

THE MILLSTONE

Vol 5 Issue 5 September–October 2007

Kurrajong - Comleroy Historical Society Newsletter

The Kurrajong - Comleroy Historical Society is dedicated to researching, recording, preserving and promoting the growth of interest in the history of the Kurrajong district, the area west of the Hawkesbury River bounded by Bilpin and the Grose and Colo rivers

THIS ISSUE

4 Ron Madden's story

The first part of Ron Madden's tale 'Growing Up in North Richmond'. These are his memories of the businesses, properties and people of the district during the 1940's and 1950's.

5 Buttsworth eulogy

Austin Buttsworth's eulogy, written by his loving family, is a beautiful account of Austin's life.

6 Typhoid fever outbreak

An eyewitness account of the typhoid fever outbreak of 1878 in Kurrajong, originally published in the Maitland Mercury newspaper.

11 Mystery photo

The 1933 2nd Year class of Richmond District Rural School. The photo was contributed by Nell Downes. There is also an update on the 1928 CWA photo which appeared in a previous issue.

12 Dates for your diary

Final reminders for this issue are the Annual General Meeting on Monday 24th September, Pansy rail site access trip on Sunday 14th October, and our photo exhibition held in conjunction with the Scarecrow Festival from 26th to 28th October.

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August field trip

VALERIE HOLLAND



Photo: Les Dollin

Buckett's Mill

After assembling at the Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club we travelled a short distance west, by car, along the Bells Line of Road to the stone remains of Hugh Kavanagh's timber mill. The mill was operational in the 1940's. Don Webster's father Fred, assisted Hugh to move the mill to the site where the 'Tutti Fruitti' business now operates.

A charcoal making enterprise called 'The Charcoal Factory' once stood on the right hand side of Bells Line of Road opposite the Glenhuntly gate and the original Kavanagh mill. Next to The Charcoal Factory was an even older mill than Kavanagh's called 'Hobby Brothers Timber Mill'. The Charcoal Factory, which also produced briquettes for barbecues, was later forced to close as the market demand for its products gradually shrank.

Further west we met Greg Buckett whose family has had a long association with timber milling in the district. The old property was formerly operated by Buckett Brothers, Ness and Lord.

We followed Les Dollin along the Bells Line of Road to 'Cut Rock'. Two former and the present Bells Line of Road are visible at the bottom of Cut Rock. One is the convict built road constructed in 1824, the second was built in 1850 by Joseph Douglass, and the third is the existing road built in 1901 and later upgraded.

We thank Don Webster, Greg Buckett, June Blackmore and Les Dollin for providing us with a wealth of knowledge. We also thank the president, Hazel Gray, and ladies of the Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club for their hospitality and lunch. We also appreciate Kathie McMahon's effort in organising this enjoyable trip.

New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following new members

CLR DIANNE FINCH
GLORIA GORMAN
JOHN & PAULETTE
HOWARD
OLWEN THOM
GEORGE VEICHERTS

President's Report

FRANK HOLLAND

The last year has been one of consolidation and growth. We have seen the realisation of two of the major goals that the Society had set out to achieve.

Firstly the creation of our own web site has given the Society an address easily accessible all over the world. We have had a number of requests for information from people who otherwise would not have known we existed. The on-line access to *The Millstone* with its associated search capability is first class. Greg Upton, our Web master, has devoted many hours to make the web site a reality and we are very grateful for all of his efforts. Also thanks to those who have contributed information for the various web pages. Keep up the good work as the more information we have on line the more hits we will have and more likelihood of receiving information as well as providing it.

The Millstone has been our major means of communicating with members and Chris Upton has continued the good work and maintained the high standard set by his brother Greg. Many thanks Chris.

The second goal achieved is the capability to mount easily portable displays. A very generous donation from one of our members made this possible. We have used this portable equipment a number of times to support various presentations to other organisations. We are still to mount our first footpath display but I am sure this will come in time. Whilst speaking about presentations it is appropriate to thank the members who have responded to requests for speakers. Airdrie Martin, Valerie Holland, Kathie McMahon and Joy Shepherd have all been involved in making presentations and as a consequence promoting our Society and enhancing our reputation. I am sure requests to provide presentations will grow and we are currently awaiting the outcome of a Volunteer Small Equipment Grant application to purchase a data projector to help in this area. To date we have been helped out by Blaxlands Ridge Rural Fire Brigade who have kindly loaned us their projector.

Our third major goal, longer term than the others, relates to premises. Although progress is slow a sub-committee is pursuing this goal. It is premature to go into detail other than to say there are options to be explored that have some potential to satisfy our needs. However, there are many obstacles to be overcome, support to be arranged, funding issues to be resolved, approvals to be given, etc. This work will continue.

A pleasing development has been the growth and effectiveness of the use of sub-committees. The Planning & Finance, Award and the Coffee Table Book sub-committees are three that are functioning well. I expect that over time more sub-committees will form to help in other areas. Perhaps there are members who are unable to commit to working on the full committee but would be happy to be part of a sub-committee, if so please contact any member of the main committee.

Work on projects and research activities remain major reasons for our existence. The Digital Archiving project continues to grow under Joy Shepherd's leadership and hard work. Other researchers continue their efforts to uncover and document information about the Kurrajong district. I would strongly encourage members to take an active role. Perhaps we cannot all be expert researchers but we may be able to provide information or perhaps provide some assistance to a researcher. If you would like to help out please contact any committee member.

Without repeating the content of other reports I would like to place on record my personal thanks to all those members who have contributed to the well-being of the Society. It is great to see the number of people who attend our functions. Comments from members of other societies suggest that we are considered to be a very active society.

None of this would occur if there were not dedicated organisers making all the arrangements. We owe them a vote of thanks for their efforts.

I also place on record not only my personal thanks but I am sure the thanks of all members to our Treasurer, Joy Shepherd. Joy is not standing for re-election and this will be a significant loss to us as we have indeed been fortunate to have had a treasurer with the skill, experience and dedication that Joy has provided. We know and are grateful that Joy will continue her work with the Society by continuing to lead the Digital Archiving Project. Also, many thanks to Kathie McMahon, Marguerite Wyborn and Robyn Fuller who have decided to take some time off the committee to focus on other projects, and will not be seeking re-election.

Last but not least my personal thanks to the outgoing committee without whose help and dedication the Society would cease to function. For those who have decided not to stand for re-election I thank each of you for your help and for also indicating that you will continue to help out where needed. To the incoming committee there is much to do and there are some exciting times ahead. I am sure that members can count on your skills and commitment to ensure the continuing growth of our Society. ❧

**Kurrajong - Comleroy
Historical Society Incorporated**
PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757
www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

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 AM

Projects Officer Airdrie Martin
Acquisitions Officer Valerie Birch
Grants Officer Steve Rawling AM
Millstone Editor Chris Upton
Webmaster Greg Upton

Secretary's Report

VALERIE HOLLAND

I wish to sincerely thank all members who have been able to assist us with the many different projects, functions, outings and the day to day running of our Society. We also thank our conscientious and valued committee members who are about to retire; Kathie McMahon, Joy Shepherd, Marguerite Wyborn and Robyn Fuller.

At our 2006 AGM held at St. David's Uniting Church Kurrajong Heights in September we welcomed Frank Holland as our president and Steve Rawling A.M. as our new committee member.

Certificates

Joy Shepherd's Certificate of Achievement arrived in November from the Royal Australian Historical Society. Our committee nominated Joy for this award for outstanding work as our Digital Archive Project Leader. The certificate was presented to Joy at our Christmas function.

During 2007 KCHS Certificates of Appreciation have been presented to Louise McMahon for her work in the position of the inaugural secretary of KCHS, Kathie McMahon as inaugural president and later vice president, Paul Maher of 'Loxley on Bellbird Hill' and Blaxland Ridge Rural Fire Brigade for their ongoing support of our Society.

Donations to our Society

We are very grateful for the growing list of donations that have been received. Vera Bentvelzen has made a generous offer to give our society profits from the copies we sell of her book 'Diggers Hill – Surviving on a Soldier Settlement'. Greg Upton was generous in donating back to the society money he received for costs involved with setting up our new web site.

Research papers

Robert Ellis has donated eight copies of his research papers and Les and Anne Dollin have donated three papers plus extracts from two other publications. Michelle Harris, Steve Rawling and Valerie Holland have provided the photocopies of some of these documents.

Books

Donations have been received from Mary Avern, Valerie and Frank Holland and from Rita Doering who also gave a parish map.

Talks at General Meetings

At the 27th of November meeting held at Grose Vale Community Centre, Frank Holland and Les Dollin spoke about

grain mills as Laurie Duffy, who was to have presented a History of Grose Vale was ill. Louise McMahon spoke about her mother having been a driving force behind the foundation of our society at our very enjoyable Australia Day breakfast at 'Loxley on Bellbird Hill'. In March, at the Deerubbin Centre, Mary Avern kindly filled in when our speaker on the 'Big Cats' was unable to attend. Mary spoke about the interesting history of Richmond during her childhood. In May, at North Richmond Community Centre, Laurie Forth presented the 'Life of former convict Margaret Catchpole'. At our successful mid year dinner held in July at Panthers North Richmond, Professor Carol Liston spoke about the 'Female Convicts and the Parramatta Female Factory'.

Talks to other Societies and Organisations

Committee members have been busy presenting talks and presentations as part of our outreach programme.

Kathie McMahon gave a talk about the work of our society to the Richmond Retirees Association. She also gave a series of six local history presentations to 8 year olds of Kurrajong North Primary School as part of their history programme. Joy Shepherd has made presentations about our Society to the residents of the Hawkesbury Retirement Village and a Powerpoint presentation to Tourist Railway Association Kurrajong. Steve Rawling presented the history of the link with his home at Kurrajong Heights with former well known botanist Louisa Atkinson to Hawkesbury Historical Society. Airdrie Martin presented 'From Admiralty House to Kurrajong Heights' about her grandfather Michael Minnett, to Prospect Heritage Trust and the Windsor Over Fifties Group. Valerie Holland presented 'An Outline of Camp Mackay' to Prospect Heritage Trust and a Powerpoint presentation of 'An outline of Camp Mackay' to The Windsor Over Fifties and Richmond Legacy Ladies.

Excursions

In October 2006 we visited two delightful historic Kurrajong Heights properties, 'Belmore Lodge' and 'St. Clements', arranged by Kathie McMahon. Our February tour, arranged by Valerie Holland, was a visit to the historic home of the RAHS in Macquarie Street Sydney to learn about their library and some of its history from Manager Mari Metzke. We came home laden with journals that were redundant to the RAHS needs. In April Les Dollin organised a very interesting and varied joint tour with the Lower Dharug and Hawkesbury Historical Society.

We visited the lovely old Gunderman Church, the home of that Society and the remains of a Singleton mill and mill home where Les Dollin was able to provide us with more of the mill history. From there we visited the Wisemans Ferry Cemetery and the remains of a convict out-station where Dr. Geoff Ford was our informative guide. In June Marguerite and Bryan Wyborn arranged for us to have a fascinating tour of historic 'Wivenhoe' and stables at Camden. Our guide was an enthusiastic Sister Mary. Later we enjoyed lunch at the Camden Valley Inn.

Kathie McMahon organised our excursion in August. We had a very interesting day touring the former sawmill sites beyond Cut Rock, our guides were Don Webster and Greg Buckett. This was followed by lunch at the Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club catered for by the ladies of the Bowling Club.

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Continued page 8

Growing up in North Richmond

RON MADDEN

JUNE 2007

Part One

I was born in Richmond's old Maternity Hospital on the 11th of April 1939. I was the fourth child of Arthur and Ivy Madden. My father had to catch our horse, 'Dry Times' and put him in the sulky to take my mother to the hospital where I was born.

My parents owned and farmed about 80 acres in Slopes Road, mostly orchards consisting of oranges, plums, mandarins, apricots, peaches and lemons, the rest were peas, beans, turnips and feed grown for the horses and cows. My father used to work the soil with draught horses, sometimes 16 hours a day, until 1954 when he bought a Ferguson tractor which made things easier.

Farming declined in the late 1960's so he had the orchards bulldozed and went to work at the Riverstone Meatworks until 1975. He passed away in 1976. Some of my earliest memories of the district follow.

In 1944 bushfires raged down the back paddock behind our house. My father climbed up under Don Douglass' house and put a fire out with his bare hands. He came out with his hair singed off. Further down the road Dead Boy and Redbank Creek bridges burnt down. Anderson's house stood where Hayes Bros. now stands, it was totally burnt down.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mills ran the post office where the car hire place now stands. Harold Plunkett ran a truck and sand business where Wayne's Nursery is located. Next was Tiny Wilson and his family, they lived in a slab house where Beaurepairs Tyres is located. The Taylors built the small butcher shop later owned by Edgar Phipps who was a keen motorbike owner and racer. It is now the Individual Financial Solutions office. The Rileys lived around the side of the church. Their house was moved 20 years ago next to the old Pixie Mushroom Company at

Kurrajong, which is now an old radio museum. Then came the Methodist Church which is still in use but owned by a different religious group.

You then crossed Pansy's railway line where the water filling standpipe now is. Alf Onley built and ran the garage where the Caltex now stands, it was later taken over by Lin Shepherd in about 1940. The old tin garage was moved to Johnston's paddock just past the Colo High School and is now used as a farm shed. Lin Shepherd sold six or more brands of petrol including Plume, Shell, Caltex, Golden Fleece and Atlantic. The joke was that it all came out of the same tank. Lin also ran a hire car business. If he had a hire fare he would close the garage and you would have to wait for his return as his was the only garage around.

Reg Turnbull's big old house and orchard was where Hanna Match is now located. On the other side of the road stood the old pub which was pulled down in the 1960's. Next is the North Richmond hotel then owned by the Bakers, many a fight was had there. Cross over Pitt Lane and there was an open paddock with a tennis court in the corner, opposite to the current laundromat and cleaners. In the middle of the paddock, now Swavely's Chemist, was a cement cricket pitch where many games were played.

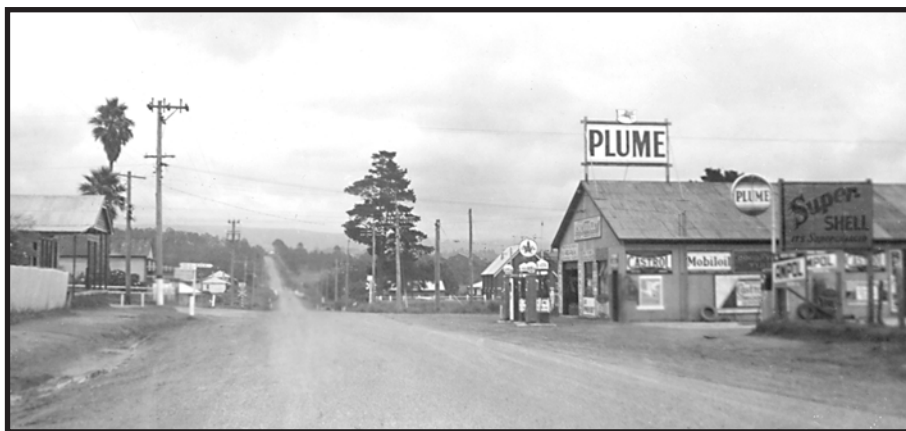


Photo courtesy: Roger Shavin

North Richmond 1948

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Austin Buttsworth

29th May 1921 – 12th July 2007



Next came the old bakehouse and shop built by the Burkes, it was run by Darce O'Connor. John Kelly later built a new bakehouse there. One night we were waiting for tea and Darce was late as sometimes happened. I was waiting down at the bread box, which was an old tin trunk, when it started to rain. I climbed inside out of the wet. Along came Darce and I leapt out of the trunk. The bread went one way and his torch the other. I don't think he came late ever again. He told my father that I had nearly killed him with fright.

Next the Police Station, Sergeant Allan was in charge. He was the father of Bill Allan, a Police Commissioner. Bill went to school here. My father told me that he and his brothers, Harold and Stan, and some of the Mitchells used to ride their horses down to North Richmond at night and throw rotten eggs at Charlie Khan's corner shop. Sgt. Allan would get on his horse and chase them home.

Next along was a blacksmith's shop owned by John Woolrych whose father was a pastor who taught in the Gulf country and who wrote a book on the local aborigines, the Kamilaroi tribe. John had a fiery temper. One day he was shoeing a horse and it kicked him, so he knocked it out with a hammer.

He also stuttered badly. One day a local boy named Peter Brayshaw was with his dad at John's place. Peter said to his dad, "Pull out his choke and he'll start!" Well, John picked up a hammer and chased Peter all around the shop until Peter escaped. ☞

Austin Buttsworth was born at the family home, 'Fairview', at East Kurrajong in May 1921. He was the eldest son of Glen Ellis Buttsworth and Mary Alma nee London. He was the second of six children. His great, great grandfather was Henry Buttsworth, a convict transported from England in the early 1800's. In 1837 he received two land grants, one of 1,000 acres and the other 500 acres. Part of Austin's farm was some of these original grants.

Austin attended East Kurrajong Primary School, a mile's walk from his home and he could clearly remember the school burning down in 1928.

On turning 21 he entered the army in July 1942. He was a gunnery expert and reached the rank of Sergeant. He was de-mobbed on the 14th of April 1945. He was very proud of a special war service badge awarded to people from East Kurrajong after World War II.

On VE day, May the 9th 1945, Austin married Patricia Hartley of Blacktown at St. Stephen's Church, Macquarie Street, Sydney. They had met at a local Hawkesbury dance. Five years later Glenn arrived followed by Jan and Lynda.

The family moved to Blacktown for a short time and in the first few years grew tomatoes which they sold house to house and to some shops. In 1947 Austin's father bought them an adjoining block at East Kurrajong where Austin became an orchardist and vegetable grower. Their crops included beans, peas, apricots, peaches, passionfruit, apples, oranges and mandarins.

The original house was of slab construction with painted paper on inside walls. Later Austin refurbished it with fibro. He remembered when electricity was connected to East Kurrajong in 1948, they had few appliances but electric light was a great change.

He thrived on cricket and enjoyed tennis. He played for Sackville and East Kurrajong as a wicketkeeper batsman. He was playing on the day when Eggleston scored 297 runs in one day at McMahon's Park, Kurrajong. He played in a local team against Richie Benaud and recalled how hard Benaud hit the ball. He nominated Noel Hall as one of the best fast bowlers ever and one who should have been selected to play at State level. Most families along the Ridge had a tennis court. Austin built the home court, Glenroy, next to the original house on East Kurrajong Road.

As the family grew he extended the house and he took great pride in the construction of the packing shed. Whenever there was a rainy day he could be found in the shed building or fixing things. He was a builder and a great improviser.

Austin was a founding member of the NSW Rural Fire Service. He was East Kurrajong Captain for many years and the equipment for the brigade was stored at his place. He worked hard for decades with other brigade members to keep East Kurrajong and Sackville safe from the inevitable summer scourge.

He was President of both the East Kurrajong School of Arts and the Primary School P & C. He was instrumental in the upkeep of the hall throughout his life, even building the refreshment tables and in recognition of his efforts he was made a life member of the P & C. In the 1960's Austin worked on restoring St. Luke's Church and managed to convince a minister from Wilberforce to perform ceremonies there. Austin was a church warden.

In later years, as orchard work became harder, his passion became his home garden concentrating on growing roses and this was his pride and joy. He turned 'Lynda's Cubby' into a flower stall and he enjoyed meeting and talking to people who stopped at his stall during rose season.

Austin was a great family man, a simple person with strong convictions, a sportsman, farmer, orchardist, Justice of the Peace and a local leader. He was a good neighbour and East Kurrajong identity as he immersed himself in the daily life along the ridge. As Peta, Glenn's wife simply stated, Austin was a 'good man'. ☞

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THE RAVAGES OF TYPHOID AT KURRAJONG

The following article was originally published in the Maitland Mercury 21st of March 1878. It is an interview with Edward Mitchell who was struck down with typhoid fever yet managed to survive.

I have now visited the whole locality that has felt the ravages of the dreaded typhoid, and I find a shocking state of affairs. From Richmond I got Mr. Houghton to drive me to Kurrajong. At the town off the Colo Road, I procured a horse and proceeding along a road on the summit of a range for one mile, turned off beyond the Wesleyan Chapel, at the house of Mr. John, down a steep lane.

Here I came on to the party preparing to put up seven Government tents for the sick people. I interviewed three of these people. From one of those, who had just recovered I received the following account: Edward Mitchell a finely built young fellow evidently suffering from fever said:

"I live on this farm and cultivate it, but for the last few months I have not been able to do anything. The sickness broke out about three months ago. Mrs. Robert London took it first, then her little boy about three years of age fell ill, this was three weeks before Christmas. Mrs. London is

my wife's sister and being a relation and going backwards and forward to see each other it spread. Mrs. Robert London died on Christmas Eve. Then her husband took ill and died, and his old father also died a week after Mrs. London's death. I who never had a day's sickness in this healthy district where I have lived all my life took ill and was given up for dead. The next to take it almost the same day as I fell ill was Mrs. London's own sister Margaret Overton 18 or 19 years of age. Thomas Tierney got ill three or four days after me, then my poor old mother, Mrs. Overton (she was married twice) was struck down in a few days. My wife Mrs. Mitchell and my half sister Elizabeth Overton 17 years of age fell in a day or two. My stepfather Mr. James Overton got the typhoid fever and we buried him yesterday. The next one who took it was my full married sister, Mrs. Mary Ann McCabe, she is dead too. The great misfortune is she was a widow and leaves eight children unprovided for because their father and mother now are dead. We buried my sister Mrs. McCabe last Saturday. The next who took the fever was my sister Charlotte's little boy Johnny, who may get through but it is doubtful. The next was Mrs. Tierney who is not expected to recover. The next victim was Mrs. Tierney's little girl Angelina, about three years of age, then George Tierney and John Overton who is very bad. I got the doctor several times, but he could not save Mr. and Mrs. Robert London, Mrs. McCabe, James Overton, William Mitchell my little boy aged 1 and Clara Overton aged 3 years.

About fifty yards from where we stand, you see the remains of the house I burnt down belonging to my mother. The doctor advised it. The house had four rooms and a kitchen. Now they are talking of burning where I live in the hollow. I cannot afford to have it done."

This is Mitchell's account. He says the fever comes on with a dreadful headache, then it is felt in the neck and spreads through the body. Most of those who died were three weeks ill.

After hearing his story I went to the little bark cottage of Mitchell in the hollow. I was horrified at the sight. The hut was deserted, but under a row of peach trees were found human beings suffering badly. They were Mrs. Overton and her daughter. Thomas Tierney aged 23 was crawling between the trees on his hands and knees. A perfect skeleton, sitting listlessly on the grass was a very little girl. All the food was removed from the hut and scattered on straw outside. The people were afraid to go inside the hut after the last two deaths. Near the peach trees and twenty yards from the hut I visited a skillion covered by four sheets of bark and the sides protected by old blankets. In here I found lying on a cotton mattress a poor woman in her clothes in great pain and apparently dying. On her breast I found her little girl 2 years old also very ill with the fever. The poor woman is Mrs. Michael Tierney a resident of the Orange district. She had come down to nurse her son Thomas and caught the disease.

I should suggest to the Colonial Secretary to quarantine the place, burn down the hut and provide complete new clothing. Bed clothing is required at once. ❧

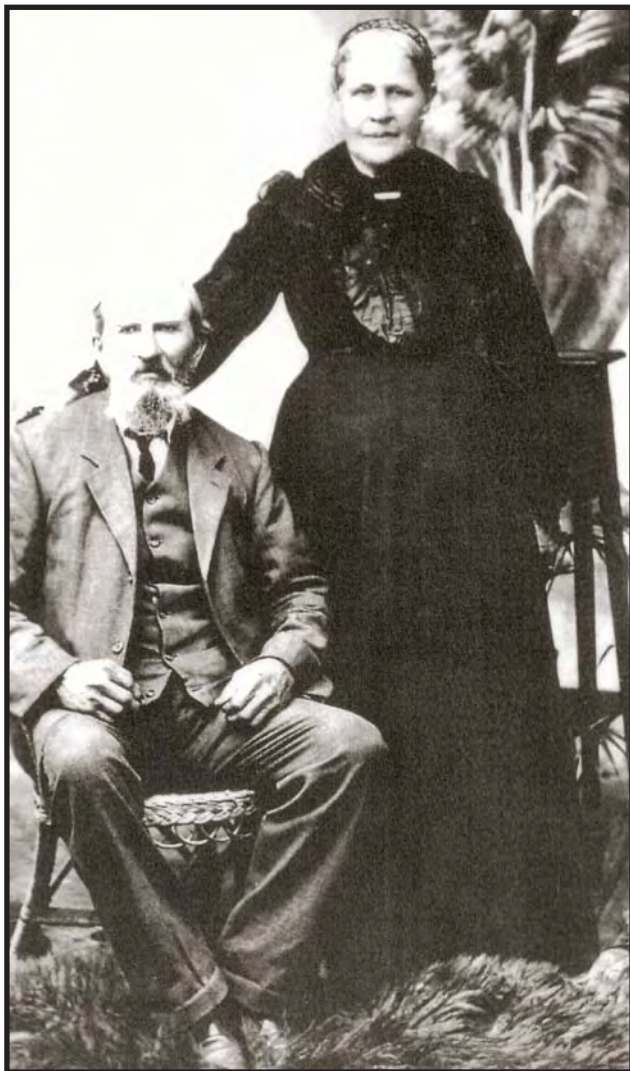


Photo courtesy: Dorothy Mitchell

John Overton, elder brother of James
& his wife Jane (nee Mitchell)

TELEGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE FROM THE EVENING NEWS

Richmond :

A public meeting was held at the School of Arts last night, convened by the Mayor to take steps to afford prompt relief to the sufferers. Mr. Holborrow the Mayor occupied the chair. Resolutions were passed authorising the doctor to incur every necessary expenditure. The typhoid fever broke out several months ago at a place known as Sally's Bottoms, two miles from Comleroy Road leading to Colo, and almost ten miles from Richmond.

The family first attacked was the London's, farmers there, Mr. and Mrs. London died. Mr. London senior also died but it is doubtful that he caught the fever or died from extreme old age. From London's the fever appears to have spread to numerous other farm houses in the neighbourhood. In one house, that of Mitchell's, which from motives of terror was burnt down a few night ago, there were five or six down with it. The disease is now reported at Wheeney Creek where two children are said to be dying, but the report requires confirmation.

The following is a list of the dead: Mr. James Overton, Mrs. McCabe, Mr. Robert London, Mrs. Robert London, Mr. Edward Mitchell's child, Mrs. Tierney, George Tierney, Thomas Tierney, John Overton and several young children.

Dr. Jockel went out this morning to the scene of the epidemic; he is accompanied by a sergeant of police and a trooper. A medical report is now being prepared.

We learn that the Government this morning, despatched two nurses to the locality of the epidemic, and has done all things else to arrest if possible the fell complaint, and alleviate the conditions of those who have already suffered.

This article was sent to the Society by Rod and Wendy Gow, newspaper archivists and indexers from Cundle-town. It was printed in the Maitland Mercury, 19th of March 1878.

Valerie Birch is researching the subject and has found many interesting details. As the families mentioned are well known in the district there should be many small memories our readers might be able to pass on to Valerie to help her record the larger picture.

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Continued from page 3

After lunch June Blackmore told us of the varied history of the Club. We concluded our day with a walk to Cut Rock where Les Dollin pointed out the fault line and some of the history of the two former Bells Line of Road tracks.

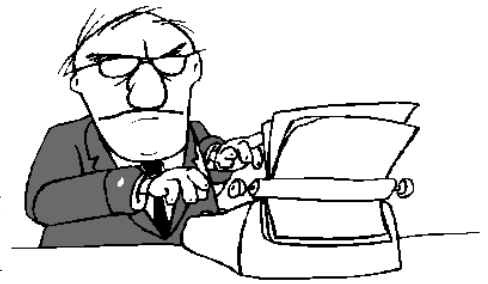
Functions & Exhibitions

Our Scarecrow Festival weekend was very successful. Joy Shepherd had arranged the format of 'Fun and Games in the Kurrajong' and Marguerite Wyborn prepared the backing cardboards for the photos. At our Friday night opening Rita Crane, Ross Matheson and Judy Gray all gave interesting insights into leisure activities of the area. Supper catered and co-ordinated by Airdrie Martin and her group of helpers was very enjoyable.

Bryan and Marguerite Wyborn generously provided their sheltered garden for our Christmas Party. In a conscious effort to raise funds, Airdrie Martin again organised a delightful meal ably assisted by society members.

At the TRAK Hobby and Model Show at Clarendon in June we presented an exhibition of photos relating to the early days at Camp Mackay. Supporting our exhibition and major drawcards were Byran Wyborn's beautifully restored 'A model' Ford and Neville Jones' fascinating revolving timber model of the same vehicle. Next to us was Ian and Patricia O'Toole's equally interesting Radio Museum display.

We have valued the assistance from those who are not always noticed by members. Patricia O'Toole who takes our minutes, Robyn Fuller and Peggy Israel for publicity and advertising, Marguerite Wyborn for managing suppers for meetings, Airdrie Martin, Valerie Birch and Paul Hulbert who are all busily gathering information for the production of books, Jim Israel for assistance on the finance committee, Kathie McMahon, Ron Rozzoli and Max Doyle on the awards committee. ☞



From the Editor

Being an editor of a newsletter, even one as modest as ours, can sometimes lead to an increase in one's stress level. Matters could turn toward the chaotic if it were not for the help of many people. I would like to take the opportunity in this, our annual issue, to personally thank those who helped make my job that little bit easier these last twelve months.

To those who contributed articles and regular columns. Many subjects were covered and the quality of their content created much discussion and feedback.

Valerie Birch	Arthur Cooper
Robert Ellis	Eileen Ford
Frank Holland	Valerie Holland
Lesley Hulbert	Airdrie Martin
Ross Matheson	John Morrison
Joy Shepherd	Greg Upton
Gladys Vincent	

To my merry band of proofreaders. Many people feel offended when something they have produced is scrutinised in detail in the hope that the slightest of errors is uncovered. From an editor's point of view this is a blessing, yet the mainstream press appears to have forgotten this golden rule. I thank the following people for their help in ensuring the spelling, diction and readability of our newsletter is of the highest quality.

Anne Dollin	Les Dollin
Robyn Fuller	Frank Holland
Valerie Holland	Kathie McMahon
Joy Shepherd	Betty Upton

There are many other people involved in the production of our newsletter and ensuring that it is delivered to our members in a timely fashion. Their efforts should be applauded by all.

The last twelve months might have been a challenge but I have enjoyed it. I look forward to the next twelve and feel confident that each issue will be an interesting, informative and pleasant read.

notpuc@bigpond.com

Digital Archiving Report

JOY SHEPHERD

Most of you are aware that our Work for the Dole project and funding with Hawkesbury Skills ended in March last year. Nevertheless, their wonderful committee have allowed me to continue on with the work on my own using their equipment for a further twelve months. This meant that I was able to archive 728 images, with descriptions, in the year 2006.

As funds dried up it became necessary for Skills to let out their rooms to paying customers, so sadly, it became time for us to move on. Fortunately we had purchased our own computer meanwhile, so the Programme was transferred onto that. We have two sets of high resolution discs, so one set is now stored with our editor making it much easier for him to access the images for the Millstone.

The archiving has been quite a bit slower this year with much time taken to change over the programme. We then had a problem with the ongoing security of the discs as they had all been 'stomped'. It has been found that the glue on the labels can affect their longevity, so it was decided to transfer our 3,500 images onto two external hard drives. Chris, our editor, and I took on the job to do one hard drive each. It was also decided to store the images onto two sets of DVD discs, and Greg Upton is in the process of doing just that.

Meanwhile, I have quite a list of people waiting for me to come and visit to scan their precious old photographs, and very importantly write up the vital information to go with each one. Hopefully, when someone else takes over the Treasurer's reins, I can make some attempt to catch up.

We now have a separate committee working with our archived images with the hope of making our Coffee Table book a reality in the near future. This exciting project will hopefully also be a source of income for the Society next year.

Treasurer's Report

JOY SHEPHERD

This last financial year has been very satisfactory with a small increase in our membership base along the way. We ended the year with 166 financial members.

We have been unsuccessful in our quest for grants this year so no new equipment has been purchased. Seeking out grants can be almost a full time job and the committee would be really grateful if we had a member out there who could spare some time in chasing these up. We are increasingly in need of a data projector to assist us in Powerpoint presentations to other groups, and have had to borrow from another organisation on a couple of occasions.

Our biggest fund raiser for the year was, as usual, our Back to the Kurrajong weekend in conjunction with the Scarecrow Festival. Because our committee, lead by Airdrie Martin, did a wonderful job in catering for the Friday evening, we came out with a profit of \$829.52. A successful weekend followed with the "Fun and Games of the Kurrajong" exhibition and door takings, plus the raffle brought in another \$519.35.

Another fund raiser was the barbeque at Bunnings held on Fathers' Day last year. Despite a very windy day a small band of workers managed to clear \$657.85. This was followed closely by our Christmas Party, again catered for by Airdrie Martin and team, with a profit of \$542.13. All of our other events and excursions managed to make a small profit to help boost the funds.

Earlier this year it was decided to invest \$5,000 of our surplus funds in a Term deposit with Bendigo Bank. We realise that our quest for a permanent home, and hopefully the setting up of such will entail a lot of funds, so we are trying to ferret away as much as possible towards this cause. The balance in our working account at the end of June is \$3,836.02.

The main expense for the year has been the setting up of our web site – we are grateful to the Bendigo Bank for a grant for this at the end of last financial year. The other has been the continuing cost of ink, paper, laminate etc. as our digital archiving project continues.

I have been Treasurer of the Society for four and half years now and will be stepping down at the AGM in September. It has been very rewarding to see the growth of the Society during that time. So far we have had no nominations for this position. If there is anyone out there with sound accountancy or bookkeeping knowledge, and preferably experience with MYOB, please let us know. We would be really grateful of your help.

I would again like to thank Paul Nelson of Nelson Business Consultants for his generous and efficient help in auditing our books. I would also like to thank all of our retiring Committee for their support and friendship. I wish the incoming Committee every success for the year 2007-2008. ☸

Balance Sheet

As of June 2007

Assets

Current assets

Cash on hand	
Cheque account - Bendigo Bank	3,836.02
Petty cash	10.85
Total cash on hand	3,846.87
Savings funds	
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit No 1	5,000.00
Total savings funds	5,000.00

Total current assets **\$9,342.87**

Other assets

Prepayments	457.41
-------------	--------

Total other assets **\$457.41**

Property & equipment

Stock on hand	
"On Kurrajong" books @ cost	301.95
Light Railways No 89 @ cost	31.20
Total stock on hand	333.15
Equipment	
Audio visual @ cost	436.35
Camera equipment @ cost	410.00
Computer equipment @ cost	6,378.50
Equipment accum dep'n	-4294.92
Total equipment	2929.93

Total property & equipment **\$3,263.08**

Total assets **\$13,063.36**

Liabilities

Current liabilities

Trade creditors	113.92
Membership paid in advance	170.00
Special functions paid in advance	580.00
Advertising paid in advance	700.00

Total current liabilities **\$1,563.92**

Total liabilities **\$1,563.92**

Net assets **\$11,499.44**

Equity

Retained earnings	9,886.64
Current year earnings	1,612.80

Total equity **\$11,499.44**

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Profit & Loss Statement

1/07/2006 through 30/06/2007

Income

Membership subscriptions	2,192.50
Grants – Bendigo Bank	1,500.00
Advertising	760.00
Donations received	550.00
Field trips	300.00
Tour guiding	50.00
Workshops	1,308.00
Door takings	5,944.85
General meetings	146.50
Special functions	5,070.00
Exhibitions	303.35
Day excursions	425.00
Other function income	833.30
Barbecue	830.30
Drinks	3.00
Raffle proceeds	655.00
Scarecrow Cup	185.00
Retail sales	515.80
Louisa Atkinson book	10.00
Photographs	251.00
On the Kurrajong book	49.80
Kurrajong Walk books	178.00
Commission on Rawling CD	15.00
Light Railway No 89	12.00

Total income **\$14,794.45****Cost of sales**

Purchases for resale	96.90
On the Kurrajong book	89.10
Light Railways No 89	7.80

Total cost of sales **\$96.90****Gross profit****\$14,697.55****Expenses**

Advertising	23.51
Awards	167.03
Archiving materials	14.95
Bank charges	0.35
BBQ fundraising	247.45
Computer	279.60
Depreciation	1,886.05
Donations given	25.00
Dues and subscriptions	182.00
Gifts and flowers	136.63
Field trips	80.00
Functions	3,689.04
Catering	3,479.20
Drinks	55.84
Hall hire	154.00
Insurance	621.07
Library & literature	150.00
Licence fees	43.00
Office supplies & stationary	441.79
Photocopying & laminating	745.52
Photography & archiving	1,252.95
Postage	543.85
Post Office box rental	65.00
Raffle prizes	11.97
School house hire	203.42
Workshop	1,208.00
Web site development	1,066.57

Total expenses**\$13,084.75****Net profit / loss****\$1,612.80****NELSON BUSINESS CONSULTANTS**

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Richmond District Rural School 1933

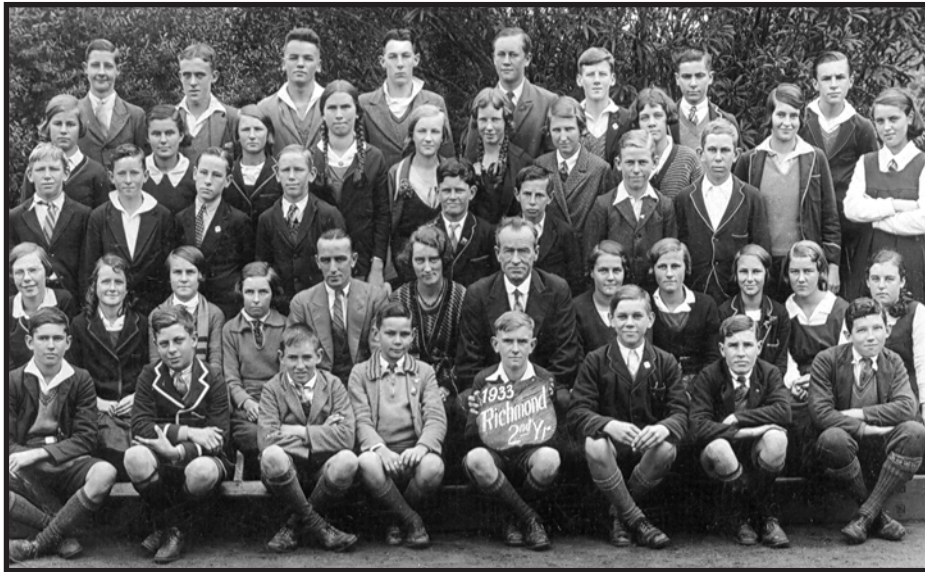


Photo courtesy: Nell Downes

This photo was contributed By Nell Downes and is the 1933 2nd Year class of Richmond District Rural School. There was no high school in Richmond in those days and this school only went to 3rd year. Nell had to travel to Parramatta to complete her Leaving Certificate as this was the nearest high school to Richmond.

She is unable to recall all the pupils, readers might be able to help fill in the blanks. The names she is clear on are listed from left to right:

Back row — 5th Maurice McMahon, 8th Bernard Upton.

Second row — 1st Judy Ridge, 2nd Francis Pearce, 4th Joyce Mathieson, 6th Marita Couzens, 10th Gwen Kershaw.

Third row — 3rd (?) Lawton, 8th Charlie Gosper.

Fourth row — 3rd Gwen Lawton, 4th N. D., 5th Mr. Riley (Maths), 6th Mrs. Graham (English and History), 7th Mr. Giovanelli (Headmaster), 12th Heather Ingram.

Front row — 4th Norman Minturn.

The Headmaster, Mr. Giovanelli, also features in a photo of the Richmond A grade cricket team published in the Jan – Feb issue of *The Millstone*. Mr Riley was also present.

1928 CWA update

There has been considerable feedback concerning the photo in the May–June issue. There is some disagreement as people's memories age as their bodies do, eighty years is a long time and this is to be expected. The following list has most people in agreement.

Front row — Unknown, Mrs John (Secretary), Mrs Matt Sawyer (State President), Mrs Grace Lord, Mrs Hemsley, Unknown.

Back row — Mrs Turner, Mrs I S Dunston, Unknown, Mrs Harry Dunston, Mrs Dillon, Miss Mary John (Treasurer), Unknown, Mrs Stella Turner.

All comments and suggestions forwarded since the photo appeared in *The Millstone* have been put on record, even if they might differ from this list, as each one of them is a point for discussion. Feedback from members and readers is always appreciated.

Letters to the Editor

Recently I had the pleasure of reading some of the 'The Millstone' publications. What a wonderful booklet this is and what amazing memories and photographs people are willing to share.

I was particularly interested in 'Gladys' Story' and found it intriguing. It is a shame that there are not more people willing to share their stories. To them their lives may have seemed trivial and unworthy of recalling but to others they are a journey into a different realm, or fond memories that can be shared and remembered.

Please keep up the good work.

**Lynn McLean,
Grose Wold.**

Elizabeth Celey & her Descendants

A Pictorial Record

By Grahame James

This book was published by Grahame James in 2001. It has over 750 pages of family history and many photographs covering Elizabeth's marriages to both John Rogers and Robert Richardson. This is a comprehensive record of their descendants. Families included in the book are – Wilson, Barwick, Turner, Richardson and their descendants.

Grahame has been asked many times for further copies and is now looking to reprint it. As this is a costly exercise and not undertaken lightly Grahame would appreciate some feedback from anyone interested in obtaining a copy. The final cost of the book cannot be confirmed until the print quantity can be estimated.

If you would like further information concerning the contents of the book or details for ordering a copy please feel free to contact Grahame directly :

17 Casey Crescent,
Kariong. NSW. 2250
0438 229 901
Grahjam5@bigpond.net.au

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

VALERIE HOLLAND

Monday 24th Sept

The Annual General Meeting will take place at the Comleroy Road Public School and commence at 7:30PM. After the meeting Professor Barrie Reynolds, Secretary of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations will speak about the way in which this organisation functions, and assists our society and others within the Blue Mountains area. Supper will be served, a gold coin donation welcomed. It would also help if members could supply their own cup.

Sunday 14th Oct

'Pansy' rail sites access. A rare opportunity exists to visit sites of the former Richmond to Kurrajong rail line. A coach will pick up and return at Bilpin, Kurrajong Heights and Kurrajong Village. Guides will provide expert commentary. The day is expected to last from 9:00AM to 3:00PM, final times and details will be advised at the time of booking. Please bring a picnic morning tea, lunch and hat.

Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Seats are limited so booking and payment is essential no later than 3rd of October. Contact Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.

Fri 26th to Sun 28th Oct

In conjunction with the Scarecrow Festival our photographic exhibition, 'War and Peace in the Kurrajong' will open on Friday at 7:30PM. Guest speaker will be Shirley Seale who will speak on 'The Walers', the horses of the Australian Light Horse Brigade. The evening will include viewing the photographic exhibition, listening to our guest speaker and an enjoyable supper prepared by our ladies.

Seats are limited so booking and payment is essential no later than 19th of October. Cost per person is \$25. Please contact Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.

Project Officer's Report

AIRDRIE MARTIN

A key activity of the society and the reason for our being is the research and recording of local history. We are fortunate to have members who devote time and resources in carrying out this essential work. The current list of continuing projects is as follows:-

'History for the Future' – A photo essay of social life in the Kurrajong district now. The researcher is Paul Hulbert.

'Some Trees of the Kurrajong' – The researchers are Brenda Smith and Patricia O'Toole.

'Glimpses of the Kurrajong' – A coffee table book. The researchers are Valerie Birch, Paul Hulbert, David Griffiths and Airdrie Martin.

'Profiles of WW1 Soldiers from the Kurrajong' – The researcher is Valerie Birch.

'Digital Image Project' – The creation of a permanent photographic record of people, places and events of the Kurrajong district. The researcher is Joy Shepherd.

'History of Camp Mackay' – The researcher is Valerie Holland.

'Local History for Primary Schools Using Music' – The researcher is Kathie McMahon.

More researchers would be very welcome, either to help with an existing project or to start a new one. Please contact the project officer if you can be of help.

Sunday 25th Nov

Society Christmas gathering at Bowen Mountain Park. This will be our final gathering for the year. Proceedings get under way at 4:00PM and the function will have an Australian bush picnic theme. Please bring your own picnic basket, chairs and rugs. Cost is \$5 per person which includes tea, coffee and cake. Conveniences will be available.

Bookings with Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.



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Helen Lord's wedding 16th March 1921

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- 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 Western Sydney Tourism by a Small Business 2003
- Winner Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Meetings & Business Tourism 2003
- Winner HMAA Best Short Break Accommodation in NSW/ACT 2003
- Winner Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Hosted Accommodation 2002