



*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 Blaxlands Ridge Roads to East Kurrajong, and to the Colo River. "The Millstone" refers to the Little Wheeney Creek millstones on display at Kurrajong Memorial Park. Logo designed for the Society by artist Tony Dixon.*

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### Joy Shepherd recognised as Hawkesbury Citizen of the Month



Our hard working treasurer, Joy Shepherd, was recognised as the Hawkesbury Citizen of the Month for February. Joy received the well-deserved award for her tireless work in the community and particularly her recent work with Hawkesbury Skillshare through the Society's Work for the Dole Photographic Digital Archiving Project (reported on elsewhere in this newsletter – 'Kids of the Kurrajong').

With Joy leading the project some 2000 photographs have been scanned on disks, each with its correct title, date and information attached. These images form the basis of this Society's photographic collection, which is available for display, research and publication.

The award is presented each month to an outstanding Hawkesbury citizen by Hawkesbury City Council. Well done Joy. *(Photo by Greg Upton).*

### Kurrajong Community Centre

Following a community survey and a council meeting (22 February), a decision has been made to proceed with the building of a community centre in McMahan's Park, Kurrajong. Although more than 50 per cent of the respondents voted for the McMahan's Park site, a strong 46 per cent voted for a site in the village, which was the society's preferred option.

The next stage in the development will be the formation of a steering committee to assess the needs of community groups such as ours.

### Douglass family website

Many members enjoyed the highly informative talk by Trish Downes at our 'Back to the Kurrajong' evening last October. Trish spoke of the Douglass family and Kurrajong Heights. Trish has now made much of the information and some important maps available on her website. To visit Trish's website put this address into your search engine:

<http://www.pcug.org.au/~pdownes/douglass/>

Congratulations to Trish on such a comprehensive and well laid out website and for the wealth of information she is able to share.

## LOXLEY: A HISTORY

*The fabulous Loxley on Bellbird Hill was the venue for our recent 4<sup>th</sup> birthday party breakfast, held on Australia Day. During the breakfast Steve Rawling presented a summary of Loxley's fascinating history, and this article compiled by Kathie McMahon and Greg Upton gives an account of this history. The Society would welcome any other information members might have about the history of Loxley.*

### EARLY HISTORY

The original 50 acre grant on which Loxley was built was made to William Townsend in 1833 and he named the property "Mt Pleasant". His sons inherited the property and later sold it to Charles Moore in 1859. Charles Moore was the Director of Sydney's Botanic Gardens for almost 50 years, and was a great plant collector. He is known to have visited Kurrajong in 1850 on a plant-collecting trip. During this time the property was either leased to Thomas Arkinstall, or the owners employed him to farm the land. Arkinstall was also an employee of the Botanic Gardens. He was probably responsible for many of the old plantings including the old kauri pine that is still on the property, a belief supported

by Warwick Nichols from Kurrajong who is one of Thomas's descendents.

Thomas Arkinstall stayed on at Loxley when the property was sold to Mr Richard Holsworth in 1863. The property was then known as "Holsworth Estate," however Mr Holsworth later renamed the property "Loxley." He enlarged the original house and established the property as a working farm. In the late 1890s he donated a portion of the property to help establish Kurrajong North Public School.

There is a record of fruit trees being planted at Loxley on 15 August, 1883 by Alfred Lord, although Alfred at this time did not officially own the land. Perhaps he was

leasing Loxley as nine years later, after marrying Emily Peck, he purchased it in 1892. Those fruit trees were still productive nearly 100 years later, and during this period Loxley's orchards were regarded as being amongst the finest in this district.

### RECENT HISTORY

In 1960 Alfred and Emily Lord's sons Harry (Henry) and Ted (Edward) split the property into two 25 acre blocks. Ted Lord sold his land and it is presently owned by Ces Hawkins. Harry and his wife Kath stayed on at Loxley but in the mid 1970s they subdivided their portion of the property and sold most of it to a Dr Bosonquet. One acre was sold to Kevin McMahon and is still owned by his daughter Susan McMahon. Harry and Kath kept a portion for themselves at the top (western) end of the property where they built a beautiful house.

Dr Bosonquet didn't live at Loxley and only owned it for a short time. During his ownership the property was rented and its name changed to "Loxley Park."

In 1977 Dr Bosonquet sold the property to Marion and George Rogan, who changed the name back to "Loxley" and worked the orchards for at least the next ten years. Marion Rogan described Loxley as being in a state of disrepair when they first moved

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Two early views of Loxley during its time with the Lord family:

*Above:* Alfred and Emily Lord pose on the veranda at the front of Loxley, circa 1902. With them are their daughters Annie (left, with Alfred) and Hellen (Nellie).

*Left:* Charlie Lord (son of Alfred Lord) operates an old utility to drive a sawmill set up at the back of Loxley circa 1930. Note how the ute is propped up and the sawmill is driven by a conveyor belt attached to the back wheel - Very enterprising!

*(Photos courtesy of Thelma Groch).*



there. During their stay in the house the Rogans found a consignment note dated 1864 to Richmond Railway for the shipment of the doors ordered by Richard Holsworth when he was improving the house. This note is on display today in the bar at Loxley.

The Rogans subdivided the property and today live on the upslope side (western end) on a 6.5 acre portion. There is a one acre block on a separate title where Camellia Cottage now stands. The remaining 17.5 acres which included the original house were sold to Paul Maher in 1997. Paul has restored the property and the house and has added more buildings to transform it into one of the area's premier resorts.



Lord family photos during their time at Loxley:

*Above:* Alfred Lord and Emily Jane Peck with daughters Helen (left) and Annie, circa 1902.

*Right:* Helen Lord's wedding day, 16th March 1921. The photo was taken at the front of Loxley and the wedding was held in St James Church up the road at Kurrajong Heights. From l to r: Ernest Robinson, Hjalmar Ness, Helen Lord, Annie Lord, Alice Lord, and Mary Lord.

*(Photos courtesy of Thelma Groch).*

## The LORDS of LOXLEY

Alfred and Emily Lord and their decedents have had a long association with Loxley, spanning the period 1883 to the mid 1970s.

Alfred's father was John Lord, a printer, born in Yorkshire in 1821. In 1844 John married Martha Spencer, also of Yorkshire and 5 years later with their first child they migrated to Sydney where they settled and had a further 5 children, of whom Alfred was the second-youngest.

The Lord family moved from Sydney to "Sunnyside" on Hermitage Rd because of their health. They suffered from "chest complaints".

In 1892 Alfred purchased Loxley, and 4 years later he married Emily Peck at St James Church. Emily's father was Henry Peck of Kurrajong Heights and her mother was Mary Hurst. Alfred and Emily had 8 children. Alfred died on 16th November 1931 and is buried at St Stephens Church in Kurrajong. Emily remained at Loxley with her sons Harry and Ted who were running the property. She also looked after her grand daughter Dorothy (daughter of Helen) who came to Loxley as a young child to live. In 1944 at age 16 Dorothy went to work at the Kurrajong North Post Office.

### Children of Alfred and Emily Lord

- Helen - born 17th September 1897 and died 24th December 1981. Everyone used to remember the day that Helen was born because it was snowing. Helen married Hjalmar Ness in 1921 and is the mother of Thelma Groch, Dorothy Buckett, Joan Stoneman, as well as Edward and John Ness and Joyce Whitby.
- Annie - born 13th September 1900 and died 1st November 1981. In 1921 Annie married Ernest Robinson of Kurrajong. Annie is the mother of Betty Upton, Bill (Lance), Gwenda and (the late) Vic Robinson. In the mid 1950s Annie remarried to Albert Taylor of Baileys Lane, Kurrajong North.
- John - born 8th May 1903. John died at age 4 years in Windsor Hospital.
- Charles - born 5th May 1905 and died 13th January 1970. Charles married Lillian Devine of Baileys Lane in 1933 and had 7 children.
- Alice - born 2nd August 1908 and died 27th July 1980. Alice was known as "Doll", and in 1943 she married David Binnie and they had one child, David, who lives at Kurrajong Heights.
- Mary - born 19th October 1910 and died 3rd May 1977. Mary married Leonard Brocks and lived at Northfield Estate at Kurrajong Heights. They had 2 daughters, one of whom is Diane Knol,

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who still lives on part of the Northfield Estate.

- Henry (Harry) - born 17th May 1913 and died 4th December 1987. Harry married Kathleen Parker in 1940 and they lived for many years in the little cottage in the next driveway up Bellbird Hill known as "Camellia Cottage." They also lived at Loxley for some years.

- Edward (Ted) - born 23rd February 1916 and died 11th October 1976. Ted married Jean Arnold and they lived at Loxley. Jean is now living in Richmond. She is over 90 years old and is still going strong.



### Ghosts of Loxley

There is supposed to be a ghost of an old man in Loxley. He first appeared to Alicia the granddaughter of Marion and George Rogan. Alicia talked of this old man very often when she was a little girl 3 yrs old. Alicia was a Peck but no relation we think to the Kurrajong Heights Pecks.



Top: Loxley circa 1930s surrounded by its orchards. The notorious kauri pine can be seen towering over the property. (Photo courtesy of Thelma Groch).

Above: The rear of Loxley today, showing some of the extensive gardens, and showing how the redevelopment has kept in good harmony with the style of the original building. (Photo by Greg Upton).

Left: The kauri pine still stands tall and elegantly today. One of the three juvenile bunya pines derived from the original large pine cut down by Alfred Lord can be seen in the background. (Photo by Greg Upton).

## GARDENS AT LOXLEY

One of the features of Loxley has always been its rare and established trees. These trees and surrounding shrubs can be seen from the veranda of what is now the Loxley reception area and are also clearly seen when looking at Loxley from Bells Line of Road.

Some trees on the estate can be traced back to links with what's now Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens. Feature plants include the existing kauri pine, now over 150 years old and thought to have come from seed from New Zealand. During the war the Lord family were offered the princely sum of twelve pounds and ten shillings for this tree.

Originally a bunya pine grew beside the kauri, which accounts for the lean on the kauri. The bunya pine was cut down because Emily Lord was afraid the big cones would fall on her children. This is where they often played and where the clothesline was situated. Progeny of that original bunya remains; the group of three pines is actually three limbs from a single trunk.

Other old plants include a large bay tree, three established camellias and a large port wine magnolia (which may be linked to one on Northfield Estate at Kurrajong Heights which is of a similar vintage). Thelma Groch talks of a red and white flowering camellia that she believes is over 100 years old. This camellia was grown from a cutting that was given to Thelma's mother Helen by the Dunstons as a birthday present. Given its age and colouring it is likely to be 'Aspasia Macarthur' an old camellia grown originally at Camden Park, the Macarthur family estate. Several mature trees in the Loxley garden were planted by the Rogans including golden elms and a large English elm. There are also macadamia trees and jacarandas.



## Meredyth Hungerford honoured at Society's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations

Local historian and Bilpin resident, Meredyth Hungerford was honoured by the Society with the presentation of an award to recognise her life time devotion to the study of the history of the Bilpin and Kurrajong region through teaching and publication of historic books including 'Bilpin. The Apple Country' (published in 1995). This is the first time the Society has made such an award.

Meredyth and her daughter Rosalind and son in law Frank Allatt were guests of honour at the Society's Australia Day breakfast at Loxley on Bellbird Hill. During the morning Meredyth was presented with a framed copy of an historic photograph, c. 1920, from the Society's collection. The photograph titled 'Car Rally' is shown on page 7.



*Left:* Thelma Groch with her sisters Dorothy Bucket and Joan Stoneman making the presentation to Meredith Hungerford. Thelma, Dorothy and Joan are part of the Lord family and were long time residents of Loxley where the breakfast was held.

*Below at left:* More photos from the Society's birthday celebrations, showing the orchestra (top), the choir (centre), and Kathie McMahon with apprentice.

*(All photos by Ian O'Toole).*

## Evelyn Hill - Our First University Graduate?

**By Steve Rawling AM**

James Hill was an Irishman from Sligo, and his wife, Elizabeth Pearson, had been born in NSW in 1805, the daughter of parents who had arrived in 1797. The Hill family settled in Kurrajong in 1828.

One of their six children, Rebecca, married a cousin from Ireland, Francis Hill in 1867. Francis and Rebecca settled at Goolongong, and their daughter, Evelyn, was born in 1870, just after the death of Francis in a drowning tragedy. Rebecca returned with her three children to Kurrajong, where she took over the management of the farm and the orange orchard when her father died in 1871 (he is buried in St Stephens churchyard).



Evelyn went to school in Richmond and then in Windsor up to the age of 14, when she passed the examination for junior teachers. The first women had just been admitted to the University of Sydney, and Evelyn was determined to follow in their footsteps, but she needed to pass the matriculation examination, which included Latin. She tried unsuccessfully to get tuition when she took up a pupil teacher position in Bathurst. She returned to Kurrajong, and her mother arranged tuition from the Reverend Henry Plume, the Rector of Kurrajong, former Warden of St Paul's College at the University, and founder of Barker College, at Stokesleigh, Kurrajong Heights.

Evelyn eventually passed matriculation, entered the university, and later became one of the earliest residents of the Women's College. It was her recollection that she and a girl from Queensland were the first two country girls to attend the University – was there any earlier male from Kurrajong there? It is quite likely that Evelyn was the first from this area to enter university.

Her brother had to mortgage the family property, Hillsborough, at Kurrajong, to meet college fees. She graduated in 1895, and her grandmother, born in the colony in 1805, was able to attend the ceremony.

After some teaching experience in Sydney, Evelyn went to Perth to join her brother, taught there for some years, and eventually married. At that time, this meant the end of her working life, but she retained a life-long interest and various activities in education, and was involved in the establishment of the University of Western Australia.

Evelyn Hill died in 1962, in her ninety-second year. Her daughter, Alexandra Darker, was an early woman graduate of the University of Western Australia, and married Paul Hasluck, diplomat and politician, and who later was knighted and served as Australia's Governor General from 1969 to 1974. From Kurrajong to Yarralumla!

### *Acknowledgements*

Information gleaned from two publications by Alexandra Hasluck: 'Portrait in a Mirror – an Autobiography', and 'Evelyn Hill – A Memoir', kindly supplied by her son, the Perth novelist and poet, Nicholas Hasluck AM. The photo of Evelyn Hill was obtained from the latter publication.

## **A Link to Some Early Settlers of Comleroy Road and to Brickmaking in The Slopes Area**

*Our previous Millstone (Jan-Feb 2005) included an article by Les Dollin, 'Four Wheel Drive Expedition to the Ruins of the Old Kurrajong Brickworks located near Little Wheeny Creek', describing the old brick pit and kilns that once operated on part of the Life Adventure Site, formerly Camp Mackay. The article has prompted some reminiscences of several old Kurrajong families, another brick pit and even a murder, as Valerie Holland reveals.*

As a result of this article appearing, Fred Wright from Woonona, who had been given a copy of The Millstone by a friend, contacted me and then mailed information about some of his family's links to Kurrajong.

One of Fred's family linked to the early settlement of Kurrajong descends from his maternal great, great grandfather John Riley. John once owned and farmed land that fronted the eastern side of Comleroy Road, and is now bisected by Slopes Road. The second family descends from his paternal great grandfather Thomas Wright, an orchardist who is said to have managed a property adjacent to Comleroy Road. Fred Wright has a particular interest in obtaining any information that members may have, of his great grandfather Thomas Wright.

Thomas Wright is thought to be the son of James Wright, a convict, who was assigned to John Turnbull, a pioneer of Portland Head. While working on the Turnbull property, James met John's daughter Mary Ann Turnbull, whose first marriage had been to Joseph Hartley and with whom she is thought to have had one child.

### **Murder and a hanging**

James and Mary Ann married and at first lived on the Colo River and produced three children, Jane, Thomas and Mary Ann. James accused Mary Ann of an alliance with a man by the name of Cavanagh. This accusation was followed by an argument, during which James Wright killed his wife with an axe, on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1825. In the days that followed, James apparently wandered around the area and made no effort to escape. He was later tried and found guilty of the murder, on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 1825 and hanged on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1825. Murder at that time invoked a mandatory death sentence. The deaths of Mary Ann and James resulted in their children going to live with their Turnbull relatives. Jane lived with her Uncle Ralph Turnbull whilst Thomas and Mary Ann lived with their Uncle George Turnbull.

Thomas Wright, thought to be the only son

of James and Mary Ann Wright, married Martha Riley, the youngest daughter of John Riley and Catherine (nee Lattimore) at St Peters, Richmond on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1852. Their two sons were Thomas and John who died aged 10 years. Thomas and Martha (nee Riley) are thought to have lived on and to have managed George Turnbull's farm on Comleroy Road. Turnbull sold the farm to Richard Cox during January 1854. In about this period, the marriage of Martha and Thomas failed.

Thomas Wright's sisters Mary Ann, who had married a Joseph Yeates and Jane, who had married a William Douglas, had moved to Wollombi. It is thought that after the breakup of his marriage Thomas left for Wollombi. He may have worked with John Riley junior or with his sisters. Thomas Wright was buried at Wollombi Cemetery on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1868.

Martha lived with John Turner, a sawyer, and had two children with him before she and John married on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1862 at Richmond Court House. John and Martha bought and lived on a farm on the eastern side of Comleroy Road, which had previously been owned by John Lord. Martha later married Thomas Mathews at Dubbo Court House. She is said to have produced 17 children from the three marriages and to have died on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1917 at Tucklan near Gulgong.

### **The brick works link**

Martha's father, John Riley, was the son of Sussanah Riley. He was either born onboard the ship 'Kitty', which is said to have brought the first coins to the Colony, or in Sydney after his mother arrived in the Colony in 1792. Sussanah was a convict who was sentenced to seven years goal and sent to Newgate Prison for stealing 10 muslin handkerchiefs from a shop owned by a Mr Tweedle in London.

John Riley married Catherine Lattimore, a former convict, on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1813 at a ceremony officiated by the Rev. Samuel Marsden. Their children were John, Diane, Susannah, Elizabeth, Edward and Martha.

John senior is said to have worked in the Parramatta District as a Police Constable and pound keeper from 1820 to 1834. After his resignation from the Police Force he became a farmer at Upper Colo. On the 24<sup>th</sup> July 1843 he bought a 60 acre property at Comleroy Road Kurrajong from Frederick and Ann Allsop. The land was known as the "Garden of Common" and is now bisected by Slopes Road. Fred Wright, John Riley's great, great grandson, was told that John Riley senior's house had once stood in the valley on the left hand side of what is now Slopes Road. Fred thought that the house had been on the opposite side of the road to the property now owned by Harry Bottle.

John Riley senior died on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1854 and was buried at St Peter's Cemetery at Richmond. His wife Catherine died on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1868 and is also buried there. John junior sold 30 acres of the 60 acre property to his brother-in-law Albert London for 15 pounds. This was the lower half of the Riley property; the top half fronted Comleroy Road. Henry Bottle, a descendant of Albert London, operated brickyards on this land on the left hand side of Slopes Road near the upper reaches of Howes Creek. Harry Bottle, the grandson of Henry, gave Fred Wright one of the bricks that had been made on the site. They were stamped 'H.B.' and Harry told Fred that many of buildings in the area had been made of H.B. bricks.

### **Further information**

If anyone is able to assist Fred Wright with his research he can be contacted at 4 Corrie Road, Woonona, NSW 2517 or by telephone (02) 4284 7697. Fred has the appropriate Births, Deaths and Marriages Certificates that have helped his research and for anyone interested he has additional family information.

This research relating to both the Comleroy and Slopes Roads will assist members by providing some background details before the Society's planned visit to the Bottle property later in the year.

## THE ROAD TO COMLEROI – OUR FIRST MAJOR EXCURSION

By Frank Holland, Project Leader

Plans have now been finalised for our trip to 'Comleroi' in private cars. Comleroi is a district near Singleton in the Hunter Valley and an area where Benjamin Singleton moved his family after leaving his mill at Little Wheeney Creek. The town of Singleton was named after Ben Singleton and gives Kurrajong a direct link to that area.

The trip departs from Kurrajong on Monday 2 May. Participants can make it a day trip, an overnight trip or a two night/three day trip.

The objectives of the trip are fourfold:

1. To identify and visit some of the more accessible areas along the Putty Road that the early explorers visited, including Parr's Brush, Putty, Bulga, Warkworth and Comleroi;
2. To visit the Singleton Family History Group in their premises;
3. To visit and interact with the Singleton Historical Society and view their museum in Singleton; and
4. To visit and enjoy the beautiful Hunter Valley Gardens.

Naturally we aim to have some fun along the way with morning tea and lunch at Clairvaux Tea Rooms (Putty on day 1) and lunch in the Hunter Valley Gardens on day 2. At this stage historian and author Andy Macqueen is planning on being with us and may provide some commentary at various stopping places. Les Dollin will add some commentary regarding the movement of cattle and variations to original road as well as describing the original grants at Comleroi.

Although a number of people are planning on staying overnight in Singleton on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (some will also stay over on 3<sup>rd</sup> May), others are planning on a day only trip. The schedule for 2<sup>nd</sup> May has been planned to finish at Comleroi at about 4.00pm so that those returning to Kurrajong will be able to travel in daylight.

Overnight four-star motel cost in Singleton is currently \$115 per room but further negotiation may bring this figure down. At Putty, a morning Devonshire tea (fresh baked scones/ tea /coffee) and lunch package has been arranged at a cost of \$22/head. Other expenses will include breakfast, meals and entry to the Hunter Valley Gardens.

If you are interested in joining in and have not previously given your name to Frank Holland then give him a ring on 4573 2226. This will be a most enjoyable and informative outing and our thanks go to Les Dollin and Bryan Wyborn for all their effort in organising this event.

## The Games Kids Played Back Then

*How did kids survive "way back then"? With no television, video, DVD, Playstation 2 life must have been **SO BORING!** Well, maybe not says Joy Shepherd as she selects photos and stories for our next exhibition, "Kids of the Kurrajong."*

I remember, even in my day, life was a bit of an adventure, and we certainly didn't need to be entertained that much. Kids really knew how to play and in this coming display for the Scarecrow Festival, we aim to find out just what they did get up to – that is, when they were not working on the farm, or helping to raise the rest of the kids, the hard way.

We hope to uncover lots of new Kurrajong photos. So dig out those old photos, search through the boxes, and please loan us any special childhood memories you may have of Kurrajong. Give us the stories for us to archive along with them. All of your precious photos will be well cared for, and returned to your own collection as quickly as possible.

We are able to copy photographs and record photographs through our digital archiving program our on-going 'Work for the Dole' Project in conjunction with Hawkesbury Skillshare. This will be our fourth 'Work for the Dole' project. Each Thursday and Friday for the next six months I will be supervising and assisting two new participants. Society archivist Val Birch will assist on Friday. Val and I have learnt

a lot since the project began almost two years ago. We have an amazing collection of 2000 photographs, with their stories, on computer. These have also been stored, as TIF files on two sets of discs, stored in two separate locations. Each set now contains over 100 discs, all marked and labelled.

By supervising the project ourselves last time, we managed to come out with some of the funding left over. The people at Hawkesbury Skillshare have been most generous with their time and equipment, which we have really worked hard these last couple of years. With our current funding we were able to purchase a new, high quality printer, designed especially for photographic images, to be used in their computer room. As well, we have enough left over to purchase a printer, scanner copier for our computer, recently donated by Bob McCallum of Bendigo Bank.

So, if all goes to plan, we should have a great new photographic exhibition ready for the Scarecrow Festival. On top of this, our own computer should be there, at the ready, to access our entire collection at the press of a button. The dream is now coming to fruition.



Circa 1920s. Ted Ness and Ena Pittman (later Webster) put the black billy goat through his paces as they ride on the billy cart at Kurrajong North (later known as Kurrajong Hills). (Photo courtesy Thelma Groch).



A Car Rally, circa 1920s - The photograph presented to Meredith Hungerford (see page 5). Local lads test out their cars on a outing to Bilpin. Standing outside 'Ferndale', Mr and Mrs Grahams' home at Kurrajong Heights on Bells Line of Road are Alfred Lord, Ted Peck and Mill Dunston with their prized cars. (Photo courtesy Thelma Groch).



## Dates for your diary

### \* Monday 21st March 2005 – Meeting and film showing

Join us for our regular bimonthly meeting. Take the opportunity to inspect our library and view an historic newsreel featuring Camp Mackay c. 1955.

**Where:** CWA Hall, Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong.

**Time:** From 7.30pm.

**Cost:** No cost; bring your own mug for supper.

### \* Tuesday 12th April 2005 – Lunch Club Outing

The Lunch Club is an informal group of society members that takes part in interesting day time adventures in and around the district four or five times a year. The April outing will be led by Les Dollin and will involve a trip by private cars down the old Comleroy Road to Wheeny Creek. After viewing some early road construction the tour will proceed along Upper Colo Road to the Colo River Caravan Park for a picnic lunch. The way home will be along Blaxlands Ridge Road with a possible stop at the Iron Bark Ridge track. This was one of the early access routes to the Colo River.

**Where:** Meet at Warrigal Road, corner of Comleroy Road.

**Time:** 10am departure.

**Cost:** No cost; bring your own lunch and refreshments.

**More information:** Frank Holland on (02) 4573 2226.

### \* Monday 2nd May 2005 – Comleroi tour

Our first major expedition will be a car journey to the old Hunter Valley settlement of Comleroi via the Putty Road. Participants can join the tour for a day, two days or three days. For full details of this exciting tour see Frank Holland's story and preliminary itinerary on page 7.

**Where:** Departing Blaxland Ridge Road, Kurrajong (full details with itinerary for those who confirm bookings).

**Time:** 9am departure.

**Cost:** Booking fee \$5 per head. Remainder of expenses on a 'pay as you go' basis (costs include morning tea and lunch at Putty @\$22/head; overnight accommodation @ Singleton \$115 per head plus other meals at own cost).

**More information:** Frank Holland on (02) 4573 2226.

### \* Monday 23rd May 2005 – Meeting and guest speaker

Come along to our regular bimonthly meeting. We will be joined by local historian Bryce Bell, who will discuss the history of agriculture in the Hawkesbury.

**Where:** CWA Hall, Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong.

**Time:** From 7.30pm.

**Cost:** No cost; bring your own mug for supper.

## Coming events

- **Winter dinner:** In the depths of winter we will come together for a talk and meal at a local restaurant. Speaker, venue and cost still to be decided but reserve the night in your diary – 18<sup>th</sup> July.
- **AGM:** 19<sup>th</sup> September.
- **Scarecrow Festival** (including Back to the Kurrajong display 'The Kids of the Kurrajong' and lectures) – 21-23 October.

## Bookings

To book for any of these events, call Joy Shepherd on (02) 4571 1524. All cheques should be made out to the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society and posted to KCHS, PO Box 174, Kurmond, 2757. Include your name, address and phone number along with the event you are booking for and the names of those attending.

## Next newsletter

The next issue of 'The Millstone' will be published on 9<sup>th</sup> May. If you have an item to include in the newsletter please contact Jennifer Stackhouse on 4573 0836. Copy deadline 30<sup>th</sup> April.

## Correction

Last issue, Bob McCallum who presented the society with a computer, was titled "Chairman of the Bendigo Bank" – he is of course Chairman of Hawkesbury Community Financial Services Ltd, which is the community-based organisation that holds the franchise for our local branch of the Bendigo Bank at North Richmond.

## 2004/2005 COMMITTEE

**President:** Jennifer Stackhouse

**Vice President:** Kathie McMahon

**Secretary:** Val Holland

**Treasurer:** Joy Shepherd

**Public Officer and Research**

**Project Officer:** Frank Holland

**Acquisitions:** Val Birch

**Minute Secretary:** Pat O'Toole

**Millstone Editor:** Greg Upton

**Committee Members:** Airdrie

Martin, Marguerite Wyborn

## Time capsule at St Gregory's

This Easter, a time capsule will be interred at St Gregory's Church. One of the items in the capsule will be the previous issue of The Millstone, which featured an article on the church and a report of our visit. Rita Crane, who is organising the time capsule, has requested that the newsletter also carries the signatures of members of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society. She is particularly interested in those who took part in the Centenary celebrations at St Gregory's.

*If you want to put yourself – or at least your signature – in a time capsule come along to our 21<sup>st</sup> March meeting at the CWA Hall, Kurrajong and bring a pen! See Diary dates for details of the meeting.*

## Death of Arthur Poole

Leading Kurrajong Heights identity, historian, orchardist and landscaper, Arthur Charles Poole died in January aged 89. Arthur's life was celebrated in a memorial service held at St David's Uniting Church, Kurrajong Heights on 20 February.

The service was attended by more than a 100 local residents, friends and relatives, with many standing outside the Church. Kathie McMahon, the Society's vice president, was one of the many people who spoke of Arthur's life and work. Kathie presented flowers to Arthur's wife, Aileen, from the Society.

We are lucky enough to have some of Arthur's memories and anecdotes of the district, which will be published in the May-June issue of 'The Millstone'.

## Support for writers of local history

Hawkesbury City Council has a policy of providing support to writers of local history by publishing at cost up to 100 copies of histories written on local themes.

Manuscripts are assessed before publication, and those which follow most closely the following guidelines are those which are most likely to be published.

If you want to know more about this, contact Hawkesbury City Council on (02) 4560 4444 or by email to

[council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au).

A brochure can be downloaded from the Hawkesbury City Council website by visiting [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/community/1018/1053.html](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/community/1018/1053.html)