

KURRAJONG ~ COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Kurrajong ~ Comleroy Historical Society is dedicated to researching, recording, preserving and promoting the growth of interest in the history of the Kurrajong district, the area west of the Hawkesbury River bounded by Bilpin and the Grose and Colo rivers

THIS ISSUE**3 Australia Day breakfast**

Patricia O'Toole's summary of the Society's Australia Day breakfast. The bleak weather which had been a constant kept numbers low but those who attended had a very enjoyable time.

4 Dural district field trip

The Dural and Kurrajong districts have much in common. The February field trip reminded members of the similarities and the unique features and history of this district keeping the minds of all who attended quite busy. The visit to the Dural & District Historical Society's home was a highlight of the day.

5 Memories of Hart's Hall

The late Esther Hurst wrote this short article in 1982, thought to have been published in the St Gregory's newsletter. This hall was the centre of social life in Kurrajong for many of the earliest years of the district. Esther recounts some of the events held there and those who took part.

6 Windsor Rifle Club

This club is not in the districts covered by The Millstone but many past residents were members of this successful rifle club. Some old photos passed on to the editor gave cause for trying to find further information related to the club.

8 Dates for your Diary

Final reminders for the general meeting at the Kurrajong Radio Museum on Monday, 26 March and the Bulgamatta / Chapel Hill outing on Wednesday 11 April.

2012 Australia Day Commemorative Plaque Meredyth Effie Hungerford (1917-2007)

Transcript of the speech given by Lesley Jane Abrahams née Hungerford, eldest daughter of Meredyth and Antony Hungerford at the 2012 Australia Day Awards held by Hawkesbury City Council at the Richmond Club

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD MORNING

On behalf of Meredyth Hungerford's family, I wish to thank the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society for their nomination of Meredyth Hungerford for this award.

We too remember Meredyth for her support and encouragement throughout her life for the educational and career endeavours of all her family, friends, acquaintances and students. Anyone with an interest in writing received special attention. Meredyth's life dream to write an historical account was realised in 1995 with the publication of her book *Bilpin: the Apple Country*, a very readable as well as meticulously researched story of Bilpin and its people.

Meredyth's work with the Hawkesbury Museum recording donations and research materials was also a great pleasure to her. Though not of a scientific or botanical background herself, Meredyth supported her husband Antony's interest in botany, culminating in a number of years where Meredyth assisted Keith Ingram (of Mt Tomah) in remounting his herbarium specimens. This collection was destined for the Royal Botanic Gardens collection. It was a great pleasure to both of us to find specimens collected by Antony from within the Hawkesbury region and the Blue Mountains National Park.

Meredyth supported as many community activities as she could, this being "history in the making", and enabled her to develop friendships with a wide diversity of

Continued page 2



L-R: Keith Hungerford, Lesley Jane Abrahams, Rosalind Allatt, Sylvia Hungerford & Garth Allatt

Photo: Carolyne Cooper

Continued from front page

people. This included her involvement with the inception of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society, encouraging others to take up research needed to preserve the history of the community and region for future generations.

She also researched continuously the history of the Hungerford family, old time residents of the Hawkesbury districts, as well as her own family, sharing her findings with interested family members and with the Hungerford and Associated Families' Society.

In the front of one of Meredyth's research folders is a quote from Lilian Clarke from 1911:

"The idea that one can quietly do a little piece of work that may be of more value in one hundred or two hundred years than one can possibly judge helps me through a good deal of teasing work. Personally, pictures of the lives of forbears appeal to me—their characters, how they educated their children, their deeds as citizens, etc. In four generations all this is lost with even ordinary things like dates of birth and marriage - unless someone writes..."

In recognition of her interest in research and the community, and her desire to share with others, Meredyth's family donated a large portion of her extensive research library to the Hawkesbury Library for their Local Studies collection. We hope that future generations will benefit from the research material there.

This award provides a visible commemoration of Meredyth's belief in community, and her commitment to the Hawkesbury and its heritage.

THANK YOU

**Kurrajong – Comleroy
Historical Society Incorporated**
PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757
www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

COMMITTEE

President John Cooper
Vice President Steve Rawling AM
Secretary Carol Roberts
Treasurer Marguerite Wyborn
Committee members Carolynne Cooper, Lorna (Peggy) McCarr-Israel, Patricia O'Toole, Airdrie Martin, Suzanne Smith

Accessions / Librarian Valerie Birch
Millstone Editor Chris Upton
Webmaster Greg Upton
Public Officer Ron Rozzoli
Grants Garth Smith
Hon Auditor Paul Nelson

DISCLAIMER Views & opinions expressed in *The Millstone* originate from many sources & contributors. Content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views & opinions of KCHS, its committee & members. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of articles. If errors are found feedback is most welcome.

President's Corner

When I was told it was time for my president's report I adopted a Channel 7 theme, 'after the tennis' and what fabulous tennis it was, particularly the men's final. You know in this day and age when women wish to lower their standards and become equal to men, it makes me wonder why they are paid the same prize money as men but don't want to do the same work, so why don't they play the five sets also.

You may ask me what that had to do with KCHS, and of course you could say not much. Well to me it means that any job undertaken by anyone should be equal for the task undertaken. The office girls at the place where I used to work had a sign which clearly said "Women who seek to be equal to men lack ambition."

I made a quick trip to the Gold Coast a couple of days before Australia Day to meet up with my two sisters, me being the baby of the family at 73. One sister lives in Melbourne and the other in Alstonville. The one from Melbourne was on holidays at the Gold Coast so we took the opportunity of a get together.

This didn't leave me much time to get back for the Australia Day Awards but I made it. I arrived back in Richmond by train and had enough time to shower and return to Richmond for the event.

KCHS had put a couple of nominations forward and was successful with one, that being for the Commemorative Plaque. We nominated Meredyth Hungerford for this award; you can read her daughter Lesley Jane Abraham's acceptance speech elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Hawkesbury Cultural Heritage Award went to The Richmond School of Arts who last year celebrated 150 years. Ron Rozzoli wasn't able to attend because of ill health but was remembered for his tireless work. Congratulations to both Ron and Margaret from KCHS for the work they have done and for the award.

Another one of our members, Brian Mullins, who has been battling cancer, was in the group that received the Community Organisation of the Year Award, the group being the United Hospitals Auxiliary Hawkesbury which is celebrating 75 years.

The next meeting will be on Monday 26 March at the Kurrajong Radio Museum and will incorporate a presentation by Ian O'Toole. One will expect it to be most interesting and entertaining and we will walk away a lot more knowledgeable.

TAI CHI in the
WOLLEMI

太極拳

Traditional exercises for health
that will help improve:
blood pressure, arthritis, osteoporosis, diabetes,
anxiety, mood, balance & co-ordination

Suitable for
all ages &
fitness levels

Kiarán Warner
4567 0502

Australia Day breakfast

PATRICIA O'TOOLE

At the invitation of Hawkesbury Bells Line Lions Club, KCHS attended their Australia Day Breakfast at McMahon Park in Kurrajong.

As has been the case almost every day this summer the day loomed cool, cloudy and threatening rain. Certainly not a day to trust to the outdoors. Families and KCHS members were not out in great numbers but come the races there they were. Frank Holland showed his skill at the egg and spoon race. A group of brave children jumped and fell on the long distance sack race. Older participants must have persuaded officials to shorten the course.

The walkway of McMahon Park hall safely sheltered our bookstall which Airdrie and Peter Martin had in place by the 8 AM starting time. Several members assisted and were there to sell books, answer questions and give encouragement to a number of local people who expressed interest in history and particularly appreciated the work of the Society.

The Lions BBQ team were kept busy. Their egg and bacon sandwiches were scrumptious and no doubt raised some funds for local groups. Eventually the heavens opened but a good time was had by the small crowd.



Frank Holland's thrilling finish in the egg & spoon race

Photo: Ian O'Toole



From the Editor

As I live in Lithgow I am very reliant on 'telecommunications' to keep in touch with contributors, proofreaders and members of the committee. A major telephone line outage has seen many households, including mine, without a phone line for over a week with the possibility of a few more days without connection. As this issue nears completion it has proved most frustrating but I have managed workarounds which should see the newsletter arrive on time. I think it would be fair to say that the billions of dollars the federal government is spending on the National Broadband Network will not see an end to lost connections and line outages. So much for progress.

I would be grateful if a reader is able to identify the Coat of Arms reproduced on page seven in the newspaper's masthead and confirm if it was particular to this newspaper or an official national or state one. It is the only example I have seen where both of the animals are looking backward over their shoulder.

When I first read Esther Hurst's article recounting her memories of Hart's Hall, which is published on page five, the final sentence remained in my mind long after .. "Like so many little people who have contributed to the history of our district and our country, she will be forgotten." I hope a more detailed account of the hall and Mrs Hart can be placed on record so not just she but other 'little' people are not forgotten as well.

With the changing of the guard at the AGM we now have a new team involved in the production of the newsletter. I would like to thank all who have helped in the production of this issue.

notpuc@bigpond.com

New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following new members

DONALD HOWE
TERESA HOWE
PETER JOHN

HARMONY FASHION BOUTIQUE

**SHOP
LOCALLY**

Shop 13 The Park Mall
209 - 213 Windsor St
Richmond 2753
Ph 4578 3360

KURRAJONG CELLARS

Christine Mead JP

*Wines with a difference
Beer, spirits & ice*

Voted

**THE BEST BOTTLE SHOP IN THE
HAWKESBURY 2003, 05 & 07**

76 Old Bells Line of Road
Kurrajong Village 2758

4573 1231

KCHS visits the Dural District

PATRICIA O'TOOLE

On Monday, 6 February eighteen members visited the home of the Dural and District Historical Society in Galston. The president, Michael Bell, was our guide for the day.

An overview of the former tea house had us all amazed at their facilities. The building contains a small museum, book stall, library, computer room, map storage and a small kitchen. Over morning tea we browsed the map collection and heard the story of the Society's many ups and downs before they finally gained acceptable occupancy. Members open the museum each Sunday.

Like the Hawkesbury, river access determined the first land grants. These were in 1788 on Marramarra Creek. The largest grant was 600 acres to George Hall in 1819. The area in those times was covered in tall forests of turpentine and ironbark so it is not surprising that the aboriginal people called the area Dooral, meaning 'burning log'. Settlers quickly associated the tall forests with the rich soils from Wynamatta shale. Meehan in 1817 thought them impossible to clear. He must have underestimated the energy of these early settlers.

Timber built their slab huts, barns and fences and later, especially during the 1920s, more substantial weatherboard homes.



Entrance to Netherby Homestead at Fagan Park

Photo: Carolyne Cooper

Hudsons sold the timber from their land as Hudsons Ready Cut Homes for farmers.

Rich soils overlaid sandstone which also provided a readily available building material. St Jukes Church built in 1846 with convict labour by Father O'Brien is a beautiful example of a stone church built in Norman style and embellished with stained glass windows. George Booth built sandstone cottages, *Lyndon* and *Sandown* as well as the Galston Cenotaph. The designs reflect his involvement with the construction of Central Station.

The Fagan family purchased part of George Hall's 600 acre grant and became the largest land holder in the district. Citrus grew well and by 1880 Fagans were the largest citrus growers in

Continued back page

THE BOOKSHOP



These books are available from the Kurrajong-Commleroy Historical Society and their purchase helps offset the Society's expenses

HISTORICAL WALKS OF KURRAJONG

KEN BENNETT OCTOBER 2004

This fifteen page booklet gives an overview of the Kurrajong district with particular emphasis on three periods: the 1850s, 1920s & 30s and the 1940s. There are numerous photos and recollections from past and present residents.

RETAIL \$8 MEMBERS \$5

ON THE KURRAJONG

COMPILED BY VAL BIRCH APRIL 2003

Extracts from early editions of the Windsor & Richmond Gazette. Newspapers are a valuable reference and source of detail. The primary subjects covered in this sixty-four page book are agriculture, Comleroy School of Arts and the Kurrajong wood traders.

RETAIL \$15 MEMBERS \$10

PANSY

TOURIST RAILWAY ASSOCIATION KURRAJONG APRIL 2011 (2ND EDITION)

The first edition of this thirty-five page book was published in August 2000. It contains considerable detail of the construction, operation and demise of the Richmond to Kurrajong rail line. This 2nd edition contains additional text and pictures.

RETAIL \$12 MEMBERS \$8

KURRAJONG COLLECTIONS

KURRAJONG COMMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2011

The book committee and members of the Society spent two years producing this sixty-nine page book of photos. The images are from the Woodhill collection, the Mitchell Library, the National Library, the University of Sydney and the Society's digital archive.

RETAIL \$28 MEMBERS \$20

Orders can be placed by sending a cheque or money order to:

The Secretary, KCHS
PO Box 174
Kurmond NSW 2757

Postage cost per order is \$6



Carey & Co
Live Life in Style

Womens fashion
Homewares
Furniture
Children's toys books & clothing

**70 Old Bells Line of Road
Kurrajong Village
4573 1920**

A little of Kurrajong's past

THE LATE ESTHER HURST

In my search for a topic of interest and of cultural or historical significance, I decided to recall a little of Kurrajong's history which took place across the street from our CWA hall.

Soon after World War 1 an enterprising lady, Mrs Hart, widow of Billy Hart, decided on the erection of a hall for the entertainment of locals. The hall was officially named 'Waratah Hall' but was always known as 'Hart's Hall'. It was in the village area almost opposite where the CWA hall now stands. This was the centre of social life in Kurrajong for many years and provided much happiness, entertainment and friendships for families and all ages of the whole district. Dances, euchre parties, concerts, balls, housie and many other functions were held there. Families would travel by horse and sulky for miles, tie the horse to the fence and set it back in the sulky after the entertainment.

The best remembered of the balls was the Boronia Ball, organised by Boronia Club, a social club begun by a group of men including Arthur Vincent, Roy Ziems and Stan Downes. They ran monthly dances and an annual ball.

The CWA held its first fund raising function in Hart's Hall, a dance and euchre party in April 1928. The branch held monthly dances for years, 2/- for gents and ladies provide. When the dream of a railway to Kurrajong promised to become a reality and the first sod was turned in 1923, (in the vicinity of where the present postmistresses house now stands, which was then covered with wattle and grass), the important event was celebrated by a banquet in Hart's Hall. Music was provided for the function by local identities, Alf and Ethel Wilson, Bessie Dunston, Gertie Walker, Les Brown and others.

The first public movies in Kurrajong district were shown at Hart's Hall. The pictures would finish at about 10 to 10:30 pm, the seats moved around the hall and a dance followed. Bob Scott assisted by Bert Reay ran the first pictures, working a hand operated projector, and they set up an electric generator to provide lighting for the projector and the hall. Difficulties presented themselves. Patrons would notice the generator motor miss a beat, lights would flicker, and Bob would race outside to fix the motor sometimes without success and the pictures would be abandoned and all had to go home, missing the end of the film. Having only one projector, the reels had to be changed at the end of the reel, causing interruption and a patient wait while the new one was set up. Later they set up acetylene gas lighting.

Some time later, Paddy and Jim Grimwood took over the pictures. They also had the Richmond pictures, (open air where the School of Arts building is now). They put in an electric motor and generator and added a room outside for the projection house with two projectors showing through two holes. This saved the interruption due to breakdowns and of changing of reels. They showed the same program in Richmond and Kurrajong and at interval would dash to Richmond to change over films.

Refreshments could be obtained during interval at a little shop then owned by Mrs Agnes Davis, from whom the land for the hall was purchased.

Hart's Hall continued as an enterprise centre until 1934 when Mr Harry Pross built the theatre. Hart's Hall was demolished and the timber was used in the building of *Appidais*, a guest house run by Mr and Mrs Smith. Mrs Hart lived 'till her death in the little home near where the hall stood. When we consider the people who were brought together to share enjoyment in the hall it is sad that there is nothing in Kurrajong but the memories of those who shared those happy times, to remember Mrs Hart. Like so many little people who have contributed to the history of our district and our country, she will be forgotten.

EUCHRE PARTY AND DANCE HAPPY FUNCTION AT KURRAJONG

At Hart's Hall, Kurrajong, on Thursday evening, June 5, the North Richmond and Central Kurrajong Progress Association held their first euchre party and dance, which was a brilliant success. Not for many a day has such a large crowd congregated at this popular hall, the building being fully taxed to its capacity.

Dancing was the order of the night, the younger folk fully availing themselves of the opportunity provided, encores being particularly numerous. Miss Bessie Dunston's playing was greatly appreciated as also was the music provided for the extras by Mr. Ted Hill.

The euchre party was a great success, the first prizes being won by: Gents, Mr. F. J. Norris, who received a razor presented by Mr. W. H. Goodman, of North Richmond. The ladies prize of tortoise shell combs, presented and made by Mr. Sid Cameron, of North Richmond, was won by Miss Edna Norris. Other prizes were won by Miss D. Corcoran (Windsor), an ornament donated by Mrs. Norris, and Mr. Walker a prize donated by Mr. Keith Cameron.

At the conclusion of the euchre party a supper quite out of the ordinary was provided by the ladies' committee.

Dancing was continued after supper, and a Monte Carlo Dance was won by Miss March, of Richmond, the prize being a box of powder, presented by Mr. J. W. Allison. An exhibition of fancy dancing was given by Mr. and Miss Carrol, much to the enjoyment of those present.

Festivities ceased at 3 p.m., when the large number of joy makers wandered their weary way homeward after having spent what was termed with unanimous assent one of the most enjoyable functions ever held on "The Hills."

Hawkesbury Herald
Thursday, 12 June 1924

KURRAJONG
FRIENDLY
GRO CER

74b Old Bells Line of Road
KURRAJONG VILLAGE

Mon – Fri	8 am – 7 pm	OPEN 7 DAYS
Sat & Sun	8 am – 6 pm	
Public holidays	9 am – 5 pm	ATM available
Closed Good Friday & Christmas Day		4573 1267

A win for Windsor Rifle Club

CHRIS UPTON

The photo on this page, plus a couple of others, were sent to me by Margaret Andrews for safe keeping. Margaret had thought that the man with the pipe at the lower left was her father Benson, but he was my grandfather Ernest, brother to Ben. They and many other local residents were members of Windsor Rifle Club. The photos have been passed on to Joy Shepherd for inclusion in the Society's archives.

When time allowed I decided to try to confirm the names of those in the photo and the occasion. Due in large part to the National Library's 'Trove' website I was able to find an article from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 November 1934 with considerable detail of the shoot. The photo was taken on Saturday, 10 November 1934 at the second round of the 1934-35 grade competition of the Metropolitan District Rifle Clubs Union held at the Anzac range, Liverpool. The teams were seven men and each had to fire fourteen shots at 500 yards. The weather conditions were reported as good apart from a changing wind which was at times gusty. The men in the photo are the members who represented Windsor Rifle Club and they took part in D grade.

Windsor Rifle Club was the winner of D grade and O S Dean achieved the highest score for the whole grade, 70. Scores for the best six members were: O S Dean 70, J H G Hubbard 69, G Cook 67, F Mayo 65, E L R Robinson 65 and K Mortley 65. The seventh name on the scoreboard could be member L J Whitten who does not get a mention in the article as only the six best scores are tallied. The day's efforts also saw the club keep the overall lead in D grade. Their accumulated total point score grew from 392 to 793, well clear of the next best club.

Achieving the above scores at a distance of 500 yards, over half a kilometre, is an outstanding result. An article in the *Hawkesbury Herald*, 9 December 1937, mentions that members of the club will be shooting at the same range but at a distance of 700 yards! The members named as representing the club were: Capt. Hubbard, B and E L Robinson, L C Peck, J Myers, K Mortley, O S Dean, L J Whitten, D Armour, C Rhodes, A White, G McMinn and E Wells.

Windsor Rifle Club was formed on 23 April 1901 and was later affiliated with A Company, 2nd Infantry Regiment located at Windsor. It was also known as Windsor Civilian Rifle Club to distinguish it from the many military rifle clubs in the district. The affiliation with the infantry caused consternation



Photo courtesy: Margaret Andrews

The members of Windsor Rifle Club, victors in D grade
10 November 1934

with some members, not just those within the Windsor club, but also clubs throughout the country.

At the beginning of the last century every suburb had at least one rifle club and people were encouraged to join them as rifle shooting was seen as not only a healthy sport but a way of ensuring the civilian population would be able to defend itself in times of war. While searching for information on Windsor Rifle Club I also found references to the following clubs: Windsor Volunteer Rifle Club (1930), Windsor Lancer Rifle Club (1902) and Windsor Grammar School Rifle Club (1889).

In past days owning firearms was not unlawful. For many of those living in the local district owning a firearm was necessary to ensure food could be placed on the table each day and stock raised on properties was well protected. Participation in organised shooting contests often attracted large numbers of entries as an article from the *Hawkesbury Herald*, 9 December 1937 says in part, "The Centenary Prize Meeting is being held early in the coming year. Already nearly one thousand entries have been received, and as the range will only accommodate a limited number of entries, I would advise any local member who intends to take part in the meeting to send his entry along without delay, otherwise he might miss out."

KURRAJONG ANTIQUE CENTRE

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

- Furniture • China • Glass • Silver • Crystal • Jewellery
- Watercolours • Oil paintings • Etchings • Lithographs

We are open 7 days a week
10:00AM to 5:00PM

101 Old Bells Line of Road
KURRAJONG 2758
Ph: 4573 1683

Sassafras Creek

dine in a gallery with magnificent views

Now fully licensed
with a beautiful selection of wines from the
Orange, Mudgee region

Tuesday - Sunday 9am - 5pm
Dinner Friday and Saturday from 6.30pm

83 Old Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Village
www.sassafrascreek.com.au ph. 4573 0988



The Hawkesbury Herald.

WINDSOR, FRIDAY, OCT. 2, 1903.

THE RIFLE CLUB

The Windsor Rifle Club has been one of the local topics of the week. As shown in our last issue's report of the annual meeting, the club, in one respect, is in a very satisfactory position—it has a credit-balance of £24! Otherwise, however, it is regarded as not at present bristling with attractions. That is a pity, for, the late unhappy personal squabbles having been smoothed over, a successful future was hoped for. The present bother is a result of the new conditions arising out of the club having been brought under the Commonwealth Military Forces. Some of the old members object to the new conditions; and, as our report conveyed, when it came to the necessity of being sworn in they unceremoniously made themselves scarce. There is a tendency to lose sight of the fact that rifle clubs are meant to be part of the defence force, and not merely for sport. The conditions under the new regulations may not be as favourable as before, but it must be borne in mind that it is impossible for the Government—for the present, at any rate—to make things rosy for every man who desires to become a rifle shot. The man who joins a rifle club simply for the sport, and who shows how much patriotism he has by leaving the club because he cannot get everything he expects, is not of much use for the defence of his country. We do not say this applies to all who "retired" the other night, or to all who did not respond to the call to the meeting. Some wish first of all to get a clear idea what the membership under the new conditions means. They are not going to be riflemen at any price! Unfortunately, there was no one at the meeting to give an exposition of the new circumstances. Such an exposition would have been very helpful. Copies of the new regulations have also been very scarce, so that altogether the men have been in the dark. In order to assist them somewhat we elsewhere give a few mems. on the matter. We are also glad to tell them, by way of encouragement, that they have apparently a good friend in Mr. Austin Chapman, the new Minister for Defence. He is reported to be a firm believer in the value of the rifle club movement, and will do what he can to encourage proficiency in the use of the weapon. Altogether, if members will only have a little patience, it is expected the conditions will ere long be much easier.

From THE ARCHIVES

The millstones circa 1950

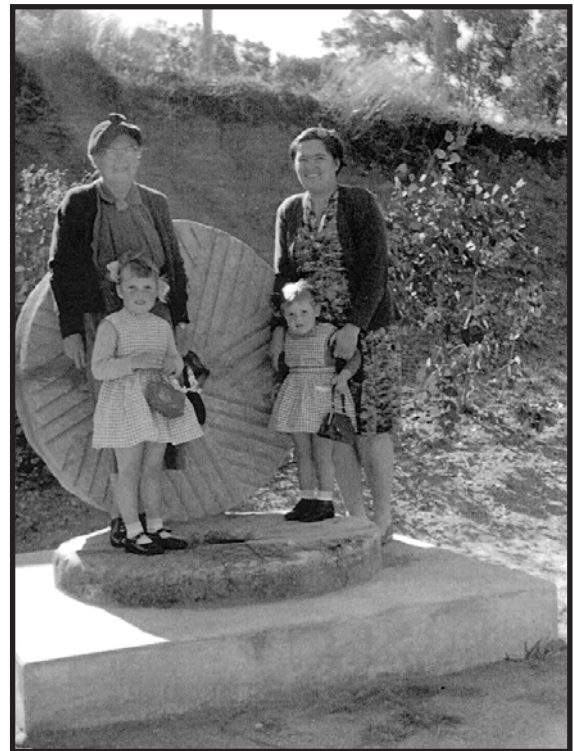


Photo courtesy: Elaine Neil

The millstones at the corner of Comleroy Road and Bell's Line of Road Kurrajong a few years after the 1947/48 reconstruction of the corner. Pictured are Mrs Davis at left with Elaine Neil on the right. The children are Christine and Pat Allison, daughters of Albert and Pat Allison. The millstones were later moved to the Memorial Park as part of a 1988 Bicentenary project.

Piccadilly Street



Photo courtesy: John Pearce

This photo, taken circa 1910, shows Emily Adelaide Pearce in front of her family home in Piccadilly Street, Riverstone. She was a descendant of convict George Pearce and Clara Palmer. Clara's father was Charles Palmer, a free settler and the first to settle at Agnes Banks in 1803. Clara married George when she was aged thirteen and her father disowned her, not because she married at such a young age, but because she married a convict.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 26 March

A general meeting will get underway at 7.30 PM at Kurrajong Radio Museum, 842 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Hills. Ian O'Toole will be showing a selection of short films which have some relevance to the Kurrajong district.

A gold coin donation for supper would be appreciated.

Wednesday, 11 April

The Bulgamatta/Chapel Hill outing has been booked and will include lunch, a presentation and a walk on the property. At this stage it is proposed to have morning tea at Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens which were part of a grant to Suzanna Bowen.

The focus of the outing will be Lt Bowen's grant, subsequently named Bulgamatta, and related history. Terese Howe shall present a thirty year history of Chapel Hill development.

Meet at the old Kurrajong Heights PO site at 10.30 AM and travel to Mt Tomah Gardens via the Bells Line of Road.

Cost of \$20 for lunch at Chapel Hill and payment can be sent to PO Box 174 Kurmond 2757. For further details please contact Suzanne Smith on 4567 7410 as lunch bookings are essential.

Monday, 28 May

A general meeting will get underway at 7.30 PM at St Davids Hall Kurrajong Heights. After regular business has con-

cluded Steve Brown will give a presentation of his research into the timber mills and industry of the Kurrajong district. He is hoping that his father Gordon Brown will be able to attend along with friend Jim Powell and pass on first hand knowledge concerning their involvement in the industry.

A gold coin donation for supper would be appreciated.

Photo Request Hart's Hall

The article on page five of this issue, written by Esther Hurst regarding her memories of Hart's Hall, originally named Waratah Hall, uncovered a lack of historical records of this once social hub of the district not just within the Society but Australia wide.

Joy Shepherd has confirmed that the Society has yet to receive a photo of this hall. As many social events where held there it can be assumed that many photos would have been taken of people posing in front of the building.

If you happen to have any photos of this hall or events which took place there they would help fill a void in the Society's pictorial record of the district. It would be greatly appreciated if you could forward them to:

Joy Shepherd
176 Bells Line of Road
North Richmond 2754
4571 1524
joyshep1@bigpond.com

Continued from page 4

the British Empire. Bruce Fagan, a dairy farmer and cattle judge and his three sisters, gave their property *Netherby*, now known as Fagan Park, to the people of NSW.

Galston Gorge, when constructed in 1894 was considered a "folly". However time has proved it to be a well engineered and constructed road. Citrus growers could pick and send produce via the gorge to Hornsby Station and to markets or shipping in less than a day.

Another part of Hall's grant is now St Benedicts Monastery. The recently renovated chapel with marble floor, beautiful timber ceilings and excellent acoustics is made available for classical concerts.

Arcadia, originally part of Dural, continues to attract artists and fringe dwellers. The tiny St Columbas Church built in 1907 is lined with raw timber which still retains its natural aroma.

The Dural district and Kurrajong have much in common. The rich soils of both areas grew citrus and other crops and supported country families who worked together for the common good and in many cases married within the community. However, the farming became un-economic, the close knit families drifted away with their place taken by outsiders. In recent years there is a continual demand to reduce lot sizes and build mansions. Good agricultural land is lost forever and both areas become part of the urban sprawl.

The Society thanks Michael Bell for sharing his knowledge and for the time he spent making the day enjoyable and immensely rewarding.



Catering for love
learning & leisure

993 Bells Line of Road
Kurrajong Hills 2758
(02) 4567 7711

loxley@iprimus.com.au
www.loxleyonbellbirdhill.com.au

We specialise in

- Birthdays
- Weddings
- Anniversaries
- Special events
- Private dining
- Romantic accommodation

Supporter & member of
Kurrajong Comleroy
Historical Society



- Australian Hotels Association Best Regional Mid-market Hotel of the Year 2008 & '09
- Australian Bridal Industry Academy National Award Best Resort / Motel Reception 2008
- Hills Excellence in Business Awards for Excellence in Customer Service Environmental Management & Sustainability 2008
- Parramatta Regional Awards for Business Excellence in Sales & Marketing Customer Service, Chairman's Choice Contributing to the Environment 2005 '06 '07 & '08
- Western Sydney Industry Awards Excellence 2002 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 & 08
- Hotel Motel & Accommodation Association Best Short Break Accommodation in NSW 2003