



*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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## KCHS CHRISTMAS PARTY 2005



*Top: L to R: Val Birch, Michelle Harris, Eleanor Taylor, Jennifer Stackhouse, Valerie Holland, Vera Bentvelzen and Robyn Fuller at the Society's Christmas party at the home of members Bryan and Marguerite Wyborn.*



*Centre: Jim Harris and June Blackmore tuck in with other members in the 'Pig Out' barbecue at the party.*



*Left: Ken Bennett received a Certificate of Merit from the Royal Australian Historical Society in recognition of his tremendous contribution to the Society through his walks and booklet outlining the history of Kurrajong Village. All proceeds from*

*the sale of the booklet go to the Society. The certificate was presented by Jennifer Stackhouse.*

*More pictures page 7. [Photos by Joy Shepherd].*



# News

By Jennifer Stackhouse

## Join our 5th birthday party on Australia Day

Members are invited to book early for our Australia Day Breakfast. It will be held from 9.00 am at Wynella Gardens, 1318 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights. The cost is \$30 per person (see back page for booking details) and the food is delicious.

The format this year will be similar to last year with guest speakers focusing on the history of Wynella Gardens and Kurrajong Heights. The morning will be compered by society member Steve Rawling. Our Australia Day Award of merit will also be presented at the breakfast. The award acknowledges a dedicated local researcher.

## Wynella's history

Wynella Gardens was built in 1942 by the Misses Cahills. They were the proprietors of the well-known Cahills' restaurants, popular in Sydney around the 1940s and 1950s. John Love will focus on the early history of Wynella, which was part of historic Northfield Estate. The special guest speaker for the morning will be Robert Ellis from Oberon, who will talk about some of the early settlers at Kurrajong Heights.

Music and singing is very much part of our Australia Day morning. If you would like to join our singers or musicians for our 'sing a long' please call Kathie McMahon on 4567 7105.

## November raffle winner

A raffle was held at our November meeting. The prize (a book, lawn fertiliser and a Donna Hay magazine) was won by Beth Johnson and the raffle raised \$113 for the society. Thanks to everyone who bought a ticket.

## Film night celebrates Caley

Several members of the committee attended a film night in November at The Edge cinema at Katoomba. This was no ordinary film night, but billed "the world premier of an Australian movie".

The movie was a documentary that followed a group of local historians and botanists who in November 2004 traced the 200-year-old journey of botanist and explorer George Caley and four strong men. Taking part in the trek were Ian Brown, Andy McQueen, Wyn Jones, Dave Monahan, Wayne Cherry, Lisa Clausen, Peter Elfes, Rusty Worsman and Lulu (small dog).

The group travelled through the Blue Mountains from the Hawkesbury to Mount Banks via Mount Tomah encountering the same terrain and arduous conditions that Caley and his group saw 200 years before. One particularly dense and difficult gully named 'Devil's Wilderness' by Caley inspired the title of the movie, 'Crossing the Devil's Wilderness'.

The film was made for the Royal Botanic Gardens by young Australia filmmaker Emma Ulm. We will include the 30 minute documentary 'Crossing the Devil's Wilderness' in our film night to be held on 29 May.

## Bells Line of Road trip in May

Join Les Dollin and members of our society on 9 May for our second overnight tour of discovery. We will be travelling the Bells Line of Road to Collits Inn. The focus will be on some of the early history of the road. We will have a major stop at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden to reflect on the botanical beauty of the area and the early road across Mount Tomah, which presented a considerable obstacle to drovers and settlers alike in the 1800s.

Our overnight stop will be at The Manor House at Mount Victoria. The older section of this establishment was the mountain retreat of John R. Fairfax, a founder of 'The Sydney Morning Herald'. It was built in 1876 by architect/builder Alexander Dean of Manly and stood on approximately 13 acres.

Trish Downes, who members may recall gave a fascinating presentation on her family connections at Kurrajong Heights, will be our after dinner speaker at the Manor House. Trish will be speaking on her research of the upper Bells Line of Road and her family connections in that area.

The NRMA gives the Manor House a 3 1/2 star rating and the usual price for the package we have is \$180-\$310. We have obtained a fantastic dinner/bed and breakfast package, which includes a two course meal, for \$99 a head. To obtain this favourable price we need to pay our deposit of \$25 dollars per head before the end of January. There will also be the \$5 booking fee to cover administration costs of organising the tour. As accommodation numbers are limited, members must send their deposit, booking money, and preference for single, double or twin accommodation to Joy Shepherd (Treasurer) at PO Box 174, Kurmond, NSW 2757 (total \$30 per head, make cheques payable to Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society).

If members need further information please contact Valerie or Frank Holland on 4573 2226.

## Stop Press

Changes to constitution get green light

The proposed changes to our society's constitution have now been finalised. Thanks to every one who returned a voting slip and a big thank you to the subcommittee, particularly Frank Holland, who spent so much time and energy seeing this project to completion.



Movie stars and dedicated bushwalkers and historians at the launch of 'Crossing the Devil's Wilderness'. The dress for the night was well-dressed hiking attire. Pictured here are the stars of the film [Photo courtesy of Les Dollin]



Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society committee members and friends at the World Premier of 'Crossing the Devil's Wilderness' when it was screen at The Edge on 7 November at Katoomba. Left to right: Frank Holland, Eleanor Taylor, Val Birch, Ian O'Toole, Valerie Holland, Pat O'Toole, Jennifer Stackhouse and Les Dollin [Photo courtesy of Les Dollin].



# THE LAST BIG CATTLE DRIVE ALONG COMLEROY ROAD

The early 1950s was the end of an era for the drovers of Comleroy Road. The exciting story of the long history of droving on the Comleroy Road is captured here in an interview by Les and Anne Dollin with Snowy and Joan Dubois in 2005.

For 130 years, drovers had herded mobs of cattle 150km along the original Comleroy Road that linked Kurrajong in the Hawkesbury with the huge agricultural district of Comleroy in the Hunter. (Much of this road is now called Putty Road.) In the 1950s motor vehicle traffic along this road increased to the stage where herding stock on foot along the road was no longer safe. So came the historic day in the early 1950s when Snowy Dubois and Bill Gosper drove the last mob of cattle along the original Comleroy Road.

Before a cattle drive along Comleroy Road, a special permit had to be obtained. Mrs Forgham issued these permits from the Upper Colo Post Office. Drovers were charged a certain fee for every 25 head of cattle in their mob.

Snowy Dubois and Bill Gosper of Upper Colo had mustered 110 of Bill's cattle at 'The Gibba' near Putty. And then the drive was on!

Snowy and Bill set out on horseback with packhorses and about six faithful dogs, including Dusty, Nigger, Judy and Beau. Snowy remembers an earlier drive with 1000 cattle that ate out all the bracken fern and dried eucalyptus leaves on the rough track as they walked along.

"They were just like vacuum cleaners!" said Snowy.

If any beast died along the track, the drovers would collect the hide because the drovers would receive £1 for every hide they brought back.

The cattle were driven only 10 miles per day. Snowy and Bill's first overnight camp was on a private property that they called Fleetwings. After carefully counting the cattle into the Fleetwings yard, Snowy and Bill set up camp. On the road the drovers usually slept under a tent fly or in a cave. They would make a drover's damper in the evening and enjoy dinner, a cup of tea and

a bit of a yarn around the fire. The horses were hobbled at night, each with a bell on a strap around its neck. The drovers liked to be able to hear the bells all night – if they could not hear the bells drovers hurried to investigate because it spelled trouble!

The next morning at 4 or 5 am, the fire was fanned up once again to make a breakfast of tinned meat, cheese and tea. The cattle were carefully mustered and counted once more as they left the yard. Then the men, cattle and dogs wound their way further south down the dirt road, managing to get to New Yard Stock Reserve before sunset.

## Stampede

Snowy recalled a memorable night at New Yard Stock Reserve on an earlier drive. Snowy and Bill did not know that some timbercutters had set up camp right up in the back corner of the reserve. The cattle had wandered way up towards the timbercutters' camp. Unfortunately the timbercutters had an Alsatian dog that barked madly and chased the cattle, causing the cattle to stampede down the fence line!

At the other end of the fence line, Snowy and Bill had settled in for the night with the horses hobbled, their little bells tinkling and the fire crackling. Snowy had fallen into a deep sleep. Snowy remembers being jolted awake by Bill who shouted at him to take cover behind a tree as the mob stampeded through the camp. Not much rest that night!

## Moving on

But they had to keep the cattle moving on this the last great cattle drive along Comleroy Road. In the morning they were up before sunrise and back on the road heading for the next night's camp at Upper Colo Reserve. Snowy recalls that they used to drive mobs of 500 to 600 cattle from Howes Valley southwards, past Upper Colo Public School. It took from the children's morning play time until lunchtime for the bullocks to plod past the school and the noise from the drive was so intense that the children could not do their lessons!

The route onwards took the mob to Wheeny

*Continued on Page 4*



*Snowy Dubois working cattle in a stockyard [Photo from the collection of Snowy and Joan Dubois].*

## COMLEROY CATTLE DRIVE

*Continued from Page 3*

Creek Reserve for another overnight camp, then along Comleroy Road. They turned down Slopes Road and took Crooked Lane to Bells Line of Road to avoid as much traffic as possible. At last Snowy and Bill drove the cattle down Bells Line of Road, across the Pansy steam train line towards the North Richmond bridge.

### Pansy, brakes on

Snowy remembered another time when he was driving a cow and calf near the Pansy steam train line. The calf got so frightened by the Pansy steam train puffing and belching steam that it ran across the railway line. The train driver slammed the brakes on, stopping the train. Cow and calf were reunited and Snowy went on his way.

### North Richmond bridge

The last big hurdle on this final Comleroy Road cattle drive was herding the cattle across the Hawkesbury River bridge at North Richmond. What a sight that must have been! All 110 cattle bellowing as they shoved their way across this narrow bridge. You can only imagine the chaos such an event would cause today.

The drovers turned the mob south and followed the little lane leading up behind the University of Western Sydney (the then

Hawkesbury Agricultural College) where they halted the cattle. After all the whip cracking and the barking of the cattle dogs had died away, and the dust had settled, they rested the cattle in the laneway overnight with a drover camped at each end holding the cattle.

### Riverstone yards

The next day, as it was the custom, the stockmen from the Riverstone meatworks rode across to meet them. In those days the western edge of the meatworks yards was only a stone's throw from the grounds of the college. So Snowy and Bill's hard work was over and the Riverstone stockman took the cattle on from there.

For Snowy and Bill this was the end of an era. As all the stockmen gathered around in the morning sun, the last big cattle drive from Putty along the Comleroy Road stock route was over. Modern trucks have now taken over the jobs of Snowy and Bill and the like; but to the old timers, the rumbling of the cattle echoing down the valleys and the cracking of the drovers' stockwhips as they pushed the cattle forward, will stay in their memories as if it were yesterday.

Snowy (81) and Joan Dubois are now retired and are living in Singleton.



*Joan and Snowy Dubois have a wealth of stories about early life cattle droving on Comleroy Road Photo from the collection of Snowy and Joan Dubois].*

## New Members

By Joy Shepherd

We are pleased to note that we have five new members to our society. We welcome these new members, and look forward working and meeting with them more in the New Year.

**Victor Alberts** is a keen historian and a passionate monarchist. His home 'Neidpath Manor' is a sight to behold with an amazing collection of historical items, right down to the suits of armour. Victor has always been a great mover and shaker in Canteen, the organisation dedicated in assisting kids with cancer.

It was a big day for Victor on 21 October, this year, the Bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. He was very active in the Hawkesbury, making the locals aware of the significance of the event. At the end of the day, he attended our 'Back to the Kurrajong' evening and officially joined our Society.

**Jim and Peggy Israel** have also been interested in the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society for some time, and have attended some of our events. They also attended our 'Kids of the Kurrajong' evening.

While Peggy helped out with the raffle ticket sales, Jim decided to check out the society's new computer set-up. I asked him to give me a keyword, to which he replied 'Witts'. To our amazement a photograph of Peggy's grandfather, Walter Witts, appeared on the screen. Walter had a property known as 'Kydra' in this area, where he established an apple orchard in the early part of the 20th century. He had three sons, and the older two, Wallace (Peggy's Dad) and Clem, served in the AIF. Their names on several local honour boards, including the pulpit of St Stephens Church at Kurrajong.

If any members have information or memories about Kydra or Walter Witts, please contact Jim or Peggy Israel on 4567 8131.

**Yvonne and Martin Burton** moved to our country from the Herefordshire area in the UK last May, and settled in Blaxlands Ridge in July this year. Both their children and their families had lived in Australia for some time, so it was not a hard decision to make.

Yvonne and Martin had been members of the Historical Society in Herefordshire, so they were pleased to discover that the Kurrajong area had an active historical society. They came along to our 'Kids of the Kurrajong' exhibition at the Scarecrow Festival, and decided to join.



# METER READING THE KURRAJONG

This paper on the formation and early years of the Hawkesbury Development Company was presented as a talk to the Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society by Max Doyle OAM in November 2005.

The formation of the Hawkesbury Development Company (HDC) was initially a 'follow-on' from Nepean Sand and Gravel Company, due to the difficulty of obtaining electricity for the plant.

Originally it had been intended to purchase electricity from the Hawkesbury Agricultural College to power the plant, but Richmond Council, who already purchased electricity from the College for resale to local residents, considered the council should be providing the supply. Hawkesbury Agricultural College even offered the Nepean Sand & Gravel Co., a lower rate for the supply because there would be a high constant load. The end result was that the Hawkesbury Agricultural College could not get permission to erect the transmission lines, so Nepean Sand & Gravel Co. was forced into erecting their own powerhouse.

By 1932 Nepean Sand & Gravel Co. would have been the only producer showing a profit, but the directors saw only a limited future, and sought other avenues of business. One was to supply electricity from

their riverbank powerhouse to local consumers. After prolonged discussions with Colo, Richmond and Castlereagh councils, a limited franchise was obtained.

In May 1934, the Company was renamed Hawkesbury Development Co. Ltd. and began supplying North Richmond with electricity from the newly commissioned Bunnerong Powerhouse. The areas eventually supplied were Colo Shire and Castlereagh councils.

## Early years

The staff of HDC, when I joined in 1949 numbered 16 with a secretary/manager, an engineer, one electrician and two apprentice electricians, two office assistants, a meter reader, four linesmen and four linesmen's assistants. Over the years the numbers increased with the workload.

From what I observed in my time with HDC the unsung heroes of the company were the linesmen and their assistants. Lorries were loaded manually with the heavy poles, without all the present day aids for such work. This work was carried out at the back of the company's premises, which were situated in Windsor Street, Richmond, approximately where Coles supermarket and car park now stands. Their heavy work only began there for the linesmen who then erected poles and lines through some rugged terrain.

The offices and storerooms were the original Bank of New South Wales in Richmond.

My duties were to read the meters, make out the accounts on the spot, and issue a receipt if the customer wished to pay. When I started work at HDC in 1949 they had approximately 1000 customers. The area was split up into three districts: Castlereagh, Kurrajong, and Wilberforce. Customers got quarterly accounts.

In the late 1940s and through to the '50s, the roads were very bad. In the Kurrajong area the only tar-sealed sections were from North Richmond to the St John of God gates and from the main road along Comleroy Road to the East Kurrajong Road turn off.

Making out the accounts on the spot continued for several years, until more and more customers were connected and the decision was made to have the accounts prepared in the office. The girls would start making out the accounts when time was available to them, and I would finish them and then begin the accounts for the next district and then the third. This new arrangement was such an improvement on making out the accounts on the job, which was so time consuming, especially if the customer wished to pay on the spot when there was also trouble finding the right change.

Many floods were experienced during those years and to maintain customer service both council and private flood boats were used to ferry supplies and equipment to the teams left on the other side of the river.

During the 16 years I worked for the HDC I made many friends and it is pleasing to experience the children of those customers, now adults with children of their own, acknowledging me whenever we have met.

## Take over

In the early 1960s negotiations commenced for the Prospect County Council to take over the HDC. These negotiations went on for four and a half years. On the 1st January, 1965 Prospect took us over lock, stock and barrel including 16 employees, and the by now 2,600 additional customers. They paid £315,000 for the company.

Prior to the take-over, the company decided to retrench four of the linesmen's assistants. The staff was very unhappy about this decision. At the time I was shop steward for the Electrical Trades Union, so I notified the Electrical Trades Union organiser who immediately approached Prospect County Council and persuaded them to employ the men. They started working for Prospect a few months before the rest of the staff. Many years later that organiser became the Premier of New South Wales. His name was Barry Unsworth.



*The 7 ex-staff and 5 of their spouses. Back L to R: Bruce Farlow, Audrey Nutman, Max Doyle, Philip Shepherd, Gwen Doyle, Jenny Anderson, Joe Turner, John Gardiner. Front L to R: Vonne Farlow, Joy Shepherd, Jan Turner, and Susan Gardiner. [Photo by Phil Shepherd].*

# SUCCESSFUL OPEN DAY AT BLAXLANDS RIDGE

By Valerie Holland

The Old School House at Blaxlands Ridge, adjacent to the fire station and Blaxlands Ridge Community Centre, is used by the Society as an occasional meeting area and store. It was open on Sunday 20th November for members and others to view our library and see the inside of this fascinating building.

A visit to the old school house brought back happy memories for Mervene Canham (nee Turner, nee Packer). Mervene had been a student at the school c. 1934. She saw the Open Day notice in 'The Gazette' and was persuaded by her husband Frank to take a walk down memory lane.

Acquisitions officer Valerie Birch and committee secretary Valerie Holland were on hand to greet visitors and were delighted to share with Mervene recollections of her life and in particular memories of her childhood at Comleroy and Blaxland Ridge.

Valerie Birch is at present gathering more information and has obtained permission to add some of her early photographs to the Society's digital archives.

Encouraged by the success of this day the Society plans to have more open days in 2006, as it will give a valuable opportunity to meet members of the community and to document the fascinating history of the Kurrajong district.

The Society would be interested to hear from any others who attended Blaxlands Ridge School or who have memories of the school. In this regard members may contact Valerie Holland or Val Birch.



*TOP: Mervene and Frank Canham outside the old school house at Blaxlands Ridge where Mervene was a student in the 1930s. [Photo by Val Birch].*

*ABOVE: Mervene Canham chats to Valerie Holland about her childhood recollections during the Open Day at the old school house at Blaxlands Ridge on Sunday 20 November. [Photo by Val Birch].*

*LEFT: The old school house, which now provides a temporary home for the Society's bulky items and will be an occasional meeting place. [Photo by Greg Upton].*



More pictures from the KCHS Christmas Party at the home of Bryan and Marguerite Wyborn



*ABOVE: Anne and Les Dollin*



*TOP RIGHT: Gerry and Vera Bentvelzen*

*RIGHT: L to R: Jim Israel, Jan Perks, Peggy Israel*

*BELOW RIGHT: Phil Shepherd hiding in the trees*

*BELOW: L to R: Ken Bennett, Brian Wyborn, Pam Bennett and Jennifer Stevens*

*BOTTOM: Pat O'Toole and Jenny Griffiths*

*[All photos by Joy Shepherd except that of Phil Shepherd, which was taken by Val Birch].*



**COMMITTEE**

**President:** Jennifer Stackhouse  
**Vice President:** Kathie McMahon  
**Secretary:** Valerie Holland  
**Treasurer:** Joy Shepherd  
**Minute Secretary:** Pat O'Toole  
**Committee Members:** Airdrie Martin, Marguerite Wyborn, Robyn Fuller, Les Dollin

**Project Officer:** Frank Holland  
**Acquisitions Officer:** Val Birch  
**Millstone Editor:** Greg Upton



## Dates for your diary

### \* Friday 20 January 2006 – Charles Darwin Walk

Join members of the Blue Mountains Historical Society on a walk to celebrate the 170th anniversary of Charles Darwin in the Blue Mountains. The Charles Darwin walk begins at Wentworth Falls and follows an easy path with boardwalks. It takes around 90 minutes. The walk has recently been upgraded and reopened in recognition of the anniversary. The walk will be preceded by an inspection of the Blue Mountains Historical Society's research centre and cottage. We will take the walk after lunch.

Where: Meet at The Cottage and Research Centre, 99 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls. The phone number at the cottage is (02) 4757 3824 (Mrs Joan Smith or Dr Peter Rickwood) if needed on the day.

Time: 10am

Cost: No charge but bookings essential; bring a picnic lunch and cool drinks. Tea and coffee will be provided by the Blue Mountains Historical Society. Wear sensible shoes, a hat and sun protection. If you have trouble getting to Wentworth Falls we will arrange car pooling from Kurrajong Village departing at 9am from Bennett's car park.

More information: Jennifer Stackhouse (02) 4573 0836 (or to arrange car pooling).

### \* Thursday 26 January 2006 – Australia Day breakfast

Celebrate the 5th birthday of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society with breakfast, talks, music and poetry in the delightful environment of Wynella Gardens at Kurrajong Heights.

We will also present the Society's Annual Award of Merit to acknowledge an individual's outstanding contribution to local history research in The Kurrajong. Guest speakers include David Ellis, John Love and Noelle MacPhee.

Where: Wynella Gardens, 1318 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights

Time: 9am-12noon

Cost: \$30 (numbers limited so book early!)

More information: Kathie McMahon (02) 4567 7105 and see page 2.

### \* Tuesday 21 February 2006 – Grain Road

Follow the old Grain Road from Kurmond to Wilberforce. Now Kurmond Road, this convict built road was the original route from the grain mills on Wheeney Creek to the Government stores and wharves in Wilberforce. Les Dollin will lead this fascinating journey back in time. The tour will include a visit to the old Colo Council Chambers at Wilberforce and an inspection of relics of the grain mills and grain ships at the Windsor Museum. Our journey will end at Windsor Central Library in the early afternoon.

Where: Meet at the corner of Bells Line of Road and Kurmond Road, Kurmond. Park in the carpark on the Richmond side of the road opposite the Kurmond School. Car pooling can be arranged. Morning tea and lunch at own expense or bring a picnic to enjoy along the way.

Time: 9.30am

Cost: \$5

More information: Les Dollin (02) 4576 1495

### Coming events

The committee is in the process of organising a busy and varied calendar of events for 2006 including a film evening in May, day time visits to historic houses and locations in the area, our traditional midwinter dinner and our popular lecture evenings. As events are finalised they will be publicised in future issues of 'The Millstone'. Here are some up coming dates and events for your diary.

• Monday 27 March 2006 – Lecture evening and meeting (speaker and venue to be confirmed in next newsletter)

• Monday 9 – Tuesday 10 May - On the Bell's Line of Road, an overnight exploration of the Bells Line of Road from Kurrajong to Hartley. Travel by individual car (car pooling available). All meals at own expense. Overnight accommodation including dinner, bed and breakfast has been arranged at the Manor House, Mt Victoria for \$99 (per person, twin share). If you are intending to join this excursion, please forward a deposit and booking fee of \$30 in total as soon as possible as hotel reservations at the Manor House, Mt Victoria must be confirmed by 31 January. More information: Frank and Valerie Holland (02) 4573 2226.

### 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 in March 2006. If you have an item to include in the newsletter please contact Jennifer Stackhouse on 4573 0836. Copy deadline is 14 February 2006.



*"Catering for love, learning and leisure"*

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Helen Lord's wedding 16th March 1921

- Winner of Parramatta Regional Awards for Excellence in Sales and Marketing 2005
- Western Sydney Vocational Excellence Award for Help and Support for School Based Trainees 2005
- Highly commended Western Sydney Industry Awards for Regional Excellence in Outstanding Regional Promotion 2005
- Highly commended Western Sydney Industry Awards for Entrepreneur of the Year 2004
- Winner of Hawkesbury Excellence in Business Presentation for Ten or More Employees 2004
- Winner of Western Sydney Industry Awards for Tourism Most Outstanding Contribution to Western Sydney Tourism by a Small Business 2003
- Winner of Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Meetings and Business Tourism 2003
- Winner of the HMAA Best Short Break Accommodation in NSW/ACT 2003
- Business Advisory Service Inc. Best Home Based Business of the Year Award 2003
- Winner of Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Hosted Accommodation 2002