

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.

K-CHS MID-WINTER LUNCHEON 24th July 2023



Judith Dunn OAM was the guest speaker at the K-CHS Mid-Year Luncheon held at Schembrae’s Restaurant in Kurrajong Village on Monday 24th July 2023.

In the adjacent image Judith is pointing out the novel improvisation and use of corrugated iron, covering a tractor block

Judith Dunn’s enthusiasm for her chosen topic,

‘Australia’s Iconic Building Material, Corrugated Iron’, had us all fascinated with her presentation. Her examples of various buildings and artefacts constructed from corrugated iron, illustrated its value, particularly in early Australian buildings.

Judith’s slide presentation comprised interesting examples of structures visited by herself and her husband, as they traipse through many country towns viewing a number of extraordinary examples of corrugated iron buildings. She highlighted the ingenuity of the people who had designed and constructed them. We were shown images of everything from, an elaborate front to a tall Masonic Temple, to an outhouse in front of a church, from which the occupier had a great view, as there was no door! Judith had us smiling when she spoke

about visiting an overstocked junkyard where she was warned not to proceed in case she fell. She had spotted two old machines that were once used to roll the iron for verandah roofs, but she was not to be deterred from capturing photographs. She stated these were machines that really should be in a museum.

The value of corrugated iron was explained as being a light-weight product, which was particularly useful in the erection of early Australian buildings, as it did not require heavy framework for attachment. These constructions had another positive point, if necessary, the structures were more easily moved to another site, than a conventional construction. Also as parts of buildings deteriorated, the affected area was readily cut away and a new piece inserted. One ingenious slide we were shown, was the use of a piece of corrugated iron to patch the top of a tractor, an easier and less expensive process than transporting the tractor for repair. (see image)

The presentation concluded, with a plea from Judith to preserve the many icons constructed of corrugated iron that can be found in our Hawkesbury Region. Our Deputy President, Lesley Bobrige, thanked Judith for her interesting and engaging historic presentation.

Valerie Holland

Judith Dunn is a writer and educator who received an OAM for her services to History & Heritage. She is a councillor with the RAHS, a tour guide and holds a Parramatta & District Historical Society Fellowship for researching and recording the history of Parramatta.



K-CHS Members attending the luncheon held at Schembrae’s Restaurant, Kurrajong Village

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K-CHS AGM & GM 7pm Monday 25th Sept 2023

St David’s Uniting Church Hall Kurrajong Hts.

Nomination Form attached

President's ANNUAL Report 2022-2023

Another year in the life of our society! There have been full reports of the year's activities as they happened, but here is a summary with updates.

The 2022 AGM saw minor changes to the committee.

Our first event for the year was a display of pictures and video images at the Kurrajong Heights Bowling & Recreation Club in October. This was timed to be in conjunction with the Bilpin Garden Club Annual Flower Show. The Hawkesbury Camera Club also had a photographic display. The numbers were quite disappointing but it was still worthwhile. We learnt a few lessons about signage and promotion! Bilpin Garden Club will not be holding their show this year so a repeat display sadly won't be happening.

Our 2023 Calendar was published and we were rather grateful to a member who anonymously sponsored the printing cost, so members could receive a free copy. The calendar committee has already made the photo selection for the 2024 edition and I will be doing the layout soon to have it off to the printers. Our 2024 Calendar will not be free to members this year, so we are asking you to pre-order online so we know how big the print run needs to be.

We held our Christmas gathering at the Bowling Club once again, with Carol Liston AO as our guest speaker. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the food was good. This year we are planning something different at the property of our members David Leach and Tony Kenny, Glenhuntly. Full details will be in the next Millstone and will be held on Saturday 9th December, as already marked on your calendar ;-)

Our annual Australia Day Breakfast managed to find a pleasant gap in the weather and we all enjoyed an entertaining talk from David King on the historic past fires and floods in the Hawkesbury Region and the early rescue boats of the SES.

At the end of February, we sadly lost our Secretary, Marguerite Wyborn. We were all in shock and deeply saddened.

A small group ventured by public transport to the National Maritime Museum where our member Mal Bobrige shared his experiences as a submariner with us. He was even able to point out which bunk had been his, on HMAS Onslow! I find submarines fascinating but there is no way known I would want to work on one!

Our March GM was held at the Hawkesbury Museum in Windsor, with a talk by Doug Werner, Hawkesbury NT, on the Bowman's Flag, then lunch afterwards at the Macquarie Arms.

The popular Pansy Tour was held at the end of April. Having done it on six previous occasions with perfect weather, we pushed our luck too far and it drizzled all day! Still everyone came prepared and had a fun day. We have decided that will be the last of these tours for a number of reasons.

Then in early May a group of 12 ventured to the mid-west to Cowra and surrounds. The towns of Millthorpe, Carcoar,

Cowra, Grenfell, Iandra Castle & Greenthorpe and Canowindra were all included. We had two nights away and everyone had a great time. We treated members to a slide show at the May GM. Another tour for next year is already in the planning!

Our Mid-Winter Dinner was at the end of July. Bookings were slow initially but picked up at the last minute, so we had 33 attend. Ruth's food offering was very well received. The guest speaker, Judith Dunn, was wonderful; both entertaining and informative.

One week after the MWD, we ventured over to Penrith to visit the Museum of Fire and the Nepean Naval & Maritime Museum. It was a small group, not sure why, perhaps everyone except me had already seen the Museum of Fire? Once again Mal Bobrige was able to add lots of value with his knowledge of both fire-fighting and all things maritime. The Laughing Boy café at Emu Plains and the Nepean Rowers club for lunch were also worth the visit.

In mid-August, K-CHS held a book and historic photograph stall at the Kurrajong Primary School, Mid-Winter Fair. Two water mill models made by Bryan Wyborn were also on display.

We have managed two stalls in Kurrajong Village and have noticed book sales are well down. Doesn't anyone read any more? There will probably be another stall before Christmas where we can also sell our K-CHS calendars.

And that brings us to the AGM... with the loss of Marguerite and Airdrie having stepped down, we could do with some new blood on the committee. If you think you would like to contribute to the running of the Society, please get in touch with me to discuss what is involved. It is worth it for the jam and cream pikelets and other treats after the meetings :-)

On the subject of membership renewals... thank you to all those who have renewed. There are still many who haven't! Please do it now - we need your support! Use the button on the web page or post a cheque, while you still can! We dropped the separate charge for posted Millstones, so it is simply \$20 for a single adult and \$30 for a couple.

The website remains popular with visitation numbers almost the same as last year - an average of about 120 per day, perhaps 20% of those are humans? Still, we do get numerous enquiries so it must be working.

Our finances show a comfortable profit for the year, largely in part due to the Pansy Tour. Full details will be presented in the Treasurer's Report at the AGM.

My sincere thanks to the wonderful committee members who have made all this happen and put up with me :-)

David Griffiths

Ph:4567 8999 Mob:0498 646 899
president@kurrajonghistory.org.au

SECRETARY’S Annual Report 2022-2023

Sadly, in February, our Secretary Marguerite Wyborn passed away suddenly. She had contributed to the Society since its inception in many ways and was a lovely person who is greatly missed. I took on the role of Secretary in addition to the role of Digital Archivist.

Correspondence regarding family and property histories are regularly received and replied to. There have also been several book sales.

Letters were sent to appropriate authorities voicing the Society’s objection to the withdrawal of funding for “Trove”.

Eight new member applications were approved and welcome letters sent. Renewal of membership has been slow. There are currently 85 members.

Jennifer Griffiths
secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

TREASURER’S Annual Report

Membership renewals have been slow with numbers still lagging on last year. As most people prefer to receive the Millstone online it has been decided to discontinue the extra charge for postage. Fees now are easy to follow with \$20.00 for single membership and \$30.00 for family membership.

The last Pansy tour went ahead despite the threat of rain and a last minute cancellation of the tour highlight. However, a

satisfactory alternative to the highlight was devised and all attendees enjoyed the day. With both buses filled, all costs were more than covered.

Book sales have been slow and steady and a few photo orders have been received over the year.

We made a modest profit for the year and the full audited accounts will be available for viewing at the AGM.

Pat O’Toole Treasurer

The MILLSTONE Newsletter Annual Report

Once again, a thank you to K-CHS Members who contributed interesting articles for publication over the past year 2022-2023. All members are welcome to contribute stories, articles and research for editorial assessment and publication in the newsletter.

A thank you to David & Jennifer, who more often than not in recent times, have collected the newsletter from the printer. The committee group will indeed miss Marguerite Wyborn,

who for many years performed that role, along with the folding and posting of each issue to members, who requested a hardcopy via Australia Post.

A thank you to local businesses for their support and financial contribution through advertising. A thankyou also to Hawkesbury City Council Print Room staff for timely print-run.

[Please remember your editorials are welcome.](#)

Suzanne Smith
editor@kurrajonghistory.org.au

DIGITAL ARCHIVES Report 2022-2023

Only ten new images have been added to the database. Several of those were of the Kurrajong Theatre donated by a relative of the builder, Harry Pross; who with her husband, visited the theatre and spoke to Val Birch and myself. A total of 27 images were sold in the last year.

Jennifer Griffiths
<https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>

Blaxland Ridge
Public School
1892

K-CHS LEP
Image Archive
Collection
Photo by
Paul Hulbert



K-CHS Family History Report 2022-2023

The 2022-2023 year has gone by so quickly. Jennifer Griffiths and I have been out at the little Blaxland Ridge School House, organising our family history records and information.

Many of our families have a considerable amount of information in their files, others have only minimal details, but all their records are important. Hopefully the system we have devised is easy to follow, so that anyone searching will readily know where to find the information in our library.

Very few enquiries have been received this year, in the main because information is now so readily available online, that people are researching and checking family records for themselves..

Valerie Birch
Family History Co-Ordinator.

Two Museums in one day - K-CHS EXCURSION to Penrith

On a rather brisk, fine day, eight of our members met at the *Museum of Fire* for a morning self-guided tour. We found it to be very interactive and informative about the history of the NSW Fire Brigades. The number of vehicles on display was extensive and impressive, showing appliances from 1841-1998. The children’s section was educational, with many varied activities, including a walkway through different ‘cut-down’ cabins of old tankers.

After spending a few hours there, we joined our small car convoy over to *The Laughing Boy* café at Emu Plains, for a morning coffee, where we were able to sit on a deck in the sun next to the Nepean River, and the ‘*Yandhai Nepean Crossing*’ pedestrian bridge.

The name ‘*Yandhai*’ is derived from the Darug language, and means ‘walking in the past and present’. ‘Nepean’ has been kept in the name to signify the bridge locality. The use of the word ‘crossing’ instead of ‘bridge’ signifies the bridge’s modern purpose and the historical use of this location as a significant crossing.

Now, it was time for lunch, so we made our way to the *Nepean Rowers Club*, where we enjoyed our delicious lunches, on the back terrace, over looking the river. Very relaxing.

Following lunch, the afternoon was spent next door at the *Nepean Naval & Maritime Museum*, where we were met by our guide, Frank, who had served in the RAN. They were very obliging, and kindly opened up for us. A disability organisation uses the premises throughout the week, leaving the volunteers to open the museum on weekends. This museum was originally built for the Naval Cadets in the Nepean/Penrith area, which included an armoury. Through the 1980’s, the Navy decided that due to Occupational & Health issues, they would only have 2 training units, so they closed this unit down, the site becoming the museum it is today.

Both museums were excellent and the day was enjoyed by all who attended. We finished the day back at the club for afternoon tea, before heading home. (Museum Excursion 31st July 2023)

Lesley Bobrige



A 1929 Ahrens-Fox Fire Unit from America.– that certainly caught the eye of President David Griffiths

**KURRAJONG – COMLEROY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
PO BOX 174 KURMOND NSW 2757
secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au
ABN 68930834921
Print ISSN 2201-0920 - Online ISSN 2202-6320**

Committee

PresidentDavid Griffiths

Vice PresidentLesley Bobrige

SecretaryJennifer Griffiths

TreasurerPat O’Toole

Frank Holland

Valerie Holland

Suzanne Smith

Millstone Editor.....Suzanne Smith

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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 newsletter originate 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

K-CHS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

2023 - 2024

Final Reminder

You can pay by EFTPOS, Credit Card, PayPal or post cheque to: K-CHS Treasurer PO Box 174 KURMOND NSW 2757

Family Membership \$30.00 Single \$20.00

Your address is not necessary (unless changed), please complete and/or update any other details, when renewing, including email, mobile and phone numbers. Note: New Members who have joined since March 2023 - Do Not Need To Renew.

K-CHS NOMINATION FORM attached or enclosed. Please contact President David Griffiths or a committee member before the AGM, if you are interested in assisting on the K-CHS Committee



Front page of the first issue of the *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* 21 July 1888. Courtesy of Trove

The Gazette commenced publication as the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* in 1888 by John Charles Lucas Fitzpatrick and continued until 1982, when the name was changed to the *Hawkesbury Gazette*.

One of the oldest regional newspapers in NSW, the *Hawkesbury Gazette*, has been the latest victim of the ongoing collapse of regional mastheads across the country, and ceased publication after 135 years, on 26th July 2023.

The first newspaper published in Australia was the *Sydney Gazette* which appeared in 1803, and was the only regular source recording events in the penal settlement. A number of newspapers followed the Gazette, however it wasn't until the 1840s, that the Hawkesbury had a newspaper produced locally. The *Windsor Express and Richmond Advertiser* commenced in 1843 but only lasted for twelve months. Other newspapers appeared over the next 40 years including the *Hawkesbury Courier*, *Hawkesbury Times*, *The Australian*, *Windsor & Richmond Advertiser* and the *Hawkesbury Chronicle*.

The longest running newspaper serving the Hawkesbury was established in 1888 by John Charles Lucas Fitzpatrick. As a young man he had been apprenticed with the *Australian: Windsor & Richmond Advertiser* and continued his career in the media, working on a number of newspapers before returning to Windsor with the idea to create his own. The first premises were located on the corner of George and Baker Streets, but many locals remember when they were situated at 200-202 George Street, Windsor and the Richmond office at 293 Windsor Street Richmond.

Fitzpatrick was both manager and editor of the newspaper until he sold it in 1899 and was also one of the founders of the Provincial Press Association, precursor of the Press Association. He eventually focused on his career as a politician, but also authored a number of local history publications and books, including two recollections of the Hawkesbury district.

Fitzpatrick sold the newspaper in 1899 to John Osborne, who only kept the paper for six months, before selling to Frank Campbell, a staff member with the *Gazette* since 1891. The *Gazette* was operated by the Campbell family between 1899 and 1942. Frank was editor from 1900 until he was debilitated by a stroke in 1926. Son Percy became editor from 1927 and managed with assistance of Frank's wife Catherine for a further ten years. A. T. 'Tom' Murphy became managing editor when Percy became ill in 1937. Catherine passed away in 1939 and the paper was sold several years later.

The *Hawkesbury Carrier & Courier* was a free newspaper which was established in 1933 by Ernest Shoobridge Carr, with circulation in the Hawkesbury as well as Riverstone and Blacktown. In 1938 Max G. Day and Bernard Byrnes purchased the newspaper and changed its name to the *Hawkesbury Courier*. With rising costs during World War 2, the *Gazette* and *Courier* joined forces in 1942 and Hawkesbury Consolidated Press was formed. The *Hawkesbury Herald*, formed in 1902 under the management of William H. Pinkstone and Frederick Collison, was acquired from the proprietor Mr F. B. Hands by Hawkesbury Consolidated Press in 1945. The *Hawkesbury Courier* has been a free newspaper in the district for many years.

For almost 50,000 days the Gazette has informed us about wars, murders, accidents, weddings, fetes, advertisements, sports, court cases, council news and sales through words and images by talented editors, journalists, photographers and storytellers. The *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* was renamed the *Hawkesbury Gazette* in the 1980s and for a short time, also appeared twice weekly with the renowned Stan Stevens at the helm for many years.

The paper ran uninterrupted from 1888, until COVID exploded into our lives! Following a challenging time, the Gazette reappeared, rising like a phoenix from the ashes, to again, report on the doings of the local Hawkesbury community.

After celebrating 135 years of covering the people, places and events of the local community, the *Hawkesbury Gazette* final issue was published 26th July 2023 - a devastating loss for the community. Matt Lawrence has been the editor since 2015.

There will be no weekly newspaper printed to record the unique Hawkesbury goes on, but fortunately digitised issues covering 1888 to 1965 can be accessed for free, along with other Australian papers, via Trove <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> The digitisation project was sponsored by Hawkesbury Library Service.

The Hawkesbury GAZETTE history by MICHELLE NICHOLS
HCC Local Studies & Outreach Librarian

The BOWMAN Flag Part 3

The Fabric of the Flag



In endeavouring to come closer to the origins of the Bowman Flag we return to the flag itself, the materials it's made from and what the conservation efforts have achieved. In October 1976 the flag was subjected to extensive conservation work by the Western Australian Museum in Fremantle. The conservation process revealed the following:

- * The material is a cream coloured silk, not satin or bunting.
- * There were several holes in the main body of the flag that had been trimmed, a patch was placed behind each, and painted crudely, in a matching water coloured paint.
- * The oil based paint was brittle and falling away in places.
- * The Flag at some stage had been glued to a backing board, possibly more than once as alcohol soluble glue was found, a different glue again was used for the patches.
- * The design had been over painted with "modern paint", infra-red photography was used to distinguish between old and new paint, the new paint was removed with water.
- * The Flag was washed in a disodium salt solution which removed extensive iron stains from pins and nails and which restored a sheen to the silk.

From this technical information several facts can be ascertained, relating to stories about the Bowman Flag:

* The patching and over painting may have been the cleaning and the restoration work commissioned by Edward Campbell in 1908, which may account for the early reports of it being in good condition.

* The original holes align vertically along the centre suggesting it may have been folded for some time and the fold was exposed to some decaying agent such as dampness, insects or mice, presumably before 1905.

* The brittleness of the oil paint was revealed when the over painting was removed, suggesting it was in poor condition before cleaning and restoration in 1908.

* The conservator suggested the poor condition may also have resulted from exposure to light, acidity (possibly from a backing board in frame or a cotton backing cloth applied with glue), or the Sydney environment, (which to people used to the dry Climate of Western Australia probably referred to the relative humidity of Sydney).

In 1990 the Flag was again cleaned and remounted by Campbell Conservation of Roseville, Sydney. It was removed from the 1977 backing frame, cleaned and remounted and reframed.. The Conservator described the fabric as a fine Tabby weave cream silk. The Kangaroo and Emu were painted in oils and the seams were hand stitched and the edges of the palm and tongues are raw. Tabby weave is a plain weave, the most common sort of fabric weave. The selvage, or the finished edge of the fabric, was visible from the 1977 restoration and cleaning, but the hand stitching of seams through the centre of the palm is original.

My thanks to Bruce Baskerville whose help and inspiration have helped and guided me in the writing of this article.

Doug Werner Hawkesbury NT

(Part 1 & Part 2 can be found in the May/June & July/August 2023 Millstone newsletters).

The Bowman family had a long history in the Hawkesbury region, with significant influence in the history, growth and development of both Richmond and Kurrajong Heights. Bowman Cottage Richmond, is one of the oldest surviving homes in NSW and was in the ownership of the Bowman family until its subdivision and sale in 1930. It was also the preferred residence of George Bowman, the first Mayor of Richmond, who lived in the cottage until his death in 1878. Richmond, at the time, was a rustic town, made up of clusters of buildings separated by paddocks and dense patches of bush. The bulk of the houses in the area were simple structures built of timber. (Text summary extract: State Heritage NSW Dept. of Planning & Environment)

For all of your property needs be sure to get in touch with the team at
Ray White Kurrajong
 4573 1000 or kurrajong.nsw@raywhite.com

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The Kurmond Service Station in about 1957

It was owned and built by Herb Dalton and his family. The left-hand side, behind the petrol pump, was built in 1954, with the extension to the right in 1955-56. The BP Service Station at Kurmond is now on this site.

Image 056506.

K-CHS Image Archives

<https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>



What's in a Name?

Kurrajong East Public School

Did you know that Kurrajong East Public School has had many names over the years?



It was established as a Provisional School (a school with from 15 to 25 students) in 1878 near Whalan Road, and named Buttsworth Swamp School.

At the start of 1891 it was relocated to the current site and named Bull Ridge until the end of 1899, when it was named Morgan Public School, in honour of William Morgan M.P, Member for Hawkesbury.

This became something of a contentious issue and in September 1901 the name reverted to Bull Ridge Public School.

The school had been raised to the status of a Public School in October 1898.

A public meeting to protest against calling the Bullridge Public School after the Member for the District is called for Wednesday next. It seems that in 1898 it was named Morgan school, and as this is taken exception to by a number of persons, a public meeting will decide as to whether the name shall be changed. Windsor and Richmond Gazette 10 February, 1900

The Gazette has been notified by the Department of Public Instruction that the public school known as Morgan Public School, shall in future be known as Bull Ridge Public School, thus deciding finally a much vexed question. Windsor and Richmond Gazette 28 September, 1901

Finally at the start of 1922 it was named Kurrajong East Public School.

The original schoolroom was destroyed by arson in 1928, and the new building opened in 1929. The section with the loft was added in 1978. K-CHS Image Collection 171527.

Jennifer Griffiths

K-CHS Archivist



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Dates for Your DIARY

K-CHS OPEN DAY Saturday 16 September 2023

Visit with members & Friends to view
Archives, Files & Storage, at the Blaxland
Ridge School house. ALL WELCOME

Further DETAILLS will be sent by the President
in his online circular or contact:
Email: president@kurrajonghistory.org.au

K-CHS Annual General Meeting 7pm Monday 25th September 2023

St David's Uniting Church Hall
Kurrajong Heights

Followed by a [General Meeting](#) with
Guest Speaker

Members & Friends Welcome

Supper provided

See NOMINATION FORM attachment

K-CHS Calendar 2024

This attractive calendar featuring images from our image archive collection, is published by the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society. Please pre-order to secure your copy. If you are local, we will deliver your copy (please click the 'Collect' button on the booking site). The Calendar has one page per month and will be available in early October.

Price: \$15 Postage: \$4

[Pre-Order Discount Price: \\$12.00](#)

So get in early for the discount. Order Online

K-CHS Christmas Gathering at *Glenhuntly*

Late afternoon: 9th December 2023

The Village Kitchen Kurrajong

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KURRAJONG – COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FREE Spring Seminar & BBQ Lunch

Sunday 17th September 2023

Location: *Goldfinders Inn*
164 Old Bells Line of Road
KURRAJONG

Arrive 10am - 10.30am for
11am Seminar in the BARN

Chris Hallam will present his new book *Australia's Earliest Timber Houses* and talk briefly about *The Goldfinders Inn Group Conservation History Volume 2*

Deborah Hallam will present a summary of her current research.

Books: Note, Chris and Deborah's new books and research are not being printed but are available for free as pdf downloads.

Building inspection: both the 1809 cottage and 1851 inn will be open for inspection during the day. The cottage is the second oldest timber house in Australia and the oldest in continuous & current occupation.

Lunch 12.30pm: Bring your own picnic lunch and meat for the BBQ

Booking: If attending, send e-mail to: chris@christopherhallam.com



KURRAJONG-COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



2024 CALENDAR

KURRAJONG CELLARS

FINE WINE & SPIRITS

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