KURRAJONG - COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 174 KURMOND, 2757





2004: Volume Three, Issue Five: September -October .

The Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society is dedicated to researching, recording, preserving and championing the history of "the Kurrajong", the district bounded by the Hawkesbury River at North Richmond, the Grose River, Cut Rock at Kurrajong Heights, along Comleroy and Blaxland Ridge Roads to the Putty Road at East Kurrajong, to the Colo River.



A photograph taken in 1907 at the moving of St John's Church of England along Single Ridge Road to Comleroy Road. Another picture of the same event appears in Vivienne Webb's "Kurrajong" book. An anniversary day celebrating this event was held at St Johns in June 1954. A "Correspondent" for The Gazette reported on the celebration and gave a brief account of how the church was moved. This person probably took part in the "moving" event in 1907.

"Back To St. John's" At Comleroy Road

A "BACK to St. John's" Sunday was arranged for July 18 by Rev. L. Daniels and parishioners, and invitations were sent to as many old parishioners and former Sunday School students whose addresses could be obtained.

Approximately 120 people gathered to celebrate the 63rd anniversary of the church, which was filled, with quite a number seated outside.

FORMER MINISTER

The Rev. A. N. S. Barwick, of St. Andrew's Rectory, Wahroonga, gave an address befitting the occasion. Rev. Barwick was minister of the parish from 1933 to 1936. One daughter, Grace, accompanied him, another, Kathleen, being in Canada and his wife is at present holidaying in Edinburgh. Mrs. B. Gosper, of North Richmond, rendered a sacred number very sweetly, accompanied by Mrs. W. S. Arnold.

Housekeeping:

The July-August Millstone carried a request from family historian, Louise Wilson of Victoria for information on her relatives.

Two members, Margaret Rozzoli and Marie Turnbull have information to share with Mrs Wilson and Millstone readers. Mrs Wilson wanted information on original land grant sites including "Thistle Hill", "Forrestville Farm", "Gordon Wood Hill", "Rosemount" at Grose Vale and "Jane's Farm" at Nepean. Mrs Wilson is researching the Robert Forrester, Paul Bushell, David Brown and Charles Homer.

Margaret Rozzoli (nee Sullivan) writes:

"In Vivienne Webb's book, "Kurrajong, An Early History", references are made to James Sherwood's "Garden Wood Hill" and pioneer residents and properties of Michael Hennessy's "Thistle Hill" and Henry Forrester "Forrester "Forresterville Farm".

Although no exact locations are mentioned, they appear to be in the Kurrajong Heights- the Wark's Road area.

I believe Relly (Rell) Donald Bushell (great grandson of David Oscar Bushell) lives on an original Bushell grants at 37 Warrigal Road, Kurrajong.

My grandfather's sister (Mary Alice Sullivan) married David Oscar Bushell about 1890, so I am related to the Bushells from the Sullivan and Greentree sides.

I have two pedigree charts researched by two separate people that show my Robert Forrester, David Brown and Paul Bushell connections.

Marie Turnbull writes: Re the Forrester and Homer names, in the latest Hawkesbury Pioneer Register there is some info on both and contact details for researchers.

Re Paul Bushell and David Brown. There were several David Browns in the early Hawkesbury, but I believe she is referring to the David who married Eleanor Fleming. Eleanor was born American, the daughter of Joseph Fleming of England and Mary, who he married in America, when he was there with the 29th Regiment of Foot. He was a soldier in the English Army who fought in the American War of Independence. More is known of them, but too much to write here. David and Eleanor's first daughter Isabella married Paul Bushell.

Their second son, again named David Brown married a Mary McGinnis. The Bushells and McGinnis's married into the Tuskerman and Tunnhull families in following conceptions and t

Tuckerman and Turnbull families in following generations and the large, but diverse Leeson family. Like most of the early settlers they inter-married with most other old Hawkesbury families.

1 have more on these families, but the Society of Australian Genealogy in Sydney has extensive records re these families. They are such complicated inter-married families that to write about them in a short letter is impossible After the impressive servoce, the parishioners and friends were taken to the Comleroy School of Arts, where a sumptuous tea was provided. Mrs. E. Peterson, of Comleroy Road, most capably carried out the catering, assisted by Mesdames Jess Shepherd and A. Faithfull, the tables being artistically arranged and decorated by Mesdames E. Peterson, Jess Shepherd and K. Ford, junr.

EVENTFUL DAY

It was an eventful day in the history of the church, when many old acquaintances renewed friendships.

It is interesting to record that the original church was built on Mr. Albert London's land at Salis Flat. Services were conducted as early as 1891 (Mrs. J. J. McMahon has prizes from the Sunday School dated 1892). After Mr. London's death, it was decided to transfer the building to the site on Comleroy Road given by Mr. Thomas (This was in Rev. H. John. Tate's ministry).

MOVED BODILY

The late Mr. W. J. Dunston undertook to move the church for £10, in 1907. It was moved along Single Ridge Road by three teams of bullocks. Three photographs of this removal are now hanging in the present church.

The church was dedicated on July 7, 1926, and given the name of "St. John the Evangelist." However, the disastrous bush fire on December 10, 1944, completely destroyed the building and contents.

NEW BUILDING

A new building was then erected and quite a lot of furnishings given by sympathisers. This building was dedicated in the same name by His Grace the Archbishop of Sydney, on June 8, 1946. —Correspondent.

KURRAJONG WALK KEN BENNETT WILL LEAD A WALK TO EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF KURRAJONG VILLAGE. OCTOBER 21. 10AM MEET AT THE MILLSTONES, MEMORIAL PARK. BOOKINGS ON 4573-1288 FOR RAIN CONTINGENCIES.

THE MILLSTONE - KURRAJONG-COMLERCY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



• By Millstone Editor and Society foundation secretary, Louise McMahon. This is the second official annual report of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society, which was formed at a meeting at the Comleroy Road School of Arts on January 27, 2001.

Looking back to June 2003, my overwhelming impression and recollection of the last 12 months is of being at the end of one of the Society's photograph display boards with Phil Shepherd at the other, lifting and stacking the boards in and out of his box trailer.

The Society participated in a large number of exhibitions in 2003 and on every occasion all the work in setting up and packing down fell to just myself, Phil and Joy Shepherd. I should not be surprised then that at this point I feel thoroughly exhausted.

Editions of The Millstone have carried detailed accounts and photographs of these exhibitions and our other numerous events. Some highlights include:

June 2003: The Society was able to purchase its display boards following a joint fundraiser with the Rotary Club of Kurrajong-North Richmond at Panthers North Richmond.

September 2003:

I propose that the society offer for sale to members shirts with the Society logo embroidered. The intention is to have these available in time for our October events, but the discussion on what type of shirts to choose was carried over and we missed the deadline. They were available in time for Australia Day though.

October 17 2003: Back to the Kurrajong evening at Valley View café. Enormous thanks to Michelle for the generous and scrumptious catering. Guest speakers were Phil Peck and Geoff Taylor. Phil spoke of his family's connection to Kurrajong Heights and the grand Kurrajong Heights Hotel (1926-1974). His talk appeared in two editions of the Millstone. The evening started with a preview of the "Hidden Treasures of Kurrajong" photographic exhibition.

Kurrajong Scarecrow Festival weekend. October 18 and 19

The Society exhibited some 200 photos as part of the Hidden Treasures of Kurrajong display. The exhibition was the culmination of six months hard work on the part of Joy Shepherd who instigated a "Work for the Dole " project with Hawkesbury Skills. Photos were sourced, documented, scanned, saved to disc, printed, laminated and mounted for display, along with corresponding captions and narrative. Federal MP Mr Kerry Bartlett officially opened the exhibition on October 18 and seemed genuinely impressed with our efforts. In his remarks at the opening he said he thought it one of the best "Work for the Dole" projects he had seen.

The exhibition continued on the Sunday and over the weekend several hundred people visited most saying they were impressed with the variety of photos and the detailed captions. The success of the first six month project meant we were offered a second six months which then followed on from the first project.

Small Farms Expo, November

Hosted by The Land Newspaper, KCHS was invited to mount an exhibition with an agricultural theme. The exhibition ran for two days in extreme heat. We received lots of very positive feedback and we reached an audience outside Kurrajong.

Louisa Atkinson Day of Tribute

November 23: Held at Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens. An event co-hosted with the Gardens and the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society. Authors and Louisa "authorities", Victor Crittenden and Patricia Clarke were guest speakers.

Mackenzie Farm Christmas

Members Gerry and Vera Bentvelzen welcomed us to their home for a barbecue and our final meeting for 2003.

Australia Day, January 26, 2004

Heavenly Bell Café was the venue and members and their guests were delighted to get Australia Day off to a start with breakfast and guest speakers Sue McMahon and Brian Dunston, who spoke about their memories when heavenly Bell was Kevin McMahon's fruit shop. Kathie McMahon spoke about its life as Bellbird Echo guest house, while Steve Rawling entertained with a set of songs with a Kurrajong theme.

February 2004 Comleroy Conundrum

The Society requested a meeting with Hawkesbury City Councillors at Comleroy School of Arts hall to see what could be done about either restoring the historic hall, or alternatively, providing the Society with a meeting place and storage in the Kurrajong locality.

March meeting 2004 Ron Rozzoli

Member Ron Rozzoli was our guest speaker and he spoke about the links between Richmond School of Arts and Kurrajong which extend back to the 1860s. Ron's talk appeared in two editions of The Millstone

Transport and Communications Museum

Members John and Carolynne Cooper invited the Society to exhibit at their Coopers Hill (Cedar Ridge) museum.

April 2004 Second Work for the Dole

The second World for the Dole project concluded. Once again this was highly successful with Joy Shepherd continuing to source lots of fascinating photos. There were some computer gremlins to deal with and this did slow the project down, as some work seemed jinxed and had to be redone more than twice. But Joy persevered and triumphed. This second Work for the Dole then "morphed" into an different type of project with Hawkesbury Skills, but one were the Society continues to receive assistance in scanning and recording our collection of historic photos.

Greg Upton's Bowen Mountain Walk

Greg has carried out some research into an old road at the top of Bowen Mountain. He lead a walk to view a section of the road. Greg's research appeared in an edition of The Millstone.

April: Barns of the Hawkesbury

The Friends of the Hawkesbury Art Collection held a heritage Week display featuring slab buildings and barns. The KCHS was invited to participate and we contributed about 20 photos for display at the Windsor Art and Craft Centre for a weekend exhibition.

May Fundraiser Concert

Held at St David's Presbyterian Church. This concert was organised by Kathie McMahon as a fundraiser for the Society.

May: Kurrajong CWA Weddings of Yesteryear display

The Kurrajong CWA invited the KCHS to contribute photos for display as part of their weekend exhibition of nearly 100 wedding gowns. The Society's photos added interest to the display and linked the CWA display to Kurrajong family weddings.

Kurmond Roadhouse Rediscovered:

The July meeting was held at the Kurmond Wine Bar and Grill and guest speakers were Marlene and John Healy who started the Kurmond Roadhouse in 1958.

Annual General Meeting,

And ordinary meeting September 27 Venue: Richmond School of Arts Time: 7.30pm

KURRAJONG WALK

KEN BENNETT WILL LEAD A WALK TO EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF KURRAJONG VILLAGE.

OCTOBER 21. 10AM MEET AT THE MILLSTONES, MEMORIAL PARK. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL ON 4573-1288. EXPERIENCE WITH PAST WALKS HAS PROVEN THE NEED TO BOOK SO WE KNOW HOW MANY TO EXPECT, AND CAN ADVISE OF ALTERNATIVE RAIN ARRANGEMENTS.

Camp Mackay Research Valerie Holland, project leader

Our Belmore research group includes Val Birch, Frank Holland and myself. We have been researching a greater understanding of the enormous effort that was required by both paid and unpaid voluntary work to establish, maintain and manage Camp MacKay.

We have recently enjoyed what may prove to be our final visit to the archives held at the head office of the Belmore PCYC, unless some more records can be located. Through the cooperation of the staff at Belmore, our days sifting through the old records of the Federation, PCYC and Camp Mackay have been very rewarding.

As a Camp Mackay is a large project, there are many further avenues to explore. It is hoped that written records and the interviews obtained with former members of the police force, civilian staff and their children who had intimate knowledge of the Camp will reveal more interesting aspects. There is also an interest in obtaining some first-hand knowledge from a few members of the public who attended the Camp as children. I hope that by covering different angles of the Camp's life, that we will be able to achieve an interesting history.

Researching history gives one the opportunity to meet and interact with many varied and interesting people. I have made new friendships that would not have happened without my being involved in this project. Each new contact brings another aspect of past Kurrajong life to the surface. I would recommend to all members that they consider joining in the fascinating task of researching the history of the Kurrajong district so that the stories can be recorded before that knowledge disappears.

WORK FOR THE DOLE 2003 - 2004 Joy Shepherd

Digital Archiving Coordinator

We have had a busy and successful year with our Digital Archive Project. By the end of the Financial Year we had been successful in obtaining, scanning, and storing to disc some 1,300 high resolution images of "The Kurrajong", dating from the mid 1800s to the present time. As well, we have been able to gather and record some detailed information of each image.

This has been made possible with the assistance of Hawkesbury Skills, and two "Work for Dole" projects, each of six months duration. We are grateful for their support, and for the assistance of our participants.

It is been a year of hard work, for Val Birch and myself, assisted at times by Louise McMahon, Valerie Holland, and Marguerite Wyborn. Computers sometimes seem to have a mind of their own, and there have been some frustrating times. However we now have some results that we are really happy with, and a collection that any Society would be proud of.

The most rewarding part of the project has been generosity of our donors. So many people has dug deep into their cupboards, drawers, slide boxes and then trusted us with their treasures to scan to computer. They have opened their doors, and their hearts with their stories, researched and hassled their friends and relatives on our behalf, and entertained us by the hour.

We have now gained the trust of most, and the project seems to be on a roll. Our biggest disappointment of the year has been that we have still been unsuccessful in obtaining a Grant for a computer of our own. We currently have the results of our work stored all over the place, and no place to call our own. We desperately need some public space to allow members and others to access our collection, to enjoy and make use of it.

President's Report

While this group is still a fledgling organisation it is safe to say that as a Society we've made huge headway in the past 12 months. The Society has three main avenues of communication with its members and the wider community. These are via our ever growing photographic collection, through our series of events and exhibits, and most importantly through the pages of our newsletter.

The collection

The focus in the development of our photographic collection, has been systematically dealing with the avalanche of photographs that have been lent to the Society. While the systems are in place to collect, collate, scan and store these images we do have real problems ahead of us in the areas of long term storage and access. As a Society without a permanent home and without a physical collection, we are an anomaly. Indeed, on several occasions our carefully

prepared funding requests have been knocked back because we don't fit the bill. We believe that the way this Society has set about collecting and collating local history is very much the way of the future.

I am sure most members are familiar with the way that our accessions work but to just make it clear, here's the system as it works at the moment. We are interested in all photographic material relating to the Kurrajong area and have images in our collection right up to the year 2000. If photographs are made available to us they are copied as digital images, stored on a data base with the relevant written and accessioning information, then the return actual photograph, is returned to its original owner. The process is made possible through the hard work in particular of our treasurer, Joy Shepherd, and also our committee member in charge of accessioning. Val Birch. It is particularly through Joy's hard work and diligent applications for funding that we have been able to bene

fit from Work for the Dole. Funding from this source has allowed copying and cataloguing of our photographic collection to be undertaken as a Work for the Dole project. Not only are we building up a database of historical images but we are also helping train those who are out of work in new skills. So that all these wonderful images can be displayed to our community the society regularly takes part in or stages exhibitions, which draw on our digital collection. The photographs are printed, mounted and then displayed in themes. During the past 12 months we have extracted agricultural images, bridal images and now images of flood and fire for display. Once a display is developed, it is available for reuse or to be reconfigured to suit yet another theme.

The events

While the photographic collection is a large focus for the Society, there are also many social and educational events. We want to have fun exploring and experiencing the history of this region. We also need to raise

funds to keep up our collection (we'd love to be able to purchase a computer for instance) and to cover expenses such as insurance. So, walks, talks, dinners and even breakfasts have taken place for members. I want to offer a big thanks to all those people who have been pressed into speaking at our events or, as was the case with our Australia Day birthday celebration, performing. We've all had a lot of fun and enjoyment and learnt a lot about our area along the way. A big thanks too to all those members who have helped at our functions.

The newsletter

Of course a lot of what we do would be lost if it wasn't for the Society's very newsy and professionally produced newsletter, 'The Millstone'. It is designed to keep members and others in touch with our calendar of events, to document research that has been presented to the Society and also to keep abreast with developments. A huge thank you must be given to the newsletter editor, Louise McMahon, who wrestles with the logistics of writing, publishing and mailing out such a great read. Thank you Louise.

The challenges

The next 12 months have some challenges ahead. We must continue to grow. We must continue to expand our research efforts – there is so much more to do and discover. We must redouble our efforts to find a permanent home for our collection and aim towards the purchase of a computer that will allow our database to be accessible at all times. But, most importantly, we want the pursuit of all of these challenges to be fun and rewarding to those who are involved. We are after all volunteers drawn together by our mutual interest in the history of this very special part of the world.

Jennifer Stackhouse

THE MILLSTONE - KURRAJONG-COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Treasurer's Report 2003-2004

We have had a busy, but satisfying and successful year for the Society in its third full year. Our Membership base has been increasing gradually, with well over 100 Financial Members at the end of June.

Although we have spent some time and effort in lodging applications, we have been unsuccessful in receiving any Grant monies this year. This has meant that our entire income has been raised through Membership Subscriptions and member fundraising events, along with some donations.

Our first and main event for the year was our "Back to the Kurrajong" night and Photographic Exhibition, run in conjunction with the Scarecrow Festival in October. Because we have had so much assistance from Hawkesbury Skills and our "Work for the Dole" projects, we were able to mount our photographic exhibitions this year at much less cost.

The "Back to the Kurrajong" evening was limited to 60 guests, because of the lack of space and facilities in Kurrajong to hold such an event. We could have filled the evening three times over, and had to turn away so many disappointed people. The "Hidden Treasures" Photographic exhibition created a huge amount of interest, and drew a large crowd throughout the weekend. Thank you to our dedicated band of members who helped prepare, set up and man the weekend. Our profit, including the raffles over the three days, amounted to close to \$1,000.

On the strength of this success, we were offered a very large stall at the Small Farms Expo at the Showground. This was mainly organised by Louise McMahon, with the assistance of my husband Philip and myself. Although it was an extremely hot and difficult weekend, the Society gained tremendous exposure. We were extremely busy all weekend, and managed to make a small profit by running a raffle on both days.

Meanwhile, our Society Archivist, Val Birch put together a book – "On the Kurrajong." This was a compilation of extracts from early editions of the Windsor and Richmond Gazette. We decided to print and market the book, which has been very popular. So far, we have made a profit of \$850, and we thank Val for this great contribution. Secretary Louise suggested shirts for Society members and Pat O'Toole took over the management of this project. With an initial setting up cost for the logo, and just a small margin added to the cost for each shirt, we are already almost breaking even.

We learnt from the very hot Australia Day at the Comleroy Road School of Arts the previous year, and decided to have an Australia Day Breakfast at a cooler venue. This event, at the "Heavenly Bell" at Kurrajong Hills, was again oversubscribed. This happy and successful morning, including raffle, brought in over \$300.

Our Vice-President, Kathie McMahon has been organising a Concert Series to benefit various organisations. The second of the series, held in the Presbyterian Church at Kurrajong Heights, raised \$600 for the Society, and we are most grateful for this contribution.

As usual, one of our biggest expenses this year was our Insurance, at \$743.00. We have also been able to purchase all of our own display screens, and were donated a new high-quality laminator, by Gladys Vincent, our most senior member. This has made us a lot more self-sufficient in staging our exhibitions.

Our biggest disappointment has been that we still have no computer or "home" of our own. We have built up a large range of equipment and resources, currently stored in Committee Members' homes. We need a central place, so that the public can access information about the history of this amazing place, The Kurrajong. Until this happens, we cannot move on as we should.

We are extremely grateful for the on-going support of Hawkesbury Skills, and our continuing "Work for the Dole" project. I would also like to thank our Honorary Auditor, Tony Roberts, CPA, of Richmond, who once more has done an outstanding job for us.

Joy Shepherd Treasurer.

KURRAJONG COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOC. INC.

P O Box 174 KURMOND NSW 2757

Profit & Loss Statement

01/07/03 through 30/06/04

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Income	
Membership Subscriptions	\$1,440.00
Donations	\$1,317.00
Work/Dole Project - Insurance	\$120.00
Door Takings	
Door Takings Special Functions	\$1,722.50
Door takings - Exhibitions	\$253.40
Total Door Takings	\$1,975.90
Raffle Proceeds	\$890.19
Retail Sales.	
Retail Sales Kurrajong trees	\$176.00
Retail Sales Teaspoons	\$74.05
Sale of Louisa Atkinson Books	\$10.00
Sale of Photographs	\$220.00
"On the Kurrajong" Books	\$1,354,50
Member Uniform Income	\$420.00
Total Retail Sales	\$2,254.55
Total Income	\$7,997.64
Cost of Sales	
Purchases for Resale	
"On the Kurrajong" Books	\$504.90
Member Uniform expenses	\$430.10
Total Purchases for Resale	\$935.00
Total Cost of Sales	\$935.00
	1998
Gross Profit	\$7,062.64

KURRAJONG COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOC. INC.

Profit & Loss Statement

01/07/03 through 30/06/04

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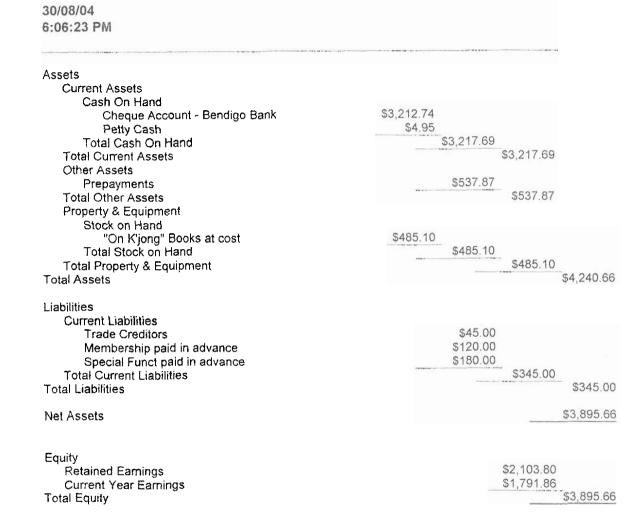
Expenses	
Dues & Subscriptions	\$83.00
Display Equipment	\$534.00
Equipment Hire	\$40.00
Gifts/Flowers etc	\$96.55
Function Expenses	000.00
Function Expenses Catering	\$1,131.80
Function Expenses - Hall Hire	\$875.00
Total Function Expenses	\$2,006.80
Insurance	\$743.73
Legal Fees	\$40.00
Office Supplies & Stationery	\$780.37
Photocopying and Laminating	\$174.38
Photography & Archiving	\$62.85
Postage	\$405.15
Post Office Box Rental	\$55.00
Research Expenses	\$248.95
Total Expenses	\$5,270.78
Operating Profit	\$1,791.86
Other Income	
Other Expenses	
Net Profit / (Loss)	\$1,791.86
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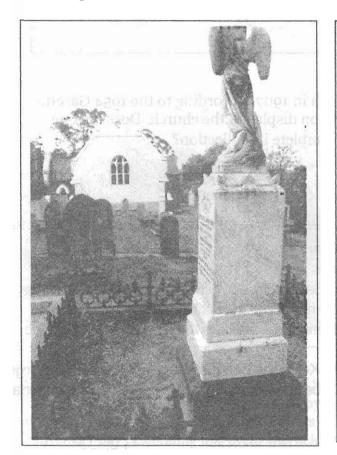
Balance Sheet

As of June 2004





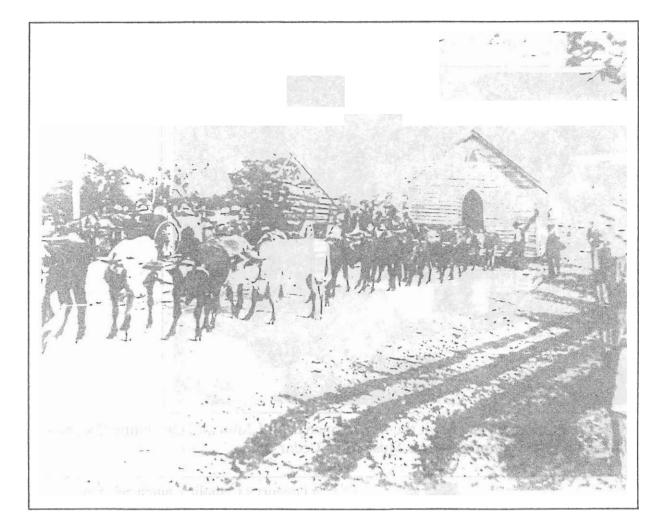
KCHS photographic display at the March open day of John and Carolynne Cooper's Transport and Communications Museum at Cedar Ridge.



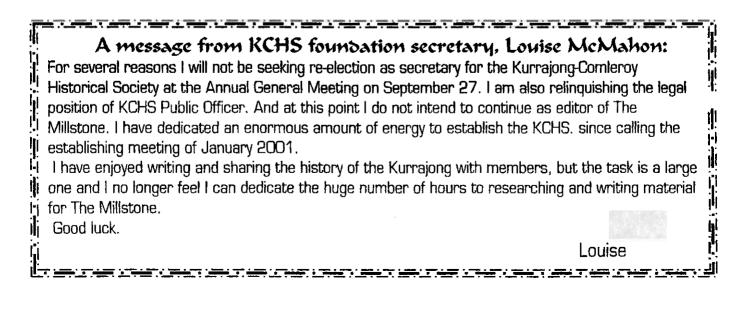
St Gregory's Catholic Church celebrates the centenary of the opening of the second church built on the site in December.

The Gazette of 1904 carried an extensive report of the festivities in the weeks leading up to the opening, including a "bazaar", or type of fete that ran in the yet unconsecrated building for 10 days. For the opening the official party arrived in Richmond by train and rode to Kurrajong. The procession extended for half a mile with buggies, slides, people on horseback, cyclists and those of foot making the journey. The original church on the site dated from 1840, although it appears burials date from 1838. Fundraising for the new church began in 1899.

A book on the history of the Church has is being compiled and should be ready in time for the December anniversary.



A Second photo of the moving of St John's Church in 1907. According to the 1954 Gazette article there were three photos of the great move on display in the church. Does anyone have a copy of the third one so the Society can complete its collection? .



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