked Les and Anne Dollin and Kathie McMahon to come forward. Last year the Royal Australian Historical Society acknowledged the great work that Les and Anne have done in researching, recording and conducting historical field trips. Anyone who has been on one of these trips would testify to the excellence of their efforts. Kathie McMahon, the inaugural president of the Society, then presented the award to Les and Anne. Les accepted the award on behalf of Anne and himself.

Anyone who wanted to were then invited to address the members present. Les spoke about upcoming field trips, Valerie Holland spoke about dates and timings of coming events, the book committee gave an overview of the work they undertook and Les invited all those involved with the Macquarie 2010 celebrations to come forward. He then asked each to speak about the effort in staging the events held throughout 2010 and the three years of planning and preparing that preceded these events. Steve Rawling also acknowledged the good work carried out by so many.

The formalities came to a close around 11 a.m. with members moving off to other Australia Day celebrations. ☺

### Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society Incorporated

PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757

www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

#### COMMITTEE

**President** Frank Holland

**Vice President** Airdrie Martin

**Secretary** Valerie Holland

**Treasurer** Lorna (Peggy) McCarr-Israel

**Committee Members** Carolynne Cooper, Patricia O'Toole, Steve Rawling AM, Kathie McMahon-Nolf, Suzanne Smith

**Accessions/Librarian** Valerie Birch

**Millstone Editor** Chris Upton

**Webmaster** Greg Upton

**Bookkeeper** Christopher Veitch

**Grants** Garth Smith

**Hon Auditor** Paul Nelson



dine in a gallery with magnificent views

Now fully licensed  
with a beautiful selection of wines from the  
Orange, Mudgee region

Tuesday - Sunday 9am - 5pm  
Dinner Friday and Saturday from 6.30pm

83 Old Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Village  
www.sassafrascreek.com.au ph. 4573 0988

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of  
**The Kurrajong–Comleroy Historical Society**  
 Comleroy School of Arts  
**28 January 2001**



**From the Editor**

There is one paragraph in this issue which pleased me considerably when I first read it and which I could not agree with more. It is on page five in the second column of Fred Stephens article: "I remember learning the tables by repetition and rote learning and English by the use of strict grammar with nouns, verbs, adjectives, connections, prepositions, past and present participles, subjunctive moods etc. Mr Armstrong was strict on grammatical construction, and I often wish teachers of present day journalists and broadcasters had been as strict."

In my role as editor I am often bewildered by the errors in spelling and grammar in the national press. It pleases me that some people, like Fred Stephens, have had enough and are starting to make a point.

In an article in the UK Guardian of Fri., 11 Feb, Alex Clark said in part: "I wonder if there is anyone still alive who cares about hanging participles, or the difference between that and which, or the fact that "whose" is a relative pronoun. Neither is it unusual to find a slender volume that seems short-changed by its brevity or an enormous one stuffed with extraneous material." In 2005 Blake Morrison wrote an essay in which he says: "When a book appears the author must take the credit. But if editing disappears, as it seems to be doing, there'll be no books worth taking the credit for."

It is a pity that these days Mr Armstrong's ideals are not held in high regard.

notpuc@bigpond.com

Continued back page

1. The meeting was opened at 4 p.m. by the co-convenor Louise McMahon who welcomed the more than thirty people in attendance and explained the significance of the venue. The historic Comleroy School of Arts will have its centenary in 2007 and is held in trust in perpetuity for the people of Comleroy Road.
2. Co-convenor Kathie McMahon then spoke about the establishment of the new historical society which would have a clear focus on the Kurrajong–Comleroy area and would have as its overall objective: "*To capture, collate and preserve our histories: family, commercial, agricultural, built, photographic and documentary.*"
3. Kathie McMahon invited Steve Rawling to address the meeting briefly and he spoke of the need to build on the excellent historical research already carried out such as for Vivienne Webb's book, *Kurrajong* and by the local history officer at the Hawkesbury Library. He also suggested that there would be a need to decide detailed goals and priorities and to seek assistance from experts in, for example, oral history.
4. Kathie McMahon invited those in attendance to introduce themselves and to speak for two minutes about their association with the district and the nature of their interest in the Association. It was notable that amongst those present were Harold and Amy Sheldon, Noel and Jan Mitchell, Bennett McMahon and others who have been resident in the area for up to eighty plus years. Also present was Judy Newland, secretary of the Hawkesbury Historical Society, who pledged every assistance to the new Association.
5. The meeting proceeded to an election of office bearers and committee. The following were all unopposed and were declared elected:  
**President:** Kathie McMahon (nominated Ken Parsons, seconded Roger Holliday).  
**Secretary:** Louise McMahon (nominated Phil Shepherd, seconded Kay Vella).  
**Treasurer:** Kay Vella (nominated Joy Shepherd, seconded Louise McMahon).  
**Database manager:** Jennifer Stackhouse (nominated Ken Parsons, seconded Kathie McMahon).  
**Hospitality captains:** Geraldine Tilden (nominated Kathie McMahon, seconded Bea Horacek), Ivan Faithfull (nominated Kay Vella, seconded Louise McMahon).  
**Minute Secretary:** Steve Rawling (nominated Kathie McMahon, seconded [?]).  
**Additional committee members:** Steve Vella (Nominated Kay Vella, seconded Roger Holliday) Joy Shepherd (nominated Kathie McMahon, seconded Louise McMahon).
6. Future meetings. After brief discussion it was agreed in a show of hands that meetings would be bi-monthly, the first to take place on Tuesday February 20 at 7.45 p.m. in the Comleroy Road School of Arts. It was proposed by Kathie McMahon and agreed in discussion that business aspects would be dealt with very briefly at these meetings and that the bulk of the time would be given to either a guest speaker and/or to members or local people who would speak about their own experiences in the areas.
7. It was also agreed in discussion that the committee would meet prior to February 20 and would, amongst other things, explore the most effective link-up with other appropriate groups. The meeting was unanimous that the Association should not seek incorporation in its own right but would seek affiliation with some body such as the Hawkesbury City Council, the Kurrajong Community Forum, the Hawkesbury Historical Society, etc.

**KURRAJONG CELLARS**  
 Christine Mead JP  
*Wines with a difference*  
*Beer, spirits & ice*  
**Voted**  
**THE BEST BOTTLE SHOP IN THE**  
**HAWKESBURY 2003, 05 & 07**  
 76 Old Bells Line of Road  
 Kurrajong Village 2758  
**4573 1231**



*Carey & Co*  
**Live Life in Style**  
 Womens fashion  
 Homewares  
 Furniture  
 Children's toys books & clothing  
 70 Old Bells Line of Road  
 Kurrajong Village  
**4573 1920**

## General Orders.

**F**ROM the improvident method taken by the First Settlers on the Sides of the Hawkesbury and Creeks, in Cutting Down Timber and Cultivating the Banks, many Acres of Ground have been removed, Lands inundated, Houses, Stacks of Wheat, and Stack, washed away by former floods which might have been prevented in some measure if the Trees and other Native Plants had been suffered to remain; and instead of cutting any down to have planted others to Bind the Soil of the Banks closer; and rendered them less liable to be carried away by every inconsiderable Flood; nor is this the only evil;--- The Public convenience having suffered by the numerous large Trees lying in the Stream; and fallen across, rendering water carriage on the Creek, almost impracticable, and in some Part of the Hawkesbury very dangerous.

As several Settlers have been, and are now fixing on the Lower Part of the Hawkesbury, along the Nepean, South Creek, and George's River, in Situations where the above Evils may be presented. It is hereby directed that no Settler or other Person, to whom Ground is Granted or Leased on the Sides of any River or Creek where Timber is now growing, Do on any account Cut Down, or Destroy by barking or otherwise, any Tree or Shrub growing within Two Rods of the Edge of the Bank, except for an Opening, One Rod wide, to have Access to the Water.

Mr. Evans, Acting Surveyor, of lands, is directed to communicate this Ordinance to those lately settled; and to give the GOVERNOR a list of those who have not yet cut any Timber down in the above Situations, that it may be made a Condition in their Grant: And should they not be sufficiently sensible of the general and individual Benefit arising from this necessary Regulation, the Magistrates are hereby required to Levy a Fine of Fifty Shillings for each Tree cut down; the Penalty to go to the informer prosecuting to Conviction before two Magistrates.

Within the two Rods of Timbers left on the Banks, another Rod is to be left for Public Road along the Sides of the River or Creek; which three Roads are not in future to be measured in the respective Allotments.

It is earnestly recommended to those who already hold Farms by Grant, situated on the Side of any River or Creek liable to Floods, and which have been cleared of Timber, to Replant the Banks with such binding Plants and trees as they can procure.

By Command of His  
Excellency, W. N. Chapman, Sec.  
Government House, Sydney,  
Oct 4, 1803.

The Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser  
Sunday, 9 October 1803

## KURRAJONG COLLECTIONS

Sister publication to GLIMPSES OF THE KURRAJONG



This book is the second coffee table book produced by KCHS featuring archive photos of the Kurrajong district. The sixty-eight pages of photos, many which have never been seen publicly, include glass plate negatives from the Woodhill collection, courtesy of the State Library of New South Wales, and a section on the notable architect Hardy Wilson who drafted a radical plan for Kurrajong.

The book committee and other members of the society spent two years compiling the material and producing this book. It was launched at the Society's tenth anniversary Australia Day breakfast and those involved with the project were justly applauded.

The earlier book, *Glimpses of the Kurrajong* published in 2008, sold many copies, is now sold out and contributed considerably to the financial health and independence of the Society. This latest book is the ideal companion to it and all those who have added *Glimpses* to their bookshelves should make some space for an additional book.

Members \$20 pickup or \$5 postage

Airdrie Martin 4567 7921

Sassafras Creek Restaurant \$28

An order form is enclosed with this issue

**KURRAJONG**  
**FRIENDLY**  
**GRO CER**

74b Old Bells Line of Road  
KURRAJONG VILLAGE

Mon – Fri 8 am – 7 pm

Sat & Sun 8 am – 6 pm

Public holidays 9 am – 5 pm

Closed  
Good Friday & Christmas Day

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

ATM available

**4573 1267**

# Fred Stephens

IN HIS OWN WORDS

When the family moved to Kurmond I understand that I was three weeks old (I don't remember moving from Ryde). Joyce was six, Heather five, Stan three and Evelyn one. Dolly, Bruce and Elaine had not been invented and when they arrived they were the only real Kurmondites.

Those days there was no electricity, telephone, laid-on water or sewerage facility. We lived and studied by candlelight and kerosene lamps, communicated by seeing and talking to people in person or by post. Letters took several days to or from Sydney; they were not delivered but were collected from the little post office up the hill. Mum cooked on our wood stove or in the oven or if we just wanted to boil water for the regular cups of tea or boil eggs we did it on the kerosene primus stove.

Everyone walked to school no matter what the weather but we in the Stephens family were lucky, school was less than a mile from home. Some kids had to walk two or three miles.

Our primary school was a two-roomed weatherboard building with a shed and one girls' and one boys' 'dunny'. The dunny seats were built over deep pits so that no burial ceremony was needed. In the boys' dunny there was also a concrete drain built under a wall thus we boys piddled against the wall and the piddle drained out over a slope into the bush.

One of the classrooms was for first, second and third classes together with one young lady teacher, Miss Stark followed later by Miss Johnstone, and the other was for fourth, fifth and sixth classes, where the teacher was Mr Armstrong, the headmaster. On reflection they were very good teachers but how they managed three classes at a time is still a mystery to me. I still remember Miss Stark teaching us the letters of the alphabet

and putting them together in sentences like "The fat cat sat on a mat". The only props the teachers had were chalk and a blackboard.

I remember learning the tables by repetition and rote learning and English by the use of strict grammar with nouns, verbs, adjectives, connections, prepositions, past and present participles, subjunctive moods etc. Mr Armstrong was strict on grammatical construction, and I often wish teachers of present day journalists and broadcasters had been as strict.

We rarely wore shoes to school in those days, only on special occasions, but clean hands, clean fingernails and a certain discipline were essential. On ringing the school bell we had to line-up in two rows. Then we responded to the headmaster's demand to "show hands" then "show backs of hands". Anyone with dirty hands or fingernails was sent to make this good before beginning classes.

Another routine that has sadly been lost was every Monday morning the Australian flag was raised and we all saluted and repeated the words: "I love my God, I serve my King and I salute my flag". Perhaps this helped establish a certain discipline, respect and love of country that has so often been missing in later generations.

**FOOTNOTE** Fred Stephens decided early in life that he wanted to be a doctor. He went to Richmond Rural School, but had to transfer to Homebush Intermediate High to learn the necessary Latin then on to Sydney Boys High. Fred has had an illustrious career, presently Emeritus Professor of Surgery, the University of Sydney and Emeritus Professor of Surgical Oncology, Sydney Hospital and the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. He has received the Queen's Jubilee Medal, Membership of the Order of Australia (AM), Life Member of Sydney University Faculty of Medicine, citations in *Who's Who in Australia*, *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in Medicine*, *Who's Who in Science and Engineering*, *Who's Who in the World*, the Cambridge Biographical Centre publication *2,000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* and a nomination of Australian of the Year. He is currently writing his autobiography, proceeds of this publication going to help fund a Chair of Surgical Oncology.



Back L-R: Joyce, Heather, Stan & Fred THE STEPHENS FAMILY 1939  
Front L-R: Evelyn, Hedley (father), Elaine, Dorys (mother) & Bruce

Longleat to Kurmond (2005)

## KURRAJONG ANTIQUE CENTRE ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

- Furniture • China • Glass • Silver • Crystal • Jewellery
- Watercolours • Oil paintings • Etchings • Lithographs

We are open 7 days a week  
10:00AM to 5:00PM

101 Old Bells Line of Road  
KURRAJONG 2758  
Ph: 4573 1683

## from Kurmond Kid to CANCER CRUSADER

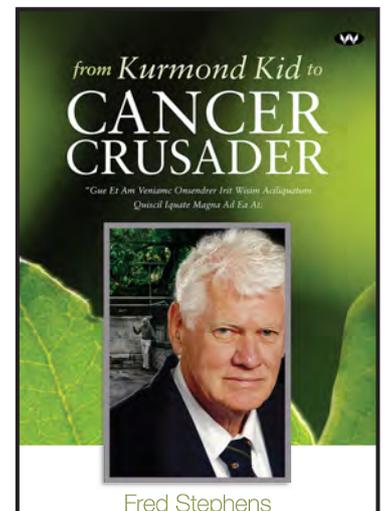
Fred Stephens has had a number of books published on the subject of cancer

*All About Prostate Cancer*  
Oxford University Press

*All About Breast Cancer*  
Oxford University Press

*Cancer Explained*  
Wakefield Press

*Cancer Explained: the essential guide to diagnosis and management*  
Ebury Press



Fred Stephens latest book should be available in bookshops early March

## My Schooldays at Kurrajong

MARGARET ANDREWS

I began my schooling at Kurrajong in 1945 at the age of six. It was a one teacher school all the years I spent there from class one to six. Mr Shipp was our teacher. He was a very fair man and a good teacher and from him I learnt arithmetic, reading, writing, general knowledge, respect for my fellow students and for 'my betters' as he called the elders of the community. The school consisted of two classrooms partitioned off from each other. There were two separate sets of stairs from the playground area leading onto the corridor that ran the full length of the school building. The corridor area had hooks where we hung satchels, hats and so forth. Pictures hung on the classroom walls were of the landing at Gallipoli, a world map and King George VI.

School started at 9.30 and we went into school after lining up to sing the National Anthem and to say a prayer. We were then selected randomly to answer questions such as, "What is the capital city of Russia?" or "How do you spell alphabet?", depending on one's age or what class you were in. One always stood to answer the question.

We moved around the classroom as we proceeded from class one to two and so forth until by class six, one was up near the windows. I enjoyed staring out of the windows, so I enjoyed climbing up the grades.

I spent a lot of time on the big woodwork bench at the end of the corridor, swinging my legs and learning times tables by parrot fashion, reading or doing lines such as "I must not talk in class".

I was sent by the teacher once to look in the cupboard for a bottle of 'elbow grease'. I remember standing for what seemed like hours looking for this bottle, returning empty handed with everyone giggling. I was very embarrassed.

Mr Shipp had a cane that was always noticeably visible. I was the recipient of this form of punishment from time to time. Not excessive in its use or strength but one you would remember.

Mrs Shipp was the sewing teacher and she held these classes in the second classroom. She was very strict about cleanliness. I was always being told to undo my sewing samples because my stitches were too big, so they were rarely clean.

Many of the children rode horse or bike to school. I lived on Grose Vale Road, across the road diagonally from the school and I envied these children. So I endeavoured to find devious means of getting to school where my mother wouldn't be able to wave me off and wait for me to come home. I would walk



Margaret Robinson & her sister Valmae five years her junior and also a pupil of Kurrajong school

up the hill to the top gate to enter the school or I would climb through the drain pipe containing amongst other things blue tongue lizards and spiders.

Empire Day, May 24, was for me a highlight. We celebrated with a ceremony and then a games day. We enjoyed sports of all kinds: three-legged races, egg and spoon races, sack races, rounders, blind man's buff and others. We then enjoyed a picnic of raspberry cordial and sandwiches, prepared by the P and C mothers.

Reverend Len Daniels, rector of St Stephen's Church of England, came to the school weekly to give religious instruction. Even though he was not a young man, he would always play games with us, joining in skipping by holding the rope or jumping in. We all loved him and I learned much from him.

Some of the other games we played in the playground were marbles, cubbyhouses, hopscotch and chasing. We never sat still. We were always on the move.

My days were filled with gaiety at Kurrajong, my memories very pleasant and I'm grateful for the knowledge I gained.

## Trial of Tree Cultivator.

### D. ROBERTSON

Will give a

Trial of his Tree Cultivator

AT MR R. A. PYE'S ORCHARD, KURRAJONG, on TUESDAY, MAY 30.

Also at Mr E. Roberts' Glenorie, WEDNESDAY, MAY 31,

At Mr John Luke's, senr., Baulkham Hills, FRIDAY, JUNE 2nd.

All orchardists and others are invited. Each trial at 2 p m

Windsor & Richmond Gazette  
27 May 1905

**HARMONY  
FASHION  
BOUTIQUE**

**SHOP  
LOCALLY**

Shop 13 The Park Mall  
209 - 213 Windsor St  
Richmond 2753  
Ph 4578 3360

 From THE ARCHIVES

### Brownie & the boys



Photo courtesy: Philip Chapman

The Chapman boys are joined by Fred Stephens and Brownie, the family dog, one Saturday afternoon c. 1938 for some fun with the cart at *Longleat Farm*, the Chapman family's home at Kurmond. Philip would take his bike and cart to Kurrajong each Saturday to buy the family supplies as well as those for Mrs Clancy at Kurmond school house.

L - R David Chapman, Fred Stephens and Philip Chapman

### A Ford & Holden family



Photo courtesy: Gladys Vincent

Les Taylor's 1952 Ford Consul on the left and his son Bobby's 48/215 Holden on the right. The photo was taken in 1953 outside the family's home *Burnside* at Kurrajong North.

In 1952 Les' mother-in-law, Agnes Davis, took a trip to the United Kingdom and whilst there purchased a new Ford Consul on his behalf. During her stay she was driven around the countryside in the car by one of her nieces from Scotland. At the end of her trip Agnes had the car shipped to Les in Australia and it was among the first shipment of Consuls to arrive in the country. Many of the cars were damaged during the voyage but thankfully Les' car arrived unscathed.

There was a long waiting list for new cars in Australia during the 1950s and those who could afford an overseas trip often took advantage of it by purchasing a new or pre-owned vehicle and organising delivery to Australia.

Les later sold the Consul to Joe Dunston, who lived at Grose Vale. Joe kept it for many years.



### KCHS Family History Group update

KATHIE McMAHON

We are still very busy with the documentation of the baptisms, marriages and burials of St Stephen's Anglican Church in Kurrajong. These are interesting beyond belief. We have finished the births and have now started the marriages. As we now have two computers we have room for four people to transcribe the data.

Every month we meet to interview a long-term local resident for their family and oral history. These meetings consist of the resident arriving about 10 a.m., morning tea is followed by Valerie Birch interviewing the resident, Joy Shepherd in charge of the photos and copying of the material brought by the interviewee, with Carolynne Cooper, Valerie Birch and others researching the genealogy. Jim Collie, a professional photographer, is in charge of the video of each meeting, a recording is also made and Robyn Fuller has volunteered to transcribe the recorded tapes of each meeting. When all is done lunch is taken followed by an afternoon tour of the historical home or location connected with the interview.

We are presently working on the Davis family of Hermitage Road, the Dunston Family of *Springgrove* in Kurrajong Hills and the Ezzy family of Grose Vale.

If you are interested in being part of this group please contact Carolynne Cooper on 4576 0356

**Millennium Accounting Solutions**  
**BAS Agents & Bookkeeping**



**Christopher Veitch MICB JP**  
MYOB Certified Consultant

PO Box 154  
Kurmond  
NSW 2757  
(02) 4577 3540  
Mobile 0408 731 395  
cveitch@myisp.net.au  
www.millenniumaccounting.com.au

# TAI CHI in the WOLLEMI



Traditional exercises for health  
that will help improve:  
blood pressure, arthritis, osteoporosis, diabetes,  
anxiety, mood, balance & co-ordination

**Suitable for  
all ages &  
fitness levels**

**Kiarán Warner**  
**4567 0502**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 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 \$12 includes morning tea but lunch at own cost, either a picnic lunch or purchased after we leave the village. For further information contact Valerie Holland 4573 2226.

### Monday, 28 March

March general meeting at McMahon Park, Kurrajong commencing 7.30 p.m. 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.

### Monday, 16 May

The Land and Property Management Authority at Bathurst has agreed to a one-off tour for members of the Society. They have ceased conducting tours but have been kind enough to give us this unique opportunity.

Bookings are limited to twenty and a Peppercorn bus is being organised for those who do not wish to drive. Contact Valerie Holland on 4573 2226 for further information.

Continued from page 3

This would mean that the association could be covered by the parent body for the purposes of liability insurance etc. Kay Vella agreed to explore options and report back to the Committee with recommendations.

8. There was general discussion and pooling of ideas about the activities the Association might undertake. The ideas floated included both the audio and video taping of recollections of residents, the publication of both print and CD-Rom or Web-based material, the use of students in local/oral history courses to assist in collection of material and the invitation of professional historians to address the Society and/or to advise on methods.

*Forwarded by Steve Rawling, minutes secretary at the time. Thankfully he had kept a copy on his computer as the original document has been lost*

## Feedback



ELAINE NEIL was very excited to see the photo of the 1948 Catholic Debutante Ball featured in 'From the Archives' on page seven of the Jan-Feb issue. She was able to identify the two young girls outside left and right in the front row and passed the details to Joy Shepherd.

The one on the left is Kathleen O'Neill and her sister, Margaret, is on the right of the photo. They lost their mum quite young as she died in childbirth. Their younger sister, Monica, survived and they were brought up by Mr O'Neill's sister. Both of the parents are buried at St Gregory's cemetery at Kurrajong.

The family later moved to Croydon where they still live. Neither of the girls married and Elaine still corresponds with them.

The final pieces of the jigsaw have now been placed.

## FLOOD DAMAGE.

### HAWKESBURY FARMERS' LOSSES.

WINDSOR. Thursday.

Farmers in the Hawkesbury district have suffered losses amounting to thousands of pounds through damage to their crops by this week's floods.

The Hawkesbury River is falling fairly rapidly and the water is off all the roads leading to Windsor. The main Windsor-Sydney road became trafficable late last night.

Shortly before the road became fit for traffic an unusual spectacle was witnessed of more than 20 motor lorries, stacked high with cauliflowers, waiting near the Windsor School of Arts for the fall of the water.

Mr. Cleary, of Pitt Town Bottoms, saved his crops by building a barricade 50 yards in length and several feet high made of bags hastily filled with dirt.

The farmers contemplate asking the Government for a grant. An application for the relief after the February flood was refused.

The Sydney Morning Herald  
Friday, 3 August 1934



Catering for love  
learning & leisure

993 Bells Line of Road  
Kurrajong Hills 2758  
(02)4567 7711

loxley@iprimus.com.au  
www.loxleyonbellbirdhill.com.au

*We specialise in*

Birthdays  
Weddings  
Anniversaries  
Special events  
Private dining  
Romantic  
accommodation

Supporter & member of  
Kurrajong Comleroy  
Historical Society



- 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