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## Gold Finders Inn

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June KCHS members visited the historical Gold Finders Inn on Old Bell's Line of Road at Little Wheeny Creek, Kurrajong. We were welcomed by Deborah Hallam the present owner of the inn.

Deborah gave us a talk on the history of the inn and how its character changed with each new owner over the years since it was built. Deborah's family became the owners in 1975. The old Gold Finders Rest inn along with a slab cottage and stable building stands today on two acres of land. It is a private residence lovingly restored.

Land grant records show that the 80 acres of land on which the inn once stood were originally granted to Rowland Edwards in 1809.

Local oral history suggests that the hand-built slab cottage may have been a sly grog shop built around 1835 prior to the stone inn. However, the cottage could have been built much earlier than this date and archival research is currently ongoing.

Surviving records show that by 1851 John Lamrock had opened an inn on Little Wheeny Creek called the 'Gold Finders Rest'. This inn was a major stop-over for travellers on their way to the gold fields. Female travellers stayed in the cottage while the men stayed on the top floor of the inn.

Research is on-going into the Post Office, inn licences, John Lamrock family, Pitt and Douglass families and early land grant records relating to this important inn, cottage and stables.

We thank Deborah for her informative talk and her many fascinating stories relating to this historical site and its contents.

A brief history of the owners, names and uses of the property are listed on page 2, and a photo of the inn taken in the 1920's when it was a general store, is on page 8.

Cont'd page 2



Photo: Anne Dollin

This cottage originally constructed with slab, wattle and daub predates the inn which stands beside it.

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 Wheeny Creek millstones on display at Kurrajong Memorial Park.

Logo designed for the Society by artist Tony Dixon.

## Bendigo Bank grant

A community grant has been gratefully received after our successful application to the North Richmond Community Bank branch of the Bendigo Bank. The funds have been provided from a partnership arrangement between the Community Enterprise Foundation – an initiative of the Bendigo Bank Group, and the North Richmond Community Bank branch.

The grant of \$1,500 is being used to assist in the establishment of our new website. It is under construction and being developed to enable our Society to communicate with the wider community. This will enable us to be placed in a more favourable position to not only share and gather historic data, but also to continue the preservation of the history of the Kurrajong district.

Bendigo Bank's Community Banking programme is an innovative concept developed to provide communities with a means for facilitating economic revitalisation and the enhancement of local services and infrastructure.

Community Bank branches provide communities with an opportunity to enhance control over their community's capital, ensuring more money stays in the district for local investment. The branch also provides communities with the certainty of banking services and enables communities to bank the way they want, whether that be face to face, electronically, or over the phone.

The Society appreciates the generosity of those involved in enabling us to receive the grant. If you would like to pass on your thanks, or you are having differences with your current financial institution, our Bank can be contacted:

McNair Shopping Centre  
36 Riverview Street  
North Richmond  
4571-2988  
northrichmond@bendigobank.com.au



North Richmond & Districts Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank

Cont'd from page 1

### Brief history of Gold Finders inn

1851	John Lamrock	'Gold Finder Rest' inn
1851	John Lamrock	'Gold Finders Arms' inn
1853	John Lamrock	'Gold Finders Home' inn
1860	John Lamrock	'Gold Finders Home' inn, post office and store
1868	John Benson	'Gold Finder Home' inn, post office and store
1870	John Benson	'Lamrock's Hotel' post office and store
1899	Henry and Robert Pitt	Telegraph, post office and store
1908	William Logan	Telegraph, post office and store
1916	William Logan	Telegraph, post office and store
1922	James Pye	Store
1944	Lawrence Adolphus	
1951	Marjorie Adolphus	
1953	William Wells	
1958	Terry Paul	
1972	P McGuinness and 3 others	
1975	Christopher and Deborah Hallam	



## From the Editor

I should start off by introducing myself. My name is Chris Upton, the younger brother of the previous editor Greg. I am proud to have been given the task of ensuring *The Millstone* is published to the highest possible standard and hope my efforts will meet with the approval of all members. It is an unenviable task but one which I hope to tackle with the help of other members.

All members should feel free to forward to Robyn Fuller, or myself articles or snippets of information they think might be of interest to members. My postal address is: PO Box 136 Lithgow 2790 and my email address is at the end of the column. Space limitations might not allow all correspondence to be included.

Photos with accompanying details would also be greatly appreciated, but please, prior to taking any photo if your camera has the ability to 'date stamp' could you turn it OFF as nothing degrades a good picture better than a huge blob of unrelated text.

A new column appears in this issue 'Mystery Picture'. The purpose of the column is to help members gather detail on photos they might have with either little or none. We encourage members who might recognise a photo to pass on the information so it can be corroborated and forwarded to the owner of the photo.

The financial statements included in this issue might not make interesting reading for everyone but they give a good snapshot of the current standing of the Society.

I cannot thank Greg highly enough for the help and resources he has given me in making a start on my first issue. The quality of the issues he has overseen is outstanding and I only hope I am able to maintain his high standard in this and future issues.

Chris Upton  
notpuc@ozemail.com.au



# President's report

BY JENNIFER STACKHOUSE

The past 12 months have been a busy and positive time for the society. With growing membership and a strong committee, the society has become more focussed in its aims and highly productive in its outcomes. We have set goals and objectives and delivered an exciting and important series of events, activities and research projects to make use of our resources and to explore and better understand our local history. I want to make particular mention of the highlights:

**Digital archiving project.** The concept and execution of this project under the guidance of Joy Shepherd has tapped into the wealth of pictorial material within the community and provided the society with an amazing and valuable resource. Arising directly from this project have been the displays and exhibitions mounted by the society particularly the annual Back to the Kurrajong. We have been able to make use of new technology along with government funding to record our local history and increase awareness in our community of the value of our local history. A big thank to Joy Shepherd for her tireless work and to all those who assisted her in this project.

**Newsletter.** As a method of communicating with our membership and recording our research and events, the newsletter has grown and developed under Greg Upton's editorship. Thank you Greg. Greg is now taking on the challenges of developing our website and his brother Chris will continue to create the newsletter with the assistance of our committee, particularly Robyn Fuller. One of the weaknesses of many societies is the newsletter but our *Millstone* is strong and this is due in no small part to the willingness of members to contribute on a regular basis. Thank you to all contributors. I would like to see more of the membership opt for receiving the newsletter via email to appreciate the colour images and to continue our quest to be a technology driven society.

**Events.** We have had a range of exciting and stimulating events particularly our one day and two day trips. Not only have these been great fun and socially stimulating, they've also provided a framework for our research projects and shown how important it is to follow living history as well as recorded history. Trips such as the Comleroy trip, the Grain Road, and Bells Line of Road all brought history to life. I want to make particular mention of Les and Anne Dollin, Bryan and Marguerite Wyborn and Frank and Valerie Holland who made these marvellous trips happen through a lot of hard work and planning. I would also like to thank all those others who contributed knowledge and time to these events and to our speakers who enlivened our regular evening meetings. I would also like to thank Kathie McMahon and others who led some terrific daytime events during the year further broadening the scope of the society. A special thanks is also due to those people who welcomed us to their homes, businesses and institutions during the year.

**New constitution.** Marking the growth of the society we established a new constitution under the direction of a subcommittee of Frank Holland, Ron Rozzoli and Bryan Wyborn. This was successfully formulated, carried and implemented.

**New directions.** When we formed we set out to be a 'modern' history society in that we were not interested in acquiring historic items but wanted to base our society on records (oral, documents and photographic). We have continued to have that focus and are now moving to the next stage with our establishment of a website which will allow us to open our collection and knowledge to a wider audience.

**Community participation.** It is important for a society like ours to have community support. This helps us fulfil our needs and learn more to help us to grow. We have been helped in many ways in the past 12 months by local identities and businesses through donations of time, prizes and advice and we appreciate and acknowledge that assistance. I would like in particular to acknowledge the Bendigo Bank, Loxley, Bennett Properties, Wynella Gardens, the Windsor Library, Kurrajong CWA and businesses in Kurmond, Kurrajong and Kurrajong Heights.

**Having fun.** I don't want to make everything sound like hard work. Underlying everything we do is a spirit of good will and good times, which make every event and every meeting an enjoyable and socially stimulating experience.

**The workers.** I want to thank a very hardworking committee and applaud the society's achievements particularly over the past year. I am sorry that I can no longer be part of the committee due to my work commitments as I have been part of the committee since the society was formed on a hot Australia Day in 2000 at the Comleroy Road School of Arts. I have been impressed with the talents and dedication of everyone involved in the society, particularly on the committee and office bearers, and I wish the society continued strength and growth.

A huge thank you to everyone on the retiring committee: vice president and acting president Kathie McMahon, treasurer Joy Shepherd, secretary Valerie Holland, minutes secretary Pat O'Toole, publicity officer Robyn Fuller, and committee members Les Dollin, Airdrie Martin and Marguerite Wyborn. I hope all of you continue your good services to the society. I also want to thank and acknowledge public officer and project leader Frank Holland, archivist Val Birch and newsletter editor Greg Upton, who have given hours of their time to make the society the stimulating and professional organisation it is. Thank you too to all the members who have helped on special tasks throughout the year including catering, selling raffle tickets, moving furniture, preparing name tags, mounting exhibits and lots of other small but vital tasks which help with the smooth running of the society and its events.

The year ahead will bring new challenges and achievements and I wish the new committee and office bearers well in the tasks that lie ahead.

Jennifer Stackhouse  
August 2006



# Secretary's report

BY VALERIE HOLLAND

As our 2005/2006 year draws to a close, we look back on the many highlights that our members and friends have experienced. Our outreach programmes to other Societies and members of the community have provided important new research links for us as we continue to unravel the history of the Kurrajong district. Many of the district's businesses, organisations, members of the community and our own members have contributed to the successful outcomes for our Society during this year. We are a growing organisation whose membership has increased to 150, and we are delighted to have experienced increasing numbers of members attending meetings and functions.

Our new constitution was ratified by the Department of Fair Trading on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2006. Thanks to the work of Frank Holland, Ron Rozzoli and Bryan Wyborn for their efforts in formulating and revising this document for acceptance by members. Frank has been very busy as Projects Officer.

The final 'Work for the Dole' programme which operated over the past three years has been successfully completed. We thank Joy Shepherd, Valerie Birch and Marguerite Wyborn for this achievement. The programme has enabled the digital archiving of over 3000 historic images. The task of capturing further images will continue into the future but we are now faced with finding the funding for this project. We are grateful for the assistance given to us by Michelle Nichols, Local Studies Librarian at Windsor Library who has arranged storage of our master CD's in archival conditions at the library.

**Donations.** Recently our Society has been very fortunate to receive a generous grant of \$1,500 from the North Richmond Branch of the Bendigo Bank, through their Bank's Community Enterprises Foundation. The money was granted to support the establishment of our new website which will be managed by Society member Greg Upton. Greg has edited our *Millstone* over the last two years and has achieved a very professional result. He has been a pleasure to work with and a great asset for our Society. We welcome Chris Upton, Greg's brother, who will be taking over the editing of *The Millstone*. We thank Greg for this achievement and look forward to working with both Greg and Chris in their new roles. Robyn Fuller has played a valuable part as our publicity officer and has taken over the co-ordination role between the Society and Greg and Chris Upton.

Joy donated much of the money she earned from her supervisory role in the "Work for the Dole" programmes to our Society. Some of this money has been used to purchase a new computer and three-in-one printer. We wish to thank Joy for all her work and valued donation. Joy has also been our dedicated member representing the Society's interest in ongoing talks for the extensions of the McMahon Park Community Facility. Thanks also for the recent Archival workshop at the Deerubbin Centre that Joy organised for our Society, members of the Hawkesbury History Group and a member of the Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society.

Airdrie Martin and Kathie McMahon have been diligent in seeking community, business and raffle donations. In addition Kathie has been able to raise funds for the Society through social and musical events. Books for our library have been donated by Vera Bentveltzen. Other members have donated a portable scanner,

a model of the old school house at Blaxland Ridge and a Society information pamphlet. All these donations assist our Society and were gratefully accepted with many thanks to the donors.

**Planning Committee & Sub Committees.** The Planning Committee (Frank Holland, Kathie McMahon, Joy Shepherd and Les Dollin) produced a three tiered forward-looking plan. This plan aims to establish the Society's presence on three levels - the Internet, a permanent home and an increased capability for mobile promotions. After acceptance by the full committee of the Society, sub committees were formed to pursue these plans. The Premises Committee includes Frank Holland, Ken Bennett, Joy Shepherd and Janette Lennox.

A sub committee is working with TRAK for the establishment of a permanent home in Kurrajong Village, preferably to be situated on or near the old station site. A second sub committee (Les and Anne Dollin plus Greg Upton with professional support) is working on the establishment of the Society's website. A temporary home page has been built and can be accessed at [www.kurrajonghistory.org.au](http://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au)

Our home page currently advises that the website is under construction and asks visitors to call back later. Although a sub committee was not established for increasing our capability for promotional displays ie: in the Village, shopping centres etc, this effort was recently boosted by the offer of a very generous donation to purchase lightweight boards.

**Exhibitions.** During this year we have been involved with mounting a number of exhibitions which have in turn given us the opportunity to meet members of the community and to obtain more historical information. Members Carolynne and John Cooper kindly invited the Society to mount a small exhibition on their Kurrajong property during their involvement with celebrations for the NSW Railway Sesqui-Centenary in September 2005. Our 2005 October "Kids of the Kurrajong" exhibition was co-ordinated by Joy Shepherd who was assisted by a number of dedicated Society members.

The CWA ladies generously allowed us to use their hall in Kurrajong in conjunction with the Scarecrow Festival. Fortunately we were able to sell printed copies of our photographic collection during the exhibition through the use of our new computer equipment. TRAK extended an invitation to our Society to be part of their inaugural Hobby and Model exhibition held at Clarendon. Member Bryan Wyborn kindly loaned his A Model Ford to enhance our display, which we shared with Ian and Pat O'Toole's Kurrajong Radio Museum's display.

Special thanks to Bryan Wyborn, Phil Shepherd, Les Dollin and Frank Holland for assisting with transport and arranging and removing display boards for these exhibitions. Also thanks to Marguerite Wyborn, who has carried out another important role of preparing and backing our prints onto cardboard frames

**Functions and field trips.** A number of enjoyable outings and functions were attended by members and their friends. Bryan and Marguerite Wyborn were gracious in hosting our Christmas function in their lovely garden. On this occasion Ken Bennett was presented with the Royal Australian Historical Society's Certificate of Achievement for his contributions to our Society.



Our Australia Day celebrations and musical entertainment were held in the pleasant surroundings of Wynella. The day was again successfully arranged by Kathie McMahon. During this function Cathy McHardy was presented with our Society's Australia Day Award for her contributions to preserving the history of the district. On Australia Day our nominee for one of the Council's Citizens of the Month Awards, Joy Shepherd, was presented her award at the Richmond Club by Hawkesbury Mayor Councillor Bart Bassett.

Our Charles Darwin walking excursion to Wentworth Falls, organised by president Jennifer Stackhouse, was enjoyed by some of the fit and not so fit members. Members from Blue Mountains Historical Society were our hosts and informative guides. We wandered through beautiful mountain countryside down Jamieson Creek to Wentworth Falls. We also toured Hobby's Reach Centre and Tarrella Cottage.

Les and Ann Dollin's research and guided tours of the Old Grain Road and the Bells Line of Road made a significant contribution to our greater understanding of both of these important roads. Airdrie Martin provided a guided tour of Mount Tomah Gardens which added to the enjoyment. Participants thoroughly enjoyed the experiences and new insights that these field trips offered, as well as historic input from the varied speakers who Les and Anne had contacted. The story of these tours was printed in previous issues of *The Millstone*.

One meeting with a difference was held when Pat and Ian O'Toole kindly opened their new Radio Museum for us. Members enjoyed some 'jaffas' and a laugh as they watched the 1933 Frank Hurley film "The Squatters Daughter" and "The Devil's Wilderness", a film of the recent re-enactment of the botanist/explorer George Caley's journey via Kurrajong Heights to Mount Tomah in 1804. Later we enjoyed viewing the many radios on display and listening to favourite old radio serials, such as 'Yes What'.

In June we enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Old Goldfinders Inn on Old Kurrajong Road organised by Pat O'Toole. Owner of the property, Debra Hallam, allowed us through the Old Inn and other old buildings on the property and told us of the property's history.

A beautiful fine day greeted 43 of us for our Christmas in July dinner held on the Hawkesbury River Paddle Steamer. All were interested to learn some more of the river's history.

**Recognition for achievement.** Our Society has decided to recognise valuable contributions to the historic knowledge of the district and to the Society by presenting appropriate certificates of appreciation. The first Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Mary and Vern Avern at their home in July 2006. Vern has not been well, so both he and Mary were delighted to receive this award. Joy Shepherd is our 2006 nominee for the Royal Australian Historical Society's Certificate of Achievement in recognition of her 'Work for the Dole' contribution.

**Lease renewed.** We have renewed the lease for the old school house at Blaxland Ridge which we mainly use for storage. Some meetings and a library day have been held there. However, it is too small and too far away to provide a permanent location for the Society. Our committee has varied the general meeting venues in an attempt to involve more members of the community.

**Fund raising.** Although our forward budget predicts a small surplus for the year we need to make continuing efforts to raise funds for Society projects. The cost of digital imaging and printing is not cheap and yet this important work must continue. We seek

grants where they apply to our work, but otherwise we are dependent upon membership fees, donations, sales, advertising and fund raising activities. We all can help. Maybe you know someone who could become a member, ask them to join. Or perhaps you know someone who would be prepared to pay for some advertising in *The Millstone*.

A sausage sizzle will have been held outside Bunnings Hardware store at McGraths Hill on Fathers Day the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September between 8am and 4pm. Kathie McMahon was co-ordinator for this event. We hope to continue to explore different ideas to raise funds and the committee would be happy to receive any fundraising ideas that members may have.

Our president Jennifer Stackhouse is not standing for re-election as she has increased work commitments. Vice President, Kathie McMahon has been deputising for Jennifer. Jennifer has been a pleasure to work with and has ably steered the Society through a period of expansion. We thank her for her commitment to the preservation of our history and hope to see her at future functions. It was very encouraging to observe the committee gather around our Vice President, Kathie McMahon, to keep the Society running smoothly.

Frank Holland was appointed to the committee in Jennifer's place until the AGM.

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the outgoing committee. It has been a very busy year and all members have worked hard. I have appreciated Pat O'Toole's role as the Minutes Secretary. Finally, I would like to wish the in-coming committee every success. I am sure that the Society will go from strength to strength.

Valerie Holland  
Secretary

## Kurrajong - Comleroy Historical Society Incorporated

PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757

[www.kurrajonghistory.org.au](http://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au)



### COMMITTEE

**President** Kathie McMahon (acting)

**Vice President** Kathie McMahon

**Secretary** Valerie Holland

**Treasurer** Joy Shepherd

**Minutes Secretary** Pat O'Toole

**Committee Members** Airdrie Martin  
Marguerite Wyborn, Robyn Fuller, Les Dollin



**Project Officer** Frank Holland

**Acquisitions Officer** Val Birch

**Millstone Editor** Chris Upton

**Webmaster** Greg Upton



# Treasurer's report

BY JOY SHEPHERD

The financial year 2005/2006 has once more been a busy and productive one, and we have managed to build on our assets at the same time.

At the end of June 2005 we were lucky to receive a small equipment grant from the Department of Family and Community Services for the amount of \$2,735 to enable us to purchase a notebook computer and digital camera. This cheque was banked to our account at the end of June therefore inflating our profits for the last financial year. It could not be avoided as the money was not actually spent until July, thus deflating our profits a little for this financial year.

In October with the build-up of moneys allocated by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations for my supervision of the 'Work for the Dole' projects over the past three years, I was able to purchase a top of the range computer and all-in-one printer for the Society's work. We only procured one new six month project through Hawkesbury Skills this year, ending in April, which brought in \$2,210. Hawkesbury Skills has now lost a lot of their Government funding so it will not be likely that we will receive further grants from this source.

We have held several successful functions in the past year starting with a Dinner Meeting at Kurmond Wine Bar and Grill in July. Cathy McHardy was guest speaker filling us in on some of the early history of East Kurrajong. We are grateful to the Derwin family of the Wine Bar and Grill for providing a great dinner and our prize for the raffle.

As usual, the 'Back to the Kurrajong' evening and Scarecrow weekend in October were our biggest events of the year. The 'Kids of the Kurrajong' theme sparked a huge amount of interest, as did the launching of our new computer system. Our panel of 'kids' reared in the main street of Kurrajong were most entertaining and informative and the comprehensive photographic display was most appreciated.

Our Christmas Party was not run as a fundraiser but managed to pay its way. We are grateful to members Marguerite and Brian Wyborn, our hosts, for arranging such a delightful and relaxing evening to wind down the year.

The Australia Day breakfast at Wynella was also a memorable and profitable event. A huge thanks to Kathie McMahon for her tireless work in organising the whole event – a beautiful setting, wonderful music, sumptuous food, and riveting speakers – what more could anyone ask? Cathy McHardy was the worthy recipient of the Australia Day Award. The framed photograph of the earliest settlement was suitably presented to her by Austin Buttsworth, former owner of the property, and George Veicherts, the photographer. We are really grateful to the many people who made the day such a success, especially to Noelle and Al McPhee, our hosts at 'Wynella.'

We have had several field trips this year. These have only been run to cover costs and we have managed to do that. Members have enjoyed an informative guided tour of the State Archives, a day trip down the Grain Road to Wilberforce and Windsor, an overnight trip up the Bells Line of Road, and a tour of Goldfinders Inn at Kurrajong. Several members are to be thanked for organising these events, but in particular Anne and Les Dollin, who have spent many hours of time and research to make these events so successful.

Our raffles held at several events have boosted the funds significantly. Big thanks are due to Airdrie Martin, Kathie McMahon and Pat O'Toole who have successfully badgered people for prizes and managed to flog off hundreds of tickets over the year.

Kathie McMahon has been doing a marvelous job in providing some wonderful musical evenings at "The Heights" for our entertainment. At the same time she and her band of helpers have been raising funds for several local organisations. Our Historical Society has been helped greatly by these evenings to the tune of over \$1,000 in the past year. Our funds were also helped greatly with a generous donation from the people of the Turpentine Tree Co-op which closed earlier this year.

Work has commenced on the establishment of our own website and we have committed funds towards that. Anne Dollin has been working with her brother to set this up correctly, and Greg Upton will be the Webmaster for the Society.

Our membership is still growing steadily and we managed to reach the magical figure of 150 financial members at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006. New subscription invoices went out with the last *Millstone* and memberships are coming in.

I would like to thank Paul Nelson of Nelson Business Consultants for his honorary audit of the books for the last two years. Paul and his staff generously donate many hours of free time on this necessary task.

I would also like to thank all of our hard working committee and all of our members for their continuous support and look forward to an even more exciting 2005/2006.



## Digital archiving project report

BY JOY SHEPHERD

The digital archiving project goes ahead in leaps and bounds. We have archived some amazing early collections in the past twelve months with the help of the people and facilities of Hawkesbury Skills. Our final six months project with two 'Work for the Dole' participants finished in April but 'Skills' still make us most welcome to continue working there ourselves.

We have well over 3,000 images digitally archived and most of them printed and laminated. These are all complete with full descriptions. I now receive several phone calls per week from people and organizations requesting information or the loan of photos for exhibitions, events, or local history books. We have exhibited at several events this year including the Scarecrow Festival, Kurmond School reunion, the Railway Centenary exhibition and the recent Trak Show.

We now receive no Government funding for this project. The cost of special paper, laminating and in particular ink cartridges is quite enormous. We now need to look seriously for some other means of funding this important project.

I would like to give a big thanks to all of those generous people who have trusted us with their photos and their memories. Thank you especially to Val Birch who spends a huge number of hours in interviewing and research and manually writing up the records as well. Also to Marguerite Wyborn who continues the tedious job of 'backing' all of our photographs for exhibition.

We are still working hard to find a 'home' so that members of the public can have ready access to our large collection of photos, documents, and our library.

# Project officer's report

BY FRANK HOLLAND

Research projects this year have been of a continuing nature rather than the creation of new projects. The current status of each of these projects is listed at the end of this report. I know that each project leader has committed a considerable amount of their time and in some instance personal funds towards research and activities relating to their projects. I congratulate each project leader, and their assistants and helpers, on their perseverance and for the effort they are making towards capturing the history of the Kurrajong district. I hope that I have noted the names of everyone who has been involved in working on individual projects but do apologise if I have inadvertently left anyone out.

A significant development this year arose from discussion about the future direction of the Society. This led to agreement at committee level that the Society needed to ensure that it had a presence on three levels. In the short term via the Internet and by developing a capability to mount displays that promoted the work of the Society within the local area. A longer term goal was to pursue options for a permanent home in the Kurrajong Village area. As a result some sub committees were formed to focus on these goals.

Recently two new projects have commenced. The first, led by new member Paul Hulbert, is titled A Photographic Social Essay of Kurrajong. This project is capturing the current stories of some 100 people of the area – "Tomorrows history". The second is from Brenda Smith and aimed at recording 'The Timber Industry of the Kurrajong' and includes a live search for any remaining stands of Sassafras Trees. I wish each of these project leaders every success with their work.

**Digital Imaging Project** - Joy Shepherd, Valerie Birch, Marguerite Wyborn.

This project team have been responsible for the digital capture of over 3000 images, many with supporting captions. Over the past 3 years this project has been self funding due to the enormous effort of Joy in not only seeking out records, entering data and writing captions but through the freely giving of her time to supervise 'Work for the Dole' programs through Hawkesbury Skills. That program has finished and funding from Society resources will need to be made available for the on going capture of the district's photographic history.

**Soldier Settlement/Mackenzie Farm** - Vera Bentvelzen.

Vera has spent considerable time and money in researching this project. The output of this research will be the production of two books which capture these two important stories and record an era of the district's history. I understand that although a final decision has not been taken, Vera may wish to publish in her own right with appropriate acknowledgements for the Society's help.

**Tours/Society Outings** - Les and Anne Dollin, Valerie and Frank Holland.

Although the first tour took place in the previous year (Road to Comleroi) it was part of a series that have continued into this report year. These trips have formed part of an exploration of the historic roads of our area. Comleroy (First road north to the Hunter), Kurmond Road (The Grain Road from the Mills to Government Store) and Bells Line (West over the Blue Mountains). Part of the on-going project has been the recording of the trips which have

been printed in *The Millstone*. More recently the members of the Society enjoyed an outing on the river road (The Hawkesbury River which could be described as the first road). There are still more roads to explore in the coming years.

**Family Histories** - Valerie Birch.

Although Valerie is building a register of early families, at this time we have only one written family history in our library. So this is more a request to everyone with long term connections to the district. Please, if you have a recorded family history, could we have a copy? If nobody has started the family history, Valerie would be happy to provide help and support. It does not necessarily have to be a full history. What you know, even if it is only half a page, can fill in some missing data.

**Camp Mackay** - Valerie Holland with assistance from Frank Holland.

In excess of 100 photographs have been obtained (and captured digitally) and the recollections of a number of Policemen who were posted to the camp have been gathered. Although there are still more people to be interviewed some stories are approaching final sign off. Running parallel with the interviews has been the research of PCYC archives and gathering of data from public and private resources. A section for the Web Site on Camp Mackay has been signed off by the PCYC. The goal of this project is the production of a small book which outlines the history of the Camp over its 60 year life together with recordings of the memories of police and civilian supervisors and the memories of some attendees.

**Website** - Les and Anne Dollin, Greg Upton.

This project is fairly recent and we now have a page up and running – [www.kurrajonghistory.org.au](http://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au). This project is being made possible through a grant from the Bendigo Bank North Richmond. A number of members have contributed information for web pages which our webmaster, Greg Upton will knock into shape. At the moment the site is under construction and a note to that effect appears on the above web address. This project will give the world access to our site and provide us with the opportunity of gathering information from a large audience. In time it is hoped that the site will become self sustaining through the sale of research information and or photographs.

**Fernhurst** - Airdrie Martin.

The research of this important landmark is in its infancy and at the data gathering stage.

**Guest Houses of the Kurrajong** - Valerie Birch.

The research of these buildings/locations is in the data gathering stage.

I should like to make a plea to all members to think about giving some time to help with or start a project. The people who are currently researching projects all started out knowing very little or nothing about their topics. We now can provide you with help as a result of our learning experiences. We need more people actively researching.

Finally, I record my thanks to the committee and members of the Society, for their support throughout the year. I take this opportunity to wish the incoming Project Officer all the best for the coming year.

# ~ PICTURE PARADE ~

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Gold Finders Inn circa 1920's

This was the original Post Office at Kurrajong and later became a general store.

[Ed's note] The 'S' on the store sign has been written backwards. Was this a convention in those years, or a very sloppy signwriter?

Photo from the collection of Ken Bennett.

Florence Nina (known as Nina) Douglass poses with her niece, Nell Douglass at their home, 'Frankfield' Hermitage Road (now known as Douglass Road) Kurrajong North circa 1928.

From the collection of Betty Pitt.



Nina & Nell Douglass  
circa 1928



Little Wheeny Creek bridge circa 1942

Austin Buckett with his son Jack guarding the Little Wheeny Creek bridge during World War II. The men of Kurrajong were rostered to guard the bridge day and night, as it was feared the Japanese would launch an attack over the mountains.

In the background can be seen the general store shown in the photo above.

Photo from the collection of Dorothy Buckett.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Fund-raising sausage sizzle. Father's Day at McGrath's Hill Bunnings 8:00AM - 4:00PM. Volunteers are needed. Phone Kathie McMahon on 4567 7105.

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September

Annual General Meeting and trivia night at St David's Uniting Church hall, Kurrajong Heights at 7:30PM. Don't forget to fill in your nominations form and send it to Val Holland no later than 11<sup>th</sup> September. Once the business is completed we will have a fun night of trivia and look forward to a good attendance. Gold coin donation for supper.

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October

The Kurrajong Scarecrow Festival commences on Friday night the 27<sup>th</sup> at the CWA hall in Kurrajong at 7:30PM, and the theme this year will be "Fun and Games of The Kurrajong". This is a photographic exhibition and will also feature three guest speakers - Judy Gray, Hawkesbury's Sportsperson of the Year, Ross Matheson, one of our well-known cricketers and Rita Crane, one of the usherettes at the Kurrajong Picture Theatre.

This will be a very interesting and informative evening. Supper will be served and the cost for the evening will be \$25 per person. The photographic exhibition will continue over Saturday and Sunday in the CWA hall.

### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Bi-monthly meeting at Grose Vale Community Centre, Grose Vale Community Centre Road, Grose Vale at 7:30PM. The guest speaker will be Laurie Duffy. Gold coin donation for supper and please remember to bring your cup.

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Annual Christmas party to be held at Bryan and Marguerite Wyborn's property. Cost and directions will be advised in the November issue of *The Millstone*.

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Australia Day Anniversary breakfast to be held at Loxley on Bellbird Hill. Cost will be \$25. Bookings are essential, please phone Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.

## Conservation workshop

BY JOY SHEPHERD

Our Society in conjunction with the Hawkesbury Family History Group recently organised a Conservation workshop. This was held at the Tebbutt Room, Deerubbin Centre, Windsor on Tuesday 8 August.

This was a great opportunity for the two groups to become better acquainted while at the same time learning a whole lot more about the correct archiving and storage procedures for our precious documents and photographs for future generations.

We were fortunate to have Kylie Rees, formerly Librarian for the Royal Australian Historical Society and currently working full-time for The History Company. This private company is responsible for the care of many large and important collections in Australia.

The morning commenced with morning tea provided by our Society, a great chance to meet and greet. Then we were ready for Kylie's Powerpoint presentation and lecture titled "Archiving Conserving and Interpreting Photographs". Kylie also gave us some insight into the 'Copyright Minefield'. We were all glad of Kylie's comprehensive notes particularly on this daunting subject for our future reference.

Michelle Nichols of the Hawkesbury Family History Group had kindly organised a delicious lunch for us from the new *Chapters Cafe* on the premises which was served to us in the Tebbutt Room. This gave participants a chance to mingle further whilst enjoying the break.

After lunch tables were set up and the twenty six participants were given the opportunity to commence work on their archival photographic albums, with Kylie's guidance and advice. For those who have purchased these kits this advice is ongoing and they are welcome to contact The History Company at any time for further assistance with their albums.

For those who were unable to attend on the day we were able to purchase a few extra kits. As at the time of writing there are a couple still available for the special discounted price of \$32. If you would like further details please call Joy on 4571 1524.



### Uplands

This is a photo of 'Uplands', the house built by Henry Edward (Ted) Peck, husband of Julia Anistina (nee Leidich). It is an undated postcard so there is doubt as to its age, but it can be assumed that it is Henry sitting on the porch.

The house, at 1229 Bells Line of Road, is now occupied by a couple who regularly hold open days in the glorious yards.

## *Profit & Loss Statement*

1/07/2005 through 30/06/2006

### Income

Membership subscriptions	1,980.00
Advertising	305.00
Donations received	1,951.33
Field trips	1,160.00
Work for Dole activity	2,210.00
Door takings	5,890.70
General meetings	273.10
Special functions	5,108.00
Exhibitions	374.60
Day excursions	135.00
Other function income	155.00
Booking fees	155.00
Raffle proceeds	1099.70
Scarecrow Cup	90.00
Retail sales	968.80
Teaspoons	5.00
Louisa Atkinson book	2.00
'On the Kurrajong' book	64.80
Kurrajong Walk book	550.00
Photographs	277.00
Commission on Rawling CD	10.00
Society CD	60.00

**Total income** **\$15,810.53**

Cost of sales	
Purchases for resale	39.60
'On the Kurrajong' book	39.60

**Total cost of sales** **\$39.60**

**Gross profit** **\$15,770.93**

### Expenses

Blaxland Ridge School supplies	395.15
Computer	489.90
Depreciation	2,331.16
Donations given	150.00
Dues & subscriptions	15.00
Display equipment	65.85
Equipment hire	37.40
Gifts, flowers etc	217.64
Field trips	1,074.00
Functions	4,453.48
Catering	4,369.50
Drinks	33.98
Hall hire	50.00
Insurance	677.27
Library & literature	312.05
Legal fees	36.00
Licence fees	42.00
Office supplies & stationary	452.53
Photocopying & laminating	391.01
Photography & archiving	2,205.07
Postage	565.55
Post Office box rental	60.00
Research	33.15
School house hire	196.58
Supervision	637.83
Telephone	18.02
Website development	433.33

**Total expenses** **\$15,289.97**

**Net profit / loss** **\$480.96**

## *Balance Sheet*

As of June 2006

### Assets

Current assets	
Cash on hand	
Cheque account - Bendigo Bank	4398.75
Petty cash	1.40
Total cash on hand	4,400.15
Trade debtors	136.00

**Total current assets** **\$4,536.15**

Other assets	
Prepayments	1,469.62

**Total other assets** **\$1,469.62**

Property & equipment	
Stock on hand	
"On Kurrajong" books @ cost	391.05
Total stock on hand	391.05
Equipment	
Audio visual @ cost	436.35
Camera equipment @ cost	410.00
Computer equipment @ cost	6,378.50
Equipment accum dep'n	-2,408.87
Total equipment	4,815.98

**Total property & equipment** **\$5,207.03**

**Total assets** **\$11,212.80**

### Liabilities

Current liabilities	
Trade creditors	176.16
Membership paid in advance	95.00
Special functions paid in advance	905.00
Workshop paid in advance	150.00

**Total current liabilities** **\$1,326.16**

**Total liabilities** **\$1,326.16**

**Net assets** **\$9,886.64**

### Equity

Retained earnings	9,405.68
Current year earnings	480.96

**Total equity** **\$9,886.64**

**Total liabilities & equity** **\$11,212.80**

# ~ MYSTERY PICTURE ~

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This column will display photos which the owners are seeking further details. Most people have photos in their collections which have nothing recorded on their back, or there is doubt as to the accuracy of the detail.

If members are able to shed light on any photo please pass your information to the secretary and it will be included in future issues and the details passed on to the owner of the photo.

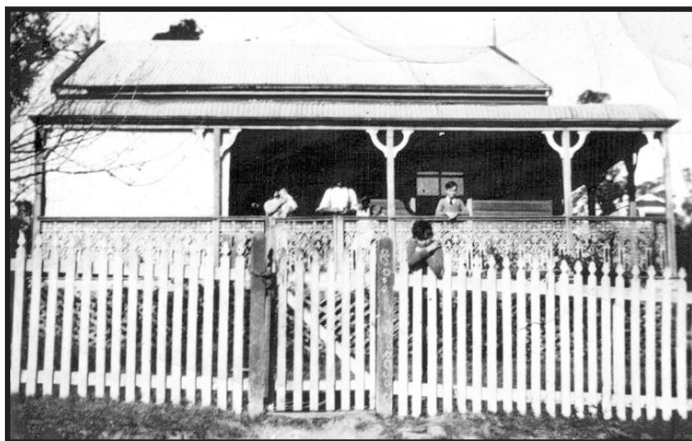


This photo, from the collection of Thelma Groch had no writing on the back to give an indication of either it's date or content.

It well could be a young Julia Anastina Peck (nee Leidich) as she bears a striking resemblance to Julia, shown in another photo from the collection below.



Julia Anastina & Henry Edward Peck 1921 - 1922



This is a photo that Ray Robinson has been totting around for a few months trying to find out where it was taken and who the people might be. He found it in his mother's (Lillian Robinson) collection and she can't remember where it is or who the people are.

The shadow on the verandah hides the faces of some people but if the house could be identified it might help jog memories.



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### New members

JOY SHEPHERD

#### Nell Downes

We are certainly a 'family affair' in the Society. We are pleased to welcome another family member who also belongs to the first family to settle on the 'Heights'.

Nell Downes (nee Douglass) is a descendant of Joseph Douglass who built 'Ivy Lodge' now known as 'Lochiel'. She is the youngest daughter of D'arcy and Jeanette Douglass (nee Bailey). She lost her Mum suddenly when she was just a babe and was reared by her Aunt, Nina Douglass at 'Frankfield' in what is now known as Douglass Farm Road at Kurrajong Hills. Her Dad and older siblings lived on the property next door.

After Nell married she raised her family in Dubbo. She has recently sold the family home and moved to a retirement village nearby.

Nell's daughter, Trish, has been a member for some time and is well known to us all as a keen historian. She has always been glad of the support from her mother in her research over the years.

#### Chris Upton

The surname Upton is pretty well known in our Society. Chris's mother Betty is a member of the Robinson family, one of the earliest in the Kurrajong. For most of her life Betty has been actively involved in the preservation of Australian history especially that of this area.

Greg, Betty's elder son has done a tremendous job as the Editor of *The Millstone* since November '04. Greg is now moving on to take up the challenge of running the Society's website.

Younger brother Chris has put his hand up to take over the reigns as Editor of *The Millstone*. We are thrilled to welcome him onto the team.

He was born in South Australia and spent most of his earlier years in Sydney. An offer of a career enhancement opportunity entailed a move west of the 'Mountains'.

He has been a resident of Lithgow for more than twenty years yet still feels a closer affinity to the Kurrajong district than the suburbs of Sydney.



A very young Chris Upton

## NEXT ISSUE

Detailed articles will cover September and October's activities. These should include the Father's Day sausage sizzle, the Annual General Meeting and hopefully the Scarecrow Festival. As the festival is being held right on publication date the next issue might be a little late getting to members. I apologise in advance to any member who waits with baited breath by their letterbox for each new issue.

If any members have articles which they would like included could they please forward them to Robyn Fuller or myself by the end of the second week of October. This will allow the Editor a bit more sleep than the effort involved with the publication of this issue.

We are experimenting with a new print workflow to ensure *The Millstone* photos are reproduced as best as possible, this has added a few days to the production process. Member's assistance in forwarding articles as soon as possible will help to streamline this process.

If you would like to become a featured sponsor or place a classified ad in *The Millstone* please contact

The Secretary  
PO Box 174  
Kurmond NSW 2757



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Fx: (02)4567 8231

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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