

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.



The first recorded use of a kangaroo and emu supporting a shield, is found on the beautiful swallow tailed
Bowman Flag of 1806 and is considered the first colonial coat of arms.

The flag is now held in the State Library of NSW Mitchell Library

The BOWMAN FLAG Story (1806) Part 1

The flag was made in April 1806 on John and Honor Bowmans farm *Archerfield* in Richmond. On news reaching the Hawkesbury that Lord Nelson along with the British Royal Navy, were victors in the *Battle of Trafalgar* on the 21st October 1805, there was much celebration.

The *Battle of Trafalgar* commenced on the 21st October 1805. The Battle was between the British Royal Navy and the combined French and Spanish Navies.

By 1804 the French navy were attempting to destroy the British Royal Navy and move it out of the English Channel, a strip of water between England and France. If the French were successful this would allow Napoleon Bonaparte an easy path for the French Army to invade Britain.

The Battle of Trafalgar took place at Cape Trafalgar off the south western coast of Spain. Lord Nelson's ship was HMS Victory, the flagship of the Royal Navy, consisting of 27 British ships, coming up against the combined 48 ships of the Spanish and French Navies. The Battle lasted 5 hours with the British Navy being the victors, but with heavy losses by all Navies. The French and Spanish Navies lost 20 ships, with 14,000 sailors taken prisoner of war. It's not known how many French and Spanish sailors were killed in the Battle. The British lost 1,500 sailors including Lord Nelson but didn't lose any of their ships.

When news of Lord Nelson's naval victory at *Trafalgar* reached the Bowman family in Richmond, on 11th April 1806, there was cause for great community celebration at their farm *Archerfield*. John Bowman erected a flagpole and his wife Honor cut up her silk wedding dress and made a swallow-tailed flag. It was 920mm high and 2210mm long.

Honor and her daughter Mary painted a heraldic design on the flag, showing an intertwined rose, a thistle and shamrock on a shield, supported by an emu on the left and a Kangaroo on the right. Above the shield was a motto ribbon reading "Unity" and on the bottom, a ribbon bearing Nelson's signal "England expects every man will do his duty".

The flag was handed down through the family over the next one hundred years. Then on the *Centenary of Trafalgar*, the 21st October 1905, the flag was given to the Richmond Superior Public School and placed in the schools museum. The Richmond Superior School was located next to the School of Arts in West Market Street, Richmond. A Superior Public School educated children up to the age of 14years.

In 1915 the flag was given to the Mitchell Library.

The Bowman Flag story - continued on page 2

THIS ISSUE

Page 2 President's Report

Page 3 Marguerite Wyborn - In Memory

Page 4 Land Development at Kurmond - Longleat Farm

Page 5 Longleat Farm - Images C1930'S

Page 6 Trafalgar Part 2 - Homes on Comleroy

Page 7 From the Archives & Trafalgar Part 2 - Images

Page 8 Dates for Your Diary - Pansy Line Tour - Images

K-CHS Members - MILL SITE TOUR 10 am Monday 22nd May 2023

President's Report

Things seem very busy at present!

We all learnt a thing or two about the Bowman Flag, thanks to Doug Werner at the March GM and enjoyed a nice pub lunch afterwards.

Our Pansy Line Tour was a great success. The tour was sold out again which was great to see. The weather gods were not kind to us, with drizzle all day, but everyone came equipped and made the best of it. The RFB did a fabulous job of catering for us as always.

By the time your read this, we will have returned from our Central West Tour. There are 12 people booked. We are planning to give a report on this tour at our May General Meeting, so if you missed the tour, come along to hear and see the highlights. (Details p. 8)

On the same day as the General Meeting (Monday May 22nd) we will be doing a Mill Site Tour of the recently state heritage listed Singleton's Mill site. We need to limit the numbers for this tour, so it is members only. It is free but please book online so we know the numbers. (Details page 8)

The NLA Trove service that I mentioned in the last Millstone, has been given a reprieve with the Federal Government announcing assured ongoing funding in the budget. A great outcome! I'm sure it was because of our letters ;-)

Then of course the July General Meeting is our Mid Winter Dinner and is a lunch at Schembrae's. More info on page 8 and in the next Millstone newsletter. Bookings essential online at K-CHS website.

At the dawn ANZAC service in Kurrajong Village I had the honour, with our Vice President, Lesley Bobrige, of laying a wreath on behalf of the Society. Thank you to Lesley for making the wreath.

David Griffiths president@kurrajonghistory.org.au

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Lest We Forget wreath laid on ANZAC day morning during the Remembrance Service at Memorial Park Kurrajong, by President David Griffiths and Vice President Lesley Bobrige, on behalf of K-CHS Members. The beautiful wreath was made by Lesley herself, red in memory of the men, white the women who served and purple flowers, the animals.

KURRAJONG – COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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The BOWMAN FLAG Story cont. It is generally agreed that this was the oldest example of an Australian made flag, with the supporters of the shield, the kangaroo and emu, the origin of subsequent Coats of Arms, using a Kangaroo and an emu. Interestingly on the Australian Coat of Arms the Kangaroo and the emu are on opposite sides of where they are on the Bowman flag. Also on the Australian Coat of Arms, the kangaroo and emu are looking at each other.



Bowman Cottage Richmond is a heritage listed former residence of John & Honor Bowman. It was built 1817 to

1820 by James Blackman, then acquired by George Bowman, eldest son of John Bowman. By 1824 the cottage had attained its present day appearance. The Bowman Flag Story Part 2 will be continued in the July/August Millstone Newsletter.

Contributor: Doug Werner Hawkesbury NT

In Memory of the late Marguerite Wyborn 25th January 1942 - 26th February 2023

Society members wish to acknowledge the recent, unexpected and sad passing of our Secretary and inaugural and valued member, Marguerite Wyborn.

Marguerite was born in Chatswood at the beginning of WW2, to parents Harry, a Manager at the Motor Transport Department in Newcastle and Violette her mother. Marguerite was the youngest of three children, brother John and sister Jill.

One of Marguerite's earliest memories was her mother taking the children to her Uncle Charlie's home in Guyra, where they stayed for six months, due to the threat of a Japanese invasion of Sydney.

Marguerite attended Lane Cove Public School. As a child she loved playing hopscotch in the street with friends and exploring the bush behind her home.

Her parents would often take the family to holiday with friends who had a chicken farm at Freemans Reach. Later in life Marguerite reflected on the coincidence that she now lived nearby in the Kurrajong.

At 6 years of age the family moved to Newcastle where she enjoyed a wonderful lifestyle living near the beach, with bicycle riding a major pastime. When old enough, Marguerite joined the Brownies. Early memories included the families first telephone and the amazement at such technology. Teenage years brought involvement with a church fellowship group, experiencing many adventures and camps, including sleeping in a cattle pavilion in Maitland.

She loved playing the piano, with music a passion throughout her life. Her sister Jill became a piano teacher and they loved performing duets together.

In later years, Marguerite would reflect on how life was a lot different back then ...transistor radios didn't even exist. The postman arrived with mail twice a day, the baker delivered bread with a horse drawn cart and the local grocer would visit the home once a week to take their grocery order.

Marguerite attended Newcastle Girls' High School, where she made many friends, many with whom she remained close, attending a reunion in 1998.

After school years she attended the Metropolitan Business College in Newcastle, studying a secretarial course. Her first job was with an accounting firm, being paid five pounds per week. Marguerite soon applied for a job with the Bank of NSW as the secretary to the manager of the Newcastle branch and after 4 years, aged 21, transferred to a Sydney branch.

In her late 20's she went to work in Port Moresby with the Bank of NSW, based in Rabaul. It was in PNG on a chartered return flight on a DC3 freighter, that Marguerite met Bryan and their lifetime relationship began. Bryan was soon to sail back to Australia, so Marguerite decided to follow and return to Sydney where she negotiated a job with the Wynyard office.

Bryan and Marguerite married in May 1969 and bought a home in Castle Hill. Daughters Deborah and Meagan were born in the following years. In the early 70's Bryan invested in what became a successful family business, a cabinet and shop-fitting company, that he owned and ran until his retirement.

In 1983 the family moved to a new home on 5 acres at Kellyville. Bryan and Marguerite spent years as supportive parents to their daughters, including with the girls pony club. They were active members of a Veteran/Vintage car club. In 1989 they bought property at Kurrajong, Bryan designing the beautiful home they moved into in 2000. With the move to Kurrajong, Marguerite became



active with many of the local Hawkesbury community groups.

Along with husband Bryan, they joined the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society in 2001, as inaugural members. Marguerite served on the committee between 2002 and 2004, taking on the role of treasurer in 2002. She was again nominated to the K-CHS committee in 2012, once again serving as treasurer between 2012-2015, then later taking on the role of secretary in 2018, a position she held until her passing in 2023.

Marguerite was actively involved with the North Richmond Probus group, the University of the Third Age, the Hawkesbury Walkers and the Kurrajong Heights Garden Club, where she formed many friendships. With husband Bryan she was active in the Model A Ford Club. In the latter years of her life, Marguerite often travelled throughout the world, usually with friends from one of the above organisations.

She loved playing scrabble with Sean and Cameron her grandsons, when visiting their home in the ACT. She was pleased with herself when she mastered the internet and could play online daily with her daughter Meagan.

Sadly, Marguerite passed away unexpectedly on the 26th of February 2023. She will be remembered by her friends within K-CHS, for her commitment over many years to the Society, including opening her home for committee meetings and the many never to be forgotten beautiful Christmas events, held in the lovely gardens of *St Elmo*.

Our thoughts are with her husband Bryan, daughters Meagan and Deborah, grandsons Sean and Cameron and extended family. Marguerite was thoughtful and caring and dedicated to her commitments. You will never be forgotten Marguerite.



Marguerite & Suzanne, two K-CHS Secretaries assisting at the Kurrajong-a-Buzz, 19 Nov 2017 event. Image: Lenore Walker

Land Development in KURMOND & the Longleat Farmhouse Story

This is a summary of land ownership and development of a portion of land in Kurmond where a house built in the late eighteen hundreds still stands. The house named *Longleat*, was my family home for ten years to 1946. The sequence of ownership is no doubt typical of many areas in the district.

The information presented is derived from a number of NSW Land Titles documents and is the extracted data of ownership and Title transfers, beginning with the Crown Grants of 1823 and research up until 1992 ownership. Some of the information was obtained from the NSW BDM Registers and the NSW State Library holdings.

The early 1823 grants in the Kurmond area were to Patrick Mason, David Horton and John Howe, with a total area of 290 acres, followed by a subsequent series of grants to Thomas Dargin and Thomas and Catherine Bootle in 1840, totalling 170 acres. John and Catherine died in 1855 and 1869 respectively.

By 1851 through several transfers the grants became the property of the Hoskisson family and by 1895 Catherine Sarah Chignell held the Certificate of Title to 372 acres. Catherine it appears achieved this as the beneficiary of the Will of John Hoskisson, her father, who died in 1875.

Catherine Sarah married in 1890 a young 27 year old Horace Chignell an immigrant from Southend in Essex UK. Horace is referenced on Sarah's Title of 1896 as Banker of Forest Lodge near Glebe in Sydney. He is listed as living at *Saltaire* on Bridge Road from 1894 to beyond 1896. They held the ownership of the selection for 37 years, so I think it likely that they were the builders of the four room brick cottage with verandas which they called *Longleat*. Perhaps an ambitious reference to the grand *Longleat Mansion* in Wiltshire, in Southern England.

Catherine died in 1912 and the holding passed to Amelia Jane Mansell, possibly by bequest and then transferred and sold to Henry Edward Peck in 1913.

In 1914 the surveyor Edwin John Brown defined a total of 50 Lots out of the 372 acres owned by Peck and produced a Deposited Plan 7565 which also formalised both Longleat Road and Longleat Lane as one Chain thoroughfares, giving access from Bells Line of Road. Included were 14 Lots with a total area of 146 acres, which was the land around *Longleat*, mainly from David Hortons original grant.

This gave Henry Peck the ability to sell individual lots beginning with a sale to Frank Leidich of Lot 2 in 1916 and in 1919 Lot 14 was sold to Thomas Mason who became the community blacksmith, farrier and stone mason and our next door neighbour many years later. In 1921 he sold Lots 2, 3, & 4 to Edwin John Brown the Surveyor.

There was a leaflet published in 1923, by the Country Promotion League, titled *Facts About Kurrajong*, extolling the beauty of the district and the great productivity in the area of crops

such as citrus, peas, grapes, bananas, custard apples and passionfruit. To further illustrate this, elaborate displays of fruit and vegetables from the district, were arranged in a number of shop windows along George Street in the city. The League pointed to the fact that by Spring 1921, 45 thousand citrus had been planted on land which could be purchased for 12 to 25 Pounds an acre. It was noted that some of the citrus had been planted as early as the 1840s. The area was also supplying many tons of wattle bark to tanneries in the Sydney region, along with large quantities of firewood.

My grandfather, Victor Clouting would no doubt have seen these displays and been persuaded to buy into the attractive land deals. He was about to retire and devote his time to the Ford Sales Garage, managed by his son and daughter in Dulwich Hill. He no doubt had a vision of a prosperous orchard supplying his fruit and vegetables and eggs to a shop attached to the Ford Garage. This was during the depths of the depression, when fresh fruit and vegetables at farm prices would have sold well in Dulwich Hill.

My family's interest really began when my Uncle, Clement Clouting took over a mortgage from Edwin John Brown, on Lots 2, 3, & 4 in 1922. This area was then part of a well established citrus orchard of 16 acres. In the following year Victor Clouting purchased the 10 acres of Lot 5 for 360 pounds, to then own Title to the whole of the mature orchard on the west side of Longleat Lane.

Finally in 1932, Victor took over a mortgage to the Government Savings Bank of NSW, held by Hubert See, of the 46 acres, Lots 9, 10, 11 & 12, being the Eastern lots along Longleat Lane. This gave Victor a total of 73 acres, including the house *Longleat*, on the high point in Lot 12, with an orchard of long established Seville orange trees surrounding the house, with a horse stabling shed nearby.

For a while, acres of peas kept the pickers busy and large areas of strawberries thrived near the house. Most of the mature Seville trees on the house block were removed on the advice of the NSW Agriculture Department, and replaced with a new planting of young Navel citrus trees.

Unfortunately, the seasons that followed deemed a fruitful return otherwise, and by 1935 as the depression began to recede, the beginning of a drought that would last some ten years, ended the hope of profitable vegetable crops and a productive orchard. The new Navel plantings never grew above waist height and produced no fruit. Only the long established Valentia orchard on the Western block, provided good fruit, as did the ten acres of lemons on Lot 5.

Over the next few years this produce found a ready sale and the remaining Seville's were sold to a jam company in Sydney.

Cont. page 5

Longleat Farm at Kurmond cont.

By 1936 my brother David and I were due to start primary school and Grandpa suggested that a bit of country air would be just what we needed, and my father Percy could provide the essential care of the Valentia orchard, spraying and keeping it clear of weeds. So our family moved to *Longleat Farm* at Kurmond.

My father extended the house to provide additional bed and dining rooms, with a bathroom plumbed with water from roof water tanks and after a year or so both the electricity and telephone were connected to the home. However in 1946 the family needed to move back to the city for my brother and I to begin high school, so Grandfather Clouting sold the farm.



Dating from 1823, Longleat Farm in Longleat Lane gave its name to the area which is now called Kurmond. The house was originally built in 1865 and was surrounded by orange orchards. It was the home of the Chapman family in the 1930s. In the last twenty years it has been restored with sympathetic additions by Colin and Ros Tomlinson. Ros has created a beautiful cottage garden. (K-CHS LEP Item: 458)



Hauling slabs of wood from the back paddock. Image 874807

The land changed hands many times, with some owners establishing horse studs and others building houses where the orchards had been. The *Longleat Farmhouse* acquired further extensions and more modern surrounds.

From 1946 when Victor sold the 72 acres to Alfred Dennis for 2000 Pounds, to 1987 there were nine owners of various lots in succession. Roslyn Goody took Certificate of Title in 1992 and again extended the *Longleat Farmhouse* adding another two rooms and augmenting the rainwater tank storage, while setting in place a modern garden landscape and pool.

All of this took place against a backdrop of declining soldier settlement, described at it's beginning by the Country Promotion League in 1923, as 46 settlers with their homes and orchards comprising one thousand citrus each

Article (2008) by the late Philip Chapman



C1938 The Chapman boys demonstrate how safe their mode of transport is. Philip is driving the bike with David behind, and their mother, Dulcie, in the trailer. They are in front of their home *Longleat Farm* in Kurmond. The trailer was used to collect groceries from *Woodhills* store in Kurrajong. K-CHS Image Archives 874803



Victor Clouting feeding the White Leghorn chooks Image 074811

A note of interest from Philip Chapman's son Martin Chapman. (Philip was a member of K-CHS for 10 years).

Suzanne, thankyou for our chat this morning, and sorry to advise that Philip (Phil) had passed away. He would be very happy you are publishing his article. Dad was born in October 1927 and passed away in June 2019 aged 91. He attended Newington College and during the war lived at *Longleat Farm* Kurmond. He said he used to catch *Pansy*, the train to school. After leaving High school and attending Technical College, Dad worked at AWA (Amalgamated Wireless Australasia) Ltd., where he was an electronics engineer. One of the crowning achievements while at AWA was to help design the sound system for the Sydney Opera House. Other projects Philip was involved in was helping to design better traffic light systems & Totalisator display boards for the Hong Kong Jockey club. Philip was married to his wife Alison & had 2 children, my sister Marion & myself Martin. After Dad passed away in 2019, Mum, passed away in 2020 aged 93 & my sister passed away last year aged 59.

Regards, Martin Chapman, On Behalf of the Estate of late Philip Chapman

TRAFALGAR AND THE FAMILIES OF COMLEROY ROAD by Deborah Hallam Part 2 - HOMES: Mt Pleasant, Trafalgar & Warrawee Guesthouse

William and Thomas John and Robert Pitt built their family homes and settled on their grants. We know very little about the house at *Summer Hill*, destroyed in the large bushfire of 1896. There is also a report of the house at *Mount Pleasant* being destroyed, but this appears to be an error as *Mount Pleasant* in the Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 11 February 1899, is described as a "simple bushman's home where he (Thomas John, Snr) has lived a settler's life for over 70 years. There is also a map dated 1840 showing the house location.

After the death of Robert and Sarah the *Trafalgar* estate was divided between three of their children, one hundred acres to Henry Pitt, one hundred acres to George Wilshire Pitt, and the two hundred acres on which the house, *Trafalgar*, was situated to unmarried daughters, Emma and Clara. The valuations of the house in 1925 and 1940, state that the land had no frontage to a Government Road and access to same is through a right of way. There is erected on the land two old weatherboard cottages, one containing five rooms (1925) and one cottage, 6 rooms, iron roof, bathroom, sheds, underground well, clearing and fencing. A fire in 1836 had caused substantial damage to the property.

The *Mount Pleasant* property was divided after Thomas' death equally between William, Martha and Thomas Jr.

Martha received the northern one third and the house in which she had been living with her father, for the term of her life, whereupon it reverted to Thomas. Thomas had the middle 34-acres and William the lower section.

In 1944, devastating bushfires swept through the area totally destroying *Trafalgar* and *Mount Pleasant* leaving the well at *Trafalgar* and a pair of bottle trees at *Mount Pleasant* to indicate the sites.

WARRAWEE William John was born to Thomas and Caroline John in 1830. After a childhood spent at *Mount Pleasant* he moved around Western NSW travelling, droving and working. In 1862 he married at Wee Waa and had seven children before the death of his wife in 1876. After her death William returned to Kurrajong and lived for a time at *Mount Pleasant* with his father and unmarried sister who helped with the upbringing of the children. It is unclear at exactly which point William built

his own home on the southern portion of *Mount Pleasant* land, however, according to the K-CHS archives, it incorporated the original stables on the property. This building was on the land inherited by William on his father's death, adjoining the Wesleyan Church and burial ground. When William died in 1910 his land was devised to his widowed daughter-in-law, Mary Elizabeth John, born Granger, the mother of two young daughters. Mary set up in the house perhaps initially operating a store but soon taking in guests. The property was referred to as *Warrawee* Guest house from the early 1920s.

Warrawee was a well-known guest house through the 1930s with all the utilities expected of such a place including a tennis court and grounds for the guests' recreation. It has been suggested that during WW2 it was also used as a home for city children. In 1947, an aging Mary sold the western part of the property including the Guest House to George and Fanny Lane, the eastern part, bounded by Comleroy Rd by this stage belonged to her daughter Marjorie Roberts. The Roberts had built their family home opposite Warrawee, the site now marked by a pair of palm trees.

Fanny Lane continued to operate the guest house for some time, selling the then 5-acre property to Lisle and Margaret Hollis in 1961. I have been able to find little information on the Hollis family other than they were city dwellers. Presumably *Warrawee* was holiday home. It is also unclear at what stage it was renamed as *Mount Pleasant*.

The next owners of the property were Colin and Colleen Parker, well regarded artists. Colin in a letter to KCHS in 2015 recalls: Colleen and I purchased "Mount Pleasant" along the Comleroy Road somewhere about 1967, Hollis being the vendor, the roadside mailbox having the number 113 on it at the 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 until the 1950s. I was trying to make a name for myself as a producing artist, and a portion of the rambling, ramshackle building was given over to me for a studio. This was demolished as it was partially on the adjoining neighbours land to the north and we had no option but to demolish. (Cont. p 7)

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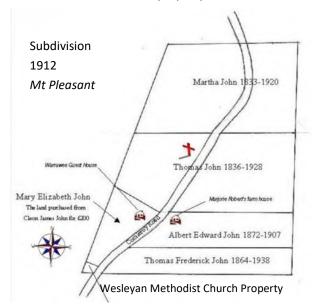
Emma, Clara and Robert E Pitt, on the left, stand outside their home *Trafalgar* on Comleroy Road, C1920s To the right of the photo are Colin Want and three of his children. *Trafalgar* had been a 400 acre land grant to Thomas Matcham Pitt, wife Elizabeth and son Robert in the early 1800s.

K-CHS Image Archives: 013804



TRAFALGAR Part 2 continued - HOMES: Mt Pleasant, Trafalgar & Warrawee Guesthouses

Parkers then sold the property, still known as *Mount Pleasant* to Kevin and Carol Rozzoli, who remained there until the late 1990s. For some reason the property was advertised for sale in 2011 as *Trafalgar*, the first use of this name for this property.





Warrawee Guest House C1930s. Originally the stables of the *Mount Pleasant* property, later converted to a guest house. Mary John ran the guest house. K-CHS Image: 020101



There were further additions and alterations made to new *Trafalgar* in 2015. The palm trees are easily spotted in the landscape along Comleroy Road. Adjacent: The *beehive well*, on the site of the original *Trafalgar* that was burnt down in the 1944 fires.



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Dates for Your DIARY

KURRAJONG SINGLETON'S MILL SITE TOUR

10am Monday 22nd May 2023

This is a (free) members only tour lead by Les Dollin.

Please register online at https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au Wear sensible clothing & footwear.

Meet 10am at *Singleton's Reserve*, Mill Road near the entrance to Merroo Christian Centre

Those who wish, may meet later for lunch at the *Village Kitchen* Kurrajong at own expense.

K-CHS General Meeting 22nd May 2023 Venue: 7pm at the Radio Museum

842 Bells Line of Road Kurrajong

Frank Holland & David Griffiths will be sharing reflections and images on the K-CHS Central West Tour

A light supper will be served

K-CHS MID-WINTER DINNER & General Meeting

12.30pm Monday 24th July 2023

This event will be held as a luncheon at SCHEMBRAE'S Restaurant Kurrajong Village

Guest Speaker: Judith Dunn OAM & Councillor with the RAHS Judith's topic: Australian Corrugated Iron Buildings

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au COST details will be online at the K-CHS Website Book early as numbers are limited

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome new members

Lyn Alabaster
Mel Teudt
Mark & Sophie Vigors





PANSY LINE TOUR held Saturday 29th April 2023 ...wet, wet, wet, but everyone came equipped for the conditions. Two wonderful photos by Lesley Bobrige taken at Hanna Park, one with umbrellas up, walking down to inspect the old North Richmond Bridge rail crossing. Morning Tea at Hanna Park and later inside the RFB shed at Kurrajong for lunch. Despite the weather an interesting day was had by all participants.





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