

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.

A brief history of our Australian Flag



Before federation, Australia's colonies flew the flags of the United Kingdom: the Union Jack and its other flags. In 1900, with federation looming, the search for an Australian national flag began. A Melbourne journal, the *Review* of *Reviews for Australasia*, launched a competition in November 1900, offering a first prize of £50. The journal suggested that entries in the flag competition incorporate both the Union Jack and the Southern Cross.

Upon federation in 1901, the Commonwealth Government also announced it would run a flag competition, and the *Review of Reviews* agreed to combine its entries with those submitted to the government competition. The prize money (£75 from the *Review of Reviews* and £75 from the Government) was boosted to £200 by a donation from the Havelock Tobacco Company.



The Review of Reviews cover image displays the original winning flag design, with the 6 pointed star, which later became the seven pointed star. (See page 3 paragraphs 1, 2, 3 & 4 for Gazetted changes in 1903, 1908.

The conditions of the government competition were set out in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette 29 April 1901.* The notice stated that the successful design would also be submitted to the Imperial authorities for approval. In all, 32,823 entries were received from all over the world from people of all ages and backgrounds. The size of the entries also varied, from two postage-stamp-sized ones (which were disqualified for being too small) to a pair of entries using about 60 square metres of bunting. The majority of the designs contained the Union Jack and Southern Cross but native animals were also popular. Among the more quirky designs were a kangaroo leaping through the constellation of the Southern Cross, a scene depicting native animals playing cricket with a winged cricket ball, a six -tailed kangaroo representing the six Australian states, and a kangaroo aiming a gun at the Southern Cross.

All the designs were displayed at the Exhibition Building in Melbourne, where the first Commonwealth Parliament had opened. The judges spent six days viewing the entries, looking for a design that incorporated the Union Jack, the Southern Cross, and a representation of the six states joined in federation.

The judging criteria included historical relevance, compliance with the conventions of heraldry, originality, utility, and the cost of manufacture. The judges also sought a design that would be acceptable to the British Admiralty.

The judges settled on five almost identical designs. The prize money of £200 was divided among the winners: Annie Dorrington from Perth, who became a quite well-known artist; Ivor Evans from Melbourne, a 14-year- old schoolboy whose father owned a flag-making business; Leslie Hawkins, a teenager from Leichhardt in NSW; Egbert Nuttall, from Prahran in Victoria; and William Stevens, First Officer in the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand.

The Australian flag flew for the first time on 3rd September 1901, the day on which Prime Minister the Right Hon Edmund Barton announced the competition winners. It was a large flag, 5.5 metres by 11 metres, and was flown over the dome of the Exhibition Building in Melbourne, where all the designs were on display. *Cont. page 3*

THIS ISSUE Page 2 **President's Report** Page 3 The Australian Flag cont. & Bowman Flag Page 4 Servants and their Masters - Richmond Page 5 **Christmas Images & From The Kurrajong** Page 6 An interesting story from Trafalgar Page 7 From the Archives - Picking Peas Page 8 **Dates for Your Diary** K-CHS Central West Tour - May 2023 Page 8 K-CHS AUSTRALIA DAY Breakfast 9am Bowen Mt. Park

President's Report

Hello everyone,

Christmas and New Year is behind us, but some days it still feels like winter!

Our Christmas gathering was slightly down on numbers from last year - lingering Covid fears? - but those who did attend had a good time. Feedback on the traditional Christmas meal was very positive. Carol Listen gave an interesting talk which is included later in this Millstone.

Our next gathering is the Australia Day Breakfast only a few weeks away. No booking is required, just turn up with a friend and a picnic breakfast and enjoy the company and our guest speaker, David King. David is well known in the area from his RFS and SES participation and promises a most interesting talk on his exploits. His current speciality is rescue and extracting animals from dams etc.

At the end of February we are planning a tour to the National Maritime Museum. This was going to be held in 2020 but had to be postponed. Our member Mal Bobrige is an ex-submariner and is going to be giving us a very special tour of the submarine. Bookings are open online with more details. https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

It is a way off, but our Central West Tour in May is also open for bookings. Book online with us for the tour, but we recommend you book the motel accommodation via booking.com, at the Cowra RSL, where we will be staying for the two nights. Sooner rather than later would be a smart move.

Other interesting events are listed on the back page (8).

David Griffiths president@kurrajonghistory.org.au Mob: 04098 646 899 Ph: 4567 8999

KURRAJONG – COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PO BOX 174 KURMOND NSW 2757

ABN 68930834921

Print ISSN 2201-0920 - Online ISSN 2202-6320 Committee

PresidentDavid Griffiths Vice PresidentLesley Bobrige TreasurerPat O'Toole Jenny Griffiths Frank Holland Valerie Holland Airdrie Martin Suzanne Smith Millstone Editor Suzanne Smith WebmasterDavid Griffiths Digital ArchivistJenny Griffiths Family HistoryValerie Birch Librarian/Accessions Valerie Birch Public OfficerDavid Griffiths Grants OfficerFrank Holland Editor Emeritus ... Steve Rawling AM Hon Auditor......Marilyn McCarthy

DISCLAIMER: Views & opinions expressed in The Millstone originates from many sources and contributors. Content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views or opinions of K-CHS, its committee and members. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of articles. If errors are found feedback is welcome. secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au



A thank you presentation to Carol Liston, following her talk at the K-CHS Christmas Dinner, 10 December 2022, held at the Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club.

David Griffiths, Carol Liston, Lesley Bobrige

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome new members

Stephen Fitzgerald Shirley Hetherington **OF INTEREST:** Streeton Lookout Audio—11 Stories both 1st Nation and European histories: (405) Streeton Lookout Audio Walk : 11 Stories from the River Dyarubbin - YouTube There is much history in this Audio - listen to stories of Dyarubbin / The Hawkesbury River with original music and song inspired by the river, as you look out over the river at Freeman's Reach...or from the comfort of wherever you are. Dharug educator Rhiannon Wright is the guide as you listen to historians, scientists, environmentalists and farmers. Listen to Arthur Streeton's inspiration for his famous painting, "Purple Noon's Transparent Might", after which the Lookout takes its name. Listen to Hawkesbury stories from artist Greg Hansell, Emeritus Professor of History at UNSW Grace Karskens, writer and educator Jan Barkley-Jack, Professor Basant Maheshwari, School of Science, WSU, Dr Ian Wright, Senior Lecturer in Water Science, also WSU, along with many others, including Leanne Mulgo Watson, Dharug artist, Erin Wilkins, Dharug educator, and Jasmine Seymour. A Hawkebury Museum project funded by the NSW Government, Create NSW, Museums and Galleries NSW assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its Arts funding and advisory body.

The Millstone January-February 2023

The Australian Flag is based on the blue ensign design. The canton featured the Union Jack, underneath it was a sixpointed star representing the six states, while the five stars of the Southern Cross occupied the fly. The background was dark blue.

At first, this flag was known as the Commonwealth blue ensign; The Commonwealth red ensign, or merchant flag, was identical except that its background was red instead of blue.



THE AUSTRALIAN RED ENSIGN of the Commonwealth Merchant Navy

The design of the Southern Cross was simplified when the blue and red ensigns were gazetted in February 1903. The four main stars, which originally had different number of points to reflect their varying brilliance, all became seven pointed stars. The smallest star remained a five-pointed star.

In 1908, the six-pointed star representing the six states was replaced by a seven pointed star, the additional point representing the territories. At that time, Papua was the only territory of the Commonwealth, but the symbolism was intended to include any territories created in the future. The change was gazetted in December 1908.

For the next several decades there was some confusion surrounding the use of the two Australian flags. At first, the blue ensign was intended for official and naval purposes only and the red ensign was to be used by the merchant fleet. However, the general public also began using the red ensign on land. The flag placed in the time capsule left by Antarctic explorer Sir Hubert Wilkins in 1939 was the red ensign. The Union Jack also continued to be used widely in the community. For example, in 1931 it was draped over the coffin of one of Australia's most famous soldiers, General Sir John Monash. On 15 March 1941, Prime Minister the Right Hon Robert Menzies issued a press statement recommending the flying of the blue ensign as a national emblem on public buildings and schools and by private citizens, provided it was used with respect. The red ensign was to continue to be used by Australian merchant ships. On 24 February 1947, Prime Minister the Right Hon Ben Chifley expressed his support for this wider use of the blue ensign.

The *Flags Act 1953* ended the confusion about which ensign to use. In 1951 King George VI had endorsed the Australian Government's recommendation to use the Commonwealth blue ensign as the Australian National Flag. The *Flags Act 1953*, passed by the Australian Parliament in December, proclaimed the Australian blue ensign as the national flag and the Australian red ensign as the flag for merchant ships registered in Australia. The Act was signed into law by Queen Elizabeth II on 14 February 1954, after she opened the Australian Parliament.

The *Shipping Registration Act 1981* which came into operation on 26 January 1982 confirmed the Australian red ensign as the official flag to be flown by Australian-registered merchant ships.

Today, the Australian National Flag is a symbol of the entire nation. Australians also recognise other important flags that represent areas or groups within the nation, such as the State and Territory flags, the Australian Aboriginal Flag, the Torres Strait Islander Flag, and the ensigns of the Australian Defence Force.

Protection for the Australian National Flag

On 24 March 1998, the Flags Amendment Bill became law. It amended the *Flags Act 1953* to ensure that the Australian National Flag can only be changed with the agreement of the Australian people. To commemorate the day on which the Australian Flag was first flown in 1901, the 3rd September of each year is officially recognised as Australian National Flag Day.

The above extracts are from the Dept. Prime Minister & Cabinet Office <u>https://www.pmc.gov.au</u> Also see Wikipedia for a comprehensive history, including extensive references to the history of our Australian National Flag.

The BOWMAN Flag 1806. The first recorded use of the kangaroo and emu supporting a shield is found on the Bowman Flag of 1806. This flag may have been the inspiration for the use of the kangaroo and emu on the current Australian coat of arms.

The Bowman Flag was flown by John Bowman and his family on their farm, Archerfield, at Richmond, near Sydney in April 1806. The Bowmans were celebrating the victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. An account of the battle and victory (which occurred on 21 October 1805) was published in *The Sydney Gazette* on 13 April 1806. To commemorate the victory, a day of thanksgiving was ordered by Governor King for the following Sunday, at which 'all persons not prevented by sickness or the necessary care of their dwellings are expected to attend.'

According to descendants of the Bowman family, the flag was made using silk from Honor Bowman's wedding dress. It is not clear whether the flag was sewn by John's daughter, Mary Bowman (then aged nine), or her mother Honor. The painting of the flag appears to be the work of a professional sign painter, so is unlikely to have been done by Honor or Mary, although the Bowmans may have assisted in the design. The design incorporates the rose, shamrock and thistle – the traditional floral symbols of England, Ireland and Scotland, as well as the word 'Unity' and the motto 'England expects every man will do his duty'. This message was signalled by Horatio Nelson from the HMS Victory at the beginning of the Battle of Trafalgar to rally the fleet.

Come along to the K-CHS General Meeting on the 27th March 2023, to hear Doug Werner (NT), give the full story of the Bowman Flag, now held by the State Library of NSW. The above summary was developed by the State Library Foundation.

Servants and their Masters in 19th Century Richmond

by Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston AO

The Female Orphan School opened at Parramatta in 1818, moving from a building in Sydney. Girls from 3 to 10 years of age were accepted, if recommended by a magistrate and a clergyman. From the age of 10 they could be apprenticed out as servants. Many of the girls were reunited with their families, but others went out to work with strangers. After the new Female Factory was completed at Parramatta in 1820 many of the girls were the children of convict women. A Male Orphan School opened in Sydney in 1819 in the Old Orphan School vacated by the girls. The boys moved to a new facility at Liverpool (now Bonnyrigg) in the mid 1820s.

The stories below come from the Female Orphan School records, held at NSW State Records, Kingswood. The Female Orphan School building at Parramatta (Rydalmere) is now part of Western Sydney University and home to the Whitlam Institute.

The duty of the magistrates

- William Cox, Junior Esq JP wrote on behalf of Frances Mason and Elizabeth Mason, dated 10 March 1830, the children of Sarah Mason, widow.
- That Sarah Mason is the widow of the late Thomas Mason who was shot by Bushrangers on the South Creek Road on the 16 Jan 1829, and the said Sarah Mason is left with three children, Frances Mason aged nearly seven years, Elizabeth Mason 4 years and Hannah Mason nearly three years of age, for whose support she is unable to provide.

My name is Jane - servant girls

- Private John Finn of 57th Regiment died in 1830 at Moreton Bay, leaving his widow Jane impoverished with 4 children. The children were placed in the orphan schools. Jane was born in the colony in 1829 and admitted as a toddler in 1831. She was apprenticed to James Dargin, grazier at Richmond as a nursemaid when she was 14.
- Jane Kelly, aged 7 and her sister Mary, children of Mary Kelly per Earl of Liverpool were transferred from the Female Factory to the Female Orphan School in 1831. In 1840, Joseph Onus, Richmond, farmer, protestant, married, wants girls for all work. Jane Kelly 17, protestant the most suitable, approved.
- Jane Gordon was admitted to the Protestant Orphan School in 1850, aged 7 with her sister Elizabeth, aged
 4. Both their parents were dead. In 1855 Jane was apprenticed to Mr Selkirk of Richmond (Dr Selkirk?). In 1863 when Jane was 20, she was able to retrieve Elizabeth.

Publicans are not acceptable

- Elizabeth Town, wife of John Town, Richmond, applied for a servant from the Female Orphan School in 1834. A mother with two children, she needed help.
- Her application was supported by the Rev Henry Stiles
- However, the master of the Orphan School noted that Elizabeth and her husband kept a public house, so were not suitable to have an orphan girl as a servant.

A miller and family ties – Mary Ann Tennant and Harriet Hall

Robert Tennant arrived on *Morley* in 1818 with a 14 year sentence. A Scot and a miller by trade, he was assigned to the Waterloo Mills. His ticket of leave in 1825 gave his occupation more specifically as a water miller. He was doing well in 1823 – he had his own

assigned servant and a silver watch that was stolen. By 1828 he was living with George Howell, Richmond.

- He married in 1825 Mary Ann Hall and their son Thomas was baptized at Richmond in 1826.
- Mary Ann was colonial born. Her father Thomas Hall had drowned c.1821, her mother Sarah put three daughters (but not Mary Ann) in the Female Orphan School. Sarah later married William Jones and in 1826 requested the return of her children. Archibald Bell supported Sarah's request and Sophia was returned to her mother c.1826. Susan, aged 12, was apprenticed to John Staff at the Infants School, Parramatta in 1829 when her mother could not be found.
- In 1828 Mary Tennant wrote requesting her sister Harriet be returned to her care. Harriet was then 14. Nothing happened until 1832 when Robert Tennant requested his wife's sister, stating that he was free and a miller (He had now received his certificate of freedom). This was certified by John McGarvie and JD Lang.
- Clergy and School Lands Corporation, Indentures of Apprenticeship, 4/390 (Reel 1484) Harriett Hall, aged 17, servant to R. Tennant, No 220 (see above request).

Complicated families, religion and death

- Thomas Wheeler/Whelan was transported from Ireland on the *Atlas* in 1802 with a 7 year sentence. He settled on the Nepean and seems to have been successful by the Macquarie decade.
- He married Elizabeth Carver in Feb 1819 in a C of E ceremony. A baby boy was born to him and Elizabeth Carver, baptised 1820 as RC at Windsor, with Margaret Hayes as sponsor.
- It is not clear when his daughter Mary Ann Wheeler was born, or who her mother was.
- Thomas Wheeler died in Feb 1820 and was buried at St Peter's Richmond, amid much indecent strife, according to a complaint by Carver and his daughter. Elizabeth Wheeler his widow applied for administration of his estate in March 1820.
- Mary Ann Wheeler admitted to Female Orphan School in August 1822 on request of Mrs Mary Hayes (nee Mary Poor, of Dunheved and Lucan Park).

Servants and their Masters in 19th Century Richmond

Complicated families, religion and death cont.

- In 1824 Mrs Mary Hayes wrote to the authorities to 'adopt' Mary Ann Wheeler from the Female Orphan School.
- In response to a request that she ensure that the girl attend Protestant church services, she enlisted Father Therry in her request that as Thomas Wheeler and his wife were both Catholics, the girl should attend Catholic services. Mrs Hayes sends the compliments of her daughter Margaret to Father Therry.

Complications of a Convict father

- Petition of Frances Foley, wife of John Foley, a prisoner in the service of government. Windsor 29 April 1830.
- Petitioner's husband has lately been deprived of his ticket of leave for suffering her to live in a state of adultery with one Samuel Nixon (by whom she has three children) and who has also been deprived of his ticket of leave.
- Application for one of her children, Louisa Nixon alias Foley, to be admitted to orphan school. Agrees that

Louisa will stay in the orphan school for as long as the trustees see fit and shall when of a proper age be disposed of at their discretion as an apprentice or servant. Signed with her mark.

Her children are Louisa, 7, Samuel 4, William 1 yr and 4 months. Note from Chaplain Joseph Docker, that the child was baptised at Richmond in 1824 but the registers in his possession only start in 1826.

Mistresses with careers

In 1851 Margaret Lynch, aged 16, was apprenticed as a servant to Mrs Sarah Silk of Richmond, a midwife. Application recommended by 2 clergy or magistrates -John Elder and Henry Stiles. Margaret had been returned to school by Dr Menzies of Illawarra and in the case of all returned apprentices, desirable to dispose of immediately if possible.

Summary of the presentation given by Carol Liston on the occasion of the K-CHS Christmas Dinner December 2022 held at the Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club.



Members & Friends in attendance at the K-CHS Christmas Dinner, December 2022 held at the Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club.

Carol Liston AO (guest speaker) receiving presentation gifts from Lesley Bobrige K-CHS Vice President



News from The Kurrajong

The "James Comrie" is the name of a N.S.W. coasting steamer. Wonder if it is called after our well-known and deservedly respected resident, Mr. James Comrie, of Northfields, Kurrajong Heights?

Several local fruit growers are thinking of going in for experimental shipments of fruit to the old country. They should not be dubious - the trade has gone beyond the experimental stage, and has been proved a huge success, where proper precautions have been observed.

The palatial residence of our neighbour, Mr Philip Charley, is well on the way towards completion, and will, perhaps, be the most elegant establishment of its kind outside of Sydney.

Very severe frosts of late have done considerable damage to orchards that are in a low situation; it necessitates the fruit being pulled as speedily as possible, especially mandarins.

The pump at the Public-school, Comleroy Road, is in a very bad

state, and it is only with great difficulty that sufficient water can be procured for the use of the teacher and scholars.

The new road under Lookout Hill has been closed again, and great inconvenience is caused to the people of that part. It is an awful piece of work on the part of the Government to have things in such a. state. Several hundreds of pounds have been spent on it. It is to be hoped that something will be done so as to have the road open always.

A marriage is to take place very shortly, both parties belonging to the Kurrajong.

People are very pleased to see some of the old maintenance men busy with their picks and shovels again, as the local roads were in a very bad state.

We hear that Mr. D. Duffy's place is rented by Mr. E. Peck, and wish him every success.

From TROVE - Windsor and Richmond Gazette NSW Saturday 15 July 1893, page 8

An interesting story from *Trafalgar*

Below is a transcript of an interview by Valerie Birch, with Jan Mitchell, April 2016, at her home 328 Comleroy Road.

My main interest with Jan's story was about her father William Apparently the boys lived and ate in the farm house with Ritchie, who as a State Ward came to live with Clara and Emma and Clara. Even when they had visitors, they were Emma Pitt on their farm named Trafalgar, at age 9 years. The always included at the dinner table. William was the last State Farm was part of the original Pitt Property and was probably Ward to live at Trafalgar. At one time there also lived and about 600 acres on Comleroy Road, Kurrajong. Jan's father worked on the farm, an aborigine. He lived separately at a talked a great deal about his time with the Pitt family. He had place known as Darkie's Paddock. William remembers being great respect for Clara and Emma and visited them regularly told about Black Betsy a servant, who was burned while workuntil they passed away.

William Ritchie was born in 1905 to Catherine Jane Ritchie, When William reached age 17 he went to work for Johnnie who was an unmarried lass of only 17 years. Unfortunately Roberts the butcher and delivered on horseback orders to she died during childbirth leaving William with no parents. It various people in the district. He remembers one incident, was not known who the father was. Catherine's parents falling off the horse, with all the meat parcels spilling out onto James and Sophia Ritchie nee Thompson, already had twelve the road. He collected up the meat, washed it and rewrapped children, one being born the same year as William. It appears it before delivering the parcels to the customers. that they could not take on another child and so William was given over to foster parents. The first set were an older couple and as he grew to toddler age, they could not manage and gave him back to the department. After that he was in the care of guite a number of people, he even ran away from North as far as Tweed Heads looking for work. one home.

Sophia, brought him up to Kurrajong to live and work on Williams family were living at the farmhouse when the 1944 Trafalgar Farm with Clara and Emma Pitt, as a State Ward. bushfires ravaged the Kurrajong Hills. Jan, along with her two Jan stated that William well remembers his grandmother year old and 10 week old siblings, remembers them all being visiting him on two occasions while on the farm, once when he carried away from the farmhouse by their parents. The farmwas young and again when he was 17 years old. She asked house was completely destroyed in the bushfire. him to return to the family, but he said no, preferring to stay on up here in the Kurrajong.

William loved his years at Trafalgar Farm; he had horses, cattle, pigs and chickens to look after. He attended the old-Comleroy Road School up until 6th class. The names of others who worked on the farm were, Cecil and Bob Wilson, Bertie Higgins and Roy and Stan Turner, who lived down Cedar Ridge Road. From time to time they would swap their chore roster, which made life more interesting.

ing for the Pitt family and is buried at St Stephen's Kurrajong.

William went on to do general farm hand work around the district, ending up with the Department of Main Roads and the Water Board in later years. During the depression years he would ride the undercarriages of trains (like a hobo), travelling

In 1938 William married Avis Irene in Richmond. Their wed-The story is that when he was 9 years old, his grandmother ding reception was held at Goldfinders Inn Kurrajong. The

> William then applied for a Special Lease that was organised through the courts. He was granted 110 acres of land down the end of Browns Road that included both sides of the road. It was a grazing lease and William built fences and ran cattle, pigs, cows and goats. Unfortunately he did not take the next step of Conditional Purchase. William lived on this property, surviving three bushfires, the 1944 at the Pitt Farm and two at Browns Road, where he went down in the well until the fire had passed over. He passed away at the property when he was 88 years old.

> > Cont. Page 7

Restaurant Open 6 Days 77 Old Bells Line of Road Kurrajong Ph: 02 4576 050

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 11.30am - 10pm Sunday 11.30am - 4pm (Closed Thursday)





6

The Millstone January-February 2023

Volume 21 Issue 1

www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

THE ARCHIVES



An oil painting entitled *Pea Gathering* (Kurrajong Heights) 1918 painted by an Italian-born artist, Antonio Dattilo Rubbo. This painting hangs in the Queensland Art Gallery. Rubbo lived and ran an Art School in Sydney from 1897 until his death 1955. He was both artist and teacher. K-CHS Image: 043400



Pea picking at Millwood. Could Vince McMahon Jnr's property Millwood be the site of the 1918 Rubbo oil painting? Visit the K-CHS Image Archives 011006

The Trafalgar Story Cont.

Jan herself remembers the 1944 bushfire. Only four years old, she remembers the horror of the fire. William and his wife Avis and three children had been living at Trafalgar farm, apparently courtesy of the Want family. Jan's father had arrived home from work and was resting when her mother saw the fire. It was coming from the West. William looked westward and decided it would not come down that far to *Trafalgar* farm house.

As a precaution they placed the children in one of the rooms to keep them safe and began collecting buckets of water. As the fire came nearer William decided that they should carry the children to safer ground, so along with his wife who was carrying the baby, they started walking up to Comleroy Road. They went to St John's Church of England on Comleroy Road, hoping they would be safe. But the roof caught alight while they were sheltering there so they fled down to Johnnie Roberts home. Unfortunately Jan's legs, were burnt and her ears, when her hair caught alight while sheltering at the Church.

The family stayed with the Roberts family for a week (fortunately the fire had not destroyed their home), but sadly Jan's family had lost everything, but the clothes they were wearing. The horses, pigs, cows and goats were burned to death and the old *Trafalgar* homestead totally destroyed.

After staying with the Roberts family, Jan's family went to their Grandmother's home in Crooked Lane. Later Arthur Madden rented them a house on Slopes Road for a while, before they moved to Riverview Street at North Richmond. It was after this time that the family moved onto the property at the end of Browns Road, Kurrrajong.

Valerie Birch and Jan Mitchell (nee Ritchie)



Emma, Clara and Robert E Pitt, on the left, stand outside their home *Trafalgar* on Comleroy Road, C1920s To the right of the photo are Colin Want and three of his children. *Trafalgar* had been a 400 acre land grant to Thomas Matcham Pitt, wife Elizabeth and son Robert in the early 1800s. K-CHS Image: 013804

The Village Kitchen Kurrajong

83 Old Bells Line of Road Kurrajong Village Dine In Gallery – Fully Licensed Wednesday to Sunday 8am - 2pm Evening Friday & Saturday from 5pm

For BOOKINGS phone 02 4573 0988 www.thevillagekitchenkurrajong.com.au

KURRAJONG CELLARS FINE WINE & SPIRITS

76 Bells Line of Road Kurrajong Village

Christine Mead J.P Ph: 02 4573 1231 Mobile: 0418 407 501 Fax: 02 4573 1827 kurrajongcellars@bigpond.com

Wines with a difference, beer, spirits & ice

Dates for Your DIARY



K-CHS 22nd Annual AUSTRALIA DAY Breakfast All Welcome

9am Thursday 26th January 2023, once again at *The Hut* Bowen Mountain Park

> Guest Speaker: David King RFS K-CHS Australia Day Awards

BYO Breakfast to cook on the barbecue Tea & Coffee available

(Bowen Mt Park & Hut via Bellbird Avenue then left into Lt. Bowen Road)

Maritime Museum Visit MONDAY 27th February 2023

Meet at RICHMOND Rail Station at 7.30am, where we will board the 7.41am train

Booking essential - Tour Cost \$18.00 https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

NOTE: Train & Food at own cost

Enquiries: David Griffiths Mob: 0498 646 899

K-CHS Autumn General Meeting

Monday 27th March 2023

Speaker: Doug Werner A History of the Bowman Flag, now archived in the Mitchell Library

Time & Venue in the March/April Newsletter

If you missed, *A Moment in Time* Exhibition, capturing the spirit of the early years as the Central West of NSW was opened up to colonists, it can now be viewed at Hartley Historic Site off the GWH. Open Daily 10am-4pm except Mondays Ph: 02 6355 2117



CENTRAL WEST TOUR with Frank Holland

Travel with the History Society group and experience yesteryear historic villages and walking tours. Including a Visit to the *Age of Fishes Fossil* Museum and a number of other Museums over the 3 days.

The K-CHS Committee is planning a 2 night / 3 day tour to Canowindra

via Orange to Cowra, Grenfell, Carcoar & Millthorpe. Each of these towns have much history and places of interest.

At this stage we are considering self-drive, with car pooling and paid share. Overnight accommodation at Cowra RSL is \$169 for a Queen Room. We intend organising an evening dinner, presentation and guest speaker with the Cowra Historical Society. All food over the three days will be at own expense.

The tour is proposed for early May 7th,8th,9th, 2023. Please contact Frank for further itinerary details: frank.holland2@optusnet.com



Age of Fishes Museum in the historic town of Canowindra, situated along the Belubula River between Orange and Cowra.

REX STUBBS Annual History Symposium Deerubbin Centre Windsor 9.30am - 2pm Saturday 4th February 2023

Symposium theme - *The Hawkesbury River* A number of speakers giving different perspectives: Geological, Aboriginal & Colonial

Note: Bookings essential More info: https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/ services/dr-rex-stubbs-history-symposium



Hillbilly Cider Shed

2230 Bells Line of Road (Cnr Johnsons Rd) BILPIN

Open for Cider & Wood Fired Pizzas

Monday - Thursday 10 - 4pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10 - 6pm Bookings: 4567 0965 *bookings@hillbillycider.com.au Visit website:* https://hillbillycider.com.au



and co.

Boutique & Giftware