

KURRAJONG ~ COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 Sunnyside North Richmond

The current owner of this property contacted the Society via the website seeking information on the property. This is Joy Shepherd's response. A good overall picture of its history.

5 The Aborigines of Mt Tomah

Dr Geoff Ford recently gave a talk to the Hawkesbury Historical Society on the topic 'Traditional Aborigines of the Hawkesbury'. This article is an extract from his study 'Darkinung Recognition 2010'.

10 Norman 'Wizard' Smith's photos

A follow-up article to the one published in the May-June 2011 issue regarding Norman 'Wizard' Smith. Even though Norman was not a resident of the district (he is a relative of the editor) this article is a heartbreaking story of how priceless photos of our past can be so easily lost.

12 Dates for your diary

Final reminders for the Annual General Meeting to be held at Kurrajong Community Centre on Monday, 24 September; proceedings get under way at 7:30 pm.

Friday, 26 October 7 pm is the start of the Society's Scarecrow Festival activities with the Back to the Kurrajong photographic display at the CWA hall. This year's theme is 'Transport into the Past'.

Annual reports

President	2
Secretary	8
Treasurer	6
Digital Archive	11
Family History Group	9
Profit & Loss statement	6
Balance Sheet	7

Mid-year dinner report

CAROLYNNE COOPER

Our mid-year dinner was poorly attended this year with only thirty members present. Our guest speaker was Barry Sinclair, the 'Thunderbolt' historian who came by train from Uralla to give his talk. Barry is the great great nephew of Fred Ward, Thunderbolt and has written a very interesting version to the story.

Barry's book, 'Thunderbolt, Scourge of the Ranges' was a sell out so there are no more copies available anywhere. Thunderbolt has been a very interesting subject over the years with many books written on the subject and most have a different version to Barry's.

According to Barry, Frederick Ward was born in Wilberforce in 1833. The family moved to Maitland when Fred was about nine years old.

Fred and his Uncle George were employees of Tocal Station near Patterson. In 1854 George was instructed to take a herd of cattle to the Maitland sale despite the knowledge that the Hunter River was in flood. While crossing the river George was drowned.

About eighteen months later the Ward family, George's brother William, Harry, owner of nearby Lamb's Valley Station twelve miles west of Tocal, and two nephews, James & John Garbutt, commenced stealing horses from Tocal Station. Fred, also an employee of Tocal, was asked to assist in droving the cattle to the Windsor saleyards where Fred and James Garbutt were arrested. James was charged with stealing horses. Fred was initially charged with stealing horses but this was reduced to being in possession of stolen horses and he should have been given a lesser sentence of six years served locally. Instead he received the full sentence of ten years, to be served in the hated Cockatoo Island prison.

The beginning of Fred Ward's life of crime was caused totally by the action of the management of Tocal Station in sending his uncle George into Maitland to a cattle sale knowing that the Hunter River was in flood, causing the devastating death of George.

After being released from Cockatoo Island Fred began his life of crime with his wife Mary Ann Bugg beside him. Thunderbolt became a very well known bush-ranger in the New England ranges.

According to Barry's research, Thunderbolt was never shot by the police, this was his uncle Harry, Fred and his mother fled the country ending up in America. When the gold petered out in California they moved to Alberta, Canada where Fred ended up dying in the early 1900s. Just recently probes were put down into Thunderbolts grave to check to see if there is a body buried there, and there is. The research continues and so does the legend.



**Kurrajong – Comleroy
Historical Society Incorporated
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 24 September**

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Monday, 24 September at the Kurrajong Community Centre, 30 McMahon's Park Road, Kurrajong. All members are welcome to attend. Proceedings will get underway at 7:30 pm.

A separate insert is included within for the nomination of office-bearers and committee members. All members of the management committee must retire from office but are eligible, upon nomination, for re-election. Nominations must be in writing and nominator, seconder and nominee must be financial members. Nominations must reach the secretary by 10 September.

After the meeting and election of office bearers Frank Holland and Les Dollin will give a presentation on the research they have done on the site of Singleton's mill.



President's Report

JOHN COOPER

Following on from Frank Holland was never going to be easy, but somehow I have not yet been sacked. When I took this position I said I would fill the role more as a facilitator than a driving force like Frank was.

There is little doubt that Frank, with Valerie as a most able assistant in the role as secretary, were a very good combination and made a great contribution to KCHS over the years. Of course Frank's stepping down is not the end of his work as he will be presenting a report at the annual general meeting on the research he and Les Dollin have been doing on the mill site.

With a largely new key team it has not been all plain sailing. A couple of retirements from the committee, some absentees and a very severe bout of flu for a couple of us has left the work up to just a few to whom I am particularly grateful.

Regardless of all this the Society has moved along steadily with a number of outings and functions. Our planning and coordination with advertisements of events in the newsletter has been one of our weak points on which we and our new committee will need to improve.

One outstanding thing for me has been the realisation of just what the Hawkesbury really meant to the early creation of the nation we all enjoy today. KCHS has done an outstanding job of researching and recording its history.

The publication of the first St Stephens Parish register book to come out hopefully by Christmas should be a wonderful record of the baptisms, marriages and burials of our district. This has been a project of the Family History Group with two and a half years spent on recording and researching. I'm sure it will be appreciated when it is published.

The digital archiving of our photographic history has also continued and we should be proud as it is recognised that we have one of the best photographic collections of any society. Having said that, the work will never be finished as frequently something new comes out of the woodwork. We are most grateful to all those people who have made available their family photographs for our photographic library.

Early in the year the committee moved to establish the North Richmond community bank (Bendigo Bank) as the Society's principal banker. Previously our everyday accounts were held there but our investment funds were elsewhere where higher interest was available. We felt with Bendigo Bank sponsoring grants to various groups in the community that we should support them more.

Finally I would like to thank the committee for their dedication to the job at hand, Chris Upton for the wonderful job he does with *The Millstone*, Joy Shepherd for the digital archiving and Greg Upton who loads the photos onto the website, the Family History Group and everyone who have helped with the Society's activities these last twelve months. I look forward to even bigger and more exciting projects in the coming year.

**Kurrajong – Comleroy
Historical Society Incorporated**

PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757
www.kurrajonghistory.org.au



COMMITTEE

President John Cooper

Vice President Steve Rawling AM

Secretary Carol Roberts

Treasurer Marguerite Wyborn

Committee members Carolynne Cooper, Lorna (Peggy) McCarr-Israel, Patricia O'Toole, Suzanne Smith

Accessions/Librarian Valerie Birch

Millstone Editor Chris Upton

Webmaster Greg Upton

Public Officer Ron Rozzoli

Grants Garth Smith

Hon Auditor Paul Nelson

DISCLAIMER Views & opinions expressed in *The Millstone* originate from many sources & contributors. Content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views & opinions of KCHS, its committee & members. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of articles. If errors are found feedback is most welcome.

Sunnyside

NORTH RICHMOND

Joy Shepherd's response to an enquiry from
the current owner Kate Jagle in June 2012

I assume that Kate has found the article written by Mildred Reynolds on page two of *The Millstone* issue of September-October 2002. This response came following the Society's visit to *Sunnyside* in May that year. It gives a very good account of the early history and it was interesting to find that the original house, the back section, was once *Pleasant View* built for John Gordon Town in 1854. The front home known as *Sunnyside* was built as a wedding present for his daughter Elizabeth and husband George Matcham Pitt in 1860. I have picked up a few other bits and pieces which may be of interest to members and researchers.

There was no river crossing at North Richmond until 1860, and during the nineteenth century a ferry service was run by Mrs Faithfull and George Pitt. In those days most travellers would have passed very close by to *Sunnyside*.

In late 1896 the Kurrajong Races transferred from Kurrajong Park to part of Pitt's land at North Richmond. It was on fifty acres known as 'Bull's Paddock.'



Rear & side view of Sunnyside 1971

Photo courtesy: Mary Avern

The first picnic races were held on Boxing Day 1896. It was a great success despite the temperature of the day being nearly 115 degrees. *The Gazette* of 2 January 1897 reported:

"The committee consisting of Messrs H Skuthorpe, J Dunston, J Smith, H C Ezzy, E J Ezzy, L MacWhirter, W Dunston and J Lamrock are to be congratulated on the day's success, which was due to the way in which they worked matter up, and to the enthusiasm shown by them throughout; whilst the energetic secretary, Mr J T Town, proved to be the right man in the right place. Whilst bestowing praise on the committee and other officers of the Club, we must not forget Mr G M Pitt, who kindly allowed the use of the course gratuitously and through whose liberality and generosity in helping the Club a great deal of the success attained was due."

I have a photocopy of the formal agreement that was later entered into between George Matcham Pitt and Kurrajong Race Club on 4 December 1898. This allowed the Race Club to use the land consisting of fifty acres known as the bulls paddock for the purpose of holding race meetings. In consideration of this Pitt was to be paid one shilling for each and every race meeting and also to have as many complimentary tickets for disposal as he wishes to be present at each of such race meetings.

Elizabeth Pitt died in 1908 and George died in 1912. They had eight sons and two daughters. Three of the sons predeceased their parents. Mr Pitt was a licensed surveyor as well as a keen farmer. Upon the death of his father-in-law he had inherited the Curragundi and Bunaba North Stations near Moree. Part of his obituary states:

"As a rifleman the late Mr Pitt was a thorough enthusiast and a great shot. In his earlier days he erected rifle butts on his own estate with a range of 1,200 yards and he was known to frequently entertain whole regiments of volunteers. His hospitality knew no bounds and at the old home at *Sunnyside* one could nearly always meet famous artists and the literate men of the day. He loved to have genius and intellectual men around him and eminent painters and writers have spent many happy days at *Sunnyside*. His home was not a grand house in the vulgar acceptance of the term; but it was a grand home in the truest sense .."



From the Editor

Kerning, leading, optical marginal alignment, ordinals, numerators, denominators, widows, orphans and rivers are subjects which most readers of the newsletter would be unfamiliar with but all of them, and many others are very important with the 'look' of any document.

When compiling each issue more of my time is spent in placing, spacing and formatting letters, words, paragraphs and graphics than actual typing in the hope that the newsletter will not only appear pleasing to the reader's eyes but more importantly be pleasant to read.

The time spent doing this is meaningless if the 'content' does not warrant the effort as regardless of how good a publication might look it will ultimately be judged on the words within rather than the trimmings.

To that extent I would like to give a very big thank you to all those who contributed articles this past year:

Carolynne Cooper	John Cooper
Geoff Ford	Valerie Holland
Nola O'Connor	Patricia O'Toole
Carol Roberts	Joy Shepherd
Suzanne Smith	Greg Upton

The articles covered many subjects which gave readers a good picture of the activities and purpose of the Society as well as varied detail and stories of the district's history.

Of equal importance to the above are accuracy, spelling and grammar where I rely on more than just a spell-checker but my merry band of proofreaders: Carolynne Cooper, Pat O'Toole, Steve Rawling, Carol Roberts, Joy Shepherd and Betty Upton.

The majority of our members receive the printed copy of the newsletter. I would like to give a farewell thank you to Lynette Parry, printer at Hawkesbury Council who has recently retired, a welcome to Peter Op't Land her replacement and thanks to Pat O'Toole and those who help her in stapling, folding and preparing each issue for posting.

And a final thank you to our readers, without whom this newsletter would serve no purpose.

notpuc@bigpond.com

Continued page 4

Continued from page 3



Mr & Mrs G M Pitt

The late Mr Pitt had an ingenious mind. He was the first man in the state to erect a windmill which was utilised in establishing a water supply for the homestead. Later this was superseded by steam power and a most up-to-date water scheme was installed on the estate. Part of his obituary also refers to the loss of his wife:

“After the separation he lost all interest in life. The brusque, yet genial and sunny tempered old man was no more. He died when she, who pledged her troth to him 53 years before, passed away. They were all in all to one another, and such pairs, in love and mutual honor joined are indeed rare in this sordid age”.

What wonder that there was such a big void in his life when he lost her who was in truth a part of his very existence; and what wonder that the grey-headed old man with his weight of years upon him, and an unspeakable grief of his heart, became suddenly broken down in health; and what wonder that he yearned for and looked composedly to the day when “man goeth to his long home.” *The Gazette* Saturday March 10 1912.

When Les and Jenny Chalmers invited Society members to *Sunnyside* in 2002 they had been the owners for over twenty years. They told us that there had been a large locked safe in their garden with no key. It took them nearly ten years to decide to get the safe unlocked. It was full of old original documents and diaries relating to the property. These were given to Windsor library and I believe they have been microfiched. They gave the Society several artifacts. At that stage we believed we had found a home for the Society so we could display them. Unfortunately this fell through so they were given back to Les and Jenny. I understand they were then passed on to the Hawkesbury museum for safe-keeping.

In my youth, Cecil O’Dea was the owner of the property and he had a large dairy near the homestead. In later years with the subdivision of that section it was up near the water tower. Much of the area was sold off for housing over the years including Sunnyside Crescent area, up the Grose Vale Road and streets around the Redbank Creek.

I think the last piece of the estate was carved up to surround *Sunnyside* with the building of Flinders Place over twenty years ago. It has made *Sunnyside* a well-kept secret as many people do not realise that the grand old home still stands behind those white wrought iron gates.



Secretary’s Snippets

There are many exciting events planned by several organisations during Spring and I have listed a few for your interest.

22-23 September - Camden Park historic house and garden open Saturday 12 noon to 4 pm, Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. House and garden tour. \$10/\$8/\$30 family, \$5 garden only. Enquiries 4655 8466 or www.camdenparkhouse.com.au

29 September – Guest speaker at the Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society meeting will be Professor Paul Boon of Victoria University, Melbourne. He will speak about his forthcoming book *The Hawkesbury River: a social and natural history*. For details contact the secretary, Lorraine McGregor on secretary@dlhs.org.au

29-30 September - Jurd reunion at Windsor Function Centre, Windsor. Contact Ian and Margaret Jurd at mjurd@optusnet.com.au 4735 3658, Dawn Douglas at dawn-douglas@hotmail.com or Peter Stewart at fmspedro@yahoo.com.au 0417 292 245. Michelle Nichols, Local Studies Librarian, Hawkesbury Central Library, will launch the second edition of the Jurd story.

14 October – ‘Thompson Square: A National Treasure’. Visit some of the Georgian buildings with the National Trust Hawkesbury Branch, lunch at Australia’s oldest pub and learn about exciting archaeology finds. \$15 per Trust member. Enquiries Graham Edds on 4576 1209.

Until 14 October – ‘Northern Impressions: a celebration of contemporary printmaking’ and ‘Strong Women, Strong Painting, Strong Culture’, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Deerubin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor. Weekdays 10 am to 4 pm, weekends 10 am to 3 pm.

19 October - Workshop: ‘Capturing Memories – Oral History in the Digital Age’. History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney. 9:45 am to 4:30 pm. Cost \$95 OHAA/RAHS members, \$105 non-members. Contact history@rahs.org.au or phone 9247 8001.

20 October - Blue Mountains History Conference: ‘Colonial Society and Beyond’, at Carrington Hotel, Katoomba. Contact Jan Koperberg j.koperberg@bigpond.com of BMACHO.

20-21 October - RAHS State History Conference: ‘Saturated with Filth and Corruption – NSW History?’ St George Rowing Club, 1 Levey Street, Wollu Creek. Full details at www.rahs.org.au/news-and-events

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The Aborigines of Mount Tomah

On Thursday, 28 June 2012 Dr Geoff Ford spoke on the topic 'Traditional Aborigines of the Hawkesbury – northern Blue Mountains' to a packed meeting of the Hawkesbury Historical Society at the Deerubbin Centre, Windsor. Dr Ford talked about the mistakes whereby 'Dharug' Aborigines from the Cumberland Plains, renamed 'Darug' at Blacktown had been misplaced at the Hawkesbury – northern Blue Mountains and he outlined some family history of Darkiñung Aboriginal people from the northern Blue Mountains rivers and ranges. At the same location in 1791 Governor Arthur Phillip met the Darkiñung language people Gomebeere and Yellomundy.

This is an excerpt from chapter two from Geoff's study
Darkiñung Recognition 2010

Other Historic People - Northwest of the Hawkesbury River: Kootee, alias Billy

Many other Aborigines of the northern Blue Mountains have been identified by name as playing a part in local history of settlement, such as companions of explorers and guides through the ranges who affected the course of history. Others are known because of entries in a diary, personal journal, or reminiscences of a European settler or traveller. Several of the stories of these men have been told. They would make a thesis in their own right.

An example of an Aborigine of 'The Branch' natives who assisted a new land holder was Billy Kootee the 'King of Mount Tomah'. He stayed at George Bowen's place near Tomah when his tribe passed through the vicinity above the Kurrajong Hills. Kootee was king of nobody, but was an Aborigine courted by the local landholder who sought to retain his loyalty. Bowen wrote about The Branch natives in his autobiography:

How it was that I had a king under my dominion may require some explanation. The aboriginal natives never lived in the mountains, but there was a tribe who wandered over the neighbouring lowlands and occasionally paid me a visit. One fine young man attached himself to me, and, as there was no king in the Australian Israel or in this portion of it in those days, I had him crowned according to the approved custom. This required me to get a polished brass plate shaped like a crescent to the ends of which was attached a brass chain to hang around the neck. On the plate were engraved the following words "Billy Kootee, King of Mount Tomah." This mountain was the highest and central elevation of the group which adjoined my land.

When his tribe left me, after a short visit, he chose to stay.

The modern misinterpretation of Bowen's Aboriginal connection has had unfortunate consequences for Darkiñung recognition, from the mistaken concept that the Georges River Dharug Aborigines occupied the mountains. After the formation of the Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation, J.L. Kohen's new term 'Darug' was used when they initiated a project about the Aboriginal connections to Mount Tomah. Suzanne Kenney, the consultant from Beyond Consulting who compiled a beautiful booklet began: "Mount Tomah Botanic Garden is the cool-climate garden of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. Given the significance of plants in Aboriginal culture, Australian botanic gardens have an important role to play in the process of reconciliation." She continued, mistakenly: "The Mount Tomah area is significant to the Darug people, whose traditional homelands extend from the mountains across the plains to metropolitan Sydney", yet for Mount Tomah the historical basis is Bowen's autobiography as cited here. Some of the people named who contributed to the botanic gardens project are actually descendants of Maria Lock or of Betty Cox and thus do have ancestry from The Branch natives of the Darkiñung people who were the traditional Aborigines from the area.

After arable land was reported by Archibald Bell junior along the top of the range above Kurrajong in 1823, army veterans were given grants there in December 1829. George Bowen, who had served in India and in Arabia, had arrived in 1827 as an army lieutenant. As reported by Morgan, Bowen was appointed as a land commissioner for allocating counties in the colony and is credited with laying out boundaries in the northern Blue Mountains for the county of Cook. After serving the then Surveyor General John Oxley, Bowen was awarded four square miles, 2,560 acres, at Bulgamatta towards the mountain Tomah. He cleared the land with a team of assigned convicts and set up a mill on a creek, present day Bowens Creek, arising from the slopes of Tomah. There was no Tomah, Mount Tomah, tribe or clan of Aborigines anymore than there was a distinct clan in the Kurrajong.

Throughout the Hawkesbury Sandstone of the mountains beyond the Bilpin plateau which was being farmed, Bowen also observed, as the earlier white explorers had learnt to their detriment: "... being composed entirely of ridges and ravines, it is mostly neither fit for dwellings nor for farms. Even the native blacks, when there were any, avoided it as a place in the possession of debbil debbil."

For the botanist George Caley exploring in 1804 it truly was the 'Devil's Wilderness'. However, as surviving Aboriginal artwork and relics are re-discovered in modern times, it is recognised that the Aboriginal mountain people did inhabit the ridges and ravines, even if temporarily according to the season.

Although Bowen thought there were restricted Aboriginal sites in the vicinity, Kootee did not show inhibition and lived at the location after Bowen moved in, receiving rations from Bowen for which he traded game. I suggest it is likely that Kootee had acted as a guide, just as Duall went with Hamilton Hume and John Rowley, taking twenty-six year old Bowen around the location and providing Aboriginal terms and perhaps also in relation to the mapping boundaries Bowen used to define the county of Cook while working as a land commissioner. Bowen's warm relationship with Surveyor General John Oxley made him unpopular with Oxley's successor, Thomas Mitchell. When defining the country for Kootee's local language group of Aborigines, surveyor Robert Mathews stated

Continued page 9



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Profit & Loss Statement

July 2011 – June 2012

Income

Membership subs 2011-12	-102.50
Membership 2012-13	2,830.00
Grants	
Royal Australian Historical Society	1,000.00
DFACS for Rural Fire Service	2,720.00
Total grants	3,720.00
Advertising	1,560.00
Donations received	400.70
Field trips	1,282.00
Door takings	
General Meetings	32.00
Exhibitions	370.00
Total door takings	402.00
Other functions	
Annual dinner	910.00
Total other functions	910.00
Raffle proceeds	301.00
Reimbursement to Rural Fire Service	-2,720.00
Retail sales	
Photographs	165.00
'On the Kurrajong' books	18.00
'Kurrajong Walks' books	210.00
'Diggers Hill' books	140.00
'Future History' books	120.00
Research family history	100.00
Postcards	207.60
Archival material	48.00
Family History Group	62.30
'Kurrajong Collections' books	2,370.00
'Pansy' books	1,936.00
Books unspecified	56.00
FHG sales	143.00
Total retail sales	5,576.50
Bank interest	849.98
Postage reimbursed	38.00

Total Income **\$15,047.68**

Cost of Sales

Purchases for resale	
'On the Kurrajong' books	9.90
'Diggers Hill' books	126.00
'Future History' books	590.30
Postcards	53.24
'Kurrajong Collections' books	439.58
'Pansy' books	400.31
Total purchases for resale	1,619.33

Total Cost of Sales **\$1,619.33**

Gross Profit **\$13,428.35**

Treasurer's Report

MARGUERITE WYBORN

The financial position of the Society is sound even though sales of the books has slowed considerably.

There are many challenges ahead in the future including the publishing of the book listing records of St Stephens and other churches in the area. We hope this will be a successful venture.

Expenses

Accounting fees	88.00
Bank charges	14.60
Bookkeeping	264.00
Coach hire	456.00
Computer & printer	1,145.00
Depreciation	1,268.38
Donations given	105.00
Digital archiving	85.00
Dues & subscriptions	55.00
Gifts/flowers etc.	26.00
Field trips	642.00
Filing fee	49.00
Functions	
Catering	980.00
Entertainment	55.00
Hall hire	225.00
Total function expenses	1,260.00
Insurance	533.50
Membership	20.00
Office supplies & stationery	741.43
Photocopying & laminating	53.98
Photography & archiving	65.33
Postage & printing	495.77
Publishing costs	223.01
Post Office box rental	93.00
Research expenses	225.81
Research FHG	785.69
Website operation	736.30

Total Expenses **\$9,431.80**

Operating profit **\$3,996.55**

Other income 0.00

Other expenses 0.00

Nett Profit **\$3,996.55**



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Home Science Handbook
Tenth edition

Balance Sheet

As of June 2012

Assets

Current assets			
Cash on hand			
Cheque account - Bendigo Bank	1,344.69		
ING Direct	3,101.91		
Total cash on hand		4,446.60	
Savings funds			
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 1	10,000.00		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 2	14,000.00		
Total savings funds		24,000.00	
Trade debtors		4,310.00	
Inventory, Kurrajong Collection		5,853.96	
Total current assets			38,610.56
Property & equipment			
Stock on hand			
On the Kurrajong books	39.60		
Light Railways No 89 books	3.90		
Diggers Hill books	306.00		
Glimpses of the Kurrajong books	6.58		
Future History books	1,623.28		
Postcards	182.70		
Pansy book	2,256.34		
Total stock on hand		4,418.40	
Equipment			
Audio visual	3,698.10		
Camera equipment	410.00		
Computer equipment	8,880.50		
Equipment accum depreciation	-10,525.03		
Total equipment		2,463.57	
Total property & equipment			6,881.97
Total Assets			\$45,492.53
Liabilities			\$0.00
Nett Assets			\$45,492.53
Equity			
Retained earnings		41,495.98	
Current year earnings		3,996.55	
Total Equity			\$45,492.53

THE NATIONAL TRUST
of AUSTRALIA



Thompson Square: A National Treasure
Sunday, 14 October

THE HAWKESBURY BRANCH of the National Trust is organising a day of discovery in Thompson Square. Visit some of the Georgian buildings, lunch at Australia's oldest pub and learn more about the exciting archaeology finds. Full details of meeting time and programme will be provided with confirmation of paid booking.

Cost per person is members \$15, non-members \$20 and bookings can be made by posting a cheque made out to 'National Trust Hawkesbury Branch' with a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

The Secretary
NT Hawkesbury Branch
PO Box 737
Richmond 2753

No email or phone bookings will be accepted.
Further enquiries contact
Ellen Jordan 4577 6568

The Battle of Life

Every day it goes on—and every hour of every day—the Battle of Life ... Work ... Jobs ... Homes ... Payments ... Success v. Failure ... Health v. Sickness ... Getting Ahead.

There is a woman behind 'most every man in this Battle of Life. She keeps his ambition up. She sends him off in the morning with a pat on the back, welcomes him each night with a "glad you're home" smile. She builds him up when he's discouraged; when he's over-confident she brings him down to earth. She is the woman behind the man behind the job in the Battle of Life. But more than that, she keeps her man in repair. She feeds him. Largely, it's up to the woman in his life whether a man feels fit for the Battle of Life.

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Home Science Handbook
Tenth edition

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Secretary's Report

CAROL ROBERTS

AWARDS

2012 Australia Day commemorative plaque – Meredyth Effie Hungerford (1917–2007) nominated by KCHS.

GRANTS

\$1,000 from the Arts NSW Cultural Grant Programme through RAHS to go towards publishing the first volume of transcribed records of baptisms, burials and marriages from the registers of St Stephens Anglican Church at Kurrajong.

DONATIONS

Corn and Pumpkins and Yarramundi donated by Val Close; *Forced to Freedom: A Socio-Family History of Charles Conlan (1796–1869)* donated by Lauren Conlan; *The Underwood's Lock, Stock and Barrel* and *Landmarks of Old Sydney Cove* donated by Liz Parkinson; *Hawkesbury Pioneer Families* donated by Wanda Deacon; set of five copies of the magazine *The Doorals* donated by Dural and District Historical Society. Memorabilia – newspaper clipping and a project book on early Kurrajong district donated by K. Rochester; book on Australian flags donated by Louise Marcus; *Shut out from the World: The Hawkesbury Aborigines Reserve and Mission* donated by Carolynne Cooper; *Blue Mountains Pioneer Register Pre-1920* and *Pictorial History of Australians at War* donated by Valerie Holland; *Cox's Way* donated by Bryan Wyborn; *Great Civilisations: Society and Culture in the Ancient World* and *The Greats: Heroes – Larrikins – Leaders – Visionaries – the 50 Men and Women who shaped Australia* donated by Christine Holden; a report on the Little Wheeny Creek Mill Site from the students of the University of Sydney under the supervision of Dr Martin Gibbs in October 2009; a CD containing information on the Kurrajong Mill and a summary of the Hall family history donated by Desmond Café; Set of three CD's containing the *Timespan* journal of the Nepean Family History Group, March 1981 to December 1999 indexed from Grant Money; *Heritage* newsletters 2009 – 2010 on CD donated by BMACHO; old farm implements and tin artefacts from Rita Crane; laminated map of the Shire of Colo dated March 1963 donated by Carolynne Cooper; *History of Gosford* and *The Fagans, the Cottage and Kendall* donated by Kate Rowland; *Family History for Beginners*, Path Finder No 1 Sources of Information in the State Library of NSW on BDM in NSW, Path Finder No 4 Sources of Information in the State Library of NSW for tracing Irish History, *History and Communities* (Community History Program 1989), *Early Sydney*

Sketchbook, The Rocks Sydney, Parramatta Sketchbook, Locating Australia's Past: a practical guide to writing local history donated by Margaret Anderson; Barry Sinclair, *Thunderbolt, the bush-ranger*.

Gold coin donations at general meeting 27 March, \$38.10; \$50 donation from Diane Sawyers of Gulgong; \$25 donation from Kate Rowland of Umina Beach; \$20 donation from Richard and Anne John of Kurrajong. Family photographs and information received from Jeff Pitt; Ted John; Edward Bottle; Jan Nash; Donald and Mavis Cobcroft; Brian Jones; Bill Pascoe; Eileen Ford; Greg Upton; Carol Webster; Ron Ness; Dorothy Simmons; Phil Peck; Ruby and George Eaton; Margaret Andrews.

THE MILLSTONE ADVERTISERS

KCHS sincerely thanks the following local businesses for their support during the past year: Loxley on Bellbird Hill, Carey & Co, Harmony Fashion Boutique, Kurrajong Antique Centre, Kurrajong Cellars, Kurrajong Friendly Grocer, Sassafras Creek, Tai Chi in the Wollemi.

GENERAL MEETINGS AND AGM

28 July 2011: Steve Rawling spoke about 'Three Remarkable Women' of the Kurrajong; 20 September: AGM followed by video presentation on Rose Cottage; 26 November: Christmas party at the Hulbert's home at Kurrajong Heights; 26 January 2012: KCHS joined Lion's Club celebrations at McMahons Park; 26 March: Ian O'Toole presented a selection of video related to Kurrajong; 28 May: Steve Brown spoke about the pulp timber industry in Kurrajong; 25 July: KCHS annual dinner and general meeting: Barry Sinclair spoke about 'Thunderbolt' the bushranger.

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

27 August 2011: Tour of Garden Island organized by Airdrie Martin; 21–23 October: display for 'Back to the Kurrajong: Earning a Quid'; 29–30 October: RAHS state conference at Maitland attended by Frank and Valerie Holland; 6 February 2012: Dural and District Historical Society museum and bus tour of the area with president Michael Bell as guide; 11 April: 'Lieutenant George Bowen and Bulgamatta / Chapel Hill' with speakers, lunch and walk organized by Suzanne Smith; Family History Group presentation to Hawkesbury Combined Probus Club; Family History Group presentation at Bowen Mountain Association AGM, August 2012.

SUPPORT

The following people have provided exceptional support to KCHS and the community: Valerie Birch, library and acquisitions; Mark Colman, computer technician; Bob Emson, computer programmer; Family History Group, Carolynne Cooper, Val Birch, Wanda Deacon, Kath McMahan, Joy Shepherd, Carol Roberts; Frank and Valerie Holland for research and assistance to KCHS in general; Airdrie Martin for assistance with books, postcards and activities; Lorna (Peggy) McCarr-Israel for maintaining the link with *The Millstone* advertisers; Paul Nelson, Hon. auditor; Patricia, minutes secretary and Ian O'Toole for newsletter mailouts; Ron Rozzoli, public officer; Joy Shepherd, digital archiving; Garth Smith, grants officer; Chris Upton, *The Millstone* editor; Greg Upton, webmaster; Ian Walker, Search Tech. Thank you to all members of the KCHS committee for your support throughout the year.

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Continued from page 5

that they “.. occupied a considerable range of country in the counties of Hunter, Northumberland and Cook”. Bowen only stayed at Bulgamatta until the end of 1835 before selling the land grant, although returning to the district in 1848 to occupy land around what is now Bowen Mountain. An Aborigine, noted under Winderboy alias Billy Cootee was recorded on the blanket list as a member of the Richmond and Kurrajong tribe at Richmond for 1833 (29yo), 1834 (30yo), 1837 (33yo), 1838 (34yo), 1839 (34yo). Kohen states, without references or sources, that Billy Koootee lived “.. on the Sackville Reserve” until the early 1900s and was buried with Bowen’s breastplate near Cat-tai, which is across the river. It would be reasonable to accept all of these locations as part of his country, the country of The Branch natives for which Bowen’s County of Cook was a considerable part.

Commentary and comprehensive references are included in the footnotes of the full thesis available in libraries and online

A digital copy of Geoff’s research on the subject is available to download at Sydney University library <http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/7745> ‘Darkinung Recognition’ 2010 has been reprinted as a book and is available for reference at several public libraries

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—Your correspondent of Saturday, “Inquirer,” refers to the fund raised for the relief of sufferers by a flood in the Hawkesbury some years ago, and remarks that several thousands of pounds would be of service at Bourke just now. For “Inquirer’s” information, I may say that the fund now amounts to about £2200, and application for a vote from it has been made by a deputation from the Hawkesbury district, whose members interviewed the sole surviving trustee, Mr. Charles Moore, M.L.C., last Wednesday. It is about time that this fund was disbursed, and at a time like the present, when the Hawkesbury and other districts have suffered so severely, the money would be most acceptable.

I am, &c.,
J. C. FITZPATRICK.
 Hon. Sec. Hawkesbury Relief Committee.
 Windsor, April 19.

The Sydney Morning Herald
 Monday, 21 April 1890

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Family History Group

CAROLYNNE COOPER

This past year has been a very busy one. We still have only six in our group and with Kathie McMahon-Nolf being away a fair bit in the past year it leaves the work up to the other five. Carol Roberts took on the role as secretary of the society this year so it has been a bigger struggle and Carol has started her own business venture taking over the tour business from John Miller.

Carol has been doing a good job with the Gazette history writings but without the research we have been doing on the early settlers in the area it would have made it a bit more difficult. Thank you to Carol for doing such a wonderful job on those stories. We have been informed that these stories will be made into a book later on.

Now for the St Stephens book. We are still endeavouring to get the first book published and as I said earlier with only the four of us this year it has taken us longer than we had anticipated, but we do hope to have it ready for printing by Christmas.

Val Birch and Wanda Deacon took off to France for the dawn service at Villers Bretonneux. Wanda has had relatives serve in each war such as brother, husband, uncles, cousins, two great uncles, son in laws and father since the Boer War. Val has been researching our district’s armed servicemen of the First World War for some time and has compiled a book on them. Both women totally enjoyed their time away but said they nearly froze to death at the dawn service.

Joy Shepherd hasn’t had a good time of it this year as she had a pacemaker implanted but is now getting back to her old self. I guess with everyone this year the cold weather has been causing havoc with everyone’s health. I have had a particularly bad three months with a flu virus as has my husband John. It has certainly slowed us both down with the work we’re trying to get done.

We have the Scarecrow Festival coming up soon with our Back to Kurrajong night. This year’s theme is ‘transport’ and the name of our display is ‘Transport into the Past’. There will be further detail about this elsewhere in the newsletter.

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Norman ‘Wizard’ Smith’s legacy ‘up in smoke’

CHRIS UPTON

A colleague at work who is a motor sport enthusiast found the article I wrote on Norman ‘Wizard’ Smith in the May-June 2011 issue informative enough to keep a copy on file in his extensive library. One of many magazines he subscribes to, *Australian Classic Car*, published an article regarding Norman in the August 2012 edition. It was written by the renowned Australian motoring journalist Pedr Davis.

Pedr Davis was by trade an engineer but his passion for cars and love of writing saw him make the decision in August 1955 to quit his profession, rent an office in Sydney and become a freelance motoring writer.

One of his early clients, *Wheels* magazine, asked him to write a personality profile on Norman but having only recently migrated to Australia Pedr had not heard of him or his exploits. He contacted Norman and Pedr’s request for an interview was greeted with an enthusiastic response.

I arrived at Smith’s flat in Bondi, little expecting that someone with such a big reputation would greet a complete stranger like a lifelong friend. His wife Harriett was equally welcoming and led me to a table covered with photo albums and newspaper cuttings, all carefully dusted off for my inspection. We chatted for several hours and I taped his life story using an early, wire-based voice recorder.

Over time Pedr visited Norman several times and his visits enabled him to gain a fascinating insight into early Australian motorsport.

During my visits ‘Wizard’ showed me the best collection of Aussie motorsport photographs I’ve ever seen. I must have remarked on them because, after he died about a year later, I received a message saying he’d left me these photo albums. I noted the address of his daughter, from whom I was to collect my legacy, and called there – only to find the people in the house knew nothing about ‘Wizard’ or his daughter. I’d obviously written down the wrong address.

It took several months to track down the lady and I went unannounced to her home one Saturday morning. “Too late, mate.” said the man who answered the door. “No-one called, so I burned the photos last week!”

References

The Day I lost ‘Wizard’ Smith’s motorsport photos by Pedr Davis
Australian Classic Car, August 2012



Photo courtesy: Australian Classic Car magazine

Norman ‘Wizard’ Smith at the height of his fame

Digital image archives were just a pipe-dream back in the 1950s, more the pity. The loss of Norman’s photo collection is a good example of how our Society’s archive, and others like it, are enabling the past and the present to be preserved for the future.

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Digital Archive Report

JOY SHEPHERD

The Digital Archiving Project had to be scaled down a little again this year. The Family History Group, although small in numbers have been very busy with the transcribing of the St Stephens records. Coupled with that has been my continuing ill-health. This is hopefully improving from now on.

We have still managed to unearth some great treasures. Preparing our 'Earning a Quid' exhibition for the Scarecrow Exhibition in October brought in some exciting images, including a couple of the staff of A & J Griffin in Richmond from Eileen Ford and the Upton's sawmill in operation at Kurrajong from Greg Upton.

Over the Scarecrow weekend Eddie and Kath Bottle brought in some wonderful old family photos of four generations and life in the early days in Single Ridge Road. Carol Webster turned up with some images of her time working at the textile factory in the old Kurrajong Picture Theatre and some dramatic ones of the burnt remains of the Woodhills' store Kurrajong, the home of the textile factory at that time.

A few weeks later Ron Ness arrived on the doorstep with some of his old slides. These included many images of the burning down of the Kurrajong Heights Hotel, believed to be the only ones taken while the fire raged and some images of the old sawmill at Tallagong Range near Putty. Ron managed the sawmill there in the 1970s. Dorothy Simmons, always on the lookout for me, found a great Males wedding photo at Colo in 1913.

While we were on holiday in January it was great to catch up with Phil Peck at Wauchope and scan some more great photos on early days, mainly from his Mother's archives. Later in the year Val Birch and I spent a pleasant day with Ruby and George Eaton, nee Bottle, scanning and recording their precious memories of family functions for both sides of their family including several other local weddings of a few years ago.

Margaret Andrews in Wodonga found some 1934 photos in an old wallet belonging to her late father Ben Robinson. These were of the Windsor Rifle Club members some from Kurrajong.

The Family History Group staged a great exhibition at the Hobby and Leisure Show at Clarendon in July last year. In March this year we were asked to assist in a weddings exhibition at Tomago House by providing historical wedding photographs. Carol Roberts co-ordinated our side of the event which involved two trips up there to deliver our contributions and to collect them. The Friends of Tomago House were thrilled with our work which they say "... made the exhibition."

Greg Upton has had a frustrating few months trying to update the website with many more images. It has now been found that our collection was reaching its capacity. Adjustments have now been made and there should soon be lots more for the public to access on www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

I would like to thank our great team especially Carolynne Cooper for her enhancing of damaged photos and Val Birch helping me with interviewing and sorting the information. Greg Upton has spent many tedious hours on the project and we are both glad of the support of Ian Walker of Search Tech, creator of our programme. Ian has always been there to quietly solve our problems as they arise no matter how large or small.

From THE ARCHIVES

Hawkesbury Ag students?

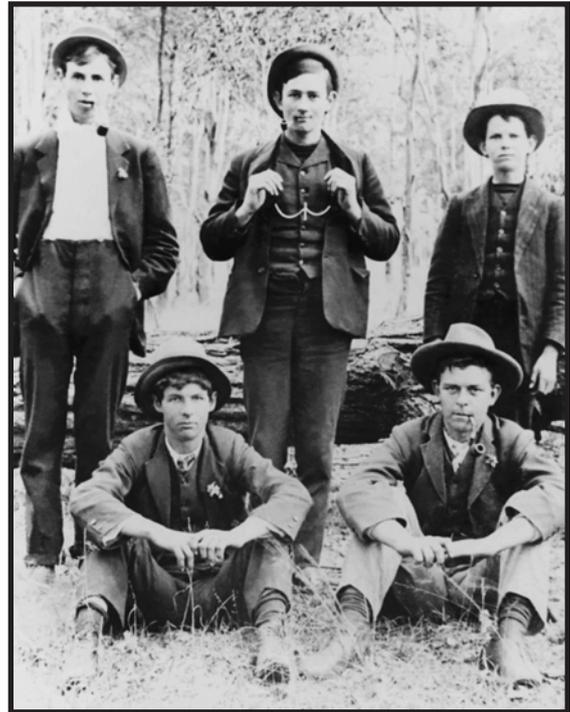


Photo courtesy: Ron Shepherd

This photo is thought to be of a group of students from Hawkesbury Agricultural College. If you are able to confirm this and identify those pictured please contact Joy Shepherd.

Son of a convict



Photo courtesy: John Pearce (descendant)

John Pearce, youngest child of George and Clara Pearce was born at Yarramundi on 2 October 1832. This photo is thought to be circa 1860. George and Clara were settlers in Agnes Banks. John worked as a carrier doing long trips over the Blue Mountains. John died on 13 August 1924 aged ninety-one and it is said that his funeral cortege stretched from Agnes Banks to St Peters Richmond, a tribute to a much loved man.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 24 September

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Kurrajong Community Centre, 30 McMahons Park Road, Kurrajong. Proceedings will get underway at 7:30 pm and all members are welcome to attend.

After the meeting and the election of office bearers Frank Holland and Les Dollin will give a presentation on the research they have done on the site of Singleton's mill.

An insert is included within the newsletter for the nomination of office bearers and committee members which must reach the secretary by Monday, 10 September. All names listed on each submission including nominator, second and nominee must be financial members of the Society. All members of the committee must retire but are eligible for re-election.

Friday, 26 October

In conjunction with the Scarecrow Festival which will be held on the weekend of 27 & 28 October, the Society will be holding a photographic display at the CWA Hall in Kurrajong on the Friday night beginning at 7 pm. The Back to the Kurrajong theme for this year is transport and the title of the presentation will be 'Transport into the Past'.

A number of speakers will detail the different modes of transport used in the district in past years. Jean Purtell will cover transport on the river and how boats were relied on for the delivery of

mail, stores, meat and most things available in general stores as well as being a regular means of transport for passengers.

For further information contact Joy Shepherd on 4571 1524 or Carolynne Cooper on 4576 0356. If you feel you might have some photos which may be of interest to those attending please contact Joy or Carolynne. Your photos will be treated with the utmost care and returned promptly.

Cost of entry is \$10 and early bookings would be appreciated so catering can be arranged. Supper will be served after the speakers' presentations. The exhibition will continue over the weekend with an entrance fee of \$2

Tuesday, 13 November

The Society has arranged for a guided tour of the Sydney Hospital, Macquarie Street. The tour will commence at 10 am and will take one hour, after which we will be visiting the Florence Nightingale Museum which is in the grounds of the hospital. After the tour it is planned to have lunch at the Mitchell Library. Marguerite Wyborn has done this tour and would thoroughly recommend it.

We will be travelling in a group leaving Richmond on the 8:07 am train and disembarking at Wynyard, then walking to the hospital.

Cost of the guided tour is \$10 and an extra \$5 to visit the museum. If you are interested please contact Marguerite Wyborn on 4576 1371

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Single day \$25, both days \$40

For more information

6351 4452

lithgowsafmuseum@ozemail.com.au

Saturday, 24 November

Members and friends are invited to the KCHS Christmas gathering at Marguerite and Bryan Wyborn's residence. Festivities will get underway at 4 pm with the final general meeting of the year.

Bring your own meat, fish or poultry for the barbeque, drinks, chairs and Christmas spirit. A selection of shared salads would be welcomed and bread will be provided.

If you will be attending please advise Marguerite in early November. She can be contacted on 4576 1371



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