

THE MILLSTONE

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

REMEMBRANCE DAY 11th November 2015

Remembrance Day is a very special day commemorating not only the Armistice, which in 1918 ended the First World War, but also all those men and women who have served Australia in conflicts up to the present day, especially those who paid the ultimate price.

Remembrance Day 2015 was especially important to KCHS, as it marked the launch of *We Remember Them*, the Society's book of the First World War Volunteers from The Kurrajong, Colo and Associated Districts.

Many Society members attended the 11am service at the Richmond War Memorial organised by the Richmond sub-branch of the RSL. It was an impressive ceremony, very well attended, and was enhanced by the presence of children from local schools.

Invited guests then moved to the RSL hall, where the launch of the book took place. A full hall, of KCHS members, RSL members, and most importantly the families - of descendants of many of those listed in the book, gathered to hear an address by Group Captain Stewart Dowrie of RAAF Richmond, who had been invited to launch the book. He gave a most impressive address [see p2 of this issue], appreciated by all who were there.

Members of descendant families were then called forward to receive copies of the book together with representatives of schools. Not all families were able to attend, and there is still work to be done in finding others. There will be further distribution to these families. The delight descendant recipients found in receiving this finely produced memento was evident. Those families and schools in the district will have a permanent reminder of the contributions their ancestors, and the whole district, made to Australia's efforts.

The Society members involved with the research and production of the book deserve special mention.

Valerie Birch and Wanda Deacon commenced the research, which continued over many months, including at the Australian War Memorial and at the battlefields and cemeteries of France and Belgium. Frank Holland joined in the research, particularly in tracing families and ensuring as far as possible that all volunteers, men and women, were included. Frank had the vision to plan for a quality publication, and he and Suzanne Smith prepared an application for a grant under the Anzac Centenary Local Grants Scheme, which was successful. Additional contributions came from Hawkesbury City Council and the Bendigo Bank at North Richmond.

Chris Upton took on the major task of the detailed compilation and layout of the book, and assistance also came from Carolynne Cooper and Joy Shepherd. The whole team did the Society proud.

The day concluded with refreshments provided by the RSL and the Society.

Steve Rawling AM

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Australia Day Breakfast - 26/1/16

**Address by Group Captain Stewart Dowrie
RAAF RICHMOND
Remembrance Day 2015**

"Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, and particularly the family members gathered here of those who Served in the War to end all Wars. It is with great humility that I stand here before you as a member of the modern day Armed Forces to recognise those who have gone before; and particularly those who came from this wonderful region we all call home.

Those that witnessed the events of 1914 to 1918 first hand have all but left us. The stories of those that fought in the War are slowly fading into the stuff of myth and legend, or yet another free to air tele-drama which fails to convey the true horror of war and the hidden costs that follow for years to come.

The terrible price we sometimes have to pay for our freedom always risks becoming Hollywood fodder; and then misconstrued as a rallying cry to arms for the next big clash of egos and nationalistic pride. Looking around the uncertain world today, from the Middle East to closer to home in the South China Sea, it is more important than ever that we keep the stories of the Great War alive, that we keep them real and close to our hearts.



So I would like to officially recognise the magnificent efforts of the research and production team for this book "We Remember Them". Because they have done just that for the people of Kurrajong, Colo and associated districts. It is a striking testament to the people of this region in that most difficult of times. Each and every tale is a real story of a real human being, brought to life again by the dedication of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society. But also by the many volunteers who came forward with information and shared the stories of their loved ones.

They are stories that resonate to this very day. The first ten times I opened this book, it happened to fall on the same page, that of Driver Percy Roberts and his Obituary in 1948, that reported his death by apparent suicide. You only need to read the papers of today to realise that our returned veterans face the same challenges as their forebears did 100 years ago. For those that do get to come home, the scars of war are not always visible.

So I would also like to recognise the important role of the Department of Veteran Affairs in funding this project through the Centenary of Anzac Local Grant program.

I would also like to reflect on the small role that RAAF Richmond played too. Some of the returned soldiers that struggled to work the land provided under the Soldier Settlement Scheme in Kurrajong, ultimately found their way to the Base when it was established in 1925 and were subsequently employed. RAAF Richmond turned 90 years old a few months ago; the second oldest Base in the world's second oldest Air Force; and yet just another part of this community and its military history, honoured through the stories of the everyday men and women documented in this Book.

Here is an excerpt from the entry for Lieutenant Philip Charley – a story which beautifully describes this place we call home.

"The quiet pretty little hamlet of Grose Wold, nestled as it is among the hills of the beautiful Kurrajong, was en fete on Wednesday night of last week, when the residents gave a royal welcome to three recently returned district lads, Lieutenant P B Charley, Corporal W Nutman and Private J Poole, and presented them with suitably inscribed gold medals as a memento of their deeds at the war. Lt. P. Charley who enlisted as a gunner the 14 Battery, 5 Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, was latterly attached to the Royal Flying Corps, and saw over three years' service. The function was arranged under the auspices of the Grose Wold Welcome Home Committee."

I commend you all to read those stories and bring them alive again. It is with great pleasure that I officially launch this book on behalf of all those that serve and those that have served, their families and the people of this great Community."

**We Remember Them.....We Will Remember Them
Lest we forget. Thank you.**

"We will Remember Them" KCHS Book Launch - Richmond RSL - Remembrance Day 2015



Steve Rawling AM - Image Chris Upton



A full house RICHMOND RSL HALL— Image Chris Upton



Frank Holland (WW1 Research) Image Joy Shepherd



Valerie Birch & Wanda Deacon (WW1 Research) Image Joy S.



Valerie Holland with Chris Upton (Research & layout)



Peggy McCarr (WW1 Book Recipient) & Wanda D. Image Joy S.

Dedication of the publication was to all those who served, from the Kurrajong, Colo and Associated Districts, who had made the supreme sacrifice and to those who suffered as a result of the war to end all wars.

Excerpt below: ***And there was a Great Calm* by Thomas Hardy on the signing of the Armistice, 11th November 1918**

"Calm fell. From Heaven distilled a clemency; There was peace on earth, and silence in the sky; Some could, some could not, shake off misery: The Sinister Spirit sneered: 'It had to be!' And again the Spirit of Pity whispered, 'Why'?"

Presidents Report



Old Kurrajong Store - Mystery

The painting above is the core of a fascinating demonstration of the value of the Society's resources, both the knowledge and memories of our members, and the reach of modern Communications, through our excellent website.

The story begins with an email message from Holland, where Danielle de Jonge had purchased the painting, by Colin Parker, entitled *The Old Shop at Kurrajong* and dated 1968. A web search led her to our website, and our digital archive. She then emailed our Secretary, Suzanne Smith, to ask whether anyone knew where the pictured building is or had been. Suzanne forwarded the enquiry to a number of our members with long memories of the area. She, and Joy Shepherd, Deborah Hallam, Kathie McMahon, and Les Dollin racked their brains, and suggested a number of possibilities, including the former Opal Museum at Kurrajong Heights, Goldfinders Inn, Robert's Butchery and Woodhill's store in the Village.

Eventually Les Dollin, who had known Colin Parker, suggested Ham Farm along Comleroy Road. Jenny Griffiths through Google, advised Suzanne how to contact him, and he was able to provide the following (edited version):

"Colleen and I purchased *Mount Pleasant* along the Comleroy Road somewhere about 1967, Hollis being the vendor, the roadside mail box having the number 113 on it at that time. The property was approximately 5 acres and had been some kind of children's guest house, known as *Warrawee*, during the war years and post war up into the 1950's. I still have a post-card of it as a guest-house, taken, I think, in the early 50's.

I was trying to make a name as a producing artist, and a portion of the rambling ram-shackle building was given-over to me for a studio. This was demolished as we discovered that it was partially on the adjoining neighbours land to the north, and we had no option but to demolish... I acquired a batch of about 100 ready-prepared painting boards, about 12 inches by six, and I would take my old Land Rover down those delightful country lanes ambling through the slopes, pull off to the side and do little paintings from the front seat. The picture you sent me is just one of those painted from the front seat, over the years.

1967 through to about 1970. I was having one man exhibitions in both Sydney and Melbourne, mainly Melbourne, and with one exception, all were sold, so there are probably quite a few still in Melbourne and Victoria [Ed; and Holland!]. I would be reasonably accurate in putting down with the brush what was in front of me, not photographic, but reasonably accurate.

However the titles on the back may be poetic and not necessarily accurate. Which brings me to the little painting being discussed. My memory tells me it was a dis-used shop from the past, somewhere beyond where the Slopes Road turns off to the right as one is coming away from Kurrajong along Comleroy Road, and it was on the right hand side of Comleroy Road.

Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society Incorporated

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ABN 68930834921

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Public Officer David Griffiths

Grants Officer Frank Holland

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Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of articles.

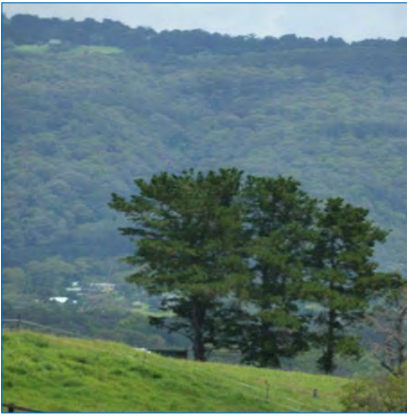
If errors are found feedback is welcome
secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

I would have done a U-turn as the view of the subject is looking toward Kurrajong. The building was in poor repair and was demolished at about that time or shortly after, the big old slab barn at the back of the painting, which was huge, was demolished a few years later". **From Colin Parker November 2015**

As I say, an excellent result combining the wealth of knowledge amongst our membership, and the wonders of Technology!

Steve Rawling AM





OLD SHOP at KURRAJONG - Painting ENQUIRY

Hi Suzanne,

Thank you for your enquiry about Colin Parkers painting of the old store at Kurrajong. Colin Parker lived at 113 Comleroy Road and was a canvas oil painter during the 1960's and into the 1970's, he later moved to Windsor. He has now moved from Windsor to Leura. I visited his gallery many times at his home on Comleroy Road. He loved to paint landscapes especially old farm buildings and homesteads. But his great love was old wooden fences that would roll over the hills. Kurrajong appealed to him and in the 1960's a lot of old wooden fences still remained and we had plenty of rolling hills....According to the evidence so far I believe the painting is of Ham Farm (opposite the School of Arts) on Comleroy Road Kurrajong. If you look closely you can still see the bright yellow milking shed through the trees on top of the hill. Also along

the fence line the gate is still in the same position as in the oil painting...at the bottom of the pine trees in the painting above you can see a low wooden structure, the piggery, also note the line of the escarpment. Attached please find present day images of Ham Farm.

Kind Regards, Les Dollin



Historical Signage for Kurrajong-Comleroy

Signage in the community to educate the general public of the history of Kurrajong-Comleroy is quite lacking. One of our Constitution goals is, "To promote respect for the preservation of 'the Kurrajong's' heritage." Respect comes from awareness and knowledge, signage is a perpetual learning tool thus raising awareness and respect.

Whilst on a recent trip to Melbourne, Lesley and I stopped at Seymour for coffee. Outside, on the building I noticed a plaque and it occurred to me that our Society could embark on a similar activity.

As well as on a number of local shops, the plaques could also be placed on significant buildings in the community and dovetail with the project we are about to embark on, "Kurrajong Walks & Drives."

A rough quote for a plaque of similar size (approx 25x20cm) with individual engraving is \$35 - \$50 depending on material and colouring. I therefore **recommend** to the committee that a sub-committee be established to examine the viability of such a project and report back to the committee.

Paul Hulbert 22/11/2015

ORIGINAL ENQUIRY Letter

Hello Mrs Smith,

I take the liberty to address you for some information. While I was searching for old pictures of Kurrajong, I came upon your Society and website.

I have recently bought a small painting by Colin Parker titled *The Old Shop at Kurrajong*, dated 1968. It has an annotation on the back, stating the title, Oil, Colin Parker, 113 Comleroy Rd , NSW.

(What would be the history of this painting , coming all the way from Australia to Holland, wouldn't I like to know....)It is an early work of Colin Parker, who lived on Comleroy in Kurrajong since that year. (I don't know if he is still a resident of Kurrajong)

By looking at the old pictures on your website I tried to find out, which old store it could have been. But I don't know the area, so I had to give up. Maybe you recognize the building on the painting? I will send some pictures as attachments.

Off topic: I happened to see that there is a Kuyper School in Kurrajong! Funny that a Dutch politician from over a century ago has a school named after him, far, far away in a little Australian town. Especially because I don't see any Dutch names in the history of Kurrajong. But that's neither here or there.

I repeat my question: do you or any other member of the Society know which old shop this could be?

The painting is for sale, by the way, if any one happens to be interested. Thank you for taking the time to read this mail and possibly reply on it.

Kind regards
Danielle de Jonge
Eindhoven Holland Europe

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome new members

Rodney W. D. CLEWETT

Sherene KENNEWELL

Robyne AYRES

From THE ARCHIVES



"Christmas in the Sunshine" was taken in the early 1940s, it shows a group of forty boys and six staff at Camp Mackay. The caption on the back of the photo reads, "Xmas in the sunshine at the camp". Image 044631 For more images visit KCHS Digital Archives www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

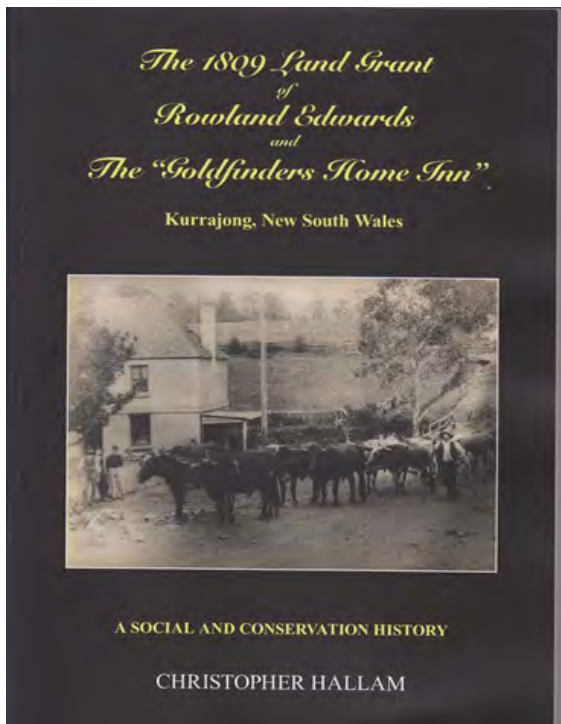
If anyone holds information or photos from yesteryear of Camp Mackay, please contact:

Jenny Griffiths <images@kurrajonghistory.org.au>

OR Valerie Holland <hollandvalerie@bigpond.com>

NOTE: Taia de Burca from Cut Rock Kurrajong Heights identified the request for the model and year of the car in the Nov/Dec Millstone Newsletter, as a **1930s Hupmobile Tourer**.

A brief story of the Hupmobile built from 1909 through 1940 by the Hupp Motor Car Company located in Detroit, Michigan. Its first car, the Model 20, was introduced to the public at the Detroit Auto Show in February 1909, the company initially producing 500 vehicles, was founded by Robert C Hupp, a former employee of Oldsmobile and Ford, with his brother Louis G Hupp. In 1912 Hupp would pioneer the use of all-steel bodies. A strategy to make the Hupmobile a larger more expensive touring car began with the 1925 introduction of an 8-cylinder model.....later in 1939 the Hupmobile Skylark Model began delivery, but unfortunately only 319 were produced. The company was one of the first to pioneer fresh-air car heaters with the Evanair-Conditioner. A further history and tourer model images can be viewed on Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia.



PROPOSED LISTING ON STATE HERITAGE REGISTER OF GOLDFINDERS INN GROUP KURRAJONG

On 2nd December 2015 the Heritage Council of NSW gave notice of its intention to list the Goldfinders Inn Group on the State Heritage register. A summary of the description of significance prepared by the Heritage Council is set out as follows, with more details on the Heritage Council website.

"The Goldfinders Inn Group may be of state significance as a continually inhabited place of residence in the Hawkesbury area from the time of the land grant in

1809 to the present day. The cottage, inn and barn together provide physical evidence of successive occupancies and uses of the site initially for farming, through to commercial use as an inn and licensed premises, later a post office and general store and as a private residence.

The development and functions of the site are integrally related to the development of Bells Line of Road. The Goldfinders Inn served as a wayside inn on the long road journeys through the mountains.


The cottage is an early dwelling of the Hawkesbury settlement that may date from as early as 1809. It is a rare pre-1840s vernacular building, providing evidence of in-ground timber slab construction, broad-axed stud frame with stone-

nogging infill and later phases of stud frame construction. The stone-nog (sandstone block and rubble infill between studs) is a rare construction method, reflecting the remote location of the site in the use of locally-sourced material.

The site is also rare for its early domestic plantings of magnolias and camellias. The main camellia featured in the garden was described by Professor EJ Waterhouse as the oldest in Australia.

The Goldfinders Inn Group has the potential to yield further information on the construction of early vernacular buildings, particularly in relation to the unusual stone nog infill between stud walls. There is also some potential for the site to reveal evidence of former buildings related to documented uses of the place."

Chris Hallam



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



KCHS 15th Annual AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

9am Tuesday - 26th January 2016

**All Members & Friends are WELCOME
to attend the 15th Annual
Birthday Breakfast of the Society**

Kurrajong Heights Bowling & Recreational Club
will be the **VENUE**

1530 Bells Line of Road Kurrajong Heights

Guest Speaker - Don Webster

A traditional cooked breakfast will be offered
COST \$15.00 pp

Booking & RSVP to: KCHS Secretary

with name & number attending

Ph: Suzanne 4567 7410 or email

secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

Please forward Direct Debit Payment to KCHS

Bendigo Bank A/c 118125632 BSB 633-000

OR Cheque payment to KCHS PO BOX 174

KURMOND NSW 2757

Members & Friends please diary in **Tuesday 16th February 2016** for an **EXCURSION** to the **Mounted Police Museum, Redfern and the University of Sydney Great Hall and St Andrews College**. The community bus will leave from the North Richmond Community Centre at 8.15am, where we can safely leave our cars for the day. **COST** including bus fare \$20.00

Bookings Essential through KCHS Secretary Ph: 4567 7410

Email: secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

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Professor Ian Jack has kindly offered to give a talk and tour of St Andrews College in the afternoon. It is proposed at this stage that we bring our own lunch. I will confirm any changes to the lunch arrangement at time of booking. **Suzanne Smith**

Christmas Gathering 2015 was held at the home of David & Jenny Griffiths and the comfortably warm evening was enjoyed by all. During the festivities, President Steve Rawling wished all members in attendance a Merry Christmas and the Best for the New Year 2016. David & Jenny as Webmaster and Digital Archivist respectively, were presented with a copy of the publication, "We Remember Them".



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FUTURE COMMEMORATIONS: Former President Frank Holland is never short of good ideas – We Remember Them, and the Macquarie Celebrations in 2010 bear witness to that. Frank has now noted some other anniversaries the Society may wish to celebrate in the future:

In 2017, Benjamin Singleton set out to explore North of his mill, and the Parr expedition occurred in the same year.

In 2019, John Howe made his successful expedition to the Hunter from the same starting point.

In 2023, Alexander Bell traced the route of what became Bells Line of Road.

The Committee (and Frank) would be delighted to hear from any members who might have suggestions on how each of these important events in the development of the district might be marked. And let us know about any other milestones, a centenary, as sesquicentenary, or a bi-centenary, which we should note.