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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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Earlier days at Kurrajong Heights

TOP: Warks Hill Road, Kurrajong Heights. At right in the middle distance can be seen the Kurrajong Heights Post Office, Lochiel (earlier known as Ivy Lodge) and the Telling General Store. - [Collection of Anonymous]

ABOVE: Belmore Lodge - A picture post card - [Collection of Thelma Groch]. Both photos held in the Society's digital archives.

News

By Jennifer Stackhouse

Millstone makeover?

At the August meeting of the Kurrajong Forum, Sean Perry from Hawkesbury Council, tabled documents relating to a structure to cover the millstones at Memorial Park. This redevelopment is part of an on-going upgrade that has occurred in Memorial Park.

The proposed roofed structure incorporates seating and involves the relocation of the vertical millstone to a position adjacent to the stone that's laid flat. No conservation or repair of the stones is included in the scheme.

The committee is seeking independent conservation advice as we are concerned about the on going preservation and protection of these important historic icons which make up the Society's logo and contribute to the name of this newsletter. The millstones, known as 'greys' are thought to date to 1811 and were used in Singleton's mill on Wheeney Creek.

A report and design for the new structure for Memorial Park will be displayed at the AGM for comment from members. No further changes will be made to the millstones without input from the Society.



The millstones at Memorial Park, August 2005 [Photo by Greg Upton]

New street trees for Kurrajong

The removal of the 40-year-old liquidambar trees from Kurrajong Village has left a bad taste in the village. While replacement trees have been promised, the final decision over which species to replant has delayed replanting.

Options have included liquidambar (selecting a smaller variety), pears or an ash. While an ornamental pear was the favoured tree, concerns about longevity and branch damage, has led to the selection of an ash tree by the Kurrajong Forum. The claret ash, *Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywod' is a deciduous tree, which provides summer shade and autumn colour. Claret ash are drought hardy once established, fast growing and should provide a long-lived replacement for the sadly departed liquidambar. The Raywood variety of claret ash originated in South Australia in 1910 and grows to a height of around 12m.

At the time of printing Council will have commenced planting these trees in Kurrajong village.



Claret ash: The new street tree for Kurrajong village [Picture courtesy Fleming's Nurseries]

Comleroy Road History on the Web

A new website on the history of the Comleroy Road area was launched at the 125th Anniversary of Comleroy Road Public School in July. Compiled by Les and Anne Dollin, this website describes the early Comleroy Road settlement in the Hawkesbury, cattle droving along Comleroy Road, and the historical connection with Comleroy in the Hunter Valley.

Website: www.comleroyroad.com

Sesquicentenary railway celebrations

On 22 September rail enthusiasts in New South Wales will celebrate the sesquicentenary of rails in NSW. This major date in railway history, which marks 150 years of rail transport in NSW, will be celebrated with a large event at Central Railway on the weekend of 24-25 September (for full details see www.railcorp.info/150years). In our part of the world, the sesquicentenary will be celebrated on 15-16 October with a weekend of activities at Coopers Hill in Kurrajong.

Rail enthusiasts John and Carolynne Cooper are planning to have safe working equipment on display including some equipment recreating special works on the Richmond line. As well there will be several model railway exhibits showing different track layouts and some miniature railway displays as well. The Tourist Railway Association of Kurrajong (TRAK) will be taking part and there will also be a display of miniature buses and other artefacts and photographs of our rail past.

Details

Where: Coopers Hill, 13 Turpentine Grove, Kurrajong. Phone: (02) 4576 0356.

When: 15-16 October from 9am-4pm.

Cost: \$5 (adults). Children under 12 accompanied by an adult are free.

Scarecrow festival update

The annual Kurrajong Scarecrow Festival will be held on the weekend of 22-23 October. Activities are focussed on Memorial Park with stalls, scarecrows and entertainment. The society's exhibition to coincide with the festival, Kids of the Kurrajong, will open with a special members preview and supper on Friday 21 October and will continue over the weekend. The photographic exhibition will be held at the CWA Hall.

Details

If you have memories of growing up in Kurrajong Village or would like to assist with the exhibition please call Joy Shepherd on (02) 4571 1524.

PUTTY MEMORIES

The Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society's trip to Singleton in May brought back memories for member Margaret Rozzoli. Here she recounts some stories her father, Ray Sullivan, recounted of trips to Putty with his father Jim Sullivan in the 1920-30s.

Jim Sullivan met Daniel Stephen Ellis (Steve) at a Sydney livestock show in the late 1920s. Steve had recently acquired a property 'Fairview' at Putty having come from Gloucester. He inquired about the possibility of organising some 'dry' cows for agistment. This was duly arranged with the Bowd and Greentree families. With the help of Horace Bowd fitted out in mackintoshes for inclement weather and with packed saddlebags they drove the cattle the 50 odd miles to Putty in four days for three shillings (30 cents) per head. The route would have been via Comleroy to Colo Heights and along the general route of today's Singleton Road.

The road to Putty in the early 1930s was more often than not an indistinct track through the timber and bush grass. The first time that Jim Sullivan took the horse and dray along Putty Road the route from Wilberforce was via Sackville ferry to the

Lower Portland punt. He was winched across the river by Mr Sheen. Travelling with Jim were his two boys Ernest and Raymond with George Graham and his son Tim. After travelling what seemed like a long time in the dark the party thought it was near morning because of a lightening of the sky. On inquiring the time on arrival at the punt Mr Sheen consulted his pocket watch and announced the time was 11 pm. The lightening of the sky was the moon coming up! The object of this journey was to reach Haughey's Hut several miles north of Grassy Hill at Mellong to raid native beehives. The descent of Grassy Hill was the big problem. The youngsters were expected to pack the deep gutters with rocks and to steady the dray by hanging onto the spokes while father led the horse by the head. Meal time at Haughey's hut consisted of Sao biscuits in the traditional tin and cheese cut from cut from the block served with billy tea.

On other occasions Jim would guide the horse and dray combination across Wheeny Creek on Comleroy Road by a little bridge. Here they would take fresh water. The Colo River would be loded at the approximate location of today's Upper Colo Bridge and the long haul up to Colo Heights begun. After camping sometimes at Mr Phipps', New Yards, Colo Heights and sometimes at Mellong the object would be to reach the forty-four peg to camp before tackling the

final distance to Putty. As late as the mid 1960s my father, Ray Sullivan, with my brothers frequently went to Putty to shoot rabbits and foxes. On several occasions my husband Ron was included.

Camp was made in the old house of 'Ma' Harris, north of the Putty Hall on the western side of the road. May Elizabeth Harris' daughter Susie had married Steve (Daniel Stephen Ellis) of 'Fairview' which was the Post Office. The remains of the old home consisted of a central room with traditional bush pole and corrugated iron chimney at one end. A verandah protected the main entry. To the rear were derelict lean-to structures. The remains of the old dairy were on a rise above the house. A much later structure had been constructed alongside but not physically attached consisting of three separate rooms opening onto a verandah. It was here that the Putty School teacher lived.

Editor's note: If you have memories or stories of early trips from the Kurrajong region jot them down and send them to us. You can email them directly to our secretary Valerie Holland at frank.holland@bigpond.com or post them to her at PO Box 174, Kurmond, 2757. We'd love to hear from you.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Society members visit State Records NSW

The mystery was taken out of research at State Records NSW for the 17 members who went on our trip to Kingswood on 9th August 2005 as Val Birch reports.

State Records NSW holds records relating to state government departments. It is located at Kingswood and is a series of huge interconnected buildings on Sydney's urban fringe. Held are records from the earliest years of the Colony through to the present day. Indeed much of the activity is in locating and sending current files to various government departments. Records are kept in order by a barcode system.

Records that would be of interest of local history researchers include Surveyor

General's records, maps, field books, register of land grants and leases, Colonial Secretary's records and school records. Some records are held but not available to researchers including those from mental health institutions, which are closed for 110 years.

Archivist Suzanne Upton met our group and explained how a researcher should prepare for a visit. She also outlined the types of records held and how to apply for a reader's ticket. We were also introduced to the Reader's Room, card indexes and microfiche. As many of the records are listed on the web, Suzanne recommended using the Internet before you leave home to provide you with a list of records to view in the Reading Room. This speeds up the research process. Suzanne also showed the group examples of the type of information that could be obtained, in particular from school records.

Suzanne's informative talk was followed by a tour around the facility where all records

are stored at correct temperature and humidity. There are hundreds of kilometres of shelf space that hold the various documents, maps and books. The latest extension to the site, known as Block 6, is currently being commissioned.

After a picnic lunch, members headed for the Reading Room to undertake some research on various aspects on Kurrajong history including information on the old Grain Road (now Kurmond Road), which will be the subject of a future expedition for Society members.

More information:

State Records, 143 O'Connell Street, Kingswood.

Website: www.records.nsw.gov.au

A PICTURE PAINTS A THOUSAND WORDS

The photograph shown on the opposite page is of a function in early Richmond, and Ron Rozzoli's fascinating analysis helps throw some light on the details.

The photograph shown on the opposite page came into the possession of the Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society in late 2003. Joy Shepherd approached Ron Rozzoli for assistance with identification of venue and to try to ascertain the nature of the function. Here he reveals the clues he followed, and where his quest for answers led.

Clue number 1: The venue

There is no doubt that the setting for this striking assemblage of Hawkesbury people is the main auditorium of Richmond School of Arts. The photograph appears to be taken from the stage. The characteristics supporting this view are as follows:

- (1) The proportions of the room are as today.
- (2) The window detail, set as they are in recesses, remain to this day.
- (3) The ornamental brackets supporting the lower chords of the main roof trusses can be seen to-day, however a modern acoustic ceiling was constructed in 1968 on a level with the lower edge of the truss chords. All this massive timber work can be seen above today's ceiling.
- (4) Diagonal battens attached to the lower portion of the rear walls as seen in the photograph remained until 1968. These battens were used to assist hirers to erect their stalls for flower shows, fetes and bazaars.

Clue number 2: The costumes and uniforms

The staff of the Power House Museum were consulted regarding the fashion of the women present (including it appears many young women). It was the view of the Power House Museum that the period was 1903-1908.

A definitive opinion from military historians has not materialised over the uniforms however the military was represented in Richmond by the 3rd Regiment Volunteer

Infantry whose headquarters from 9th April 1900 was 'Toxana' in Windsor Street Richmond and the NSW Lancer Squadron based in West Market Street less than 100 metres south of the School of Arts, where they had a drill hall and parade ground.

Clue number 3: Lighting

It was quickly realised that the lighting was a very important part of this investigation. It was confirmed by the Power House Museum that the chandeliers were gas powered. The previous lighting was kerosene of very poor performance.

School of Arts minutes of 5th September 1905 read "estimates were then considered for lighting the building and Mr Biddle moved and Mr Grant seconded that the offer of the Acetylene Gas Company of Australasia providing for a complete plant including generator, gasometer, piping, fixtures, globes etc and fixing same into full working order for the sum of £65 5/- (\$135) be accepted- carried unanimously. A subcommittee consisting of Messrs G Woodhill, McCoy and Allison to superintend with full powers to act for this committee, arrange for shed to be built to house the plant etc and any extras which might crop up during progress of the work." Minutes of 7th November 1905 - Secretary reported "that £70 13/- 6d (\$141.35) was the full account for the installation of the acetylene gas...".

This lighting was replaced by electricity in 1915. The brick shed that housed the plant was demolished as recently as 1999. It had for many years been used as an outside lavatory.

School of Arts minutes do not reveal anything of the nature of the function however the 'Windsor and Richmond Gazette' does report on military balls and socials from about 1869.

We also have a link between the School of Arts and the 3rd Regiment. William Hillier Holborrow CMG, VD, MLA. MLC was Mayor of Richmond in 1874 when the council met in the School of Arts. Col. Holborrow went onto the reserves list in 1899 and it states in the 'Windsor and Richmond Gazette' of 31 March, 1900 that he "was very pleased that the 3rd Regiment HQ is now established at 'Toxana' house.

Functions referred to in School of Arts archives include Grand Annual Concert

Friday 11th May 1906; Grand Floral and Art Bazaar 1906; Free Popular Lectures by Rev. Jas Kingdom "The laughing animal and how he got his smile" with musical illustrations and interludes; Bank of NSW Musical and Dramatic Society; Nicholls and Lestogg's Three Act Farce 'Jane' front seats 2/- (20 cents) back ditto 1/- (10 cents) 21st September 1907.

Conclusion

This photograph gives an image of a very important social function with military overtones (note the two uniformed men holding ropes going into the ceiling) held in Richmond School of Arts between 1905 and 1908. Of those present one could well be William Rillier Holborrow, distinguished citizen and military man, and President of the School of Arts from 1880 to 1888.

Other people and agencies may be able to add to this very incomplete investigation.

Earliest school dates update

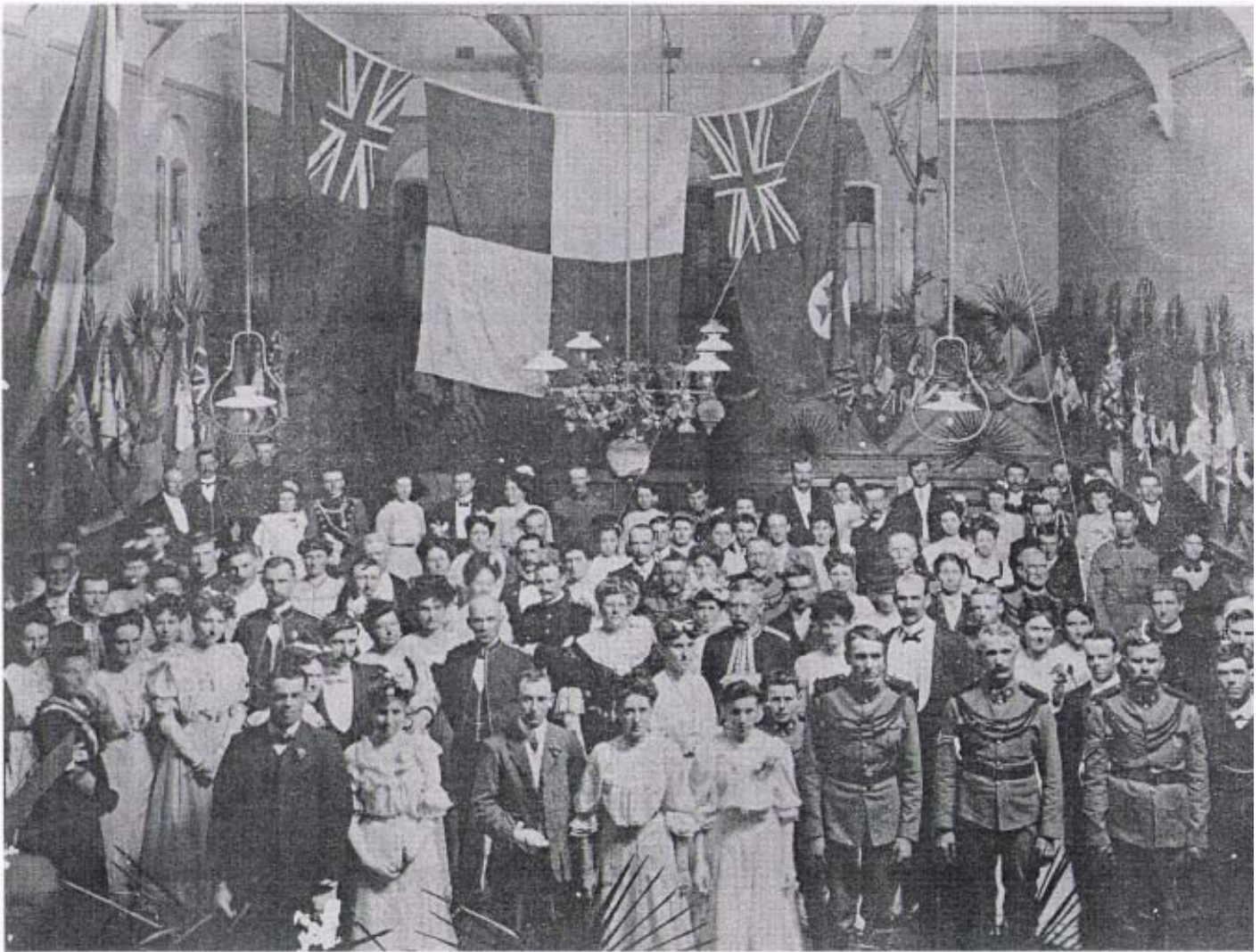
In the July August issue of The Millstone we included some details about local schools. After reading the article, local historian and society member, Rita Crane has passed on the following information about the beginnings of schooling in The Kurrajong.

Most published records say "The first official school in the district was on the site of St Gregory's Catholic Church in Kurrajong. The school building was erected in 1834."

It would seem that the actual date should read 1840. Records unearthed by Rita Crane point to this later date.

The Australasian Chronicle, October 1, 1839 reports on "...a meeting of the Catholic inhabitants of North Richmond and Currajong, held at the house of Mr James Walsh on September 15, 1839 for the purpose of adopting the most effective arrangements towards the erection of a Church and School-house". Following it stated "that in this district there is no School-house - except a private residence...".

It is also interesting to note that at this meeting thanks were given to Richard Fitzgerald Esq. of Windsor "for his gift of



one acre of land for the contemplated Church and School-house. Also to our other Protestant neighbours who have kindly subscribed their names and promised every co-operation in the work.”

The second piece of supporting evidence comes from the State Records Office at Kingswood ‘Returns of the Colony File – Education’ for the Kurrajong Denominational School lists records starting from 1840. It seems to confirm that indeed the schoolhouse was built after October 1839 and was operational in 1840.

Holiday Flat

Comfortable flat to let at Nelson Bay. Close to 2 beaches. Reasonable rent. 4576 1371.

LITTLE BOY LOST

Our July Millstone contained an article including information about the schools of our area. The mention of Mr Clancy, a former Principal of Kurmond Public School, prompted Les Dollin to recall one of his early childhood adventures and the important role Mr Clancy played in its happy ending. Les Dollin of Dollins Road, Kurrajong, at 2 1/2 years old, wandered off into the bushland behind his parents’ farm setting off a major community search.

The ‘Windsor and Richmond Gazette’ of 7th February, 1951 reported the search for Les by 100 residents and by police from Parramatta with dogs. The searchers combed a wide area of rugged bushland near Little Wheeney Creek at the end of McMahons Road for many hours in heavy rain. The creek was roaring. As the afternoon progressed Rowley McMahon

went to pick up kerosene lanterns sent up especially for the search on the Pansy steam train.

One of the searchers was Ken Bennett of Kurrajong, then about nine years old. Toby Robertson, the butcher, drove Ken to the search. Ken said that Reg Hurst (who had the general store at Kurrajong) was one of the search organisers and that Les’s mother, Gloria, was kept busy making tea and sandwiches for all the searchers. Ken remembers seeing Les’s father Jack, in a big cape, drenched to the skin. He says the thick undergrowth had torn all the men’s clothes.

Another searcher was Vince McMahon of Kurrajong. Vince said: “The whole kit and caboodle was out looking for the little tyke.” Other local searchers were Norm Minturn, Jimmy Vincent, Roger Mackenzie and Jack and Jim John.

Finally just on dark, Les’s slipper was

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President's Report

It has been a busy and productive year for the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society. Our photographic collection has continued to grow as have membership and publications. We have had a busy program of events including our first overnight trip, which saw members of the society travel the historic Comleroy Road to Singleton.

The photographic collection

Joy Shepherd has continued to oversee and develop the society's extensive collection of photographic images relating to local history. The acquisition of new or upgraded equipment, our continued involvement in the digitising project through the Work for the Dole scheme and our involvement in local events have seen our collection grow in size and also become more accessible to the community.

Several members have been assisting Joy Shepherd including Val Birch (acquisitions officer), Valerie Holland and Marguerite Wyborn. We are also grateful for and acknowledge the on going support of staff and participants at Hawkesbury Skillshare in Richmond.

The events

While the photographic collection remains an important focus for the Society, there have been many social and educational events as we continue to experience and learn about our local area.

Once again there have been a series of walks, talks, dinners and our annual Australia Day birthday breakfast 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 again this year, performing. I would also like to thank local businesses that have supported the Society by providing a venue for our events, and also by providing goods that we have raffled for extra fundraising. I would like to thank, in no particular order, Paul Maher and staff at Loxley on Bellbird Hill, Michelle and staff at Valley View Café, John and Trish Maguire at Enniskillen Orchard, the staff of the Kurmond Wine Bar and Grill, members of the CWA at Kurrajong and Jan Livingstone and Mrs Palmer from Comleroy Road Public School. It is also important to acknowledge the hard work of committee members Airdrie Martin, who has wangled most of our raffle prizes, and Marguerite

Wyborn who has rustled up some delicious suppers to round up talks and meetings.

Particularly successful this year were our series of day time activities held under the banner of the 'Lunch Club'. Members and others were able to explore the local area via a series of daytime walks and tours which culminated in a picnic or restaurant lunch somewhere in the district. Thanks to Kathie McMahon for instigating these events and to all others who took part in leading the tours or opening their properties to us for inspection. In particular I would like to thank Mary Avern for leading the group through Richmond and to Les Dollin and Ken Bennett for organising walks.

As well as organising our own events, Vice-President Kathie McMahon, organised a benefit concert at St Davids Church at Kurrajong Heights with proceeds going to the Society. Thanks Kathie for your great ideas, amazing levels of organization and on going support.

Awareness of our events has also been highlighted by regular publicity in local publications, particularly 'The Hawkesbury Gazette' but also 'Views from the Heights' and 'Rusty Richard'. Thanks to publicity officer Robyn Fuller for her tireless quest to make sure we have good publicity for all our activities.

The newsletter and other publications

Our newsletter, The Millstone, which is published every two months in January, March, May, July, September and November, has continued from strength to strength thanks to the good offices of editor Greg Upton. I would also like to those members of the Society who have taken time to contribute articles, comments, pictures and points of interest. It is these contributions that make the newsletter the vibrant and informative publication it is.

Our range of publications was boosted this year by the addition of Ken Bennett's highly informative Kurrajong Walk booklet. It is based on a series of walks Ken undertook for Society members and the general public last year particularly during the Scarecrow Festival. Ken has kindly made the proceeds from the sale of this brochure available to the Society and it has formed one of our major sources of revenue. Thank you Ken for this and for your on going support.

Society member Stephen Rawling also made an important contribution to the recording of the history of the Kurrajong when he recorded and

published songs and their lyrics relating to the area. Several of the songs were written by Steve. The aim of the project, which includes a CD called 'Memories of Kurrajong – History in song', and a booklet, is to record and celebrate the history of the Kurrajong district in song. Steve has generously donated a portion of sales to the Society and has performed some of the songs at our events. I would also like to thank committee member Kathie McMahon for her involvement in this project on behalf of the Society.

The quest for a permanent home

Last year I said that we would be redoubling our efforts to find a permanent home for the society. Our plight was recognised by Hawkesbury Council and we were offered a role in the development of a Community Facility in the form of a Community Centre. While this has met with some disappointments along the way as the Committee was keen to see the Community Centre built in the village, it has also opened the possibility of a place we can call our own. Joy Shepherd is representing the society on the planning committee for the Kurrajong Community Centre. As yet plans have not been finalised and no work has occurred at the Council's preferred site in McMahons Park.

In the meantime, the KCHS Committee accepted the offer of the Old Schoolhouse at the Blaxland Ridge Community Centre. It is now being used for storage and as a temporary meeting place. This is a delightful old building on Blaxland Ridge Road that is well suited to our needs. If only it was in a more central location it could be perfect for us! At present we are paying a nominal rent and thank the committee of the Blaxland Ridge Community Centre for making the building available.

To make our meetings and gatherings as accessible as possible we have held displays, meetings and talks in many venues around the region including the CWA Hall, the hall at Comleroy Road Public School and in local cafes and restaurants. Our thanks to all those who have provided venues at little or no cost to the Society.

Equipment and acquisitions

Our strong membership base, successful program of events and fundraising through raffles and booklet sales has meant that we have enjoyed a strong financial basis. This money has been boosted by income from the Work for the Dole scheme (thanks to Joy for generously donating money she received for her work to the Society's coffers) and through grants. I would particularly

Secretary's Report

like to thank Valerie Holland for her work in securing a small equipment grant for the Society. The grant was expended on the purchase of a laptop computer and a digital camera, both of which will assist the society in its work of recording and documenting local history and our own events.

Thanks are also due to Bob McCallum and the Bendigo Bank for the generous donation of a computer to the Society. This computer along with other equipment purchased from our funds, has allowed us to place our photographic collection on public access when we are attending events such as the Scarecrow Festival.

Future plans

Plans for activities for the rest of 2005 and into 2006 are well in hand. We are planning more field trips and journeys of exploration including trips along the Grain Road (Kurmond Road) and Bells Line of Road across the mountains. Planning and research for these events is being led by Les Dollin assisted by Frank and Valerie Holland and Bryan and Marguerite Wyborn and others.

We are also investigating the possibility of establishing a website for the Society and would welcome involvement from any members who have expertise in the development of websites.

Research into family and local history will continue as will our collating and publishing of information. As well as keeping members informed through our newsletter we are also hoping to produce some brochures about important local points of interest and events.

Our updated and revised constitution will be placed before members at a Special Meeting to follow the AGM. Thanks to Frank Holland, Ron Rozzoli and Bryan Wyborn for their work on producing this document which will be an important basis for the Society as it grows.

Finally I would like to thank each and every person on our hardworking committee for their time, efforts and enthusiasm for the Society and our local community.

Jennifer Stackhouse
President
August, 2005

If you would like to place a small classified advertisement in 'The Millstone' contact Jennifer Stackhouse on 4573 0836.

Our Society has had a successful year and we thank our growing membership for their support. We have welcomed new members and former members who have rejoined. During the year the Society held six general meetings and nine committee meetings. All meetings have enjoyed a strong participation rate. Our financial position is stronger than in previous years (see Treasurer's Report).

Activities and local history

Functions and outings were well attended by members and visitors, throughout the year. Highlights included the Scarecrow Festival, with Friday night guest speakers Patricia Downes and Ian McEwan and supper at Valley View Café; Andy Macqueen's presentation in November on early exploration towards the Hunter Valley and Bryce Bell's presentation on agriculture, in May 2005. Our Christmas Party at Maguire's Enniskillen Orchard and the Australia Day celebrations at Loxley, accompanied by music and poetry, were fitting functions to conclude 2004 and begin 2005. An enjoyable historic film night was held in the Kurrajong CWA Hall, thanks to the expertise of Ian O'Toole. Also appreciated were historic sightseeing trips to Kurrajong Heights led by Kathie McMahan and Richmond led by Mary Avern. Thirty three members accompanied organizers Les Dollin and Brian Wyborn, who had been assisted with research by Ann Dollin, to Comleroi on the Society's first out of district tour. Members are looking forward to trips planned for the coming year.

As the former Camp Mackay site is to be subdivided and sold, our Society has made a request to Council that some information, regarding the important legacy of the 63 years of the Camp's operation, be placed on the site. Also requested was, the naming of "Benjamin Singleton Reserve", to be placed on the proposed reserve on Little Wheeny Creek, in recognition of Singleton's grain mills that once operated on the site.

Donations

Generous donations were received from members, including Ken Bennett, Vera and Jerry Bentvelzen, Steve Rawling and Cathy McHardy have assisted our library and our balance sheet. Bob McCallum from the Bendigo Bank donated a computer to the Society. Thanks are extended to business's that have donated raffle prizes, including Valley View Cafe, Crazy Daisy, Paragon Interiors, Kurrajong Pharmacy, Mt Tomah, Paul Maher of Loxley, Peter of London and the Kurmond Wine Bar and Grill. Kurmond Post office proprietors, Ellen and David continue

to allow us to display a selection of our photographs, membership forms and copies of The Millstone as well as having provided an outlet for us to sell our 'Historical Walk of Kurrajong with Ken Bennett'.

Thanks also to Tony Dixon who kindly donated updated Millstone logos and to Paul Nelson for auditing our accounts.

Awards and recognition

Louise McMahan and Jennifer Stackhouse received recognition for our Society, from the Management of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Sydney. Both Louise and Jennifer gave supporting information to the publication of the book about botanist Louisa Atkinson. This resulted in the book 'Commemoration of Louisa Atkinson' being short-listed for the Centre of Culture and Australian Studies Award. (Canberra).

We were successful in nominating Joy Shepherd as one of the Hawkesbury City Council's Citizens of the Month for her involvement in our photographic "Work for the Dole Program" and her previous community work. For the task of copying and digitising the photographs then preparing them for exhibitions, Joy has been assisted by Valerie Birch, Marguerite Wyborn and Robyn Fuller. Some of our photographs, selected by Joy, were loaned to the new Deerubbin Centre at Windsor for the inaugural exhibition and official opening of the building. Several committee members represented the Society at this important local community event.

As a result of the Society having successfully applying for funds from the Commonwealth's Volunteers Small Equipment Grants 2005, we now own a laptop computer and a digital camera to assist us with our research. We were able to achieve assistance and a discount on these items from Keith Camish of Harvey Norman Blacktown.

Venues for meetings and a home for the Society

The Kurrajong CWA now has a paying client for Monday nights and although they kindly offered us Wednesday night for our meetings, we preferred to keep our Monday night time-slot. Thanks to Jan Livingstone and the Principal of Comleroy Road Public School for making available the school premises for some of our meetings.

This historical society has had a long association with the Comleroy Road School of Arts. Our Society regrets that the building has to be sold because of the extensive repairs that would be needed to make it safe. This building was used

by the Society for storage and meetings. We have taken out a one year lease for the Old Schoolhouse at Blaxlands Ridge (1892), as Society exhibition boards and furniture had to be moved to new storage, because of lack of insurance available to Comleroy Road School of Arts. We intend to use the building for storage, some meetings and library days.

The Society made representation to Council for consideration to be given to erecting the proposed Community Centre within the Village precinct, however the decision was taken to build at McMahan Park. Joy continues to be our representative on the planning committee for the proposed Kurrajong Community Centre in McMahan Park, so that our needs can be heard during continuing discussions. We continue to support the long-term concept of a home in the Village.

The Millstone

Our newsletter, very ably produced by Society member Greg Upton, has gradually reached a wider audience, which has prompted enquiries about former family links in The Kurrajong from as far as Woonona, Victoria and Singleton. As a result of these inquiries and articles that have appeared in The Millstone, some members have offered further anecdotes, photos and short articles to be shared by members of our Society. Other members have collated and preserved the history. This partnership is important and it is gradually producing a valuable database for additional research.

Revised constitution

Thanks are due the subcommittee, of Frank Holland, Ron Rozzoli and Brian Wyborn, for producing a revised constitution that has been specifically designed for our Society from the initial model set of rules. This constitution will be presented to members for approval at a Special Meeting following the AGM

Thanks and recognition

I thank Jennifer Stackhouse, Kathie McMahan and all members of the committee for their support throughout the year and for attending functions on behalf of our Society. Thanks to Pat O'Toole for the many hours she has devoted to recording the minutes of meetings and to Marguerite Wyborn for organizing supper for meetings.

Valerie Holland
Secretary
August 2005

Research Project Officer's Report

2005 has been a busy year with many planned activities being undertaken. The Project Officer's role has been focused on assisting with the research into Camp Mackay, Old Brick Pits, Comleroy Road, Kurmond Road and the drafting of the Constitution.

Projects

Continuing Society projects include:-

- Photographic Records (Work For the Dole) (Joy Shepherd)
- Mackenzie Farm & Soldier Settlement (Vera Bentveltzen)
- Camp Mackay (Valerie Holland)
- Comleroy Road (Les & Anne Dollin)
- The Grain (Kurmond) Road (Les & Anne Dollin)
- Bells line of Road (Les & Anne Dollin)
- Family History Advice - Hill and Wright families (Valerie Birch)
- Building Environment (Steve Rawling)
- Post Offices of the Kurrajong (Airdrie Martin)

In addition information has been accumulated for the following:

- Guest Houses of the Kurrajong
- Schools of the Kurrajong
- Current Photographic Record of "The Kurrajong" (Digital Camera now available)

The above projects require project leaders to take up the role of research to bring these projects to fruition. Valerie Birch has a database of information that she is happy to share with anyone who would like to assist. Valerie has been assisting Joy with the Work for the Dole program, providing information for family history and managing our accession register. She does not have time to undertake further research. If you can help, please contact the Projects Officer.

Family histories

Some members are actively researching their family histories and we encourage them to continue with this important work. We hope that in the future a copy of those histories will be lodged with the Society, as

they can be a valuable resource for further research.

2005/2006

Planning for 2005/06 includes activities aimed at increasing research skills and confidence so that more projects can be supported. Activities include two field trips, a tour of the State Archives and Internet research evenings at Comleroy Road Public School. Members should be aware that they could upgrade their computing skills through Hawkesbury Skills at Richmond (see Secretary for Application Forms - \$30 for 3 hours). 2005/06 should see the production of a number of small brochures that the Society will be able to sell.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the research effort during 2004/05.

Frank Holland
Project Officer
August, 2005

Treasurer's Report 2004/05

We have concluded our fourth full financial year for the Society, with our best financial figures yet.

Our membership subscriptions have been increasing, with a total of 121 financial members for the year 2004/2005.

Our first function for the year, a dinner meeting at the Kurmond Wine Bar and Grill in July 2004, was a great night, and with a raffle run on the night (the prize being donated by the restaurant) we managed to make a small profit as well.

The 'Back to the Kurrajong' evening in October 2004, to kick off the Scarecrow Festival, again was well and truly oversubscribed, again emphasizing our need for a bigger venue in the village. We were grateful again to Michelle of Valley View, and her staff, for working under extremely difficult circumstances, to provide us with a memorable supper to round off the night. We are also grateful to her for providing our raffle prize on the night. The 'Flood, Fire and Famine' photographic exhibition caused a huge amount of interest over the weekend, and we were able to make some profit by running a raffle each day of the weekend.

One of our members, Ken Bennett, lead and conducted two walks of Kurrajong of that week, which were well received by members and the general public. For these events, Ken wrote and produced a comprehensive booklet, for which he donated all proceeds to the society. These books are now available for sale from several outlets in the Kurrajong area. So far we have benefited to the amount of \$1,395.00. Thank you so much, Ken.

We are also continuing to make money from Val Birch's 'On the Kurrajong' book, and we have made some commission from Steve Rawling's CD.

We had another wonderful Australia Day breakfast, this time at Loxley on Bellbird Hill, with the honouring of Meredyth Hungerford for her work. Thank you so much to Paul Maher and his team for a memorable morning, and the very generous raffle prize.

We are continuing with our Work for the Dole Project in conjunction with Hawkesbury Skills. The two six-month projects this financial year were run a little differently. I undertook to supervise the projects myself, and this meant we received the project money up front.

For the first project we had three participants, and two for the second. This gave us an Income of \$5,452.75 from this source, from which we had to pay all of the expenses for the projects, that is, paper, ink etc. Hawkesbury Skills has provided all of the hardware for our use since we have been working with them. As we had some money left over, we decided to purchase a better colour printer for their rooms, to the value of \$599.00, and donate it to them. At the end of the two projects, we still had a total of \$2,113.33 left over, representing supervision money, which we were required to expend, to close the projects. I have donated those funds back to the society.

Our expenditure for the year has mainly been for materials for our Work for the Dole projects, function expenses, which have been covered by the income from them, and insurance.

Throughout the year, we are been able to purchase a good quality hand-held hailer, already put well to use, and an up to date and very effective sound system, well managed by Ian O'Toole. We also purchased a small television and DVD player, which we used in our 'Flood, Fire and Famine' display.

We have been fortunate in getting a computer donated by Bob McCallum from the Bendigo Bank, and we have purchased an all-in one printer, copier, scanner. We should have this up and running for our Back to the Kurrajong event and photographic weekend in October. This will give everyone a chance to view our collection and purchase photographs on the spot.

To round off a really exciting year, our secretary, Valerie Holland managed to obtain a Small Equipment Grant from the Department of Family and Community Services, to the value of \$2,735.00. This money, to be used to purchase a laptop computer and digital camera, only came into our bank account a few days before the end of the financial year, and has since been expended in July.

I am still representing the society on the Committee for the proposed Community Centre. We have applied for space for our research centre, to enable our members, and members of the general community to have access to our records. Meanwhile, we keep trying to build our assets, so that we will be in a position to furnish and set up such a centre.

I would like to thank all of our hard-working committee, particularly Val Birch for her huge amount of help with the Work for the Dole project, and Marguerite Wyborn for the work and expertise she puts in there as well.

Lastly, a very big 'Thank You' to Tony Roberts, our Honorary Auditor for the last two years. Tony has now left the district, but did not leave without finding someone to take his place. We are very grateful to Paul Nelson, of Baulkham Hills, who has stepped in to fill the gap.

We look forward to another exciting and fulfilling year in 2005/2006.

Joy Shepherd
Treasurer and Digital Archiving Project
Leader.

Right: A young Les Dollin holding his baby sister Carol, at the original Dollin property at Kurrajong. [Photo taken by Les' mother Gloria Dollin]

Little Boy Lost

Continued from page 5

spotted on the edge of the creek, two kilometres from home. The searchers feared Les had drowned however Mr Clancy, the Kurmond schoolmaster, followed the creek further down. To everyone's relief, he found Les standing in some water at the bottom of a ledge. He was drenched and blue with cold but was otherwise unharmed.

Les's parents, Jack and Gloria Dollin, were deeply grateful for the assistance of the searchers in this emergency. Gloria recalls that Les was notorious for exploring as a toddler so she used to put him into a playpen when he was outside, to keep him safe. On this occasion she had put his dog in too for company. The dog dug his way out under the playpen and little Les followed him, then they both wandered off. In those days the Dollin's property on Cricket Pitch Road now called McMahons Road was surrounded by thick bushland. The family used to listen to dingoes howling at night and had to lock up the chickens at night because of the spotted quolls. When Les could not be found after a frantic search, they raised the alarm. Kurrajong residents from near and far came to help to find the little boy lost. The brave men of Kurrajong said they would not leave until they found him.

Les, his sister Carol, and his mother Gloria, still live on different parts of the original family property. Les has now spent many years exploring the wonders and mysteries of the Islands and Wheeney Gap region. Almost 55 years on he would like to thank all those who came to rescue him many years ago from his first big adventure in the Kurrajong wilderness.

Footnote: Les would like to speak to anyone who has memories of the search or of other dramatic local events. Les can be contacted on (02) 4576 1196.



**KURRAJONG-COMLERROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2004-2005**

BALANCE SHEET As Of June 2005

Assets

Current Assets

Cash On Hand

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Cheque Account – Bendigo Bank | \$7,998.29 | |
| Petty Cash | \$29.40 | |
| Total Cash On Hand | | \$8,027.69 |

Total Assets \$8,027.69

Other Assets

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Prepayments | \$624.05 | |
| Total Other Assets | | \$624.05 |

Property And Equipment

Stock On Hand

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| “On K’jong” Books at cost | \$430.65 | |
| Total Stock On Hand | | \$430.65 |

Equipment

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Audio Visual At Cost | \$436.35 | |
| Computer Equipment At Cost | \$385.00 | |
| Equipment Accum Dep’n | -\$77.71 | |
| Total Equipment | | \$743.64 |

Total Property And Equipment \$1,174.29

Total Assets \$9,826.03

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Trade Creditors | \$190.35 | |
| Membership paid in advance | \$230.00 | |
| Total Current Liabilities | | \$420.35 |

Total Liabilities \$420.35

Net Assets \$9,405.68

Equity

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------|
| Retained Earnings | | \$3,895.66 |
| Current Year Earnings | | \$5,510.02 |
| Total Equity | | \$9,405.68 |

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT 1/07/2004 to 30/06/2005

Income

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Membership Subscriptions | \$1,680.00 | |
| Grants | | |
| Grant – DFACS – Small Equipment | \$2,735.00 | |
| Total Grants | | \$2,735.00 |
| Donations | | \$2,158.33 |
| Work for Dole “Mix ‘n Match” | | \$5,452.75 |
| Door Takings | | |
| Door Takings General Meetings | \$60.60 | |
| Door Takings Special Functions | \$3,735.00 | |
| Total Door Takings | | \$3,795.60 |
| Other Function Income | | |
| Drinks Income | \$6.00 | |
| Booking Fees | \$115.00 | |
| Total Other Function Income | | \$121.00 |
| Raffle Proceeds | | \$730.70 |
| Retail Sales | | |
| Retail Sales Kurrajong trees | \$146.00 | |
| Retail Sales Teaspoons | \$24.75 | |
| Sale of Louisa Atkinson Books | \$8.00 | |
| Sale of Photographs | \$86.00 | |
| “On the Kurrajong” Books | \$184.35 | |
| Sale of Kurrajong Walk Books | \$1,395.00 | |
| Commission on Rawling CD | \$180.00 | |
| Total Retail Sales | | \$2,024.10 |
| Total Income | | \$18,697.48 |

Cost of Sales

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|
| Purchases for Resale | | |
| “On the Kurrajong” Books | \$54.45 | |
| Total Purchases for Resale | | \$54.45 |
| Total Cost of Sales | | \$54.45 |

Gross Profit \$18,643.03

Expenses

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Archiving Materials | \$332.25 | |
| Blaxland Ridge School Supplies | \$25.43 | |
| Computer expenses | \$723.45 | |
| Depreciation Expense | \$77.71 | |
| Dues & Subscriptions | \$93.00 | |
| Gifts/Flowers etc | \$355.80 | |
| Function Expenses | | |
| Function Expenses Catering | \$3,146.75 | |
| Function Expenses - Drinks | \$36.96 | |
| Function Expenses – Hall Hire | \$35.00 | |
| Total Function Expenses | | \$3,218.71 |
| Insurance | \$669.72 | |
| Library & Literature expenses | \$144.90 | |
| Legal Fees | \$41.00 | |
| License Fees | \$147.80 | |
| Office Supplies & Stationery | \$2,328.51 | |
| Photocopying and Laminating | \$191.92 | |
| Photography & Archiving | \$1,605.88 | |
| Postage | \$606.15 | |
| Post Office Box Rental | \$56.00 | |
| Audio Visual Expenses | \$331.45 | |
| School House Hire | \$70.00 | |
| Supervision | \$2,113.33 | |
| Total Expenses | | \$13,133.01 |

Operating Profit \$5,510.02

Other Income

Other Expenses

Net Profit / (Loss) \$5,510.02



Dates for your diary

* Monday 26 September 2005 – Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting

Join us to celebrate the continued growth and success of the society as we hold our Annual General Meeting including election of office bearers. The AGM will be followed by a Special General Meeting at which we consider amendments to the constitution.

Where: Comleroy Road Public School, McMahons Road, Kurrajong

Time: 7.30pm

Cost: Gold coin donation (supper will be served)

More information: Jennifer Stackhouse (02) 4573 0836

* Friday 21 October 2005 – Back to the Kurrajong celebration – launch of pictorial exhibition ‘Kids of the Kurrajong’

As part of the annual Scarecrow Festival in Kurrajong Village, the society is staging a fascinating photographic exhibition about growing up in Kurrajong Village. ‘Kids of Kurrajong’ will be held in the CWA Hall with a supper at Valley View Café. As part of the event, listen to a panel of Kurrajong Kids reminisce about growing up in the village. Those taking part in the panel include Di Finch, Ken Bennett, Ken Lenord, Dennis Hurst, Wendy Dillon,

Kerry Laws and Ray Robinson.

Where: CWA Hall, Kurrajong and after at Valley View Café.

Time: 6pm-9pm

Cost: \$20 (supper will be served)

More information: Joy Shepherd (02) 4571 1524 for bookings (numbers are limited).

* Saturday 22 October 2005 – Sunday 23 October 2005 – Back to the Kurrajong celebration pictorial exhibition ‘Kids of Kurrajong’

Visit the photographic exhibition about growing up in Kurrajong. ‘Kids of Kurrajong’ in the CWA Hall in Kurrajong Village. As well as enjoying the photographs you will be able to view and order historic pictures from our collection.

Where: CWA Hall, Kurrajong

Time: 10am-4pm

Cost: Gold coin donation

More information: Joy Shepherd (02) 4571 1524.

Coming events

- **November meeting with guest speaker Max Doyle 28**
November from 7.30pm
- **Christmas party and ‘Pig Out’ barbecue at the home of Bryan and Marguerite Wyborn, Kurrajong 11 December, 2005**
from 5pm
- **Australia Day breakfast 26**
January, 2006 from 9am

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.

Venues

Activities will be scheduled at different venues to make use of halls, meeting rooms and restaurants throughout the district. Check venues carefully before setting off. Any problems en route contact Jennifer on 0417 692 133.

Next newsletter

The next issue of ‘The Millstone’ will be published on November. If you have an item to include in the newsletter please contact Jennifer Stackhouse on 4573 0836. Copy deadline 14th October.

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

Right: Bucketts’ Sawmill 1988. Jack Buckett and Ted (Kelly) Ness sitting on a log in front of the circular saw. [Photo courtesy of Dorothy Bucketts]. Photo held in the Society’s digital collection.

