

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.

Research from Trove by Jennifer Griffiths

Published in *The Empire*, Sydney 23 May 1871

A VISIT TO THE KURRAJONG.

- By Our Special Reporter

Hills and dales, and wooded vales -
And lofty timber stout and strong,
Deep lonely woods - green solitudes,
And caves and crags in Kurrajong.

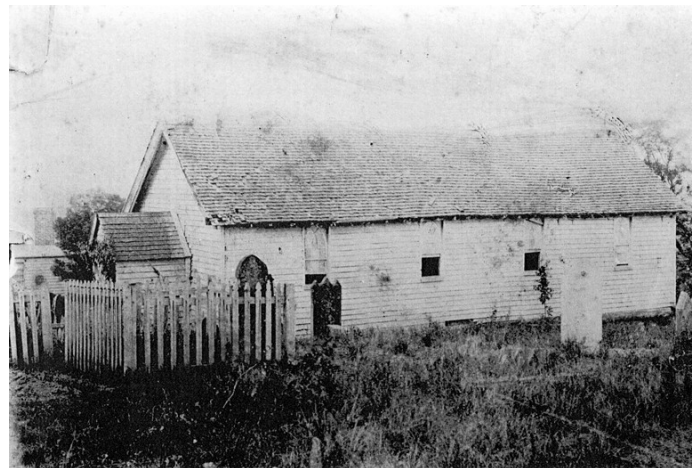
In commencing a description of the Kurrajong, I thought that I could not do better than invite the poet to help me in the difficult task.

So bracing is the air, so glorious the scenery, and so invigorating the climate, that I fully endorse the opinion that, as a sanatorium, the Kurrajong district cannot be surpassed in Australia.

It is about forty-four miles from Sydney to the Kurrajong heights, but immediately after leaving Richmond and crossing the Hawkesbury I was told that I was on the outskirts of Kurrajong. This was at a nice little village known as Enfield¹. There is a public school there (a brick building) rapidly approaching completion, and which will be opened sometime in May, when the Church of England school, at present held in the brick church² at Enfield, will be transferred to it. Mr. Saunders is the teacher. There is also a Wesleyan chapel, a wooden building, on the opposite side of the road; and, lower down, extensive stores, owned by Mr. Winter. After leaving Enfield, I found myself ascending gradually, and presently got to Redbank Hill, and then to the Colo road³, where

there is another small Wesleyan chapel, of brick.

A few miles further on is the Roman Catholic Church⁴, or school house - the (wooden) building being used for both purposes. Mr. George Argyle Plunkett is the teacher, and he has an average attendance of about forty pupils. I was courteously received, and the children seemed well-behaved and clean. Their writing was very fair indeed.



St Gregory's c1900 Image 013500

A few miles further on is the residence of Mr. John Lamrock, known as Wheeny [sic] Creek. For many years Mr. Lamrock was the host of the hotel lower down, but has now retired on a competency, and built himself a nice house close by. He has a fine property, including an orangery and orchard, beside several acres planted with vines. Lamrock's Hotel⁵ is in a secluded spot, at the foot of the hill, and is kept by Mr. John Benson, who performs the triple duties of innkeeper, store-keeper, and postmaster, to the satisfaction of the 630 residents, according to the census, of North and South Kurrajong. His hotel is of stone, and the homely house, or detached cottage, for visitors boarding, is of wood, and has a garden in front. Mr. Benson showed me some well-made cabbage-tree hats, manufactured by the wives and children of the poor farmers of Kurrajong, and by means of which they contrive to supply their families with groceries, &c. All praise to them for it!

I stayed for the evening at Mr. Benson's and received every attention at the hands of the host and hostess. The air was rather cool and bracing after sunset, and in the cosy parlour, "that you read about," was a blazing cheerful fire.

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K-CHS 23rd Annual Australia Day Breakfast

9am Friday 26th January 2024

1 North Richmond 2 St Phillip's 3 Comleroy Road 4 St Gregory's
5 Goldfinders Inn

President's Report

Well the weather turned on the hottest Sydney day in four years for our Christmas gathering. Our members David & Tony hosted us at their beautiful property, 'Glenhuntly', at Kurrajong Heights. Fortunately the Heights was 5 degrees cooler than Kurrajong, but it still meant we had about 38 degrees!

Several attendees thought I had been joking about bringing your swimmers, but a few of us did take a dip in the pleasantly cool lake.

Jenny gave a brief talk on the history of 'Glenhuntly' which is summarised later in this edition on page 5.

I hope you all had a great festive season and look forward to 2024.

Our next gathering is the annual **Australia Day Breakfast**, to be held as usual in the park at Bowen Mountain. Bring your own breakfast to cook on the BBQ. Jan Barley-Jack will be our guest speaker and her topic will be 'Greenhills—Colonial Windsor'.

On Saturday 17th February we will be doing a tour of **Hawkesbury SES Headquarters and RFS Headquarters**, both in Wilberforce. Should be an interesting day, with lunch at the pub.

Planning for our **Goldfields Tour** at the end of April is well under way—see the tour description on page 8. If you are interested, we suggest you make accommodation bookings now and let us know you are coming via the website.

We are always happy to hear any suggestions for tours or visits, or guest speaker topics.

David Griffiths
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WELCOME to NEW MEMBER

The Society would like to welcome new member

Vicki Mayo-Murphy

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KURRAJONG – COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Our November Millstone elicited this note from new member John Lines:

Good Afternoon David

Thank you for sending the November Newsletter.

The Vegemite article immediately caught my eye! We knew nothing of this proprietary essential until we introduced our children to it after our arrival at Sydney in the mid-1960's. From memory, every dinky die we met insisted it was simply impossible to live here without eating it. Those were the days!

My childhood treat in England was 'Yeastrel' which is almost identical. I probably last saw it in the late-1940s and it has not been around for decades. The UK product was produced by the Brewers' Food Supply Company in Edinburgh possibly as early as 1918. The Yeastrel Food Supply Company factory in Brisbane was burnt down in 1948 but I have not researched this any further.

Yeastrel kept my father alive until he was 83. He was a disabled WW1 veteran with major stomach injuries drastically limiting his food intake. Much to the horror of his consulting surgeon (who also had a key role in keeping him alive), Dad virtually lived on tomatoes swamped in black pepper and malt vinegar accompanied by one slice of buttered white bread smothered with Yeastrel.

Sadly none of this has anything at all to do with Kurrajong but I did have a dash of Vegemite with my lunchtime tomatoes. These are the days!

Regards

John



Christmas Party 2023



Photos by Rhonda Knott and Lesley Hulbert



Sunset over the lake. Photo Frank Holland



A VISIT TO THE KURRAJONG. Continued from page 1.

Presently, "the maid of the inn" entered, and spread the snowy-white tablecloth, laid on the well-known white china with the blue flower; with home-made bread, home-made butter, milk from "our cows," and fresh eggs from "our hens." I can only say I acted like a hungry man in polishing off these results of "colonial industry," and felt strongly inclined when I had finished to cheer Australia, and particularly Australian country life.



Church of England Denominational School c1900 Image 075300

Lamrock, Jessie Anderson, Henrietta Ezzy, Mary Amy Peck, and others.

To the right of the school-house is the attractive looking residence of Mr. Cleeve, with garden, extensive and flourishing; and further on the well-kept orangery of the Rev. Mr. Donkin⁷. About 200 yards from the school-house, and within a beautiful amphitheatre of mountain slopes, lies the farm, orchard, orangery, and flower garden of R. Holdsworth, Esq. It consists of about 120 acres of land, eighteen of which are under cultivation. Oranges, apples, peaches, pears, and bananas, (of the latter there is quite a plantation) were growing luxuriantly, as were also walnuts, strawberries, and the delicious guava. Among the flowers I was shown a magnolia (*grandiflora*), pronounced one of the finest in the colony; the waratah camellia, and the cloth-of-gold rose, besides plants and trees from India, China, Japan, New Zealand, and England (even to the old Scotch fir) growing together. In the orchard there is a pretty cottage in which Mr. Holdsworth resides when he comes from Sydney, The place is in charge of Mr. Arkinstall, who has superintended it for the past twelve years. The view from the house is very good, and the natural flora, particularly the ferns, in the midst of the grounds, would afford endless pleasure to the botanist.

Leaving Mr. Holdsworth's I continued to ascend the mountain road, known as "Bell's line," leading to Bathurst and Mudgee, until I came to a very steep pinch, about three-quarters of a mile long. The sides of the road are lined with ironbark, turpentine and other good timber. The ascent is rather difficult, but once at the top the spectator is well repaid by the magnificent prospect.

Here I found Mr. Powell's pleasant boarding-house, with its nice garden of about three acres, containing choice flowers, vines, &c. The scenery from this point is grand in the extreme, and extends for fully fifty miles on three sides. To the right Emu Plains and the Nepean are visible, in front the spectator sees Richmond, Windsor, the winding Hawkesbury, and Sydney in the extreme distance. Far off to the left is the Colo-road, leading to the Comleroy country. I viewed this scene with pleasure, and with much reluctance passed on to Mrs. Brown's neat cottage (another boarding-house) and farm with orangery and orchard.

On the opposite side of the road is Fernhurst⁸, formerly the residence of the talented authoress, Miss Atkinson, and now tenanted by Mrs. R. Peck as a boarding-house. Next comes a substantial Presbyterian Church⁹, in which the Rev. Mr. Cameron conducts afternoon service once a fortnight; and then a well-built house belonging to George Bowman, Esq., of Richmond, and which I was informed was to be let for a ladies' boarding-school, should a suitable tenant be obtained; a hint which will perhaps be accepted by some of the lady school-teachers in the city. The advantages which such a spot would offer must be seen by those heads of families who have delicate children, and wish to place them in a healthy situation to receive instruction.

St David's Church and graveyard 2014. Built 1867

Image 150936 Photo Paul Hulbert



Next morning, strengthened and refreshed, I began to ascend the road to North Kurrajong, and about two miles from Benson's, and ten from Richmond, came to another school, the Church of England Denominational.⁶ It is a rough stone building - a monument of the zeal of the lamented Rev. Samuel Marsden, who, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Stiles, of Windsor, had it built more than forty years ago. Service is held there once a fortnight, conducted by Mr. Doan, a catechist. The school is in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, and about forty children were in attendance.

They were examined in reading and arithmetic, and evinced tolerable proficiency. Their writing and drawing was also fair, and their singing praiseworthy. The following pupils are worthy of mention for their general proficiency:- Masters James Lamrock, Noel Anderson, George Arkinstall, Edwin James Ezzy, Edward Powell, Robert Pitt ; and Misses Emily

6 On the corner of Bells Line of Road and Hermitage Road 7 Lived at the end of Hermitage Road in "The Hermitage" 8 Now "St Clements"
9 St David's

'GLENHUNTLY' - Kurrajong Heights

Research by Jennifer Griffiths and Deborah Hallam

'Glenhuntly' is on Portion 19, part of 5 portions west of Tabarag Ridge. (Portion Nos 17, 18, 19, 120, 208). 19 was originally owned by "Jno Wilson Jr" [sic].

The 1914 map shows portions 17, 18, 19 and 120 owned by Burton Batley Sampson, an orchardist. He married Gertrude Wark, the daughter of William Wark of "The Ridge". Their son Mr Jim Sampson owned "Springfield", the neighbouring property to the west.

The 1924 map shows the owner of Portion 17, 18, and 120 as owned by Frank Carl Peck who owned "Allambie". He was the son of the Kurrajong Heights entrepreneur Edward "Ted" Peck, of "Uplands", who built the Kurrajong Heights Hotel in 1928.

The 1923 Parish Map indicates that portions 17, 18, 19 and 120 as "Arcidiacono's Estate". The Government Gazette of 17th May, 1935 reveals "Arcidiacono's Settlement Purchase Area" was forfeited due to non-payment of instalments. No further information about this estate can be found.

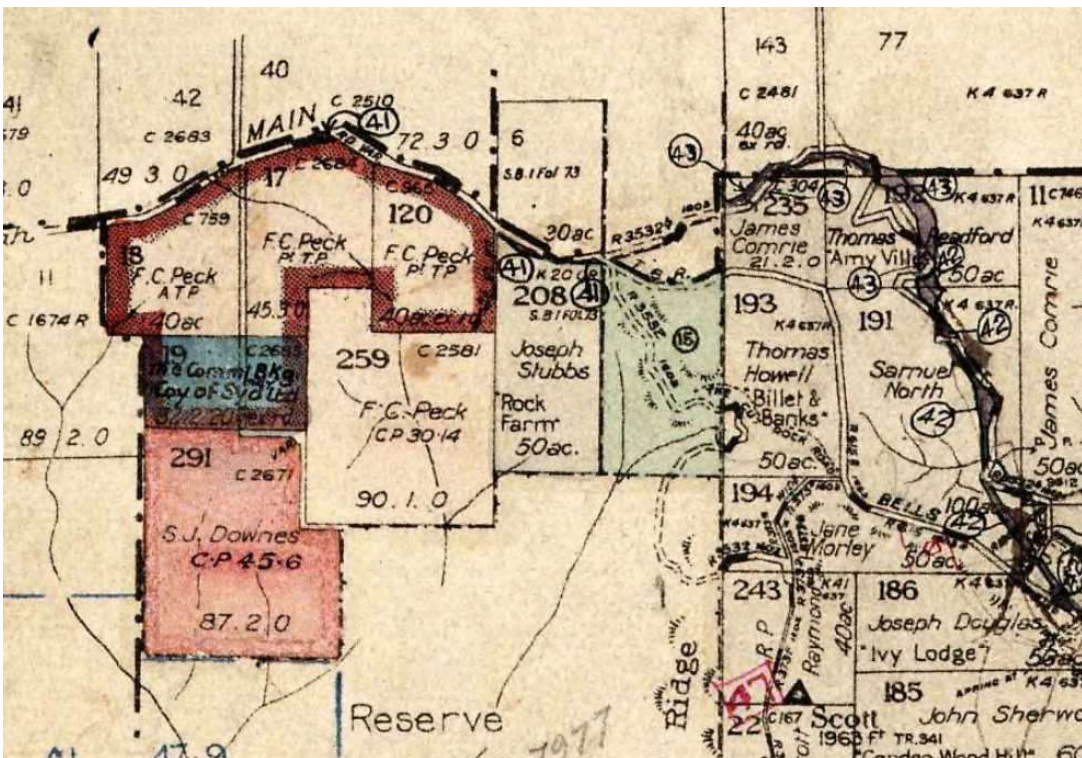
Portion 19 (Lot 1 DP 872168) came into the ownership of William Robert Banks, farmer of Kurrajong and immediately mortgaged to Commercial Banking Company of Sydney. 12 August, 1947.

Lot 19 was sold to Edward Hardley on 16th October, 1947 and mortgaged to the Commonwealth Bank.

Hardley then sold Lot 19 to Roger Burnside Mackenzie (the son of Forbes Burnside Mackenzie) of Kurrajong on 18th October, 1949. Mackenzie mortgaged the property to the Commercial Bank in 1982 then discharged the mortgage on 25th September, 1984 to sell to Vidas and Pamela Carol Kulinskis.

The property was later purchased by the McMillan's, owners of Andy Mac's Hardware in South Windsor, who built the existing house on the property and operated it as a B & B.

In 2015 it was purchased by the present owners, David Leach and Tony Kenny.



Kurrajong Parish map 1940—showing lot 19 in green above lot 291.



View of the house across the lake. Photo Rhonda Knott

'MERRINDALE' – 796 Grose Vale Road, Grose Vale

Research by Deborah Hallam, photos by David Griffiths

The house is located on a 50-acre grant to Robert Aull, convict per *Francis and Eliza*, 1815.

Robert Aull had settled with his wife, Jane Thompson, convict also per *Francis and Eliza*, and children at Upper Richmond near where he was farming rented land.

Sometime prior to 1821 Robert Aull applied to Governor Macquarie for a land grant (p1) to support his growing family. Macquarie entered a grant of 50 acres (p2), however the grant was neither allocated nor measured.

In November, 1822 Robert Aull memorialised Governor Brisbane to have this grant measured on the Nepean River opposite the grant of George Chesire. (p3) This request was rejected and the land was measured as 50 acres at Kurrajong, now Grose Vale.

The grant was signed off by Governor Brisbane on 30th June, 1823. Condition included to clear 15 acres by 5 years and a quit rent of 1/- from 1828. (HLRV, Serial No 17, Pge 121)

In 1828 Aull was charged before the Windsor magistrates for breaking an agreement with a Government Servant, in which he had allowed said servant to work a certain farm for his own use. It would appear that the farm in question was the aforementioned Grose Vale grant since when on 9 February, 1830 Aull applied for another grant he stated that he had cleared 20 acres of the Kurrajong grant and built a house on it.

Aull also stated that he did not live on this grant as it was too small for his farming and grazing interests. Instead he was renting a 400 acre farm. (Carol Liston, CSIL Papers re: Land 2/7793. AONSW Reel 1086.) The most likely candidate for the occupation of the property at this time was John Crawley, convict per *Countess of Harcourt* and assigned to Robert Aull in September, 1824.

On 7th May 1841, Aull transferred the 50-acre grant to John Riley, husband of daughter, Margaret, and Aull's son-in-law Thomas Kirk for £20. (HLRV Book V No 976).

Also transferred were the two adjacent 30-acre grants of Geary and Donnelly which had been purchased by Aull. These were transferred to Thomas Kirk and another son-in-law, John Paton.

The original 50-acre grant was subdivided giving Thomas Kirk 13 1/3 acres on the western side and John Riley taking the remaining 36 2/3 acres.

On 10 May 1842, Thomas Kirk sold his 13 1/3 acres to John Paton. (Book 1 No 22). Paton also purchased 23 1/3 acres of Geary's grant from Kirk.

On 2nd October 1842 Riley sold his portion to Robert Parrott (Barrott or Barrett) and his wife, Hannah for £94 by lease and release. (HLRV, Book 2 No 312).

On 3rd November 1858 the sale of 36 2/3 acres by Robert Parrott and Hannah, known as Aull's grant was registered. (HLRV, Book 58 No 118) to John Ezzy, Jnr. Sale price £450



John Ezzy mortgaged the property to his cousin William John Ezzy, of Comleroy Road in 1868 for £400 and it came under the full ownership of William in 1870 when John Jnr left the Kurrajong district.

William John Ezzy and his wife, Catherine Roberts, took up residency on the property, now called *Merrindale*, with two sons and two daughters. Although the daughters married and moved away Herbert Charles and Edwin James remained unmarried on the property and also installed a manager on the land on Comleroy Road. William John Ezzy died in 1888 at which point the Comleroy land was sold to Thomas McMahon.

Catherine remained at *Merrindale* until her death in 1927. *The Windsor and Richmond Gazette* of 9th November, 1923 described her as a *marvellous old lady*.

At some point Louisa Mary Ezzy, niece of Catherine also took up residence staying until her death in 1943. Herbert died in 1941.

On the death of Edwin James Ezzy in September, 1946 *Merrindale* passed to Noel Abrams, via Edwin's will. Noel Abrams was a grandson of William and Catherine.

From 1948 the property was occupied by Alfred John Baird. Just prior to Alfred's death in 1985 he awarded power of attorney to Colin John Baird.

According to the real estate agent, the property last changed hands in 1992. It is currently on the market.





Panorama Point Kurrajong Heights c1920s
K-CHS Image Archives 081819

A postcard view, looking across the orchards towards "Panorama Point" on Buralow Road, Kurrajong Heights, a picnic ground run by Charles and Linda Hobbs for many years from about 1924.



A report by Valerie Holland on the

WESTERN SYDNEY REGIONAL SEMINAR

Presented by The Royal Australian Historical Society in conjunction with the Museums of History NSW.

Unveiling the Untold: Crafting Compelling Local Histories
Saturday 18th November 2023—Western Sydney Records Centre, Kingswood

Dr. Ian Stuart, President of the RAHS and researcher and writer, was MC for the meeting. He welcomed everyone and proceeded with an Introduction and an Acknowledgement of Country. He stressed the importance of documenting local and First Nation's history, before introducing the first speaker.

Judith Dunn OAM, RAHS Councillor and self-publisher, and member of Parramatta Historical Society, told of her methods of self-publishing local and community history, many of which recorded detailed information of headstones and historical facts of local NSW Cemeteries. These included All Saints and St. Patricks at Parramatta, a valuable resource for researchers. Judith dealt with the many lessons she learnt through trial and error. Some of the issues discussed covered the importance of a face-to-face discussion with the printer to ensure best choice of paper size, layout, and photo selection. She demonstrated some of the choices to be made by using various books she and others had written.

Binding techniques tended to be dependant on cost and purpose of the publication. The general rule was to find the most cost effective. She reviewed the importance of the need to follow the modern style of writing. Style guides are available to assist with this. Finally, she stressed the importance of authors maintaining copyright for their work particularly if copies progressed to a reprint. Her informative presentation was followed by a short questions and answer session.

The next speaker was, Dr Mathew Stephens, Research Librarian at Caroline Simpson Library, Museums of History NSW. His presentation followed the lunch break. Dr Stevens spoke of the value of the Caroline Simpson Library which had an extensive collection of catalogues and rare books on the history of people. Some notable people were Margaret Catchpole and the Rouse family as well as many others.

He spoke about different types of local history and the challenges of negotiating with descendants when preparing to print as he had done when he printed the fascinating history of Hanna Snell, 1723 – 1792- the female Marine, and early cross dresser, who was eventually awarded a lifelong pension for her service in the British Army. The award may have been because she was injured during a conflict. A Blue Historical plaque was later erected at Hannah's birthplace in London.

Dr Stephens pointed out that in the Caroline Simpson Library collections were numbers of stories of forgotten women who had served in the military. The presentation was followed by a questions and answer session. It was interesting to note that members of the audience were able to provide additional information about Hannah Snell and also other women who had cross dressed.

The final presenter was Emily Hanna, the Lead Archivist, Collection Discovery Museums of History NSW. Emily provided the website as, <https://mhnsw.au/collections> She gave a quick overview of the size of the collection and noted that the earliest record stored is the Charter of Justice Records sent out to the colony with Captain Arthur Philip. The only interstate records available were those before the states broke away from New South Wales.

This informative overview was useful as a refresher to researching the archives as well as providing various approaches. With time running short questions relating to this talk was combined with the closing question and answer session.

The final session began with the panel members reviewing strategies for making the most of the resources to craft a local history. Numerous questions were answered by the panel members.

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Dates for Your DIARY



K-CHS 23rd Annual AUSTRALIA DAY Breakfast

All welcome

9am Friday 26th January 2024

Once again at *The Hut*
Bowen Mountain Park

Guest Speaker
Jan Barkley-Jack
'Greenhills—Colonial Windsor'

BYO Breakfast to cook on the barbecue



K-CHS GOLDFIELDS TOUR 2024

2023 Tour of the Golden West was a roaring success, so much so that participants asked for another tour in 2024. So here it is – The KCHS Goldfields Tour over 4 days and 3 nights **29 April to 2 May 2024**. A similar format to the 2023 tour, just an extra night as there is so much to see.

We will be travelling by private car (pick your travelling companions), meeting up at key places of interest and with most participants staying in the same overnight accommodation (or choose another if you prefer). All cost is own expense.

We will travel to Bathurst, then on Hill End for the night. Thence to Kandos and Rylstone and on to Gulgong for night 2. We will wend our way back to Mudgee via a Vineyard for lunch, overnight will be in Mudgee. Day 4 will see us making our way to Portland, Lithgow, and home. Where possible we will be visiting local Historical Societies and Museums as well as other points of interest.

Daily driving (approx. Kms).

Day 1 - 196 Km Day 2 – 172 Km Day 3 – 35 Km Day 4 – 202 Km

All broken up with stops for M/Tea and Lunch.

More details are on the website.

Like to know more – contact Frank Holland 0428 759 588. Or email - frank.holland2@optusnet.com

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Hawkesbury SES Headquarters

&

Hawkesbury RFS Headquarters

Saturday 17th February, 2024

Starting at 10:00 at SES, lunch at The Heritage Hotel and then to RFS.

Please book online.