

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 Royal afternoon tea**

The Family History Group's recent afternoon tea was a huge success. Dennis Overton gave an insightful & informative presentation on heritage tragedies, most notably the 1992 Windsor Castle fire. The FHG girls are gaining quite a reputation for their catering.

6 Bell's road through Kurrajong

An 1832 account of Bell's Road through Kurrajong from Richmond to Mount York. Mileage from Sydney would have made this directory very helpful to early travellers to the district.

7 From the archives

A recent addition to the Society's digital archive is a good example of how a simple photo can say a lot. The photo of the Hayes family home at Glossodia is not only pleasing to the eye but it is a wealth of information.

8 Dates for your diary

Final reminders of the general meeting Monday, 30 March at the Kurrajong Radio Museum and the Goldfinders book launch Saturday 11 April at Chris and Deborah Hallam's property.

New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following new members

DEBRA ROBINSON

MARK ROBINSON

Australia Day breakfast

JENNIFER GRIFFITHS & STEVE RAWLING



Breakfast being served to an enthusiastic gathering in artistic surrounds

Photo: David Griffiths

This year the breakfast was held at Sassafras Creek café in Kurrajong Village. The day dawned cool and overcast with a Scotch mist bringing relief from the heat of the previous day. About thirty-six members were welcomed by the president, Steve Rawling, and after a resounding rendition of 'Advance Australia Fair' the breakfast began with fresh fruit and fruit juice.

Steve Rawling then announced the Society's Australia Day Award which went to Joy Shepherd for her great contribution to the Society and her work over many years in producing the image database of some 5,000 photographs. Joy is one of the founding members of the Society and apart from her work on the image database she was for a considerable time an active member of the committee including a long stint as treasurer. She has also been a key member of the Family History Group. She was presented, in absentia, with a certificate and a framed print of Singleton's Mill drawn by Esther Gray.

It was then time to tuck into a hearty breakfast of eggs with sausage or bacon before listening to the guest speaker, John Bryce. John's topic: 'Recollections of the Kurrajong Heights Hotel' was accompanied by a slide show of photos of the hotel, from its construction in 1927 to its destruction in the fire of 1975. Images used were from the Society's image library.

John was a young lad when the hotel was in its heyday but with stories told to him by his father and grandfather, as well as other locals, he described in detail the interior structure of the hotel. Apparently there is some mystery as to whether it was a fifty-two room hotel with nine staff rooms or, as reported in a newspaper, when it was opened a twenty-two room hotel. John's grandfather had been a miner at Newnes and Lithgow and was responsible for explosive work needed on the construction site of the hotel particularly work associated with the water supply.

The Society also had on display the original hotel guest register, a very weighty tome owned by the current owner of the hotel. John referred to many of the early entries in the register with favourable comments and some in the 1940s that were not so favourable as perhaps the clientele, the service or both had changed over the years. Many members will remember the prominent place the hotel had in the landscape, and it was well known in Sydney both as a mountain retreat and a place where travellers could get a drink on Sundays!

Continued page 2

Continued from front page

John had more material which he would have liked to present but unfortunately time ran out. He said he would be happy to chat some more at another meeting. The gathering wound up at about 11 a.m. with some of the members taking a closer look at the register.



Photo: David Griffiths

Guest speaker, John Bryce is seated next to Steve Rawling, president of KCHS

Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society Incorporated

PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757

www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

ABN 68 930 834 921

COMMITTEE

President Steve Rawling AM

Vice President Kathie McMahon

Secretary Suzanne Smith

Treasurer Marguerite Wyborn

Committee members Carolynne Cooper

Wanda Deacon

Deborah Hallam

Paul McDonald

Patricia O'Toole

Accessions / Librarian Valerie Birch

Millstone Editor (vacancy)

Webmaster David Griffiths

Digital Archivist Jenny Griffiths

Public Officer David Griffiths

Grants Officer (vacancy)

Hon Auditor Bruce Obermann

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President's Corner

I am delighted to share with all members the great news I received recently. A phone call from Louise Markus MP advised me of the success of the Society's application for a grant of \$10,000 from the Anzac Centenary Local Grants Scheme. These funds will go towards the publication of the commemorative book of soldiers from our area who served in the Great War.

Considerable work on this project has been carried out principally by Val Birch with assistance from Wanda Deacon and Frank Holland. Other members of the Society assisted in various ways. Frank Holland was responsible for completing the formalities of the grant application.

We had hoped for and expected a much earlier notification of our success or failure as the application was submitted on May 1 2014. This might have enabled us to launch the publication by presenting copies on Anzac Day to descendant families, schools, the RSL, and various organisations that supported the application including Hawkesbury City Council.

We do not know the reason for the long delay as approved grants in other federal electorates were listed on the website of the Department of Veterans Affairs months ago. Even now the approved grants in the electorate of Macquarie do not appear on the list so we don't know which other organisations were successful. I have to be confident that Louise Markus' call was the real thing.

On February 9 the committee met for the first time this year and amongst other things set out a preliminary plan for events and excursions for the year. These will include the launch in April of Chris Hallam's book on the history of Goldfinders Inn, a May general meeting with a talk on the history of Bells Line of Road, a high tea honouring grandfathers, an historic tour of Tennyson, a visit to the Loftus tram museum, and participation in an event in October, more or less replacing the Scarecrow Festival. By the time this edition appears the Royal High Tea will have been held and is sure to have been successful. The treasurer was able to report a very healthy financial situation.

A reminder that this is the last edition of *The Millstone* put together by Chris Upton. You will see Chris' comments elsewhere in this edition. We are still looking for someone to take his place but *The Millstone* will continue in the interim, possibly in a more modest form.

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A royal afternoon tea

JOY SHEPHERD

The Family History Group hosted another very successful event on Saturday, 14 February, 'A Royal Afternoon Tea'. The guest speaker, Dennis Overton who is a long term member of our Society gave us a clearer understanding of the circumstances and results of the fire in Windsor Castle in 1992. Dennis has been involved in a lot of heritage and restoration projects throughout the world. He is highly qualified, with an Anzac Fellowship as well as a Churchill Fellowship. In a very interesting and entertaining way he let us into some of the many secrets surrounding the fire. He also used many other examples of heritage tragedies and stressed the importance of looking after our sites in Australia, giving some hints on how we can all help with this.

The function was held in the auditorium of St Andrews Uniting Church at Richmond, which was set up to cater for seventy people in a lavish fashion. The girls of the Family History Group once more dug out their fine china and silverware and the tables were beautifully decorated with floral arrangements.

After Dennis' presentation Kathie McMahon, our capable chairperson, presented Dennis with a book that she had pre-



Photo: Carolynne Cooper

All who attended the presentation found the subject very informative

pared on some of Dennis' family history. Kathie, like a lot of the other guests present, can claim a family link to the Overton family. She also presented Dennis' wife Denise with a beautiful arrangement of flowers.

The guests were regaled with an afternoon tea fit for a Queen. Sandwiches prepared beautifully by Carolynne Cooper, Val Birch, Wanda Deacon and our new member Margaret Johnson. Scones from Joy Shepherd's kitchen and an amazing array of cakes baked by Wanda and Margaret. Comments were received such as .. "This is streets ahead of our high tea at the Carrington." and .. "The Hydro Majestic could not compete with you guys." There was even an offer of a catering job.

Chairperson Kathie surprised Joy Shepherd by presenting her with an Australia Day Award. This was scheduled for the Australia Day function which Joy was unable to attend. The beautiful award, consisting of a framed reprint of the original mill sketch, done by Esther Gray in the 1820s, was for her commencement and long term development of the digital photographic archive. Val Birch also presented a lovely bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Society.

I would like to thank all of the helpers who made the day such a success, especially the parishioners of St Andrews. Cliff Mitchell, Bob Thuaux and others spent a lot of time moving and organising tables for us. Lester Vincent, who had major surgery on his hand that week was there with us all day and was a great help in setting up the screens and audio.

Continued page 4



Photo: Carolynne Cooper

Dennis Overton



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Continued from page 3

We seem to have a dearth of able bodied men in our society. This meant that our two one-arm bandits, Lester and Philip Shepherd were left to pack up the chairs and tables and move them to the other hall. We were grateful to the minister Je-Kon Oh, who came to our aid towards the end, to help get things back in order. Thanks to Suzanne Smith, Pat O'Toole, Pam Bennett, Jill Renaud for all of their help. We need to give special appreciation to Brian Dunston who did such a wonderful job with all of our floral arrangement and bouquets. Also thanks to our small group of six Family History girls, you are legends.

Dennis Overton will be providing a more detailed article on his talk in a future edition of *The Millstone*.



L-R: Denise & Dennis Overton, Kathie McMahon

Photo: Carolynne Cooper

We are informed that a settler named Langley, residing near the Currajong Brush, was stopped on Thursday last, on the new Richmond Road by three armed bushrangers, with their faces concealed, and robbed of two half-chests of tea, a bag of sugar, a quantity of slops, and a keg of spirits, with five dollars in cash. They blindfolded him and secured him in his cart, which they drove into the bush a considerable distance by a circuitous route, and after meeting with a convenient spot for the reception of the plunder, it was removed from the cart, which was taken by two of them to the road, one being left behind in charge of the articles. They are said to have been well dressed, and had stock-keeper's great coats on. These worthies have, it is said, taken up their position in that range of the country for the last month.

The Sydney Herald
Monday, 20 October 1834

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15.

(Before Mr. Justice Burton.)


John Sunderland was indicted for a rape on Martha Tarrant, a married woman, at the Currajong, near Windsor, on the 12th of April last.

From the evidence given by the prosecutrix, she appeared to be a woman of very profligate habits, who had cohabited with the prisoner for some time; but a little previous to the alleged offence, and at the time of it, she was living with her husband.

The jury, without retiring from the box, returned a verdict of not guilty, and the prisoner was discharged.

Australasian Chronicle
Saturday, 16 October 1841






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From the Editor

Here it is, my final 'baby'. It might seem a strange word to use for issues of a newsletter but each one I have been involved in started with a seed then developed and grew into something which I hoped would result in something beneficial to those who might read it. On the completion of each issue and distribution to the printer and those who received it via email, I would pour a beer to mark a job done and put that baby to bed (copy to an external drive), and start on the next one.

The newsletter has not been a lone effort. It has required the input from many people, in particular the Society's secretary. This position has many responsibilities outside of the newsletter but has been the main conduit for me in receiving material for publication. I could not have done what I have without the help of Valerie Holland, Carol Roberts and Suzanne Smith.

Editors are answerable to proprietors and in our society's case this would be the president. I was fortunate in that those from whom I have had to seek approval for publication have had open minds and were willing to hold discussion when opinions differed. Frank Holland, John Cooper and Steve Rawling are not peas in a pod but one thing that they had in common was that each issue of the newsletter should be factual, informative and related to the readership.

The previous sentence also highlights the contributions made by those who forwarded to me articles, notices and snippets of information they thought might be of interest to readers. Over the fifty-two issues I have edited there has been a mountain of material sent, some published and some not. Space constraints have generally been the limiting factor and a reason I am not able to thank you all. Let me say though that if you have forwarded to me something for consideration of publication, whether it was published or not, I thank you and hope you keep forwarding material for future issues.

Newsletters, newspapers and periodicals evolve over time, whether it be the layout of the pages or the content. Many changes have been made to *The Millstone* during my stewardship, some which were obvious to readers and others which thankfully were not. For example, I was pleased that when I made changes to the typefaces used in the newsletter's body text nobody commented. This confirmed the point made by someone whose name I can't remember, that if your design is good you'll get no feedback as this is what the eye expects. But if your design is bad you'll soon hear about it. For those who might have an interest in the subject, after the first few issues I changed the typeface of articles and regular columns to Adobe Caslon Pro. If you are contemplating or involved in any publication which is text heavy this typeface, or any version of Caslon, is a good starting point and one that's hard to beat for ease of reading.

The addition of advertisements in the March-April 2007 issue was a different matter. It generated considerable debate amongst the readers, some healthy, some idealistic. Regardless of the circulation of a publication there are costs involved in its production and distribution. In our case a considerable number of members receive the newsletter via email, rather than post

so this has helped in minimising the expense but there is still the need to generate some income and the only option generally is to include advertisements. As I am now retiring I can hang my colours from the mast and declare that I would have preferred no advertisements, other than Loxley on Bellbird Hill who have been very supportive of the Society since its inception, but it was only thanks to the advertisements that I was able to fill some issues when the content sent to me was meagre.

As this issue goes to the printer I will be in north-eastern Tasmania enjoying the first proper holiday I have taken from work in over fifteen years. You can be assured that if I come across anything which has any significance to the Hawkesbury district I will photograph it, take notes and you might read about it in a future issue. God bless and bon voyage!

notpuc@bigpond.com

MURDERER'S FARM SOLD

PUBLIC AUCTION AT GLOSSODIA

The property and plant of Cecil Farnsworth Charles, who has been sentenced to death for the murder of his father at Glossodia, was sold by public auction by Mr. C. M. Hayes on Saturday. The property is that at Glossodia, where the sale was held and where the father met his death.

Bidding for the property, which comprises an area of about 60 acres, commenced at £60, and advanced rapidly to £140, at which price it was knocked down to Mr. Frank Ryan, junr., of Freeman's Reach. A Fordson Tractor used by Charles was sold to Mr. T. Buttsworth for £55, whilst other goods realised exceptional prices. For the quantity and condition of the material offered the result of the sale was surprising.

Mr. D. R. Hall, attorney for the condemned man, was present, and subsequently congratulated the auctioneer on the success of the sale.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette
Friday, 18 July 1930

KURRAJONG CELLARS

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Excerpt from
**The New South Wales Calendar
 and General Post Office Directory 1832**

**BELL'S ROAD THROUGH KURRAJONG, FROM
 RICHMOND TO MOUNT YORK.**

This road was formed under the impression of its being a better route to Bathurst than that in present use by way of Emu; it has however been abandoned, as far as regards its leading to Bathurst, but as it passes through a thickly peopled district, and leads to some important points, it is still kept up.

39¼ Richmond Ferry. See road from Parramatta to Richmond.

Pass through Bell's farm, and at

41 The small grants commence. This country is called the Kurrajong; it is mostly brush land, and is entirely located, there are some hundreds of small grants, the population is numerous, and the cultivation extensive; there is no church or school yet established here, but on the right is a track leading to the village of Wilberforce, distant eight or ten miles, where there is a church, burial ground, &c. Wilberforce is opposite Windsor; adjoining Wilberforce is a large granted common of 6000 acres; here the poorer inhabitants can keep their sheep and cattle—a convenience that should be afforded in all districts likely to become populous. No roads intersect the country between this and Wiseman's, the communication being usually made by boating on the Hawkesbury; it may therefore be well to observe, that the whole country, east of the Kurrajong, and west of the Hawkesbury, is thickly located, particularly on the banks of the river, as far as Wiseman's, and up the second branch, as far as Colo. There is however much land still unlocated, and the beauty of the scenery, the nearness to the capital, and the increasing population, are great inducements to settle here.

43 On the right is the Commulerooy road, extending northerly, being the commencement of what is known as the Bulga, or old road; in about 4 miles the locations cease. On the right are some recently selected large grants of Mrs. Kerr, and Mrs. Wiltshire, and green swampy gullies running to the Hawkesbury. On the left is Little Weeney Creek; and on the other side of it is a place called Murroo, or the Islands, Mrs. Cope's grant; four miles further, following a range, you cross weeney Creek, a tributary of the second branch, and turning north-west, reach Colo, on the second branch of the Hawkesbury, 54 miles from Sydney. (From Colo there is a track along a range leading south-west to Belpin on this road). Across the second branch, the Bulga road may be said to commence; this road crosses Webb's Creek, and passes through many places known as Putty and Ilwary, and then Howe's water hole, 26 miles beyond Colo, Wicketty Wees, 20 miles further, Welch's, 13 miles further, and to

the Bulga Pass, 16 miles, then passing through the Rev. Mr. Hill's farm it crosses the Wollombi, and then the country north-easterly to Singleton's Ford, joining the Great North Road at 128 miles from Sydney.

43¾ Cross Little Weeney Creek; about half-a-mile lower down the stream is a water mill.

47½ Tabarag Rock, a steep ascent on the road; the difficulty is surmounted by a traverse. Here the locations cease, and you commence travelling along the ridge. On your right is the deep ravine through which the Wheeney Creek flows, and on the left is the Burrolow Creek, a branch of the Grose River.

52 Some locations commence being grants to the Thruston's and Howell's, to Davis, Keef, Doddings, and others.

53½ Belpin,—the name given to this neighbourhood. On the right is the track before mentioned, leading along a range to the north east to Colo; some Veterans have been located here.

55 Commencement of more Veterans allotments; the soil here is rich whinstone, capable of producing any thing, but particularly wheat. To the right is Mount Tutie, equally good. To the left are the rocky ravines of the Grose.

57 Enter the estate of G. M. C. Bowen, Esq.

58 Berambling, the residence of Mr. Bowen.

59¼ On the right, Mr. Bowen's huts.

61½ Enter by a narrow pass the estate of Mrs. Susan Bowen; you are now on Mount Tomah, the highest part of the Blue Mountain range, seen from Sydney; the soil here is also rich whinstone, and as Mount Tomah appears to be one continuous range, extending northerly, it may be supposed the whole is equally good, and wheat to any extent might be produced, and sent to Sydney, the road being all down hill.

63 Leave Mrs. Bowen's grant by another pass. To the left are the deep ravines of the Grose, and on the opposite bank is Mount Hay,—the round top mount on the left of the mass seen from Sydney. The Grose drains the whole country lying between the range which this road traverses, and that on which is the Great Western Road. On the right are the waters flowing to the second branch of the Hawkesbury, and the mass of country drained by the Capertee and Wolgan streams.

69 On the left is King George's Mount,—this is the saddle-backed hill seen from Sydney.

77 Head of the Grose River; the Darling Causeway divides it from the River Lett; descend to

78 Collett's Inn, on the Great Western Road.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Transcription of this excerpt was kept to the original typesetting. Any anomalies in spelling, such as Weeney and Wheeney are as they appeared.

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The Hayes home



The date this photo was taken is not known but the location and identity of most of those present are. It was forwarded to the Society by John Wilkins.

The home is that of the Hayes family, on the corner of Shepherds Road and the present Creek Ridge Road at Glossodia. Left to right: Alice, Margaret (the mother of Alice, Bert and David) Bert, unknown and David. It is thought by some that the unknown lady is Susanna Shepherd née Hayes. The three children are pictured in another photo in the archive: number 147603.

MRS. MARGARET HAYES

A widely respected Windsor resident, in the person of Mrs. Margaret Hayes, passed away at her home on Thursday evening last, after a long illness, at the age of 75 years.

A former resident of Glossodia, deceased had for some years past made her home with her family at Windsor, and, though ill health debarred her a great deal from normal social life, she had many firm friends in the town and district, whose sympathy is extended to the surviving family of two sons, Bert and Dave, and one daughter, Alice, in their sad loss.

The funeral took place on Friday, when the remains were laid to rest in the Church of England cemetery, Wilberforce, the Rev. H. H. Davison performing the last rites.

The mortuary arrangements were conducted by Mr. Chandler, of Windsor.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette
Wednesday, 7 October 1942

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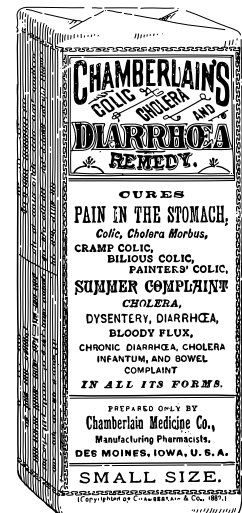


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Hawkesbury Journal
Wednesday, 28 August 1957

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 28 March

BMACHO AGM

2 p.m. at Hobbys Reach, Wentworth Falls. The guest speaker will be Professor Ian Jack and his subject the contribution made by the Danish sculptor Otto Steen to the Paragon at Katoomba and Everglades at Leura. Updates on the history and proposed heritage listing of the Paragon Cafe, Katoomba will also be covered.

Further details:

Jan Koperberg 4751 5834

Monday, 30 March

GENERAL MEETING

The autumn general meeting will be held at the Kurrajong Radio Museum, Bells Line of Road at 7 p.m.

Following the meeting Ian O'Toole will surprise those present with some samples from his secret film archives.

All welcome; supper \$2

Saturday, 11 April

GOLDFINDERS BOOK LAUNCH

The launch of the book 'The 1809 Land Grant of Rowland Edwards and the Goldfinders Home Inn, Kurrajong NSW - A Social and Conservation History' will be held at Chris and Deborah Hallam's property, 164 Old Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong starting at 3 p.m.

The book details the historical background and ongoing conservation efforts on the property Chris and

Deborah have owned since 1975.

Following the presentation the building and cottage will be open for inspection and you are welcome to remain for a barbeque tea at 5 p.m. Please bring your own food and drinks. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at \$40.

A donation of \$5 per person is requested with proceeds donated to the Cancer Council of NSW.

To assist with attendance please contact either Suzanne Smith on 4567 7410 secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au or Chris Hallam at chris@christopherhallam.com

Sunday, 19 April

RICHMOND RSL MARCH

The families of serving Kurrajong and region servicemen and women who served in all wars are invited to participate in the Richmond RSL march, starting at west Market Street. Details and enquiries to Gillian Fletcher on 4578 4734 or 0438 782419.

Saturday, 25 April

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

A special combined Anzac Day dawn memorial service will be held at McQuade Park, Windsor on Saturday, 25 April, commencing 5:30 a.m.

Further details:

Gillian Fletcher 4578 4734

Bathurst Proclamation Day

Thursday, 7 May

This event will celebrate 200 years since Bathurst was proclaimed a settlement by Governor Lachlan Macquarie.

Please contact Kathie McMahon if you would be interested in car pooling to this event.

Further information:

www.bathurst200.com.au

Honouring Yesterday's Grandmothers

KCHS publication

This book has been a huge success and will most likely soon be sold out. Many requests are being made for a second volume to be printed.

A number of people are coming forward with some very interesting stories regarding their grandmothers and would like them to be included in any future publication.

We are requesting that those who would like their story included please submit one around half to one page in length, with a photo of that special Granny to the Family History Group as soon as possible. The group would like to have the publication launched by the middle of this year.

For further information contact:

Carolynne Cooper 4576 0356
seththomas@optusnet.com.au

Joy Shepherd 0417 029685
joyshep1@bigpond.com



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- Winner Western Sydney (WSABE) Award for Excellence in Sustainability in a Business Exclusive of the Environmental Industry, 2012
- Highly Commended Western Sydney (WSABE) Award for Excellence in Hospitality, 2012
- NSW Business Chamber Awards finalist in Excellence in Sustainability, 2012
- NSW Business Chamber Awards finalist for Business Leader, Paul Maher, 2012
- Winner Excellence in Tourism, Western Sydney Excellence in Business Awards, 2011