Kurrajong - Comleroy Historical Society Newsletter

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Details the successful and varied activities undertaken by the Society during the weekend.

3 Memories of Vern Avern

Arthur Cooper relates his fond memories of Vern and the friendship which was formed over many years.

4 Cricket snippets

With the Ashes back in our possesion it is timely to include something related to cricket and the history of the local district.

5 The story of Gladys Davis

Memories of Gladys Davis when she was between 5 to 12 years of age. This relates to the years 1919 – 1926.

6 Membership news

We welcome six new members — Joy Robinson, Warwick and Pauline Bartle, Pamela (Judy) Briton and Joan and Bryan Mullins.

We introduce a new column, Letters to the Editor.

7 Mystery picture

A very interesting photo from the Society's archives believed to have been taken in the 1920's.

8 Dates for your diary

Final reminders for this issue are the Australia Day anniversary breakfast on Friday 26th January, and the visit to History House on Tuesday 13th February.

Christmas gathering

VALERIE HOLLAND

Thank you to everyone involved in arranging and preparing for our Christmas party. The lovely sheltered garden of our kind hosts Marguerite and Bryan Wyborn was the venue for this occasion. While background music played guests sat and chatted at tables that were arranged beneath the branches of graceful mature shade trees and a refreshing cool breeze arrived to make everyone comfortable on what had earlier been a warm afternoon.

President Frank Holland welcomed everyone and presented Joy Shepherd with her Certificate of Achievement which had been awarded by the Royal Australian Historical Society. This was for her leadership in the Digital Imaging Project of Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society which utilised the resources of the Work for the Dole programme.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the interesting variety of food that was selected and prepared for the dinner by co-ordinator Airdrie Martin who was assisted by Peggy Israel. Other members who assisted in making the occasion a success were Jim Israel, Peter Martin, Jan Perks, Robyn Fuller and Airdrie's guest, Daphne.

We look forward to sharing in more happy gatherings and events with members in 2007. ■



Paul and Lesley Hulbert

Photo: Valerie Holland

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.

Scarecrow festival

VALERIE HOLLAND

ur sincere thanks to the numerous members and businesses whose assistance with time and donations made our weekend of festivities held at the Kurrajong CWA hall during the Scare Crow Festival such a great success.

Joy Shepherd and her assistants presented a very interesting and varied photographic exhibition "Fun and Games of the Kurrajong". This year we decided to cater for the Friday night opening function in an effort to raise additional funds for future needs. Airdrie Martin and assistants arranged and served a very enjoyable supper. Our speakers for the evening, Judy Gray, Rita Crane and Ross Matheson gave interesting and humorous anecdotes about sporting and entertainment activities in "the Kurrajong".

A steady flow of visitors viewed our exhibition over the weekend and gave us very positive feedback Many enjoyed viewing photographs of functions and sporting activities of the past, especially some of the older residents. An eye catching display of portraits of former actors of the district had all talking and recalling who they knew in this star line-up.

Our raffle was drawn on Sunday afternoon. 1st prize of a Wollemi Pine donated by the Management of Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens was won by Cathy McHardy. 2nd prize, also presented by Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens, a pass for two for the Gardens, was won by Paulette and John Howard. 3rd prize, a box of oranges from Schofield's orchard, was won by Margaret Rozzoli.



Norman Minturn on his motorbike in the main street of Kurrajong. The petrol bowser is outside his parent's newsagency and Hurst's general store is in the background. Woodhill's store can be seen in the distance. Photo contributed to the Society by Wendy Dillon.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

FRANK HOLLAND

Cince the last Millstone the new committee has met twice with It is pleasing to note that our 'Back to the Kurrajong' was again a resounding success. I am also pleased to advise that Steve Rawling has accepted the position of Projects Officer.

If you wish to raise any item for the committee to consider please contact the Secretary however if you are seeking information then the following list provides the name of the committee member and their area of responsibility. Planning – Frank Holland, McMahon Park Community Centre - Joy Shepherd, Advertising/Publicity /Millstone – Robyn Fuller, Displays/Photographs/Digital Images - Joy Shepherd, Integral Energy Site - Frank Holland, Sponsorships/Donations/Grants - Airdrie Martin, Website - Steve Rawling, Society Awards - Kathie McMahon.

We have also held discussions regarding short and medium term goals. These may evolve over time but at this time our short term goals (next 12 months) are:

- 1. Distribute a Calendar of Events.
- 2. Establish a series of sub committees.
- 3. Establish a fully functioning Web Site.
- 4. Expand membership to 200.
- 5. Conduct street/shopping mall promotions.
- 6. Review the copyright status of our collection.
- 7. Resolve direction for a permanent home for the Society.
- 8. Identify an effective storage system for our assets.
- 9. Increase the number of historically based written records.

I trust that everyone enjoyed a joyous Christmas and I wish all readers a happy and peaceful New Year.

Kurrajong - Comleroy Historical Society Incorporated PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757

www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

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COMMITTEE

President Frank Holland

Vice President Kathie McMahon

Secretary Valerie Holland

Treasurer Joy Shepherd

Minutes Secretary Pat O'Toole

Committee Members Airdrie Martin, Marguerite

Wyborn, Robyn Fuller Pat O'Toole, Steve Rawling

Projects Officer Steve Rawling Acquisitions Officer Valerie Birch

> Millstone Editor Chris Upton Webmaster Greg Upton



From the Editor

pologies are extended to all members for the late delivery of this issue. I am sure people would be aware that at this time of the year many businesses shut down for an extended period. So it is with our printers, it will be mid January when this issue goes to press. The upshot of this delay is that you will not have long to wait before the next issue arrives.

This 'hitch in the works' is a prime example of the advantage of receiving The Millstone via the Internet - it arrives on time regardless of extenuating circumstances. I would highly recommend to those who wish to receive the newsletter via email to put your hand up when the Society has the necessary method and infrastructure in place to implement the mail out.

I greatly appreciate the effort and time people spend in getting articles and photos to me for each issue. Joy Shepherd deserves a pat on the back for her contributions toward this issue.

I look forward to helping the Society produce The Millstone through 2007.

notpuc@ozemail.com.au

Memories of Vern Avern

ARTHUR COOPER

first got to know Vern sometime around **▲**1966 when I joined the Hawkesbury Valley Lapidary Club. Vern and Mary were among the early members with Keith and Val Maxwell and Wally Malloy.

Vern had an amazing knowledge of the local aboriginal tribes and their artefacts. He showed me many of the rock engravings, cave paintings and occupational sites around the local area. Vern and I went out and recorded a few of the rock engravings. For some of these we went out at night with a lamp to pick out more details. Bob Power and his brother Charles would often go with us.

When Lynne and I got married Vern went to a lot of effort to find us a place to

Vern also got me interested in photography. When Lynne and I went on a holiday to Central Australia just over thirty years ago Vern advised me to buy a good camera. I got a Pentax camera and took a lot of slides of the aboriginal rock art and cave paintings around Ayers Rock and the Olgas.

Vern and I did an Aboriginal Anthropology course over at Penrith. It was quickly determined that Vern could contribute a lot due to his enormous knowledge of the

local tribes in our area. The lecturer had Vern organising many field trips even years after we completed the course.

Mary and Vern owned a 1927 Vintage Sunbeam sedan car. Vern got me interested in vintage cars, a hobby I have had for the last thirty years. He helped me to find my first vintage Chev at Forbes.

Vern had a real thirst for knowledge. When we would be out in the bush he would be learning the names of the trees from Noel Powell, asking Keith Maxwell about the orchids and bush flowers, talking about local history and families with Bob Power, and learning all he could from these people.

He loved jokes and humour. At many of the history meetings or car club meetings there would be Vern in a small group telling jokes and getting stuck into the food.

He loved his family and was very proud of his sons' achievements. He adored his grandchildren. He would often ring them up and tell them jokes.

Vern liked to be independent. He did all his own car servicing and maintenance as well as home repairs and painting. He wouldn't borrow tools if he could buy his own.

He got great satisfaction out of beating the system. Whenever we went down to the car club meetings at Five Dock, Vern knew the side roads round the toll booth on the express way to save paying the toll. It was not the money saved, it was the joy of beating the system.

He was always there if you needed help and always found time to see people and listen. He would always give praise to people's efforts, and admired the skills and achievements of others.

Over the years Vern and I did a lot together. I remember when John Phipps went on holidays, I went with Vern up into the clock tower of St. Andrews Church to wind the clock. I've helped Vern and Mary replace the rear axle and drive shaft of their 1927 Chev tourer. We picked apples, cherry plums and blackberries on the sides of the road down the South Coast. We had great times together and I am proud to say he was a sincere friend.



Max and Gwen Doyle at the Christmas gathering

Hawkesbury Cricket Competition 1945/46 B Grade Final

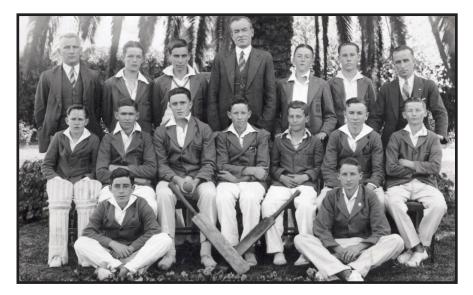
Played at Windsor and won by Kurrajong by 73 runs

KURRAJONG — 1st Innings	PITT TOWN — 1st Innings
D. Taylor b S. Paull	J. Alcorn b J. Davis
B. Upton c E. Stubbs b S. Paul 0	B. Paull b J. Davis
Z. McMahon c A. Curl b B. Paull	A. Curl lbw b J. Davis
B. Quinn c A. Curl b B. Paull	M. Mitchell run out 4
R. Hurst b A. Brown 5	A. Brown c J. Davis b Z. McMahon 7
J. Davis c B. Greenfield b M. Mitchell	S. Paull b Z. McMahon 0
L. Roberts b A. Brown 0	E. Stubbs b J. Davis
D. Mitchell not out	J. Stubbs b Z. McMahon 1
T. Anderson b M. Mitchell	A. Stubbs b J. Davis 0
H. Packer b M. Mitchell 0	W. Alcorn not out
J. Vincent run out	B. Greenfield b J. Vincent 19
Sundries	Sundries
Total	Total
Bowling: S. Paull 2–15, A. Brown 3–45, B. Paull 1–15,	Bowling: J. Davis 5–35, Z. McMahon 3–23,
M. Mitchell 3–9.	J. Vincent 1–2.
2nd Innings	2nd Innings
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull 1	J. Alcorn run out
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull	J. Alcorn run out
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull	J. Alcorn run out
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull 1 B. Upton lbw b A. Brown 1 D. Taylor b A. Brown 2 Z. McMahon b B. Paull 7	J. Alcorn run out 13 E. Stubbs b J. Davis 2 W. Alcorn c L. Roberts b J. Davis 0 A. Curl c Z. McMahon b J. Davis 0
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull 1 B. Upton lbw b A. Brown 1 D. Taylor b A. Brown 2 Z. McMahon b B. Paull 7 B. Quinn b A. Brown 3	J. Alcorn run out 13 E. Stubbs b J. Davis 2 W. Alcorn c L. Roberts b J. Davis 0 A. Curl c Z. McMahon b J. Davis 0 B. Paull c R. Hurst b J. Davis 1
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull1B. Upton lbw b A. Brown1D. Taylor b A. Brown2Z. McMahon b B. Paull7B. Quinn b A. Brown3R. Hurst c B. Paull b A. Brown3	J. Alcorn run out. 13 E. Stubbs b J. Davis 2 W. Alcorn c L. Roberts b J. Davis 0 A. Curl c Z. McMahon b J. Davis 0 B. Paull c R. Hurst b J. Davis 1 A. Brown c L. Roberts b J. Davis 4
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull 1 B. Upton lbw b A. Brown 1 D. Taylor b A. Brown 2 Z. McMahon b B. Paull 7 B. Quinn b A. Brown 3	J. Alcorn run out13E. Stubbs b J. Davis2W. Alcorn c L. Roberts b J. Davis0A. Curl c Z. McMahon b J. Davis0B. Paull c R. Hurst b J. Davis1A. Brown c L. Roberts b J. Davis4S. Paull c H. Packer b J. Davis0
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull1B. Upton lbw b A. Brown1D. Taylor b A. Brown2Z. McMahon b B. Paull7B. Quinn b A. Brown3R. Hurst c B. Paull b A. Brown3	J. Alcorn run out. 13 E. Stubbs b J. Davis 2 W. Alcorn c L. Roberts b J. Davis 0 A. Curl c Z. McMahon b J. Davis 0 B. Paull c R. Hurst b J. Davis 1 A. Brown c L. Roberts b J. Davis 4
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull 1 B. Upton lbw b A. Brown 1 D. Taylor b A. Brown 2 Z. McMahon b B. Paull 7 B. Quinn b A. Brown 3 R. Hurst c B. Paull b A. Brown 3 J. Davis c B. Paull b A. Brown 24	J. Alcorn run out 13 E. Stubbs b J. Davis 2 W. Alcorn c L. Roberts b J. Davis 0 A. Curl c Z. McMahon b J. Davis 0 B. Paull c R. Hurst b J. Davis 1 A. Brown c L. Roberts b J. Davis 4 S. Paull c H. Packer b J. Davis 0 M. Mitchell b J. Davis 15 B. Greenfield b J. Davis 6
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull 1 B. Upton lbw b A. Brown 1 D. Taylor b A. Brown 2 Z. McMahon b B. Paull 7 B. Quinn b A. Brown 3 R. Hurst c B. Paull b A. Brown 3 J. Davis c B. Paull b A. Brown 24 L. Roberts c A. Curl b A. Brown 0 J. Vincent not out 37 T. Anderson run out 2	J. Alcorn run out 13 E. Stubbs b J. Davis 2 W. Alcorn c L. Roberts b J. Davis 0 A. Curl c Z. McMahon b J. Davis 0 B. Paull c R. Hurst b J. Davis 1 A. Brown c L. Roberts b J. Davis 4 S. Paull c H. Packer b J. Davis 0 M. Mitchell b J. Davis 15 B. Greenfield b J. Davis 6 J. Stubbs not out 8
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull 1 B. Upton lbw b A. Brown 1 D. Taylor b A. Brown 2 Z. McMahon b B. Paull 7 B. Quinn b A. Brown 3 R. Hurst c B. Paull b A. Brown 3 J. Davis c B. Paull b A. Brown 24 L. Roberts c A. Curl b A. Brown 0 J. Vincent not out 37	J. Alcorn run out 13 E. Stubbs b J. Davis 2 W. Alcorn c L. Roberts b J. Davis 0 A. Curl c Z. McMahon b J. Davis 0 B. Paull c R. Hurst b J. Davis 1 A. Brown c L. Roberts b J. Davis 4 S. Paull c H. Packer b J. Davis 0 M. Mitchell b J. Davis 15 B. Greenfield b J. Davis 6
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull 1 B. Upton lbw b A. Brown 1 D. Taylor b A. Brown 2 Z. McMahon b B. Paull 7 B. Quinn b A. Brown 3 R. Hurst c B. Paull b A. Brown 3 J. Davis c B. Paull b A. Brown 24 L. Roberts c A. Curl b A. Brown 0 J. Vincent not out 37 T. Anderson run out 2	J. Alcorn run out 13 E. Stubbs b J. Davis 2 W. Alcorn c L. Roberts b J. Davis 0 A. Curl c Z. McMahon b J. Davis 0 B. Paull c R. Hurst b J. Davis 1 A. Brown c L. Roberts b J. Davis 4 S. Paull c H. Packer b J. Davis 0 M. Mitchell b J. Davis 15 B. Greenfield b J. Davis 6 J. Stubbs not out 8 A. Stubbs b J. Davis 3 Sundries 4
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull 1 B. Upton lbw b A. Brown 1 D. Taylor b A. Brown 2 Z. McMahon b B. Paull 7 B. Quinn b A. Brown 3 R. Hurst c B. Paull b A. Brown 3 J. Davis c B. Paull b A. Brown 24 L. Roberts c A. Curl b A. Brown 0 J. Vincent not out 37 T. Anderson run out 2 H. Packer b B. Paull 9 Sundries 5 Total 94	J. Alcorn run out 13 E. Stubbs b J. Davis 2 W. Alcorn c L. Roberts b J. Davis 0 A. Curl c Z. McMahon b J. Davis 0 B. Paull c R. Hurst b J. Davis 1 A. Brown c L. Roberts b J. Davis 4 S. Paull c H. Packer b J. Davis 0 M. Mitchell b J. Davis 15 B. Greenfield b J. Davis 6 J. Stubbs not out 8 A. Stubbs b J. Davis 3
D. Mitchell c M. Mitchell b S. Paull 1 B. Upton lbw b A. Brown 1 D. Taylor b A. Brown 2 Z. McMahon b B. Paull 7 B. Quinn b A. Brown 3 R. Hurst c B. Paull b A. Brown 3 J. Davis c B. Paull b A. Brown 24 L. Roberts c A. Curl b A. Brown 0 J. Vincent not out 37 T. Anderson run out 2 H. Packer b B. Paull 9 Sundries 5	J. Alcorn run out 13 E. Stubbs b J. Davis 2 W. Alcorn c L. Roberts b J. Davis 0 A. Curl c Z. McMahon b J. Davis 0 B. Paull c R. Hurst b J. Davis 1 A. Brown c L. Roberts b J. Davis 4 S. Paull c H. Packer b J. Davis 0 M. Mitchell b J. Davis 15 B. Greenfield b J. Davis 6 J. Stubbs not out 8 A. Stubbs b J. Davis 3 Sundries 4

Atomic Attack!

Making full use of a bowler's wicket, J. Davis of Kurrajong put up one of the most phenomenal performances ever seen in a Hawkesbury competition cricket final when, at the B Grade final at Windsor on Saturday, he skittled 9 Pitt Town wickets for 24 runs - an average of 2.6! The other wicket went from a "run out". Incidentally in Pitt Town's first innings he took half the wickets – 5 for 35. Now bring on your Bradmans.

WINDSOR AND RICHMOND GAZETTE Contributed by Ross Matheson



Richmond A Grade 1934

EDITORS NOTE: I have had this photo for quite a few years and cannot recall how it was passed to me. The only note I have is that the person in the middle row, second from the right is my father Bernard Upton.

If any reader might happen to have the original photo, or is able to identify the other people it would be appreciated if the details could be passed on and the names will be published in a future issue of The Millstone.

Gladys' story

GLADYS VINCENT

In the early days of KCHS president Kathie McMahon produced a family history kit in the hope that some of our oldies would record their early memories of Kurrajong. Gladys Vincent (nee Davis and Taylor) took up the challenge in 2002 at the age of 88 years. Below is an extract from those memoirs covering the years 1919 – 1926. Gladys is now almost 93 years of age, has been the oldest member of the Society since its inception in 2001 and currently resides at Hawkesbury Village Hostel.

My mother, Agnes Mitchell Frame, was Scottish. She came out from Scotland on her own when she was 17 years old. Her cousin Annie had come out on a holiday with her parents, somehow came to Kurrajong and fell in love with a local lad, Wes Devine. She refused to go back and married and settled in Baileys Lane, Netley Hill (now Kurrajong Hills). My mum was sent out for company for her. She was working for a local family as housemaid when she met my father Charles Davis at St. Stephen's Church. He was a warden there. A couple of years later they were married in St. Stephen's on 17 April 1912. The Rev Tate loaned them some money to help obtain their farm in Kurrajong village.

Their first child, a daughter born in March 1913, only lived a few days. Twelve months later I was born on 2 March 1914 then my brother Charles on 4 February 1916. He only lived three months. Then Irene was born 7 June 1917, Lillian 15 January 1920, brother Jim 8 June 1922 and Gwen 29 June 1928.

The early twenties were the 'Charleston Era'. Women wore their dresses much shorter. I think the older ladies found it hard to cope with such a change from the long dresses and lots of petticoats. Much cooler though. I was at that 'in between' age, not yet in my teens.

Digital archiving update

JOY SHEPHERD

Despite the loss of our "Work for the Dole" project and funding, the Digital Archiving Project continues on. The locals seem to have taken the project to heart, and barely a week goes by without the offer of some more wonderful photographs.

We have supplied photographs to a lot of small exhibitions over the last few months. Almost all of our Scarecrow festival exhibition of over 200 photographs were ones never shown before, and created a great deal of interest. It was particularly rewarding to see some of the oldies coming along especially to see our photographs, some in their 90's and one lady who was 100 years old. Two different families were thrilled to get hold of photographs of their fathers and grandfathers that they had never seen before. Thank you again to Marguerite for doing the backing for all of the photographs, to Valerie, Frank and Philip for helping get them up, and Bryan, Max and Peter for helping with the setting up of the boards.

Saturday was a quiet day for the whole of Kurrajong, but we were kept flat out on Sunday. We were able to have several unknown people in photographs identified, and I have also been offered a lot more. The locals are starting to realise that it is not a bad idea to have a "back up" copy of their photos, in the event of them being lost and destroyed.

We are grateful for new information that was given to us over the weekend. The photographs have now all been filed away for future reference, with some captions updated appropriately. Richmond RAAF Base opened 1925. Kingsford Smith flew from England in the Southern Cross and we went to see him and the plane. The Kurrajong Railway line opened in 1926, an extension from Richmond going over the Hawkesbury Bridge at North Richmond then meandering on through different properties and last part of the station ended in our property, 'Bonnie View'. The train was called 'Pansy'. After a landslide in North Richmond 1952 that was the end of "Pansy".

I walked 3 miles to Longleat School now called Kurmond, so called because it is approximately half way between Kurrajong and Richmond. It was a school for both sexes and we didn't wear a uniform at that time. The headmaster was Mr Ross, Miss Austin taught the infants. We were taught maths, English history, geography etc. and yes, the cane was used but I don't remember getting it myself. Social activities, music, concerts, dancing, sports, cricket and tennis were played at the school. We had our own school tennis court.

I was the eldest child so started very early helping Dad on the farm; pick up fallen fruit, pick and pack fruit, pick peas and beans. We had a big farm and Dad gradually cleared it putting it all out to orchard. When I was big enough I used to help peg out the new orchards. From a very early age we had to help with the house chores, set and clear table, wash up, make beds, sweep floors and so on.

There was no television but we had a crystal set – a small wireless with earphones you put on your head. There was no electricity. We started with drip safes for cooling then later ice chests. Flat irons were heated on the stove for ironing. Clothes were washed in tubs with a scrubbing board. Whites were boiled in a copper usually outside with a fire burning underneath. You used a copper stick to lift them out of the copper into cold water then wrung then by hand. Later we got a wringer. You fed the clothes into it while turning the handle. Lighting was candles andkerosene lamps.



1923 studio portrait of Agnes Davis with 4 of her children. L-R Gladys, Lillian, James & Irene.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS **New members**

JOY SHEPHERD

Joy Robinson

Joy Robinson (nee McKeown) was brought up in the main street of North Richmond with her two brothers and sister Jan. Their Mum, Phyllis McKeown was a member of the McMahon family.

Although Joy has lived in Canberra for a number of years she still has close ties in the Hawkesbury and is particularly interested in the early history of North Richmond. Joy and Jan have both been most generous in loaning many early photos of the area to our Digital Archiving Project.

When Joy comes back to the Hawkesbury, one of her first stops is to Wiseman's Books in Richmond to check if any new historical books of the area have been released. Joy and Jan would love to see a book published on North Richmond's colourful history and would be glad to help in any way they could.

Welcome Joy and thank you for the big contribution you have already made to the Society.

Warwick & Pauline Bartle

Pauline and I are both retired though we seem busier than when in full time employment. We moved to Comleroy Road, Kurrajong, in 2002 after living on the upper North Shore for 11 years. We were both

born and raised in the U. K. - Pauline in Surrey and myself in Yorkshire.

We moved to Perth, Western Australia, in 1975 expecting it would be a lifetime move. Two years later we were in Montreal, Canada, where we stayed until 1991. Our two daughters were born there.

We both have a keen interest the history relating to all three countries we have lived

Pamela (Judy) Briton

Judy's fondness for our district came about during her holiday visits to Kurrajong Heights, home of Shirlie and Tony Tree. She has always had an interest in family and Australian history.

She moved to Richmond 8 years ago after rearing seven children and fostering an aboriginal boy from 14 months to 15 years

Judy was born in Epping, NSW and spent most of her childhood in and around that area. During the 2nd World War her father, Sam Bailey, was the postmaster of Epping followed by a period in the same position at Gladesville. At the end of the war he bought 5 acres of land at North Epping for £500. After much trial and error he developed a successful carnation nursery on the property.

Continued on page 8



Hawksberry Beuaug Club 1908. Further research being undertaken.



Letters to the Editor

6th October 2006

Tenjoy reading the Millstone especially I the familiar family names of people in my early days, but I did not expect to see a photo or profile of myself. The 1928 photo was the year I started school, riding my trusted pony. I attended the one-teacher Kurrajong North public school under headmaster Netterfield and his wife for needlework.

Our local post office was Netley Hill, corner Bells Line of Road and Hermitage Road. My main school friends were Alice Telling, Annie Poole, Marie and Nancy Peck and Muriel and Peg Shepherd. They were also Aunt Nina's music pupils (piano).

I have character references of 1936 from Councillor J. E. McMahon, Colo Shire, S. A. Hearne, Netley Hill postmaster, and Mrs McMahon, Bellbird Echo guesthouse. Bernard Upton and Norman Minturn were familiar faces on 'Pansy' enroute to Richmond Rural School.

With the Douglass grandparents living in Douglass Farm Road, and the Bailey grandparents in Baileys Lane I do have connections to the area.

In 1942 we were living in Mill Road near Camp Mackay when my husband was called up for army service and posted to Dubbo army camp. I have lived in Dubbo since that time.

I wish you every success in your new venture as Editor. I'm too far away to attend so will continue to look forward to reading of the Society's activities.

Yours in history,

Nell Downes.

Volunteer guides are needed at the beautiful Botanic Gardens of Mount Tomah. Training will be provided to new volunteers. For more information please contact Airdrie Martin 4567 7921

Mystery Picture



Timber workers at Hobby's sawmill

It is believed that this photo was taken in the early 1920's at Hobby's sawmill at Kurrajong Heights. The mill was located on the Bells Line of Road at Kurrajong Heights just west of Cut Rock in the vicinity of where the present Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club now stands.

There are no details recorded of the eight workers taking a rest, or of the child and (possibly) female in the background. (Her) stance is such that it appears she could be carrying a younger child on her right hip, just out of picture – her left arm is supporting something, rather than carrying it. The lower part of the leg exposed and light footwear clearly indicates (she) is not part of the working party but possibly the family which owns the land where the mill is located.

This photo was chanced upon and salvaged during a "clean-up" along with a dozen or more in a long forgotten drawer. They were saved and have been passed on to the Society's archives.

If any readers are able to provide further detail on this photo please pass on your thoughts to the Secretary.



Sept – Oct issue

Arthur Cooper has forwarded the idea that the young lady on page 11 could be Sophia Jane Taylor, a schoolteacher at Buttsworth Swamp during the 1870's. Another school teacher also came to Arthur's mind, Miss S. Coleman of Bull Ridge school circa 1903. She taught some of the Peck children. Teachers were held in high regard in those days and pupils would often have photos of them. He has no proof of either assumption but feels that these thoughts might jog other people's memories.

Nov - Dec issue

A sentence in 'The Story of Gladys Davis' states, "Les Taylor and Harry Lord had motor bikes and would come to see us". The photo of the young man and dog on the bike is from a collection of many 'Lord' photos. It is a long shot but could the young man be Harry Lord? A clear photo of Harry at roughly the same age as the young man in the photo could either discount this idea or add weight to it.



We all have photos in our collections which have nothing recorded on the back or there is doubt as to the accuracy of the detail which is there. If members are able to shed light on any photo please pass your information to Joy Shepherd and it will be included in future issues and the details passed on to the owner of the photo.

Continued from page 6

Joan and Bryan Mullins

Joan Mullins is almost a local. Her great great grandfather, John Shepherd, arrived in Australia as a convict on October 22nd 1830 and was assigned to Jos Fleming of Wilberforce. When he received his Certificate of Freedom in 1837 he purchased 50 acres of land on Bullridge.

Joan's father, Boyden Shepherd, married Mona Millington and Joan spent her childhood at Grose Wold. Later her parents purchased three blocks of land in Richmond and the family moved into town.

Joan made her debut at the Kurrajong picture theatre and met Bryan at a dance at The Blue Danube in Richmond. They married and raised their family in Richmond.

Joan became interested in family history in the 1970's. She organised the first Shepherd - Mitchell family reunion at Mc-Mahon Park, Kurrajong, on 7th September 1980. Over 300 members of the family attended. She organised further reunions in 1982, 1983 and 1985, the last being at the Hawkesbury Showground. In 1984 Joan wrote a book containing the full family tree which was available at the last family reunion. We are privileged to have a copy in our library.

Bryan, whose family mainly hail from Victoria is also keen on family history. Both Joan and Bryan have been members of the Windsor Family History Group since its

We are thrilled that Bryan and Joan have decided to become part of our society.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

VALERIE HOLLAND

Friday 26th January

Our annual Australia Day Anniversary breakfast will be held at Loxley on Bellbird Hill. Enjoy a sumptuous breakfast in pleasant company, good conversation and nice music. Presentation of the Society's Annual Award of Merit, to acknowledge an individual's outstanding contribution to local history research in the Kurrajong district will follow the

Guest speaker for the morning will be Louise McMahon, one of the foundation members of the Society.

The morning gets under way at 9:00AM and concludes at 12:00 NOON. The cost per person is \$25.

For bookings and further details please phone Joy Shepherd: 4571 1524.

Tuesday 13th February

This will be an opportunity to visit History House, home of the Royal Australian Historical Society, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney. We will be given a talk in the library, a tour of the building and the opportunity to access the archives of the RAHS.

Cost per person is \$10 which includes morning tea. Fares and lunch at own expense. Meeting time will be 10:00AM at History House, most people will meet

and catch an early train from Richmond station.

For bookings and further details please contact Valerie Holland: 4573 2226.

Saturday 28th April

Les Dollin is organizing a one-day field trip in conjunction with the Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society. We will be guests of that Society and taken to places such as the ruins of James Singleton's water mill, a convict stockade occupied during the building of the Great North Road, and the recently restored Wesleyan Chapel at Gunderman.

Meeting time will be 9:30AM at Polly's Munchies, next to the wharf at Wiseman's Ferry. Cost will be \$10.

Bookings to Joy Shepherd by 29th March on 4571 1524.

If you would like to promote your business, place a notice or advertisment within The Millstone please contact

> The Secretary PO Box 174 **Kurmond NSW 2757**



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Loxley on Bellbird Hill is delighted to be a member of the Kurrajong - Comleroy Historical Society Inc. Loxley specialises in

- Special Events
- Anniversaries
- Birthdays
- Weddings
- Private Dining
- Boutique Accommodation



Helen Lord's wedding 16th March 1921

- Winner Western Sydney Industry Awards for Regional Excellence in Outstanding Service 2006
- Winner Suncorp Parramatta Regional Awards for Excellence in Customer Service & Chairman's Choice 2006
- Winner Parramatta Regional Awards for Excellence in Sales & Marketing 2005
- Western Sydney Vocational Excellence Award for Help & 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 Western Sydney Industry Awards for Tourism Most Outstanding Contribution to West ern Sydney Tourism by a Small Business 2003
- Winner Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Meetings & Business Tourism
- Winner HMAA Best Short Break Accommodation in NSW/ACT 2003
- · Winner Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Hosted Accommodation 2002