

KURRAJONG - COMLERoy HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 174 KURMOND, 2757



The Millstone

Volume One, Issue Six, November-December, 2002

"THE MILLSTONE" REFERS TO THE LITTLE WHEENEY CREEK MILLSTONES ON DISPLAY AT KURRAJONG MEMORIAL PARK, BELIEVED TO BE THE OLDEST ITEMS OF EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT IN "THE KURRAJONG". THIS EXTRACT FROM THE FIRST EDITION OF "THE MILLSTONE", JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2002

MINUTE MILLSTONE

• NEXT MEETING

IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT THE COMLERoy ROAD SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL AT 7.30PM.

• NEXT MEETING

WILL BE A WEEK EARLY BECAUSE OF CHRISTMAS. SAME TIME, SAME PLACE, BUT THE **SECOND** TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, JUST FOR DECEMBER.

• NEXT MEETING

GUEST SPEAKERS AT OUR FINAL MEETING FOR 2002 WILL BE MEMBERS BRUCE AND BETH JOHNSTON OF NORTH RICHMOND WHO WILL TALK ABOUT FARMING AND OTHER ASPECTS OF KURRAJONG.

WELCOME: TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED OR REJOINED. OUR ACTIVITIES OF RECENT MONTHS HAVE HELPED RAISE THE SOCIETY'S PROFILE AND ATTRACT UP TO 13 NEW MEMBERS.

WE NOW HAVE 83 FINANCIAL MEMBERS. NEW OR REJOINING MEMBERS WELCOME. HOUSEHOLD COUPLE \$25, SINGLE \$20 AND OVER 75, \$5.

October: Our Mammoth, Marathon Month



KURRAJONG-COMLERoy HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVED A \$1000 GRANT FROM HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL TO HOLD AN INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTING THE HISTORY OF THE MILLSTONES AT MEMORIAL PARK AS PART OF THE OCTOBER SCARECROW FESTIVAL. THE SOCIETY EXTENDS ITS THANKS TO ALL HAWKESBURY COUNCILLORS FOR SUPPORTING THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE. THE SOCIETY WILL BE ABLE TO USE THESE DISPLAY MATERIALS AT THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL NEXT YEAR, AND ON OTHER OCCASIONS.

One small Society, so much achieved, such great success!

"BACK TO THE KURRAJONG"

AN EVENING OF YARNS, SINGING, SUPPER AND HISTORIC PHOTOS RECALLING THE EARLY DAYS OF KURRAJONG WAS HELD AT THE KURRAJONG CWA HALL ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18.

GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDED ROSS MATHESON AND MEMBERS LAURIE DUFFY, BEVERLEY WOODMAN AND LOUISE McMAHON.

LAURIE SPOKE ABOUT THE EARLY DAYS OF GROSE VALE INCLUDING RUNNING THE KURRAJONG BUS SERVICE FROM 1952. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE MARGARET WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE "OVER SUPPER" DISCUSSIONS.

ROSS MATHESON SPOKE ABOUT HIS FATHER, ALAN WHO RAN A TRANSPORT BUSINESS CARTING FRUIT TO THE MARKETS FROM THE HAWKESBURY IN THE 50S AND 60S.

BEVERLEY WOODMAN SPOKE ABOUT HER FAMILY RESEARCH AND HER STRONG LINKS TO KURRAJONG HEIGHTS. HER GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S POST OFFICE IS THE PRESENT DAY GENERAL STORE. HER GRANDPARENTS RAN THE PANORAMA POINT PICNIC GROUNDS FOR MANY YEARS.

LOUISE McMAHON SPOKE ABOUT KURRAJONG HEIGHTS WONDER WOMAN OF THE 1860S, LOUISA ATKINSON, AND GAVE A TASTE OF THE THEN UPCOMING "LOUISA'S LOST LEGACY" DAY OF TRIBUTE TO BE HELD AT MOUNT TOMAH BOTANIC GARDENS THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY.

ENTERTAINERS ARCH BISHOP AND JOHN GRENGINGER PROVIDED VERSE AND MUSICAL INTERLUDES.

"FERTILE GROUND" PHOTO EXHIBITION

UNDER THE VISIONARY AND ENERGETIC LEADERSHIP OF JOY SHEPHERD, THE SOCIETY PRESENTED A DISPLAY OF SOME 120 HISTORIC PHOTOS LINKED BY THE THEME "FERTILE GROUND", HIGHLIGHTING THE AGRICULTURAL LEGACY AND DIVERSITY OF "THE KURRAJONG" FROM THE LATE 1880S TO THE 1970S.

THE DISPLAY RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLIMENTARY COMMENTS. THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION WAS PARTICULARLY NOTED BY KURRAJONG "OLD-TIMERS". THE ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND STANDARD OF PRESENTATION IS A TRIBUTE TO JOY'S EXPERTISE AND PROFESSIONALISM. THE SOCIETY IS HUGELY APPRECIATIVE OF JOY'S EFFORTS WHICH HAVE HELPED ESTABLISH THE SOCIETY AS A RESPECTED AND AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE OF ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE HISTORY OF "THE KURRAJONG".

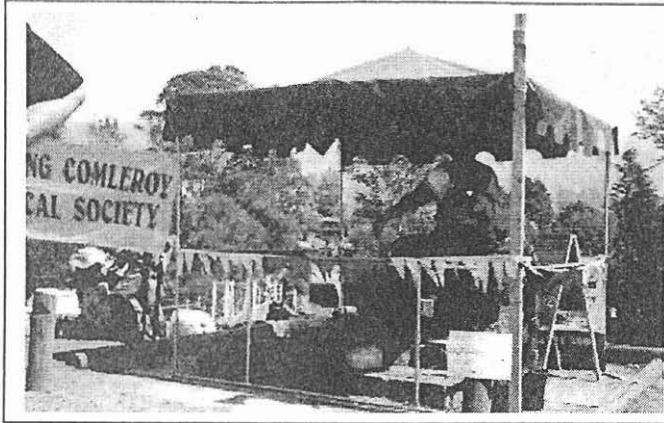
JOY, OF COURSE, INSISTS IT WAS ALL A TEAM EFFORT AND EXTENDS HER THANKS TO VAL BIRCH, MARGUERITE AND BRIAN WYBORN, FRANK AND VALERIE HOLLAND, GERALDINE TILDEN, JEAN McMAHON, KATHY McMAHON, LOUISE McMAHON, STEVE RAWLING, AND JAN LIVINGSTONE FOR THE LOAN OF THE DISPLAY BOARDS.



The Society gratefully acknowledges the following people for their generosity in donating photos for display, reproduction and sale, with proceeds to the Society:

Don Ford, Albert Ford, Eileen & Keith Ford; Ross, Lyn & Lillian Matheson; Heather Pearson & son Gerald; Elaine Neil; Ken & Nell Franks; Laurie and Margaret Duffy; Gladys (nee Davis) Vincent; Vince & Marcia McMahon & daughter, Geraldine Tilden; Kathie McMahon-Nolf; Bill & Margaret (Want) McMahon; Dorothy (Sheldon) Phipps, Wendy (Case) Guy; Joy and Phillip Shepherd; Jean McMahon; Joan (Bellingham) Dubois; Pam & Ken Bennett; Austin & Pat Buttsworth; Olive William; Pauline (Bennett) Pakulski; Lance Robinson..

Scarecrow Festival Crowds mill around our display!



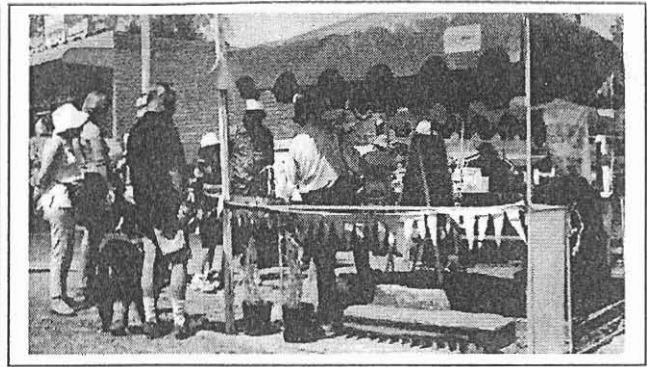
THE KURRAJONG SCARECROW FESTIVAL WAS HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20. WITH CROWDS ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 7000 AND 10,000, THIS WAS AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SOCIETY TO MOUNT AN EXHIBITION TO CAPTURE THE INTEREST OF THIS "PASSING TRADE".

MEMBERS LES DOLLIN AND LOUISE McMAHON TOOK THE LEAD IN MOUNTING THE EXHIBITION, ASSISTED BY STEVE RAWLING, WHO HAD A VIDEO OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO TWO MILLS IN ENGLAND, WHICH MAY BE SIMILAR IN SIZE, AND STYLE, TO OUR WHEENEY CREEK MILL.

A \$1000 GRANT FROM HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL MEANT WE WERE ABLE TO MOUNT A VERY INTERESTING AND EDUCATIONAL STATIC DISPLAY FOR PASSERS-BY, WHILE LES WORKED ENTHUSIASTICALLY ALL DAY GIVING HIS "MINI-LECTURES" OF ABOUT 10-15 MINUTES DURATION EVERY HOUR FROM 9AM TO 5PM.

LES CERTAINLY CAPTURED PEOPLE'S INTEREST, WITH EACH SESSION QUICKLY ATTRACTING A GOOD SIZE CROWD. PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED IN KURRAJONG ALL THEIR LIVES REPORTED THEY HAD NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THE MILLSTONES AND WERE STUNNED TO LEARN SO MUCH IN JUST 15-MINUTES.

THE STATIC DISPLAY SUPPORTED LES'S MINI-LECTURES, WITH DIAGRAMS OF HOW A MILL WORKS, AND POSTERS ON THE HISTORY OF THE WHEENEY CREEK MILL. SPECIAL THANKS TO NEW MEMBER, ELAINE NEIL, WHO GAVE PHOTOS OF THE MILLSTONES AT THE COMLEROI BELLS LINE OF ROAD CORNER TAKEN IN THE 1950S.



Les Dollin at work, drawing a crowd as he delivers one of his "mini-lectures" at the millstones on October 20.

UP AT THE CWA HALL, STEVE'S VIDEO WAS PLAYING ON CONTINUOUS LOOP, SHOWING A WORKING MILL IN ACTION, WITH A PANEL OF DIAGRAMS PROVIDING FURTHER EXPLANATION OF THE MECHANICS AND HISTORY OF MILLS GENERALLY, AND WHEENEY CREEK IN PARTICULAR.

LES PUT A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT AND THOUGHT INTO PREPARING FOR HIS MILLSTONE MINI-LECTURES, WHICH WERE A GREAT SUCCESS, AND SIGNIFICANTLY RAISED PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF THE SOCIETY AND THE RESEARCH WE ARE UNDERTAKING INTO THE WHEENEY CREEK MILL.

THANKS, LES, FOR A GREAT EFFORT - WELL DONE!

IT WAS A HIGH-ENERGY DAY, WITH ALL HANDS ON DECK. THANKS TO MARGARET AND RON ROZZOLI WHO CAME FOR THEIR "SHIFT" AND STAYED ALL DAY TO HELP!. THANKS ALSO TO GERALDINE, STEVE, JEAN, MARGUERITE AND BRYAN AND TO OUR TIRELESS RAFFLE-TICKET SELLER PHIL SHEPHERD.

OTHER PROJECTS LES IS WORKING ON:

LES IS THE SOCIETY'S LEADER FOR SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECTS AND HE HAS COME UP WITH TWO PROJECTS FOR 2003. THE FIRST IS A DISPLAY FEATURING THE "GREAT CHRISTMAS DAY BUSHFIRE OF 2001". PLUS A HISTORY OF EARLIER FIRES OF KURRAJONG. THE SECOND PROJECT INVOLVES COLLATING ORAL HISTORY ON THE "RABBITOS" OF KURRAJONG OF THE 40S AND 50S.

KCHS in good society with RAHS grant



Above: Jan Barkley-Jack (KCHS), Judy Newland (secretary, Hawkesbury Historical Society), Carol Carruthers, Louise and Jean McMahon (KCHS) at the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) national conference at Wingham (near Taree) in November.



Above: KCHS secretary, Louise McMahon, accepts a \$500 RAHS grant from the Hon Amanda Fazio, MLC, representing the NSW Ministry of the Arts. The grant is to engage a professional researcher to discover exactly when the millstones were brought to Australia. (RAHS president, Carol Liston in background.)

FURTHERING THE SOCIETY'S MISSION TO FULLY RESEARCH ALL ASPECTS OF THE WHEENEY CREEK MILL, LOUISE MCMAHON SUCCESSFULLY APPLIED ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIETY FOR A \$500 RAHS GRANT.

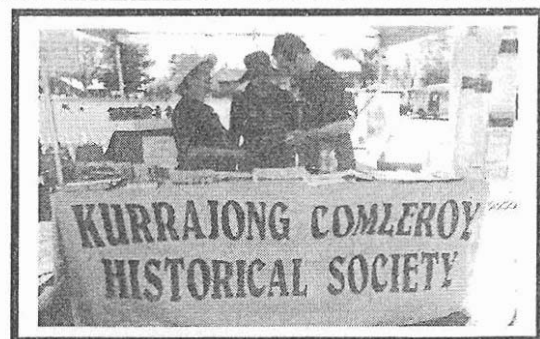
THE GRANT MUST BE USED TO ENGAGE A PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHER TO EXAMINE MARITIME RECORDS TO DISCOVER EXACTLY WHEN THE MILLSTONES WERE IMPORTED INTO AUSTRALIA. THIS IS A VITAL PIECE OF INFORMATION WHICH THE SOCIETY NEEDS TO PROGRESS ITS RESEARCH INTO THE EARLIEST HISTORY OF THE WHEENEY CREEK MILL.

THE HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL GRANT AND THE RAHS GRANT ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT IN NATURE AND PURPOSE.

WHILE BOTH RELATE TO THE MILLSTONES, THE HAWKESBURY COUNCIL GRANT CAN ONLY BE USED BY THE SOCIETY TO DEVELOP DISPLAY MATERIALS. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS THE OCT 20 SCARECROW FESTIVAL EXHIBITION, BUT IT IS ANTICIPATED THE SOCIETY WILL ALSO USE THIS DISPLAY FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AT A NUMBER OF COMMUNITY EVENTS.

THE RAHS GRANT IS VERY DIFFERENT TO THE HCC MILLSTONE DISPLAY PROJECT. THE SOCIETY MUST COMPLETE ITS RAHS RESEARCH IN 2003 AND PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE RAHS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROJECT.

THE RAHS GRANT WILL ASSIST THE SOCIETY, AS KNOWING WHEN THE MILLSTONES WERE IMPORTED, MAY BE THE KEY TO UNLOCKING NEW INFORMATION ABOUT THE MILL.



ABOVE: KCHS MEMBERS, BEA HORACEK, LOUISE MCMAHON AND ROGER HOLLIDAY AT THE KCHS STALL AT "CARNIVALE", RICHMOND PARK IN SEPTEMBER.

Louisa's Day of Tribute at Tomah, a triumph

A COMBINED "DAY OF TRIBUTE" HELD TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1860S KURRAJONG HEIGHTS RESIDENT, LOUISA ATKINSON, WAS HELD AT MOUNT TOMAH BOTANIC GARDENS ON OCT 27, JUST A WEEK AFTER THE MAMMOTH EFFORT OF THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL.

IT WAS HOPED THE WALK TO TOMAH SPUR WOULD SEE ONE OF THE PLANTS NAMED FOR LOUISA, THE *ATKINSONIA LIGUSTRINA* IN FLOWER, BUT WHILE THE PLANT WAS BUDDING, IT HAD NOT YET FLOWERED. JAN ALLEN IS SUCH A KNOWLEDGABLE BOTANIST HER GUIDED MORNING WALK THROUGH THE RAINFOREST TO THE PLANT WAS AN INCREDIBLE TREAT.

THE AFTERNOON TALKS WERE HOSTED BY JENNIFER STACKHOUSE AND A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION ON LOUISA WAS SHARED. THE DAY WAS DECLARED A WONDERFUL SUCCESS AND A GREAT EXAMPLE OF TEAMWORK BY THREE DIFFERENT ORGANISATIONS LINKED BY A COMMON GOAL.

BEFORE THE AFTERNOON WAS OVER TALK HAD ALREADY STARTED ABOUT "NEXT YEAR" AND IT MAY BE THAT VICTOR CRITTENDON, WHO HAS REPRINTED A NUMBER OF LOUISA'S WORKS, AND PATRICIA CLARKE, AUTHOR AND AUTHORITY ON LOUISA, MAY JOIN US FOR THE "DAY OF TRIBUTE" IN 2003.

HIKING ROUND THE HEIGHTS



KCHS MEMBERS, ROGER HOLLIDAY, JUDY AND STEVE RAWLING, LOUISE MCMAHON, PETER AND AIRDRIE MARTIN AT THE HEIGHTS FUN DAY, WHERE STEVE LEAD A "HISTORY STROLL".

AN UPDATE OF CAMP MACKAY RESEARCH

By Valerie Holland 'Camp Mackay' Research Officer.

THE CAMP MACKAY RESEARCH GROUP HAS MADE A SECOND VISIT TO BELMORE PCYC (POLICE BOYS). AT BELMORE WE ARE GRADUALLY WORKING OUR WAY THROUGH OLD MINUTE BOOKS OF MEETINGS OF THE FEDERATION OF POLICE BOYS KURRAJONG CAMP AND CAMP MACKAY'S CONTROLLING COMMITTEE.

MOST OF HISTORICALLY INTERESTING INFORMATION WE FOUND WAS PHOTOCOPIED. THE REST WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL OUR NEXT VISIT IN THE 2003. WE HAVE ALSO ASKED FOR 10 MORE PHOTOGRAPHS TO BE SCANNED AND EMAILED TO US AS THE COPIES ARE FAR CLEARER THAN PHOTOCOPIES. WHEN WE HAVE RECEIVED THESE PHOTOCOPIES WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT TO EMAIL OUR PHOTOCOPY RELEASE FORM FOR BELMORE PCYC MANAGEMENT TO READ AND WE HOPE, ACCEPT.

FAULKNER MACKENZIE PREVIOUSLY GAVE US THE NAME OF PERCY STEVENS, WHO HE SAID CAME TO HIS FATHER IN THE EARLY 1930'S WHEN ON A MISSION TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR A CAMP FOR BOYS. IT APPEARS, FROM THE RECORDS, THAT PERCY WAS A PIVOTAL PERSON IN THE EARLY LIFE OF THE CAMP AND THEREFORE ONE WHO WILL BE VERY INTERESING TO DOCUMENT. (IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE WAS THE FIRST SUPERINTENDENT OF KURRAJONG CAMP.)

WHILE HE WAS PHOTOCOPYING AT BELMORE, FRANK HOLLAND MADE CONTACT WITH TWO POLICEMEN WHO HAD WORKED AT CAMP MACKAY AND WHO WERE VERY INTERESTED IN OUR RESEARCH AND WILL BE WILLING TO TALK TO US IN THE FUTURE.

VALERIE BIRCH HAS MADE CONTACT WITH THE "LIFE" ADVENTURE SITE WHO HAVE REQUESTED A LETTER TO STATE OUR INTEREST IN THE SITE, FORMERLY 'CAMP MACKAY'. A LETTER HAS BEEN FORWARDED WHICH WE HOPE WILL RESULT IN A MEETING WITH JODI, THE GUEST COORDINATOR.

WE WILL BE WORKING ON THE INFORMATION WE HAVE ACQUIRED UNTIL 2003.

Research projects, family history, events for 2003

STEWART FAMILY INFORMATION WANTED

NOVEMBER 2002: I AM WONDERING IF YOU COULD POSSIBLY HELP.....

I AM IN THE MIDDLE OF RESEARCHING MY FAMILY AND WE HAVE DISCOVERED MY FATHER'S PARENTS WERE FARMING IN THE KURRAJONG AREA IN THE MID TO LATE 1800'S AND MY FATHER WAS THE LAST SON BORN TO JOHN AND ANN STEWART AT THE MT STEWART FARM IN MAY, 1888.

I WAS WONDERING YOU HAVE INFORMATION ON THIS FAMILY NAME OR THE FARM MENTIONED?

MY FATHER NEVER SPOKE OF HIS PAST OR INDEED HIS FAMILY AT ALL AND ALTHOUGH HE HAS LONG BEEN GONE, WE HAVE MANAGED TO DISCOVER FOR OURSELVES HIS PARENTS AND HIS SIBLINGS ALTHOUGH NOT A LOT.

AS YOU CAN APPRECIATE, DISTANCE IS A SOMEWHAT LARGE OBSTACLE FOR US HERE IN THE WEST, AND NOT BEING TOO FAMILIAR WITH YOUR LOVELY STATE OR HAVING THE FACILITIES CLOSE BY TO SAY HOP IN THE CAR AND MANAGE SOME MORE "BONES DIGGING" AS MY FAMILY REFER TO MY QUEST, IT CAN BE AWKWARD WONDERING WHERE TO LOOK NEXT!

I DO HOPE YOU HAVEN'T MINDED MY WRITING TO YOU AND IF YOU COULD ADVISE OR HELP IN SOME SMALL WAY, I WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE.

MARY TAILOR

JTAILOR@BIGPOND.NET.AU

COMLERoy ROAD SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL

FOLLOWING ON FROM THE SEPTEMBER NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ARTS AND MECHANICS INSTITUTE CONFERENCE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYDNEY SCHOOL OF ARTS, CAROL O'BRIEN, ALONG WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ELLEN ELZEY AND RESEARCHER, ROGER MORRIS, VISITED COMLERoy ON NOVEMBER 29. THE VISIT WAS HOSTED BY THE RICHMOND SCHOOL OF ARTS AND ALL LOCAL SOFAs WERE VISITED. IN MARCH THE SYDNEY SOFA WILL HOST A BUS-TRIP VISIT TO OUR AREA. THE IDEA IS FOR GROUPS TO ADDRESS SOME OF THE CHALLENGES LIKE INSURANCE AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE AT A COLLECTIVE LEVEL.

MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KURRAJONG-NORTH RICHMOND HAD A DINNER MEETING AT THE HALL IN NOV AND WERE INTERESTED TO LEARN THE HALL'S HISTORY.

Australia Day is our 2nd Anniversary

WE WILL CELEBRATE OUR SECOND BIRTHDAY ON THE AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND, SO AN EVENT IS BEING PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 FROM 11AM TO 3PM. AT THIS STAGE THE IDEA IS TO FOCUS ON THE MUSIC OF HENRY LAWSON, HAVE A BBQ LUNCH, SOME INFORMATION DISPLAYS AND SOME GUEST SPEAKERS. PUT THE DAY IN YOUR DIARY AND DETAILS WILL BE CONFIRMED AT THE DEC 10 MEETING.

SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT UPDATE

INFORMATION GLEANED AT THE RAHS CONFERENCE IS THAT NSW STATE ARCHIVES AT WERRINGTON HAVE BEGUN A PROJECT WITH VOLUNTEERS, COLLATING THE RECORDS FROM THE WW1 SOLDIER SETTLEMENTS OF NSW. GUEST SPEAKER FOR ONE OF THE SESSION WAS CHRISTINE YEATS OF STATE RECORDS NSW WHO WAS FASCINATED TO LEARN A LITTLE OF THE KURRAJONG SETTLEMENT AND HAS AGREED TO EITHER BE A GUEST SPEAKER FOR ONE OF OUR 2003 EVENTS, OR, BETTER, HOST A VISIT BY THE SOCIETY TO WERRINGTON WHERE WE CAN SEE FIRST HAND SOME OF THE WORK THAT IS UNDERWAY.

Events and excursions for 2003

FEBRUARY: DUNSTON DAY: AN EXCURSION TO SOME OF THE DUNSTON HOMES WITH BBQ LUNCH AT BUENA VISTA.
SATURDAY, MARCH 1: WHEENEY CREEK MILL SITE VISIT: (MEMBERS ONLY) LED BY LES DOLLIN.

APRIL: NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK, HAWKESBURY-WIDE PROGRAM OF EVENTS.

- VISIT TO STATE ARCHIVES (SOLDIER SETTLEMENT)
- CAR TOUR TRIP OF SOLDIER SETTLEMENT HOUSES
- RESEARCH INTO ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH (BY RITA CRANE, WITH VISIT TO CEMETARY).
- TALK ON COPYRIGHT BY RAHS LIBRARIAN.