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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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By Valerie Holland

The old time movies from a bygone era, that were shown after our March Meeting held in the Kurrajong CWA Hall, were well received by an appreciative and enthusiastic audience.

At the conclusion of business we were treated to the viewing of two historic 16mm films. We were fortunate to have Ian O'Toole, who employed his considerable skill and at times good humour, to present these films.

Camp Mackay documentary

The first film, 'Australian Diary', was a newsreel produced in the about the mid 1950s. Included in the footage of assorted items, was a few interesting minutes of Camp Mackay footage. This film was on loan from a person who has a keen interest in preserving the Camp Mackay history. The film showed the camp buildings and shots of the boys arriving by bus.

Tall Timbers

The other film, 'Tall Timbers', which was filmed partly in the Kurrajong district in 1937, was centered on life in the timber industry. Much to the audience's amusement, there unfolded the popular boy meets girl story entwined in the fascinating historic footage. Jennifer Stackhouse obtained the loan of 'Tall Timbers' from Screen Sound Australia, a Canberra based repository for film archives. All members and visitors enjoyed the experience of stepping back in time. A time when one could hear the film sprockets driving the film and experience the occasional break down in proceedings.

Historic connections

Our Society members were delighted to share this occasion with visitors Brian and Shirley Mangold and their son David. The Mangold family has a personal interest in both films. Brian's father, Cecil Mangold,

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"You mean that will work?" Phil Shepherd and Ian O'Toole in a study of concentration [Photo by Pat O'Toole]

News

By Jennifer Stackhouse

Comleroy Road Public School Celebrates 125 Years

Comleroy Road Public School will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on Saturday 30th July, 2005 at the school in McMahon's Road, Kurrajong between 10am and 4pm.

The original school was on the corner of East Kurrajong Road and Comleroy Road, Kurrajong and moved to its new site in McMahon's Road in 1995. Hawkesbury Independent School now occupies the historic school site.

The Comleroy Road school was founded in 1880 in a hall on Comleroy Road. The first teacher, Mr Lees, was appointed in July 1880. It was not until 1885 that school buildings were erected on the corner site. The school continued on this site for 110 years.

Information has been collected from NSW State Archives and from the school's historical collection. Videos and photograph albums have also been gathered and will be displayed at the school to commemorate the 125th anniversary. A market will be held in conjunction with the anniversary display showcasing a variety of local craft and products.

If any society or community member has photographs, information or anecdotes regarding the school Jan Livingstone would very much like to hear from them. You can phone Jan at the school Monday to Friday between 9am and 3pm on (02) 4576 1600.

School of Arts on Hold

The future of the Comleroy Road School of Arts, which will celebrate its 100th year in 2007, is very much up in the air. The committee that manages the building had set in motion moves to sell the building by tender. The proceeds from the sale would then be distributed to a like local body.

According to the hall management committee, the decision to sell the building had been made to preserve it. Urgent funds could not be raised to carry out necessary repairs or to pay for the building's insurance. Some \$125,000 is needed to repair the fabric of the building and to upgrade toilet facilities.

ARTHUR POOLE REMEMBERS

Arthur Poole was a Kurrajong Heights identity. He died earlier this year. We are able to publish Arthur's memories and anecdotes of the area he called home for 89 years thanks to his widow Aileen giving the Society access to his handwritten notes, which have been kindly transcribed by Robyn Fuller.

I, Arthur Charles Poole, was born 29th November 1916 at Kurrajong Heights, educated at Kurrajong North Public School to 6th class, then at Richmond District Rural School to Intermediate standard.

Married Aileen Rigelsford 9th May, 1942. Served in RAAF as a Radio Operation-Air Gunner from 10th October 1942 to 29th December 1944. Operated up and down New South Wales and Victorian coast on shipping surveillance but did not actually serve overseas.

Life long memories

I have lived at Kurrajong Heights all my life. In July 1939 I bought 34 acres, 'Woodside', which was very run down, to the point of being unimproved, except for a small house and two sheds. This property was part of an original grant in 1831 and I became the second owner, it being held by the Sherwood family up to this time.

This property I developed into an orchard of some 20 acres without the aid of bulldozers etc. The orchard consisted of citrus, apples, peaches, plums, passionfruit and peas and beans. My wife and I ran the orchard until 1970 when we sold the property, except for 5 acres, and I took employment at Spencer Scott & Sons nursery next door, for some 10 years. We still lived on our 5 acres at Woodside in a house built in 1976. We have a garden of about 11/2 acres, consisting of rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas and an array of other plants and bulbs.

On the property is the headstone and footstone, in memory of James Sherwood, who died in 1861 at the age of 35 years. I assume that he was the original owner, buried there because there was no cemetery at Kurrajong Heights till at least 1865. The property remained in Sherwood possession until bought by me in July

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Concern over the future of the hall is not new. Last February the KCHS invited all Hawkesbury City councillors and the Hall Committee to a meeting to seek advice over the hall's future. Councillors who attended could see no funding coming forward from Council to even restore the toilets. The upshot of that meeting was a push for a community hall to serve the needs of the area and for that hall to be built in Kurrajong.

Public meeting

With the sale process underway a last ditch attempt was mounted to put the sale on hold while additional funding avenues are

explored. The demand to stop the sale was made by those attending a firey public meeting held on 18th March. Concerned residents and others said they would prefer to see the building remain in public hands and continue to function as a community building.

The heated debate over the building's future, along with that of the management committee, continues. Whatever the outcome, the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society would like to see the building repaired as soon as possible and be preserved in either public or private hands.

What is a School of Arts?

The School of Arts movement promoted community education in the 19th and early 20th century. It had its origins in the London Mechanics Institute, which was launched by George Birkbeck in 1823 to foster the diffusion of scientific knowledge to workers. The movement spread rapidly to all parts of the world with mechanics institutes and schools of arts in Australia from 1827.

The Comleroy Road School of Arts building was erected from public subscription and completed in 1907. It is administered by a management committee under the Trustees of School of Arts Enabling Act 1902.

FILM NIGHT FUN

Continued from page 1

was a renowned axe man in Kurrajong. He was one of the axe men featured felling timber in the film.

His son Brian recalls that his father pioneered the hillside row felling of timber. This was a system that employed a domino effect. All trees to be felled had a wedge taken out of the upside. Once this was completed the trees up the hill were felled and they in turn caused the trees below to fall.

Cecil Mangold married Clemantine Mary Ann Stevens. Clemantine was the sister of Percival Thomas Stevens, the founder and first Camp Superintendent of Camp Mackay.

During the Camp Mackay's founding in 1938, Cecil Mangold was employed to clear and plough the soil on the left hand side of the entry road to the camp. To achieve this, he had the assistance of two draught horses Blacky and Nuggett, as he guided and walked behind the horse drawn plough. At this time Brian Mangold, his son then aged 5, recalls that the Police Boy's visiting the Camp slept in tents.

Brian remembered living at the former Soldier Settlement cottage in Derring Lane in about 1945-1946. His father Cecil was then employed to establish the first vegetable garden, which he reticulated using the skinner system. This irrigation system employed the use of sprinklers that sat on top of vertical pipes and drew water from a pump on Little Wheeney Creek to the Camp's elevated water tank. The family's third generation involvement with Camp Mackay was achieved when Brain's son David attended the Camp as a participant.

At the conclusion of the night's proceedings, Marguerite Wyborn presented a very delicious and most enjoyable supper. Thank you to all members and visitors who helped to make this film night a memorable occasion.

President's note: We are now members of Screen Australia and are able to borrow other films. If members know of other appropriate films that we could screen at a future date, please contact Jennifer on 4573 0836.



TOP: Members in the front stalls and lounge [Photo by Pat O'Toole]

ABOVE: Brian and Shirley Mangold and their son David [Photo by Joy Shepherd]

LEFT and BELOW: Ces Mangold in action (dark singlet) [Photos from an article in The Sun dated 19 April 1937- Reproduction photographed by Pat O'Toole]



ARCHITECT WILLIAM HARDY WILSON'S EARLY VISION FOR KURRAJONG

In this article Steve Rawling gives an account of the vision that architect William Hardy Wilson (1881-1955) had for the Kurrajong district in the first half of the 1900s. Steve's article is based on notes taken from an address to the Society given by eminent historian Professor Ian Jack in May 2001.

Ian Jack was carrying out heritage work in the Blue Mountains, including looking at a house, Blandford, 14 Craighend St Leura, which was designed by Hardy Wilson in 1911 as a 'hill station'. The fashion for hill station retreats in the mountains was long established. In our own part of the mountains, Rev Cameron bought Ivy Lodge and renamed it Lochiel precisely to get away from Richmond to a hill station.

This initial study fired Ian Jack's interest in William Hardy Wilson, which led to his discovery that Kurrajong and Kurrajong Heights were central to Hardy Wilson's life, and that he had a fantastic vision to transform Kurrajong into a new multicultural city.

Hardy Wilson was educated at Newington and then articulated to a firm of architects in Sydney. He studied part-time at Sydney Technical College, and qualified in 1904 aged 23. He then went to Europe and the US for 6 years.

With Neave(?) he designed and built Blandford in 1911. In 1912 he travelled extensively in NSW and Tasmania, and discovered the joys of colonial architecture, which eventually led to the publication of 'Old Colonial Architecture in NSW and Tasmania' in 1924, illustrated by his own very beautiful drawings.

He designed his own house in Wahroonga, inspired by the ruins of Cox's Clarendon. He also designed Eryldene, the home of Prof. EG Waterhouse at Gordon, and

amongst colonial houses he also loved Horsley at Smithfield.

He loved all of these early buildings and their locations, but above all loved Kurrajong, where he wanted to live, except that he could never find a house he could afford.

He moved to Tasmania in the 1930s, after another spell in Europe, and then to Victoria, but his obsession with Kurrajong remained. He had a semi-mystical fascination with it.

He wrote a thinly disguised autobiography called 'Eucalyptus', in which he appeared as Michael le Mesurier (Scottish term for surveyor), published 1941, in only 25 copies. One is in the Mitchell Library in Sydney.

He often used to travel to Kurrajong by train – he was a strong supporter of the Richmond to Kurrajong railway. He said that he found peace at Kurrajong and the Heights for three-quarters of the year.

He stayed at the Kurrajong Heights hotel, and greatly admired a house "at the very top of the hill" which had 52 acres, and a rhododendron garden. He thought that Kurrajong Heights would be an ideal place to grow tea, and wrote about another spot "under the crest of the hill protected from the westerly winds" which would be perfect for the purpose.

He also admired the frangipani grown by

Chinese at Kurrajong Heights, and once met an old Chinese man who ran the frangipani farm – he had retired here as a wealthy man and was exporting frangipani. He admired the area especially for the number of exotic trees which had been grown here.

He saw Kurrajong as "a barrier against the eucalyptus" which was "waiting in its legions to advance and smother mankind or to drive him from this country of which it is master". The area was protecting the coast from the advance of the eucalyptus.

In fact he saw Kurrajong Heights as a symbol of man's struggle with nature. On the other side of the mountains was the kingdom of the eucalypts, which must be resisted. In Ian Jack's view, he epitomised what Keith Hancock said about many early Australians – "they hated trees".

Hardy Wilson especially disliked what he saw as the monotony of grey/monochrome eucalyptus forests, but thought that young trees, which had more colour, were often acceptable.

But he preferred exotics, the orange groves, jacarandas, and the trees of heaven at Kurrajong Heights. He particularly admired a young oak he saw beside Mill Road, near the ruins of the Donnybrook Hotel and Singleton's Mill, and wrote enthusiastically about it. When he went back to see it, it had been cut down! He was interested in the mill and the millstones, and described their previous location (before being moved to the village) under a shelter at the end of Comleroy Road. He also admired tobacco, arrowroot, and plum oil trees.

He wanted to write a book called "The Kurrajong Road", describing the attractions of the transformed landscape, but never did.

But, much as he admired it all as it was, he wanted to change it, and, as he became increasingly visionary and mystical with age, he formulated a plan to do so. He wrote a book called 'Kurrajong' and self-published it in 1954, not long before he died, in only 10 copies (one is in the Mitchell Library).

He believed that the proper translation of the aboriginal word Kurrajong was "sit, look, see" because that is what the aboriginals used to do from the top of the hill at Kurrajong Heights!

He attached large folio drawings to the book, which illustrated his plans for Kurrajong. The only copy of these drawings is in the Australian National Library in Canberra. They, and the book, set out a plan for a new City of Kurrajong, in the State of Kurrajong, which would supplant Sydney.

He would start by re-orienting the approaches to the coastal plain, replacing the "Richmond Gate" (the current bridge at



Hardy Wilson at his desk at "Purulia", Warrawee. Reproduced from *The Home*, 1 September 1921, p 25. Source: National Library of Australia.

North Richmond) with a new entry called "Grose Gate". There would be a high bridge over the Grose River, designed in an elaborate Gothic style, which Hardy Wilson believed was actually of Chinese origin, brought back to Europe by Marco Polo.

The road across this bridge and up to the Heights would be called The Atomic Way, and would lead to, at the summit, the Monument of Atomic Hope, which would be mushroom-shaped (he likened it to a Chinese cloud painting). Remember, this was after Hiroshima! He regarded the atomic mushroom cloud as an object of aesthetic pleasure, and believed in the future of atomic power.

He had grand civic plans for his City of Kurrajong. It would be centred on a Grand Temple of Earth, which would replace all churches. There would be a Central Library (no books, but nonetheless containing all the world's wisdom) and a Civic Centre. There would be Council Chambers to replace Parliament House in Sydney.

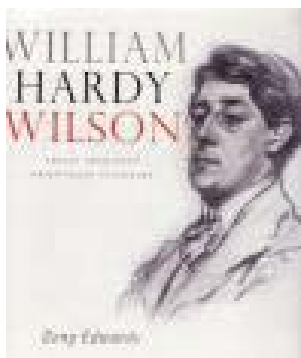
The whole city would be built on terraces down the hills from Kurrajong Heights and would replace all existing buildings and developments. There would be massive plantings of red cedars, surrounded by high stone walls to keep out the rampaging eucalypts!

Grose Valley would be dammed to provide a water supply. It would be so high that there would be no need for pumping – the whole city would be gravity fed.

It was a grand, visionary, (and totally loony) plan. William Hardy Wilson had gone from being the pioneer of architectural conservation to someone for whom environmental issues were of no concern – from a conservationist to a destroyer!

FOOTNOTE

For anybody interested in reading further about William Hardy Wilson, author and historian Zeny Edwards has written a comprehensive biography about him. Edwards was the former curator of Eryldene. Published by Watermark Press.



Arthur Poole Remembers

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1939. The grave is still there in good condition and often visited by Sherwood family members who have family tree interest.

Pre-war

Kurrajong Heights pre World War 11 was a quiet village, the hill practically concerned with fruit growing and quiet house running. The 1930s being 'hard times', the guest houses were a source of extra revenue. They consisted of Belmore Lodge, Mountain View, Kareela, Allambie, Stokesleigh and Uplands with the hotel being built about 1930. The road was dirt (scarcely gravel) until the 1930s when it was sealed by Colo Shire Council. Electric power was connected about the same time by Hawkesbury Development Company, later taken over by Prospect County Council.

Kurrajong Heights possessed a cricket team for a number of years, doing quite well in the district competition. In fact for some four years pre World War II there were two teams, B grade and C grade. B grade won the competition on one occasion. C grade were promoted to A reserve for a season when Kurrajong Heights joined Kurrajong to form an A reserve team, because the wicket keeper, also a good batsman, remained with the C graders. We played one match that for us was noteworthy, our score was, 1 wicket down for 20 (odd), 2 wickets down for 420, all out for 460. Pardon my mentioning that Ron Douglas made 225, I made 205, what a time we had. The outbreak of World War II changed things dramatically over years, to make the village what it is today.

Kurrajong Heights buildings and points of interest

* **Lochiel House:** The first farm residence in Kurrajong Heights. Established in 1825 by Joseph Douglass, known as Ivy Lodge and Douglass Farm and used as a guesthouse and post office.

* **General Store and Post Office:** Unique prefabricated construction from England. In my memory owned by the Walker family and always known by me as the 'Post Office', and developed as a grocery store, banking agency, petrol station, until recently when it was closed, a great loss to the community. Recently it has been partly re-opened as a take away food store.

* **St. David's Presbyterian Church:** A stone building, constructed of local stone

quarried in the creek close by, built by Charles Pittman, who remained a supporter of the church, and is commemorated in a plot in the cemetery nearby. There is no foundation stone, as such, and a fellow of the NSW Historical Society, Mr McLeod Morgan, made it a project to trace the existence of such a stone, but had to admit defeat the nearest he could get, was the church was vested in the Presbyterian Church in 1865, so the local congregation accepts this as basic. The church is built on land donated by the Douglass family who were members of the congregation for many years. We are pleased to state that a great grandson of Charles Pittman is an active member of the present-day congregation. Until recently the church has always been ministered to by the minister at Richmond, but is now independent, and known as The Uniting Church.

* **St. James Church of England:** For many years run in conjunction with St. Stephens at Kurrajong. At one stage the minister was Rev. Leonard Daniels, the 'Flying Parson', who at one time was based at Wilcannia. He was a World War I pilot, who came to Australia and saw a great need in the outback of Australia. He was directed to England to raise money to buy an aeroplane to fill the need seen by him, which was done, and so he became the 'Flying Parson'. I heard his wife say: "He flew a plane beautifully, but I could not say the same about his car driving!" Indeed locals say that he had his own 'guardian angel' who looked after him behind the wheel.

* **Fernbrook Gallery and Garden:** This 12 acre woodland garden and charming gallery is situated on part of the Uplands property. The hotel ran its own dairy and the house and gallery are situated on the site of the dairy.

* **Nurseries:** Wholesale camellia nursery with a history of skilled nurserymen including Professor Waterhouse and Spencer Scott & Sons. Next door is the retail nursery established over 25 years ago, providing a range of beautiful cool climate plants.

* **Bellbird Hill:** Always possessed a colony of bellbirds. The road and corners have been widened several times. Pre World War II The RACA occasionally conducted a car hill climb starting at Stone Terrace and ending at the top of Warks Hill. This was quite an event with fast times being made After dinner at the hotel, the cars proceeded to Mt Victoria where another climb was organised at Victoria Pass, Mt Victoria then returned to Sydney.

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COMLERoy ROAD - THE ROUTE NORTH

By Les Dollin

Twenty-six members (pictured) of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Lunch Club explored part of the original route of Comleroy Road on Tuesday, 12th April.

Comleroy Road was the first road north, linking Kurrajong to the Hunter Valley. In its earliest stage in the 1820s, Comleroy Road was just a rough bridle track, so steep in parts that riders had to dismount and lead their horses. Wheeny Creek, lined by huge vertical cliffs, was a major obstacle and many crossing sites were trialled. Wheeny Creek Reserve crossing, which is still in use today, is one of the later sites chosen.

The group, led by Society member Les Dollin, started their journey exploring an early route at the end of Warrigal Road. This road retains some original marks from when it was constructed. It was abandoned after considerable work and expenditure had been made probably because of its vulnerability to flooding in the stretch which followed the creek.

The next stage of the journey was to

continue along Comleroy Road to the crossing at Wheeny Creek Reserve, which became the main road north. This area was once a reserve where travelling stock were rested en route to the grasslands of the Hunter Valley. Stock travelled only 8 miles a day to avoid losing condition.

After crossing Wheeny Creek via the ford, much as the early travelers had done, the road winds up and over the ridge. This track that creeps around the cliffs into the next valley is very steep and arduous, creating a real challenge to the road builders. Following this road, the group moved on to the lovely little settlement of Upper Colo, hidden in the bottom of the valley and bordered by the Colo River.

Time was spent exploring the historic graveyard beside the 1906 church. The church will celebrate its centenary next year.

At this point the original Comleroy Road continued in a straight line to a ford across the Colo River to another travelling stock reserve on the other side. In the 19th century a police guard oversaw the movement of settlers and stock who required a permit to travel the road. Today this reserve is a

camping and recreation area and the road crosses the river via a bridge built in 1937.

The local ranger, Kevin Cox, entertained the group with some historic facts embellished with colorful stories about life in the 1800s at and about the crossing point. All enjoyed a picnic lunch in the shade of the big gum trees, just as many a settler and drover had done in years gone by.

After lunch the group left the Comleroy Road and travelled down Upper Colo Road to the Putty Road, stopping to view the area around Boggy Wheeny, which is mentioned in many early written records (the earliest dating to around 1794 when Captain Arthur Phillip journeyed along the river by boat searching for good farming land). This point is where Wheeny Creek flows into the Colo River, not far from the Putty Road.

This fun day finished with afternoon tea at the caravan park beside today's Putty Road, which was built to provide access between Sydney and Singleton during the war.



On the Colo: Back row- Philip Jackson, and Richard Peak; 2nd row- John Cooper, Arthur Cooper, Joan Peak, Jan Livingstone, Robyn Fuller, Brenda Smith, President Jennifer Stackhouse and Frank Holland; Front row - Peter Martin, Airdrie Martin, Carolynne Cooper, Valerie Birch, Wendy Crasswell, Irene Dowse, Pat O'Toole, Vice President Kathie McMahon, Garth Smith. Kneeling- Les Dollin

Arthur Poole Remembers

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Tennis Courts: Original clay court established. These were replaced by two artificial grass courts available for regular recreational use. The Powell Family supplied the land for Powell Park. Colo Shire Council built clay court, which was later changed into two artificial grass courts.

Louisa Atkinson Memorial: Stone memorial for the first Australian-born female novelist and highly respected botanist 1834 -1874. Louisa resided at Fernhurst and recorded the natural diversity of flora and fauna in the area.

Kurrajong Heights Rural Fire Brigade: Has been in existence for a long time - really pre war and has developed from fighting fire with fires, to the highly mechanised and efficient service we see today. The original fire shed was located in Tomah Street, since moved to Powell Park.

Bellbird Reserve/Lookout: Owned and managed by the Hawkesbury City Council with panoramic views of the surrounding Hawkesbury and city of Sydney. A regular stop on the tourist trail. The bushland covers approximately 100 acres with plans for new walking trails and signs.

Allambie: Two houses joined to form a guesthouse in the 1930s by E. Peck & Sons. Presently owned by RTA.

Kurrajong Heights Hotel: Grand three storey building with timber and sandstone construction. The main building was destroyed by fire in 1974. Currently a single storey building open daily with bistro and bar.

Kurrajong Heights Bowling and Recreational Club: Started by a group of sports-minded residents in 1965 with further extensions in 1974.

Saw Mill: Opened by Buckett Bros & Ness on a site some one kilometre Richmond side of the present site. Successfully run until recently, when the Forestry Department closed the supply of timber.

Turpentine Tree: Garden and cottage with exquisite dried flowers from all over Australia.

Cut Rock: An interesting geological site showing the western edge of the Kurrajong Fault. This is the first major dislocation to be identified in the Sydney Blue Mountains area surveyed by Edgeworth David in 1902. It has always been a rather unstable bank of the road with small landslides common.

Cherry Tree Park/Scott's Trig: Spectacular view with over 100 years of use as a popular picnic and recreation area. In my memory always owned by the Hobbs

family, as a farm then changed to a picnic ground known as Panorama Point, then supported or approved by NRMA. The NRMA picnic ground then became Cherry Park with the planting of numerous flowering cherry trees which are still there. It hasn't been a picnic ground for some years now being held as private property without approval to develop.

Belmore Lodge: Built in 1866 and originally owned by the Doherty family. A long history of providing high quality accommodation and a health retreat. It is now a private residence.

Opal Museum: Built in 1870-80 known as Aylesbury Cottage. First commercial outlet with a general store and petrol bowser. The Telling family operated the store with a delivery run to Mt Tomah with groceries and stock feed weekly. It is now operated as an Opal Museum.

The Old Road: Runs virtually straight down the mountain from Bells Line of Road to Stone Terrace. The original road up the mountain used by bullock teams replaced with the present route, always known as the New Road.

Crossing the ridge

I, Arthur Poole of Kurrajong Heights will do my best to describe the three routes of road used to cross the ridge when proceeding to Mt Tomah and beyond.

Convict Road: Starting at Kurrajong Heights Village proceeded up Warks Hill Road to top of ridge, came to Burrellow Road on the left, proceeded along the ridge to the end of the road where it crossed the ridge towards Bilpin and Mt Tomah. This descent is what I know as the Convict Road. The corners are wide with the edge on the 'gully side' formed by a stone wall up to some eight or nine feet high, the width of the road necessary to allow bullock teams to use it. This road joined what is now Bells Line of Road at the foot of Cut Rock where it

proceeded to Mt Tomah and beyond.

Old Cut Rock Road: From the village proceed up Warks Hill Road to just a short distance beyond the junction with Burrellow Road - the Tierney property. Mr Tierney's neighbour's house is built on, or very close to the old Cut Rock Road, which from here wound its way on a better grade to the foot of Cut Rock, where it joined the Convict Road.

The Present Bells Line of Road: Was upgraded at the end of World War II, old Cut Rock Road was made trafficable to bypass the work done on Cut Rock.

New Face on Committee

Robyn Fuller has taken on the task of publicity officer for the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society. The role had been previously undertaken by vice-president Kathie McMahon.

2004/2005 COMMITTEE

President: Jennifer Stackhouse

Vice President: Kathie McMahon

Secretary: Valerie Holland

Treasurer: Joy Shepherd

Publicity Officer: Robyn Fuller

Research Project Officer: Frank Holland

Acquisitions: Val Birch

Minute Secretary: Pat O'Toole

Millstone Editor: Greg Upton

Committee Members: Airdrie

Martin, Marguerite Wyborn



Raindrops keep falling on our heads... Members enjoying a spot of rain during the Society's historic tour of Kurrajong Heights in February. [Photo by Pat O'Toole].



Dates For your diary

* 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.

Where: Departing Scout Hall, Mill Road, Kurrajong (full details with itinerary for those who confirm bookings)

Time: 8am 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 twin share 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: Comleroy Road Public School Hall, McMahons Road, Kurrajong

Time: From 7.30pm

Cost: No cost; bring your own mug for supper

* Monday 14th June 2005 – Lunch Club

Join Mary Avern and Kathie McMahon on a tour of some of the more unusual parts of historic Richmond.

Where: Meet outside Bowman Cottage, 370 Windsor St, Richmond

Time: 10am-2pm

Cost: Morning tea and lunch at own cost – venues to be decided

More information: Kathie McMahon on (02) 4567 7105

* Monday 18th July 2005 – Dinner meeting and guest speaker

Come along to our regular bimonthly meeting and enjoy a delicious meal at a local Kurrajong restaurant. We will be joined by guest speaker Max Doyle who will talk about meter reading in Kurrajong.

Where: Torque Restaurant (to be confirmed)

Time: From 7.00pm

Cost: \$30 (approximately)

* Monday 9th August 2005 – Lunch

club expedition to State Records, Kingswood

Learn how to find out more about our history when we join archivists at the State Records at Kingswood for a tour and introduction to this valuable historical repository. There will also be time available to search the records.

Where: Meet in Kurrajong Village to car pool at 9.15am or at State Records, 143 O'Connell Street, Kingswood (there is ample parking)

Time: From 9.15am

Cost: \$10 (for morning tea) bring your own lunch

More information: Jennifer Stackhouse on (02) 4573 0836 or Val Birch on (02) 4573 2346 (Val is away in May)

Coming events

- **AGM:** 19th September.
- **Scarecrow Festival** 21-23 October including our annual Back to the Kurrajong evening

to launch the pictorial exhibition 'The Kids of the Kurrajong' and enjoy supper and talks on growing up in Kurrajong on Friday evening.

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 11th July. If you have an item to include in the newsletter please contact Jennifer Stackhouse on 4573 0836. Copy deadline 30th June.

KURRAJONG-COMLEROI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. CALENDAR 2005/06

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE	COMMENTS
May 16th 2005	General meeting	Comleroy Road Public School	7.30 pm (Jennifer) Speaker Bryce Bell
June 14th 2005	Lunch Club		10.00 am (Cathie) Recollections of old Richmond - Mary Avern
June 20th 2005	Committee meeting	Joy Shepherd	7.00 pm
July 18th 2005	General meeting	Torque Restaraunt	7.30 pm - Dinner meeting Speaker Max Doyle
August 9th 2005	Lunch Club	State Records Office	10.00 am (Val Birch) TBA
August 15th 2005	Committee meeting	Blaxlands Ridge Hall	7.00 pm
September 19th 2005	Annual general meeting	Comleroy Road Public School (?)	7.30 pm (Valerie Holland)
October 17th 2005	Committee meeting	Valerie Holland	7.00 pm
October 21st-23rd 2005	Scarecrow Festival	CWA Hall	Details (Joy) TBA
November 21st 2005	General meeting	Grose Vale Community Hall (?)	7.30 pm (Jennifer) Speaker Don Eddy
Dec (?)	Committee meeting	Valerie Holland	TBA
December 17th 2005	Xmas party	Windsor Paddle Steamer (?)	6.00pm - 9.00 pm
January 26th 2006	Australia Day Breakfast	Wynella Gardens	(TBA - Cathie)
February 14th 2006	Lunch Club	The Grain Road tour	9.00 am (Les) Meet Valley View
February 20th 2006	Committee meeting	Valerie Holland	7.00 pm
March 20th 2006	General meeting	TBA	7.30 pm TBA Film night??
April 11th 2006	Lunch Club	Bells Line of Road tour	9.00 am (Les) Meet Valley View; Possible o/night Mt Victoria
April 17th 2006	Committee meeting	TBA	7.00 pm TBA
May 15th 2006	General meeting	TBA	7.30 pm TBA