

THE MILLSTONE

KURRAJONG ~ COMLERoy HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society is dedicated to researching, recording, preserving and promoting the history of the district. Covering the area west of the Hawkesbury River - North Richmond, Kurrajong, Berambing, Bilpin, Grose Vale, Bowen Mountain, Colo, Wilberforce, Ebenezer, Glossodia, Tennyson, Freemans Reach.

Who built the Water Mills at Kurrajong?

The most widely accepted answer is Benjamin Singleton. However, there is the question of how he came to have the knowledge and the capital for their construction.

Stepping back, we know that Benjamin (1788-1853) was the second son of William (1745-1835) and Hannah (nee Parkinson, 1758-1813) and that he arrived with his parents and younger brother, Joseph (1790-1841) on 'The Pitt' arriving at Port Jackson in 1792. William and family had been living in the Manchester region but had relocated to London apparently looking for work. William was found guilty of stealing a length of calico from his employer and sentenced to seven years transportation. Benjamin's older brother, James (1790-1841) remained in London.

William spent only a short time in the Hulks before joining his family on 'The Pitt' for the nightmare journey to the colony. It was a long journey with so much sickness and death that the captain called upon the convicts to help man the ship. On arrival, William was released into the custody of his wife which may have been some sort of reward for helping crew the stricken ship. By 1797, William was granted 90 acres near present day Wilberforce where by 1806 the muster showed that William now had 232 acres. The good times did not last, and the family suffered a series of devastating floods. The cost of restocking eventually drove William into bankruptcy.

Benjamin must have received some education as later we find that he was able to read and write. The brothers grew up in

an area which at that time was on the very border of the colony and supposedly locked into the valley by the Blue Mountains. The boys would have roamed over the local area. These second generation of settlers were the first bushmen and probably aware of early explorations including that of Blaxland, Wentworth, and Lawson.

James arrived on 'The Aeolus' late in 1808 and joined the family. In 1809 the three brothers were granted 50-acre blocks at today's Grose Vale. It seems that at least two of these blocks were sold/swapped for other holdings as Benjamin acquired 50-acres along Little Wheeny Creek. This is where the first water mill was erected (circa 1813). Funding was by mortgage as Benjamin's mill was listed for a forced auction in 1816, avoided by a rental agreement. A second mill was built further downstream, and James left to build tidal mills near Wiseman's Ferry.

The question is - Did James bring the required knowledge and equipment? Unfortunately, the cargo manifest for the arrival of the 'Aeolus' in 1808, was not recorded in the archives. Neither have I been able to ascertain what employment James pursued in the period from 1792 - 1808. Perhaps he had been a Miller or a Millwright!

We do know that Benjamin went on to build further water mills following his explorations as part of John Howe's expedition and after relocating to the area that took his name - Singleton.

Frank Holland



Upper Mill Ruins
Mill Road
Kurrajong

THIS ISSUE

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K-CHS AGM - 12noon Monday 8th November 2021

President's Report

Well it seems the interminable lockdown does have an end, but not a convincing one yet - I still can't visit my parents in Newcastle! At least here in the Hawkesbury we can now have meetings in person, providing we're all double vaccinated..

So we decided to be a little innovative with our AGM and hold it in a park at lunchtime. Should be fun - bring your own picnic. Monday 8th November in Hanna Park, North Richmond. See the back page for more details. Of course COVID restrictions, as applicable at the time, will apply.

We have also booked our Christmas function for Saturday 11th December at Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club. Anyone who was booked for the Mid-Winter Dinner is now automatically booked for Christmas. Let us know if that does not suit. Everyone else is invited - please book online.

Our annual birthday bash at Bowen Mountain is also locked in for 26th January 2022, which is a Wednesday, he says referring to the sparkling new K-CHS calendar.

Speaking of our calendar, as I mentioned in a recent email, we have decided to make the calendar available to all members for free this year, partly to mark our 20th anniversary and also to compensate for the lack of activities during the year. We will have them available for collection at the AGM and Christmas Party, otherwise they will be delivered to locals or posted for out-of-towners. There is a very small quantity to purchase for those who would like more than one - order online, but be quick.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM and Christmas Dinner. Meanwhile, stay well.

David Griffiths

Mob:0498 646 899

Email: president@kurrajonghistory.org.au



The K-CHS 2022 Calendar is available free to members and can be collected at the November 8th AGM or the Christmas Gathering. Each month has a different archive image of the local area and the days of each month are clearly displayed. Society General Meetings are also listed. The calendar can be delivered to members within the local area or posted if out of area.

KURRAJONG – COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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ABN 68930834921

Print ISSN 2201-0920 - Online ISSN 2202-6320

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secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome new members

Linda Tierney

Rob Ewin

Graeme Batho

Gloria Dollin 1926 - 2021

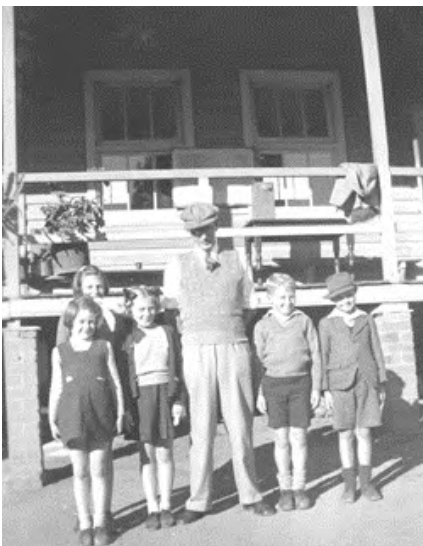
Society members wish to extend their thoughts and condolences to Les & Anne Dollin and Carol Webster, with the passing of Les's mother Gloria at the age of 95. Gloria Dollin passed away on Monday morning the 27th September. Gloria was an active member of K-CHS in its early days, but in recent years has remained connected with the Society events and local history, through the Millstone Newsletter and her family.

Philip Ralph Shepherd 5/2/1939 – 13/9/2021**A local Kurmond boy**

Philip was born in a little old slab place, along the side of the road in Kurmond. In those days, the midwife visited homes to deliver the babies, driving a horse and sulky with a lantern on the side. Philip was the youngest child of Ralph and Phyllis Shepherd, coming after Maisie, Mick, Lawrence and Eric.

When Philip was one year old, his parents purchased a soldier settlement property on Wilberforce Road at Kurmond and this is where he grew up. All the family worked hard on the property and even built their own tennis court, with the 5 children becoming proficient in the game. At one stage all 7 members of the family played in different local teams, so of course it was bedlam at dinnertime Saturday nights, with everyone wanting to talk at once about the days events.

In 1944, at the age of almost 5, Philip started school at Kurmond with his cousin Jeanette Douglass. He walked there barefoot and has always spoken fondly about his days with friends and teachers, Sir Clancy and Miss Savage. High school, Richmond Rural School as it was then known, was less enjoyable for Philip apparently. He was glad to stay home and work on the farm, especially when Rowley McMahon's car service, which took the children to the station to meet *Pansy* (the train), was too full when it arrived at his place.



Mr Clancy with Philip Shepherd and Alan Toms on his left. Along with Robyn and Joan Armstrong and Jeanette Douglass pupils at Kurmond Primary School. 1948

Philip left school at 14, with his first paying job on Zethan McMahon's orange orchard at Tennyson. He would ride his bike home at lunchtime every day to practise his tennis. By this time, he was becoming quite a good player. Philip played his first local A grade singles final in 1959 and went on to play 12 A grade singles finals - winning 7, creating a local record that stands to this day. He also won many A grade double championships with his brother Lawrence. Tennis was a big part of every weekend for Philip, later passing his love of tennis onto to his own family.

Philip met Joy Taylor his life-time partner at a dance at Kurrajong Picture Theatre in 1962 ...Joy states "he asked me to partner him to a friend's 21st birthday party in three weeks -time and by the end of the night he had also asked me to the pictures the following week ...A few nights later, he phoned to say he couldn't make it because his brother Mick had just had a cerebral haemorrhage and he had to take Mick's family to RPAH. I ended up spending that first date minding their kids in the gardens of the hospital".

Joy and Philip formalised their engagement at the end of 1963 and were married the following August at St Stephen's in Kurrajong. They built their first home at North Richmond on part of the Shepherd family orange orchard. They both became active members of the congregation of the branch church across the road, St Philip's. Joy became a Sunday School teacher and Philip a Warden who took care of the cemetery grounds. Joy has stated that Philip's faith was clear and uncomplicated and suited his giving nature.

In June 1965, Jill arrived, then In September 1966 the next year, Grant was proudly added to the family as the first son. Just two weeks later, tragedy struck the Shepherd family when his father Ralph turned the tractor over on himself and was killed. Joy relates that this had a profound effect on Philip for many years, as Philip and his father Ralph had worked closely together on many soldier settlement properties in the area. It was a drought time, so for a few years, Philip and Joy share-farmed part of the stone fruit orchard at *Burnside*, Joy's parents property in the Kurrajong Hills. Philip then worked for 6 months at Pixie Mushroom Company before starting work at Prospect County Council on 1st March 1969. Philip worked for the County Council for many years, becoming a leading-hand linesman.

In March 1970, third child, John was born. Joy states "Our weekends soon became filled with taking the kids to tennis and cricket competitions ...we also worked hard to give our children educational opportunities. They all completed university degrees, Jill graduating from Armidale, Grant from Wollongong and John from Wagga Wagga. Philip was very proud of them". Throughout the years, Philip enjoyed taking his family to many different holiday destinations in both Australia and New Zealand and in later years he enjoyed overseas trips with friends and family.

Philip's son John recalls the year 1989, when his parents sold the old house and some of their land to build a beautiful new AV Jennings home on 5 acres in the corner of their orchard, relating how proud his father was of that house. Philip also worked other jobs. Over 13 years he worked most nights and weekends as a caretaker at Colo High School during Adult Education classes. Philip retired from Prospect in 1996 and started his own business, PRS Lawn Mowing which he continued until 2004. Each Mother's Day for over 25 years Philip sold Chrysanthemums at the families road-side stall along Bells Line of Road, that he had grown on the property.

The property at North Richmond eventually became too much to look after, so in 2013 Joy and Philip sold and moved to Richmond, where they have happily lived for the last 8 years.

Philip and Joy were both active members of K-CHS becoming inaugural members of the Society. Philip supported Joy in all her local history endeavours, interests and research. He ably assisted with setting up of the many K-CHS "Back to Kurrajong" displays, held by the Society in the CWA Hall Kurrajong Village over the years of the Scarecrow Festival event. Sold raffle tickets, assisted with the setting up of K-CHS stalls at the Hawkesbury Hobby Show and many heritage events.

Philip sadly passed away aged 82, on the 13th September 2021 at Hawkesbury Hospital. Society Members wish to pass their condolences and thoughts on to Joy and his family. Philip's friendly, kindly disposition will be missed by all who knew him.

St James' Church of England Kurrajong Heights & The Flying Parson

The foundation stone of St James' was laid on Friday 12th October 1888. St James' was to become one of the five St Stephen's Parish Churches of the Kurrajong region. The incumbent of St Stephen's, the Rev Henry Plume is credited with having St James' church erected, opening in 1891. In the same year the Rev Plume also set up a school at *Stokesleigh* Kurrajong Heights, Barker College. St James' no doubt became the place of worship for pupils, with regular Church Services and Sunday School held there.

St James' closed its doors to services in March 1986, with consecration revoked the same year. The building was later converted to a residence in 1992 and leased. Sold in 2012 to a private buyer as a residence, refurbished and once again sold as a residence in October 2021.

The St James' building is listed on the Local Environment Plan (LEP) Item No. 1363, with a Gazette date 18th December 1989 and a Heritage database number 6050.



In the church grounds there are eight graves, with past parishioners and well known Kurrajong Heights residents buried there. Two of the graves are those of the Reverend Leonard Daniels interred in 1981 beside his wife Emily, who was buried there in 1966.

Since its separation from the Richmond parish in 1873 St Stephen's had seventeen incumbents and of these the longest serving was the much loved Rev Leonard Daniels BA who held the position for eighteen years, 1941 to 1959. During the period of his residency in the Kurrajong parish he was well-known as the 'Flying Parson'

The Rev Daniels had introduced light aircraft as a preferred mode of transport in his first Australian post, as a missionary of the Bush Church Aid Society, in the remote and extensive parish centred at Wilcannia. His successful use of aircraft to cover his vast parish inspired the Rev John Flynn, moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Australia, to introduce the Flying Doctor Service of Australia in 1928.



In January 1941 following 9 years as Rector of St Paul's Church of England, Lithgow, Leonard and Emily left to take over the extensive parish of St Stephen's, centred at Kurrajong, stretching from Bilpin to the Hawkesbury River at North Richmond, and included the ministry at St James' Kurrajong Heights.

As well as being rector of the Parish of St Stephens, in 1951 he became Rural Dean of Hawkesbury, until his retirement in 1959. Following his retirement Leonard and Emily lived in the home previously owned by Emily's father, William Tietkens (surveyor, explorer and naturalist), at Bennett Lane, Kurrajong Heights. Here Leonard wrote his book *Far West* which told of his years in the outback parish of Wilcannia. The Rev Daniels name is included on the *Unsung Hero's of the Outback* panel in the Stockman's Hall of Fame, Longreach, Queensland.

Acknowledgement: A series of three articles by the late Betty Upton on the *Reverend Leonard Daniels* can be found in the: *Millstone* March/April 2008 p5, *Millstone* May/June 2008 p4, *Millstone* July/August 2008 p7

Also references to St James Kurrajong Heights in the: St Stephen's Church Kurrajong Parish Registers Vol 1 1861-1902 & Vol 4 1962-1999

Suzanne Smith



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ALL ABOUT CLOCKS

Seeing the article on Daylight Saving in the last Millstone and the photo of the floral clock at Taronga Park Zoo, brought back memories of my late father-in-law Frank Rozzoli, who worked for Prouds Pty. Ltd. Sydney.

Frank started as an apprentice in Prouds' clock factory in 1925, earning fifteen shillings (\$1.50) per week, with a five shilling (50c) tool allowance.

Frank was the foreman on the installation of the Lands Department clock in Bent Street Sydney. The building was built in the 1890's, but the Government could not afford to fit a clock to the tower until 1938/39.

Some of the other clocks Frank installed and/or maintained were the floral clock at Taronga Park Zoo, Berger Paint Clocks at Manly and possibly other suburbs. He was responsible for a clock at Parramatta, a Memorial clock at Fairfield Railway Station and clocks at Randwick Racecourse. Frank would be rostered on every second Saturday to attend the races and keep his eye on the clocks timekeeping.



Image above: Parramatta Clock with Murray Brothers Store in the background.

One of Frank's other clock installations was in the Gunnedah Town Hall, which involved him staying several days at the Park View Hotel on the diagonally opposite corner. I have visited this site in recent times and the Town Hall Tower has a new modern clock and the Park View Hotel still stands.



Another Prouds' clock, "Time for a Capstan", on top of the Rowans Bond building on the eastern side of the Harbour Bridge, southern approach to the toll gates, was believed to have been constructed for the opening of the Harbour Bridge. (See image above)

By the time Frank left Prouds to join the RAAF in early 1940, he had risen to factory foreman at five shillings (\$10.00) per week. During his time in the RAAF, Frank maintained aircraft instrumentation.

In 1946 Frank opened Park Corner Jewellers, Richmond NSW, that operated as Rozzoli Jewellers and Watchmakers, until his son Ron Rozzoli and wife Margaret retired in 1995.

Article compiled by Margaret Rozzoli from her late husband Ron Rozzoli's notes.



One of the many Berger Paint clocks displaying accurate time and directions to neighbouring suburbs. These clocks were found throughout the Sydney Region. This one has indicators to North Steyne and South Steyne (Manly). Images: courtesy of the Rozzoli Collection




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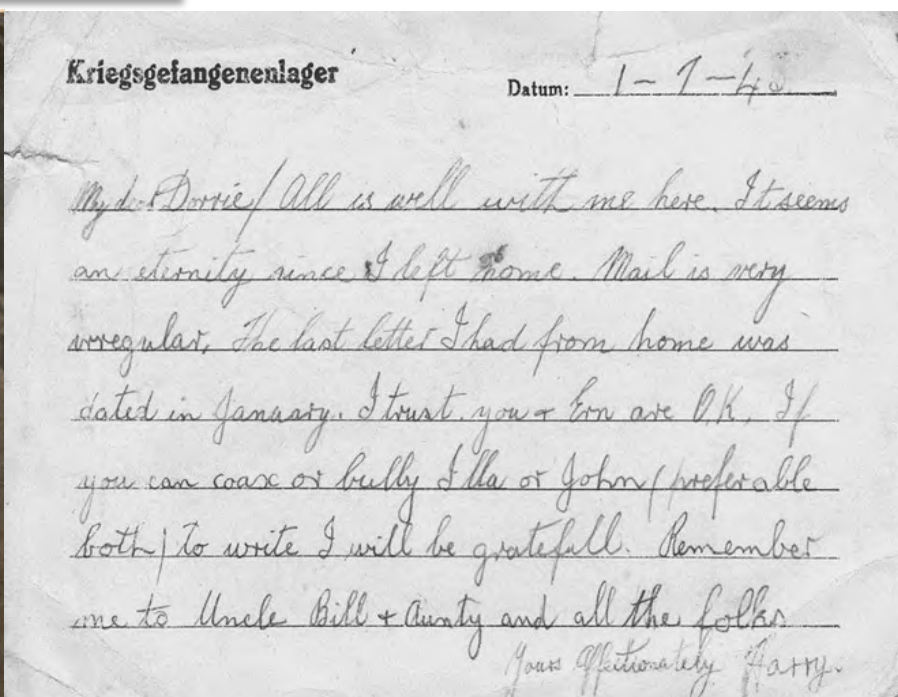
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FAMILY HISTORY Memories - Harry Smith



Harry Smith This photo and post-card were sent from Stalag XIII-C Hammelburg Bavaria, where Harry was a prisoner of war for three years, to his home "Krana" Nth Richmond NSW, addressed to Mrs F Smith, and it actually reached her. Harry was one of the Smith boys, Wilmot (Bill), Albert, Eric, Harry & Frank Smith from Tennyson Road North Richmond.

Hammelburg was a large German Army training camp, set up in 1893. Part of this camp had been used as a POW camp for Allied army personnel in World War 1 and was re-established during World War 2. During WW2 the first prisoners included Belgian, Dutch and French soldiers taken during the Battle of France. In May-June 1941 Yugoslavian, predominantly Serbian prisoners arrived from the Balkans Campaign, and soon after in June-July 1941 Australian and other British Commonwealth soldiers arrived, captured during the Battle of Crete. As was usual for Stalags, many of the prisoners were located in "Work camps" on farms, or adjacent to factories, or other industrial operations. The Stalag served as the base for distribution of International Red Cross packages and mail. A Lazarett (hospital) cared for prisoners that were sick or had been injured in industrial accidents or air-raids. A number of enlisted men and NCOs were housed in the adjacent Oflag to provide necessary services. American soldiers that had been captured during the Battle of Normandy arrived in June-July 1944, and more from the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945. In March 1945 a large group of prisoners arrived in deplorable condition after marching the 500 miles (800 km) from Stalag VIII-D, in severe winter conditions. The camp was liberated by Combat Command B of the US 14th Armoured Division on 6 April 1945. Summarised notes from [Stalag XIII-C - Wikipedia](#)



Notes from Harry's daughter K-CHS Member Susan Batho: The only address we ever used was "Krana" Tennyson Road, North Richmond. Mail always got there (along with the bread). I'm not sure what date the family bought the property, as before "Krana" they were at "Woodlands" in the area now called Grose Wold. When Uncle Frank retired and sold on the farm, it was bought by a horse stud. Their best friend, Eric Riley, lived in a little cottage on the property which looked like an original slab and daub cottage. Along the creek bed, there was an area where the clay was taken to make the bricks for St Matthew's in Windsor. It was a very large property and I think I walked the whole length of it. I wrote up one of my stories once – about old gun parts found in the well when they were putting a cement cap over it for safety. As a young girl I loved using the manual pump to get the water from the well to the tank, for use in the house.



Catherine Stevens Auditorium

Boys in the theatre at Camp Mackay c1960s-1970s (Note long hair). **The Catherine Stevens Auditorium** was named after Superintendent Stevens wife, for all the support she gave him. It was later renamed the Fairbridge Auditorium after they donated a considerable amount of money to the camp during Jack Wilkinson's term as Superintendent. The small brick building on the left was named the Gracie Fields Memorial Hospital after the donor and later named Manor and was used for varied purposes. *Images are from the Stevens family collection*

A Friendship formed in the early years of Camp Mackay

After reading the informative account in the September-October Millstone of the Power family and the difficulties they faced when farming at Kurrajong for a period from 1941. It reminded me of the difficulties many of the earlier residents of Kurrajong had faced.

I was particularly interested with the author of the article, James 'Jim' Power, and his friendship with John Corrigan who was a classmate of his.

John's father, Constable Tom Corrigan was one of the New South Wales policemen who assisted Constable Percival Stevens, the first Superintendent and Founder of the 'Boys Health Camp', at Kurrajong. The camp was later named 'Camp Mackay', after the Commissioner of Police of New South Wales William John MacKay, Founder of the Police Boys' Movement on 1 April 1937.

In July 1950 Tom became the second Camp Superintendent, ably supported by his wife Violet.

I was fortunate to meet John a couple of years ago, when he kindly shared some of his memories during the period from the camp's founding in late 1938, to April 1966, when he lived at the camp with his parents.

In the early days, John spent many happy hours wandering through the bush and making his way through the dense scrub below the camp to reach the swimming hole in Little Wheeny Creek: *'Many a time I swung off the rope that hung off a tree above the creek and landed in the creek's swimming hole.'*

John recalled watching the camp's development, from a single soldier settlement dwelling to a small village. By the mid-

1940s, the early weatherboard buildings were constructed, including the accommodation cabins; the first Superintendent's house; the small Catherine Stevens Auditorium; farm buildings and the small brick Gracie Fields Memorial Hospital.

The auditorium was constructed between the Gracie Field's Memorial Hospital, named after its donor, and the Wills dormitory, named after donor W.G. and H.O Wills. Films were mainly shown on Saturday nights. At first the boys really enjoyed Westerns. Later an assortment of films were shown. On other occasions concerts were produced by the boys, which amused everyone.

It may have been in the mid to late 1940s, that John and his friend, 'Jim' Power were able to enjoy watching movies in the camp's auditorium.

John spent many hours, in his teens, involved in voluntary work at the Camp Mackay farm property adjacent to Pughs Lagoon at Richmond. So, in about 1956, Frank Washington, a member of the Camp's Controlling Committee, suggested to Superintendent Corrigan that John should receive payment for his work.

On 30 April 1966, Tom Corrigan, Sergeant 2/Class, retired, after overseeing further extensive developments at the camp, including the redevelopment of the main building, and the construction of the small Olympic swimming pool and sports fields.

Notes: John Corrigan's memory. Other information from John Corrigan and the Camp Mackay Controlling Committee Meeting records.

Valerie Holland

Dates for Your DIARY

Please note: The K-CHS events published on this page are dependent on the COVID 19 situation. Including distancing requirements, limits placed on numbers and of course any as yet unknown pandemic requirements. An email will be sent to members by President David Griffiths informing of any changes, or view updates on: K-CHS website: <https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>

K-CHS Christmas Gathering

5pm Saturday 11th December 2021

Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club

1530 Bells Line of Road

Guest Speaker: Flt..Lt. Eamon Hamilton
Richmond RAAF Base Centenary 1901-2021



Bookings & pre-payment essential at:
<https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>

Cost: Members \$35.00 per person - \$40.00 visitors
Traditional Christmas fare: Roast Dinner & Pudding

The bar will be open for drinks
(alcohol & non alcohol at own cost).

Enquiries: David Griffiths Ph: 4567 8999
Email: president@kurrajonghistory.org.au

Please NOTE: Members who paid \$35.00 for the cancelled Mid-Winter Dinner and did not request a refund, you will not be required to pay a further \$35.00, but if unable to attend the Christmas Dinner please contact the Treasurer Pat O'Toole for a refund. Ph: 4573 0601
Email: Treasurer@kurrajonghistory.org.au

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NOTICE of K-CHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12 midday 8th November 2021

Venue: Hannah Park North Richmond

Bring along a Picnic Lunch

President David Griffiths will inform members
via email of any changes

The business of the meeting is to receive the Annual Reports, elect Office Bearers and Committee Members and confirm appointments. The AGM will be followed by a General Meeting.

Please fill in and return the Committee Nomination FORM that was attached to the Sept/Oct Millstone, to any member of the current committee or post to:

The Secretary K-CHS PO Box 174

KURMOND NSW 2757

Enquires: David Griffiths 0498 646 899
president@kurrajonghistory.org.au



21st Annual K-CHS Australia Day Breakfast

All welcome

Diary in 9am Wednesday 26th January 2022
for a barbecue breakfast at *The Hut* Bowen Mountain Park

Further details will appear on the K-CHS website
& in the January/February 2022 Millstone Issue

We Remember Them

***First World War Volunteers from The Kurrajong,
Colo & Associated Districts***

The above K-CHS publication is dedicated to and honours all those who served in the Great War from our region.

A few hard copies of the book remain following distribution in 2015 to descendants of the many WW1 volunteers, held at a special service and presentation 11/11/2015

Visit: <https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>
for further details re order & purchase.

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