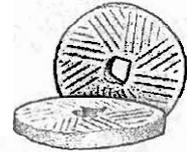


KURRAJONG - COMLERROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 174 KURMOND, 2757



The Millstone

2003 - Volume Two, Issue three: May - June

"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

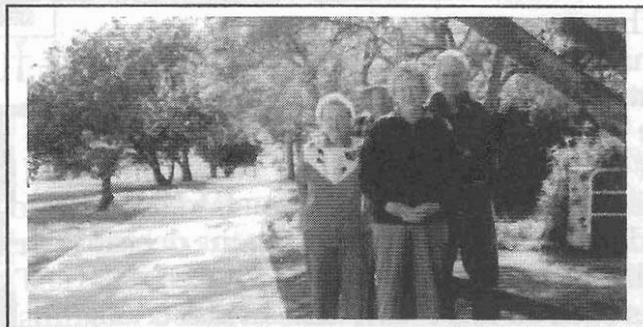
OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

The Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society is dedicated to researching, recording, preserving and championing the history of "The Kurrajong":

RESEARCHING: CAMP MACKEY



RECORDING: WORK FOR THE DOLE PROJECT



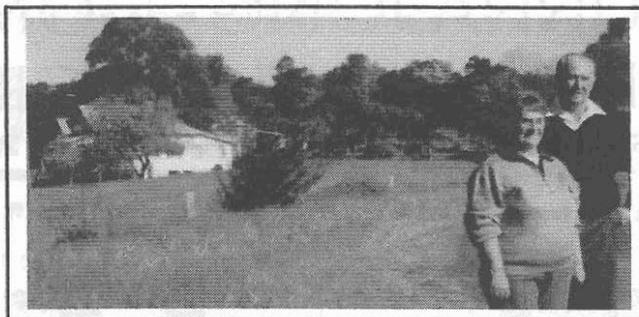
PRESERVING: LA TOSCA, SAVED FROM
DEMOLITION, HERITAGE ORDER UPHOLD

CHAMPIONING: THE JOHNSTONS ARE
HAWKESBURY HEALTHY CITY WINNERS!

Camp McKay Visit

The rain-gods forced us to postpone the May 13 visit to Camp McKay to June 3, but then the sun-gods stepped in to make sure we had a perfect day, weather-wise.

Enormous thanks go to Valerie Holland for organising this visit. The deadline for this Millstone was too tight to include a report from Valerie herself, so look forward to the next issue. Valerie, Frank Holland and Val Birch gathered plenty of information to add to the material they have already amassed.



ABOVE: Joining us for the Camp McKay visit were brother and sister, Kevin Corbett and Enid (Corbett) Ezzy. Their father, Cecil, was a farm workman at the Camp between 1946 and 1953. The family lived in a one-time Soldier Settlement cottage, (above and left, which was purchased after the Camp was established. Kevin and Enid walked from the Camp to Kurrajong Public School, cutting across the paddocks, and meeting up with other local children.

LEFT: At home at Camp Mackay, Kevin, Enid with little sister, Fay on horse, "Mittens:

NEXT: Eager to share his memories of his 18 years as sergeant in charge of the police boys Camp is Murray Saunders of Kurrajong. Murray has some fascinating photos to share with us.

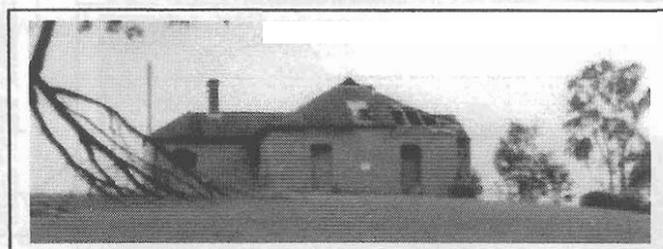
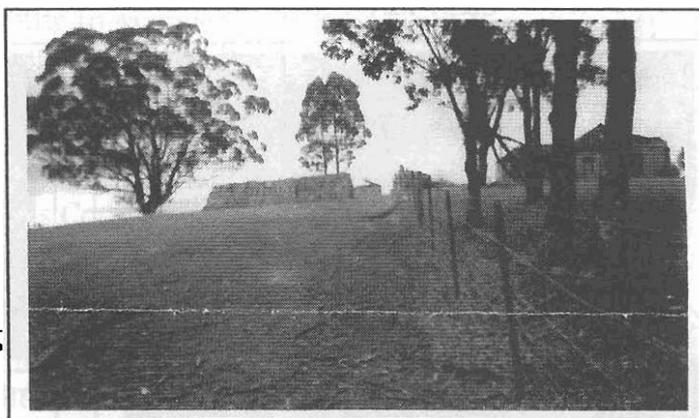


La Tosca, rescued!

In May the Land and Environment Court upheld Hawkesbury City Council's decision to reject a development application to demolish the historic Dunstan home, "La Tosca". The owners had initiated proceedings opposing Council's decision to refuse the DA, and so "lost" the case.

What happens next is uncertain, but it is understood the owners will be required to restore "La Tosca" to the condition it was at the time of purchase.

Members of the Dunston/Dunstan families are understandably delighted with the decision. The ruling is vindication of the heritage laws, and has been an important case in preserving an important piece of Kurrajong's history.



"Work for the Dole" Project

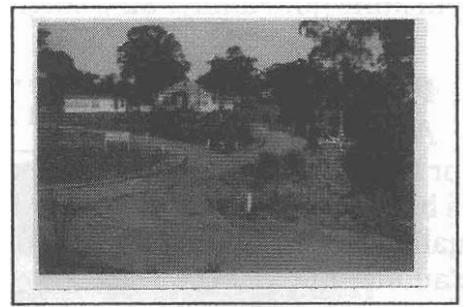
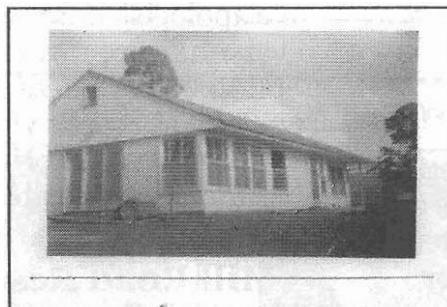
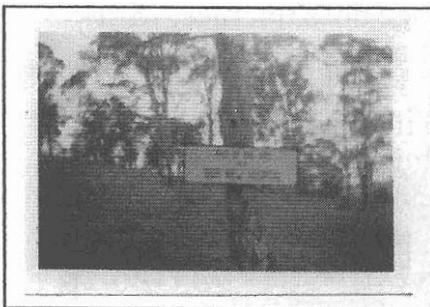
The April-May Millstone contained a teasing snippet about an exciting new photo project, but details had to be kept confidential until after the official announcement. The project is in partnership with Hawkesbury Skills and is a "Work for the Dole" program running for six months. Terry Church has been scanning our photos since April 16, and says he is finding the work fascinating. Some of the photos will be on display at the joint Rotary June dinner meeting at Panthers North Richmond (see back page for dinner venue Change details). The project will also be invaluable as we mount our annual historic photo display as part of the Kurrajong Scarecrow Festival at the CWA hall.



Work for the Dole project participants include (L-R) Hawkesbury Skills project coordinator, Faith Christie, Grace Fisher who has recently started the photo scanning, Terry Church who has been busy scanning since April, Society treasurer, Joy Shepherd who had the brain-wave to apply for the grant, and Ingi Green from Hawkesbury Skills. Absent: Val Birch, our hard-working resident archivist.

Championing the history of the Kurrajong, Part one

Congratulations to Society member Elaine Neil whose extensive collection of newspaper clips and photos was called on to mount a display to mark the 21st anniversary of Kurrajong Nursing Home. Of course the nursing home was predated by Kurrajong hospital, and Elaine has shared some fascinating photos of the hospital's extensions.



A future edition of The Millstone, will run an article with some of Elaine's memories of her time working at the hospital. Elaine's assistance certainly made the 21st anniversary display one that captured lots of interest at the celebrations at the nursing home on May 3.

Championing the history of the Kurrajong, Part two

When the 2001 route of the North Richmond to Kurmond bicycle path threatened a magnificent stand of jacaranda trees, the Johnston families of Keith and Alma and members Beth and Bruce decided to donate the equivalent of a quarter-acre of land to ensure they could be retained. The Johnstons planted the jacarandas in 1952. The Society executive thought the Johnstons deserved some recognition and nominated the family for a Citizen of the Month award. Hawkesbury Council instead awarded them a Healthy City Award for October, 2002, which they received in March. This was the second time the family had rescued jacarandas - a stand on the other side of the hill was moved in 1962 to make way for road widening. See photo front cover.

Minute Millstone

- **MacKenzie Farm visit**

The weather gods proved to be most unkind to us, twice forcing the cancellation of the lunch-time BBQ visit to MacKenzie Farm at Kurmond. Our sincere thanks to hosts Vera and Gerry Bentvelzen, who were most disappointed the event could not proceed, even while appreciating the much-needed rain. Also disappointed were guests of honour, Faulconer MacKenzie and artist, Tony Dixon. A date has not yet been confirmed for a future visit.

- **AGM meeting**

Our AGM meeting will be Tuesday, August 19 at the Comleroy Community School of Arts, 362 Comleroy Road, Kurrajong at 7.30pm, *sharp!*

- **Memberships**

Subscriptions for 2003-2004 are due from June 30. Family: \$25, single \$20.

- **Position Vacant/
Auditor Wanted**

Our treasurer, Joy Shepherd is hoping we have in our midst someone who is a qualified accountant who will volunteer to audit our books for 2002-2003. Joy is a professional book-keeper and has been fastidious in keeping our records in order, so the task will be quite straightforward. Please contact Joy on 4571 -1524.

- **Guest speaker**

A new member, Greg Upton is keen to share the research he has regarding an 1800s road at Bowen Mountain. We hope to have him as our August guest speaker.

- **Stewart Farm Update**

Promised for this edition, but has been held over to the July-August Millstone.

JUNE DINNER

For our June 17 meeting we will join with the Rotary Club of Kurrajong-North Richmond for a dinner meeting.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE : Panthers, North Richmond

Because early bookings were so strong, it quickly became obvious we were not all going to fit at Maxwells Table, North Richmond. As the Rotarians meet weekly at Panthers North Richmond, (Sporties), the dinner meeting will now be held at their regular venue in Beaumont Avenue, North Richmond.

- **Guest speaker** will be Dennis Simmons, a long-time Kurrajong resident with many intriguing memories to share.

The dinner is now open to non-members. Members \$22.50. Book and pay treasurer Joy Shepherd by June 13.

We apologise if this change does not meet with everyone's approval, but remember, our first option was to freeze at Comleroy! Then we were going to Maxwells when it was at Kurmond, (!) then to Maxwell's, North Richmond, now to Panthers! A moveable feast by any definition.!

- **Mill Road Reserve Bushcare Group**

This Council-sponsored group is working to remove privet and other weeds in the Wheeney Creek area near the Meroo carpark. The group has been meeting monthly for the past two years, and will begin work close to the old mill site in the near future. Society members may be interested in joining in the regeneration efforts. Contact Deb Bushell via John Blatch at Hawkesbury Council on 4560 4444.

The Millstone is written and edited by KCHS secretary, Louise McMahon. Contributions are always welcome.