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

3 Australia Day breakfast

A report on one of our Society's most anticipated annual gatherings which was enjoyed by all who attended. Details of the awards presented and recipients are also covered.

4 Kurrajong Nursing Home

Part two and the final part of Valerie Holland's article covering the years from 1982 to the present.

5 Philip Charley's Rolls Royce

The life story of a 1908 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost owned by Philip Charley. It was the prettiest Silver Ghost ever to grace the roads of Australia.

6 Henry Newcomen

Betty Upton's research has revealed some interesting information regarding one of the lesser known and least researched owners of Belmont Park. It is hoped the article might stimulate interest in the subject and uncover further documents.

8 Dates for your diary

Final reminders for the General Meeting to be held on Monday, 23 March at St Davids Uniting Church Hall and the field trips to Lithgow on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 April. You can opt to participate on either day or both.



Belmont Park field trip

CHRIS UPTON

Tet weather failed to dampen the spirits of the forty KCHS members who participated in the tour of historic *Belmont Park*. The building is part of the North Richmond hospital complex owned and operated by the Brothers of St John of God. They place a high priority on the privacy of their patients so a tour through the building is a very rare event and one greatly appreciated by all those who took part.

On arrival two groups of twenty were formed and as the first group toured the building the second enjoyed morning tea in the hospital's cafe, 'Gibson's on Belmont' and in the spacious and immaculately maintained grounds. After the first tour was completed roles were reversed and on completion of the second tour most members took advantage of the scrumptious lunch menu in the cafe.

The tour was conducted by Brother Julian who possesses an encyclopaedic knowledge of the building and property. He was able to pass on details concerning not just the years that the Brothers have been involved in its restoration but also of the property in general prior to the building's construction. It was an added bonus for the first group having Philip Charley IV present as he was able to describe how the family used each of the rooms and gave detailed descriptions of the furnishings and fixtures at the time when he visited as a young child.

Belmont Park was built by Philip Charley II who purchased the property from the estate of Henry Newcomen in 1891. He demolished the existing house and spent what would be in today's currency a massive outlay of £56,000. It is arguably one of the best private residences ever built in this country. The mansion was completed in 1893 and Philip developed a horse and cattle stud on the property.

Belmont Park was designed by Morell and Kemp. Around this time they also designed Her Majesty's Theatre Sydney, no longer in existence. It was completed on 10 September 1887. They also designed Glentworth, a Victorian Italianate mansion in Ashfield completed in 1887.

Aspects of English, French and Italian architecture have been incorporated in Belmont Park. It is a veritable smorgasbord of artistic influences, yet they are combined with such quality and attention to detail that the final result is absolutely amazing. Philip spared no expense in the materials used.

Belmont Park is dominated by a central watchtower flanked by twin turrets. It is built of sandstone which was locally quarried and has a roof of slate. Steps of Italian marble lead into the vestibule which has hand-laid mosaic floors.





Belmont Park's impressive entrance

President's Corner

This year is very significant for the Kurrajong district as it was 200 years ago in 1809 that the first land grants, close to the site of the current village were made. In a way it is a bit like a 200 year birthday for Kurrajong. Of course that is not strictly accurate as no doubt people were living in the area prior to those land grants. In fact settlement closer to the Hawkesbury had occurred much earlier.

An interesting point about the land grants is that they were made by Johnston and Patterson after the deposition of Governor Bligh and as a result were deemed to be illegal. However, Governor Macquarie did reinstate the grants after his arrival in 1810. Another interesting fact is that the grants were described as being in the district of 'Richmond Hill' as that was the name in use at the time to describe the area.

How the area was named and the various recordings on early maps is a story in itself and one that Les Dollin is doing further research on.

2010 is fast approaching and the plans for the Macquarie celebrations are well in hand. We have sub-committees completing research, planning individual events and pursuing funding. Shortly a school liaison sub-committee will commence its work. I have applied to join the Hawkesbury Macquarie 2010 Committee and have been accepted. The first meeting is to be held in February. My aim is to ensure that we have a coordinated and complementary set of activities in the Hawkesbury district to celebrate this unique occasion. An address has been made to North Richmond-Kurrajong Rotary Club and I hope to address the Kurrajong CWA in the near future. These presentations are aimed at advising other organisations of our plans and to seek their support for the planned events.

Meanwhile all of our normal activities continue and I look forward to meeting as many members as possible at the various meetings and field trips planned for this year. Our Secretary has asked me to pass on her thanks to members for making sure that they are booking in and paying for activities prior to the day - it makes it so much easier.

Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society Incorporated

PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757

www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

-**XXXX**

COMMITTEE

President Frank Holland

Vice President Airdrie Martin Secretary Valerie Holland

Treasurer Greg Upton

Minutes Secretary Patricia O'Toole

Committee Members Carolynne Cooper, Paul Hulbert, Kathie McMahon,

Steve Rawling AM

Accessions/Librarian Valerie Birch
Millstone Editor Chris Upton
Webmaster Greg Upton

Continued from page 1

Two broad hallways lead off to fifteen large main rooms and twenty-five rooms in total. The main rooms contain wonderful examples of the workmanship of the artisans of that period: beautiful fireplaces, magnificent woodwork and in the library hand-carved bookcases lining one wall. The old dining room has coloured leadlight windows depicting *Diana*, Goddess of the Hunt, *Flora*, Goddess of Flowers, *Ceres*, Goddess of Grain and *Hebe*, Goddess of Youth. These windows are an indication of Philip's priorities in his life. It is also one of the few private residences built in Australia to have a foundation stone. It was laid in 1892 by Philip's first child, Adeline, when aged two.



One of the hallways restored by the Brothers from original plans.

The Depression saw Philip's wealth evaporate and the property was passed on to the Sydney Assurance Society. During the years of WWII it was utilised by the army before being purchased by Mrs McDonald in 1942.

The property fell into disrepair and was purchased by The Order of St John of God in 1952 for £15,000. They established a hospital and later began restoring it to its former glory.

Their vision and effort at restoring this property deserves the thanks of not just our society but all who cherish the preservation of our forebears' grandest monuments. *Belmont Park* has a poignancy which is not of this era.

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Australia Day celebrations

VALERIE HOLLAND

The Society's Australia Day breakfast was held at Loxley on Bellbird Hill. ■ Master of Ceremonies, Ian O'Toole, welcomed everyone and Frank Holland gave an outline of the history of the day and the importance of it to our district and country. After the singing of the National Anthem we served ourselves from the buffet for a very enjoyable breakfast.

Loxley, once owned by the Lord family has evoked many memories from neighbours and relatives. We were fascinated to hear humorous recollections from Brian Dunston. He particularly remembers being wary of 'Granny' Lord.

Greg Upton interviewed two of the Lord grandchildren; Betty Upton and her cousin Joan Stoneman. Both ladies shared interesting memories of life at Loxley. Betty recalled that she was impressed that the house and kitchen were always neat and tidy and Joan laughed as she told of the difficulties of trying to bring the cow in during the dark.

A highlight of the morning was the presentation of our Society's Awards. A Certificate of Merit was presented to Greg Upton for his expertise and commitment to KCHS as a former editor of *The Millstone*, his development and ongoing maintenance of our Web site and in his current position as treasurer..

We also had the very pleasant duty of awarding two Australia Day awards to people who have provided exceptional service to KCHS.

Joy Shepherd for her supervision of the work for the dole projects that allowed the Society to commence archiving our photographic images and in continuing in the role of project leader. At the same time Joy carried out the duties of treasurer for about five and a half years until 2008.

Les and Anne Dollin have prepared maps, information sheets and presentations and conducted ten small and large historic field trips for KCHS. These trips have been an important tool in sharing the knowledge of the history of our district with members and friends as well as with other historical societies.

President Frank Holland completed the proceedings by thanking everyone for their participation and the helpers for such a successful day and reminded all of upcoming events.



Airdrie Martin, Anne Dollin, Les Dollin, Joy Shepherd & Valerie Birch



From the Editor

Being a resident of Lithgow and still a member of the nine to five workforce I have rarely had the chance to participate in the Society's field trips. I jumped at the opportunity to join the Belmont Park field trip as it was being held on a Sunday and the subject has been of great interest to me.

The day proved an eye-opener, not just because of the grandeur of the house we visited but also because I was able to see first-hand the efforts members put in ensuring a day's activities run seam-

I must give Joy Shepherd a pat on the back and much thanks for her planning of the itinerary; everyone present left with a smile on their face. Also her powers of persuasion should be acknowledged as the opening page article mentions a tour of Belmont Park is a rare occasion.

It was also pleasing to have the chance to chat with members who I generally might meet only once or twice a year.

Conversations with Brother Julian and Philip Charley IV proved fruitful as we have kept in email contact since and exchanged material related to Belmont Park and Philip Charley II.

The wet weather, a very unhelpful cash register attendant at a local petrol station and being nabbed by the speed camera on Bellbird Hill did not start the day well for me. On returning home though I was a very happy chappy.

I look forward to the field trip to Lithgow in April. I decided to visit about 25 years ago and I'm still here.

notpuc@bigpond.com

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Kurrajong Memorial Hospital - Kurrajong & District Community Nursing Home

VALERIE HOLLAND

From Kurrajong & District Hospital Society Inc. by permission from Anne Birdsey

PART TWO



Present-day photo of the nursing home

the end of 2004 the Society was faced with other predicaments. The aged care industry was in financial crisis with many homes being forced to close. Kurrajong and Richmond nursing homes joined forces to alert the community to the gravity of the situation. Discussions with political representatives were of 'no help at all .. there was more support from the public.'

During December 2003 and towards

After the hospital had served the community for twenty—four years, economic circumstances forced its closure on 30 April 1982, a result of State Government regulation and the accompanying proposal for major upgrading of the hospital. However, after discussions with both state and federal health ministers, approval was given for the Society to upgrade the facility with a two-for-one government grant and for the facility to continue in a new role as a nursing home.

On 1 May 1982, 'The Kurrajong and District Nursing Home opened with the twelve remaining patients.' By the middle of 1985, the extensions to the nursing home were completed and the number of residents had increased to thirty.

The Kurrajong and District Hospital Society Inc. became incorporated on 23 August 1993. In 1996 the Parklands Cottage Trust which oversaw a villa development for aged residents came under the care of the Society.

Many challenges were met and overcome by the Society. During January 2002 intense smoke and bush fires which raged through the district threatened the nursing home. A fleet of ambulances and cars were rallied to evacuate the residents to Hawkesbury District Hospital. They remained there for a week while being cared for by their nursing home staff prior to their return to Kurrajong.

In June 2005, staff and Doctor John Bain, the founder of the original hospital and who was affectionately known as 'Doc', celebrated fifty years since his arrival in the district.

Major renovations were completed to the complex in late 2006 to comply with the building code rules due to be implemented in 2008. Upgrades were completed to the bathrooms and the five-bed ward and an additional extension was added for storage and holding purposes.

The nursing home celebrated its twenty-fifth birthday on 3 May 2007. Sadly, later that evening Dr John Bain passed away.

On 15 June 2008 staff and the community of Kurrajong and districts celebrated fifty years of health care to the Hawkesbury community at the Kurrajong CWA Hall.

The community continues to support and value the dedicated work of the Society members, staff and the many volunteers who raise funds needed to maintain the Kurrajong and District Community Nursing Home.

The Society thanks Anne Birdsey for allowing us to use her information, and the nursing home staff for supplying photographs of the stages of the home's development.





Philip Charley's 1908 Silver Ghost

CHASSIS NUMBER 60799

Philip Charley II of *Belmont Park*, Richmond NSW, was the original owner of the first Rolls Royce Silver Ghost delivered in New South Wales. He bought his first car in 1903 and this car was his fourth. It was a model 40/50 HP and its chassis number was 60799. It has been described as ".. one of the prettiest Silver Ghosts ever to grace the roads of Australia." At the time of Philip's ownership of 60799 his landholdings comprised 5,996 acres throughout New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia carrying 275 horses, 300 head of cattle and some sheep.

Philip was the founder of the Hawkesbury Squadron of the New South Wales Lancers and led the Australian Light Horse Brigade in London for the Coronation of King Edward VII. He was also Captain and Commander of the Australian Volunteer Automobile Corps (AVAC).

The AVAC were prominent in major civic and ceremonial occasions in Sydney during the early years of the First World War and the corps also turned out on occasions such as the King's Birthday, Anzac Day and Empire Day. Major Philip Charley always had his car prominently displayed.

Factory records indicate 60799 was delivered to a Harold Ferson, Philip's chauffeur and mechanic. It was ordered in 1908, tested on completion on 17 February 1909 and delivered ex–factory on 24 February 1909. It was complete with a magnificent *Roi-des-Belges* tourer coachwork. When the car arrived in Sydney at Phizackerley's motor business at 169 Elizabeth Street, it was unpacked from a huge crate on the pavement.

What is possibly the longest tour undertaken in Australia before the Great War by a Rolls Royce was when Philip toured from *Belmont Park* to Rockhampton, Queensland, a distance of 2,200 miles not allowing for necessary deviations where passage was impossible. This was an amazing motoring feat in an era when roads were poor or non–existent, settlements isolated, and fuel supplies were only sold by pharmacists and dispensed in two–gallon containers. The car also took part in the 1912 Sydney to Brisbane Reliability Trial.

The Royal Automobile Club of Australia (RAC) was founded in NSW in the early years of the twentieth century. They regularly conducted trials and touring motoring for the general public. During March 1910, 60799 and Philip conveyed the RAC officials from Sydney each day throughout the week of hill climb trials on Razorback and Bald Hill near Camden, southwest of Sydney.

On Friday 26 and Saturday 27 April 1912 the club held a 'sealed bonnet' touring contest as its monthly competition. Philip's car was used to carry the press and RAC officials.

The contest started from the clubhouse in Sydney over a 288 mile course. The first day's itinerary was through Parramatta and then over the Blue Mountains through Katoomba, Blackheath and the Jenolan Caves, through Oberon and on to Bathurst where the competitors stayed overnight.

On the Saturday morning a hill climb was held at Mount Victoria. A number of drivers made the climb, picking up their gears with delightful precision, while others, ruthlessly smashed their gears with wildly racing engines. The Motor in Australia journal also reported that There was one non-competing car that went up the course in a style that could well have been emulated by the most experienced competitor. The car was 60799.

The car and its occupants were photographed outside the *Hotel Hydora* at Blackheath on the Friday. The hotel was situated on the northern side of the Great Western Highway and was demolished in 1938. The building now occupying the site is known as the *Gardners Inn*.

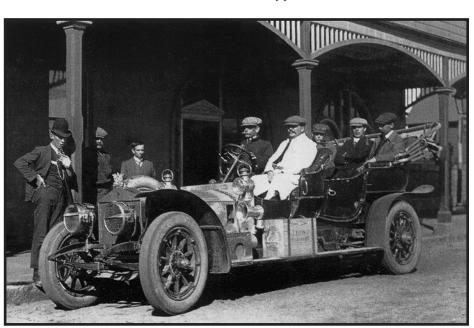
In 1919 Philip sold 60799 to a Sydney dental specialist, O. J. McDermott of Macquarie Street. His private residence was *Whitehall*, Glebe Point. In the first year of his ownership Ormond McDermott had the magnificent original tourer body removed and another fitted by Edward Simpson, coachbuilder of 17 Glebe Street, Glebe.

The next owner of the car is believed to have been Samuel Curotta, a tyre dealer in Sydney. He modified the rear suspension and replaced the body with a single–seater.

At some stage during its period as a single-seater the car caught fire and suffered severe damage. It was written off and became the property of an insurance company.

H. Jones of *Holywood*, St Kilda Road, Melbourne purchased the car in 1922 but it is unknown if he purchased it as a wreck or repaired vehicle from the insurance company. Beyond his ownership there are no further records of this car's existence.

Based on extracts from Silver Ghosts of Australia and New Zealand by Ian Irwin Privately published 1999



Major Philip Charley & 60799 outside the now – demolished Hotel Hydora at Blackheath during the running of a Royal Automobile Club trial in 1910

Henry Newcomen

1824 - 1884

BETTY UPTON

One of the most beautiful of our local historic buildings and certainly the most imposing is *Belmont Park* at North Richmond.

A great deal is known about the history of the property and its various owners, most notably John Bowman, Lieutenant Archibald Bell, Philip Charley and the current owners: the Hospitaller Brothers of St John of God. Only scant mention can be found about one significant owner, Henry Newcomen, who purchased the property in 1860 and held it until his death in 1884.

During the period of his ownership Henry improved the property and had a family home built. This home was demolished in 1889 to make way for the present mansion.

Very little has been discovered and recorded about Henry. A son of William Newcomen and Elizabeth née Walkingham, he was baptised on 7 March 1824 at North Elkington, Lincolnshire, England. He died in 1884 at *Belmont* and according to the meagre details shown on his death registration transcript he had been in NSW for forty years. An exact date of his arrival has yet to be sourced but it can be assumed to be about 1840. He came as a free settler aged sixteen to eighteen years and apparently with well-lined pockets.

Henry came from Lincolnshire, an agriculture-based county. His father was a farmer and Henry appears to have arrived in the colony with the intention of following the same calling. He headed north and in a short time acquired some substantial grazing properties. In 1880 one of his properties, *Nullawa Station* in the Warrego district was sold along with 1,600 head of cattle for £15,800. In 1866 he owned another property known as *Muggarie Station*, also in the Warrego district, comprising 64,000 acres with a grazing capability for 4,000 sheep. He later renamed this property *Angledool* and today the township New Angledool marks the spot on road maps.

In 1860 he purchased *Belmont* for about £7,500.

Henry must have been recognised as a specialist in the handling of sheep. On 30 June 1855 the Governor appointed him as an inspector in the police districts of Scone and Murrurundi for the examination of sheep according to the Scab in Sheep Act.

In similar vein, in 1867 he was appointed a magistrate for the Hawkesbury district, a position he held until his death.

On 19 January 1855 Henry married Emily Jane Baldwin, daughter of Wynne Baldwin and Julia Ann née Young at All Saints Church, Singleton, NSW. Wynne was one of the seven sons of emancipist Henry Baldwin of Wilberforce who, with Henry, were among the vanguard of graziers who opened up farming and grazing country from the Hunter to what was to become the Queensland border and beyond.

Henry and Emily had three daughters and one son, William Belmont. Their last child was Emily Mabel born 24 December 1870. Sadly, Emily Jane died 6 April 1871.

Henry had a second wife, Francis Letitia Moore, daughter of Henry Augustine Moore and Hannah Maria née Harris and they were wed on 1 January 1873 at St Philips Church of England, North Richmond. They had four children, one son named John appears to have been stillborn but daughter Grace Mary and twin sons Harry and Tom survived.

Tragically on 20 June 1887 Francis Letitia was attending to one of the children when her dress caught fire and she was almost burnt to death. She remained in a critical condition until her death two months later on 12 August.

A happy occasion for Henry was the wedding of his first-born, Frances Emily. In 1882, aged nineteen years, she married thirty-five year old Robert Lismore Moore who was the brother of Frances Letitia née Moore, Henry's second wife. Thus Frances Emily's stepmother also became her sister-in-law. Frances and Robert had two children and the register of their baptisms gives Robert's occupation as 'grazier of Angledool'.

Robert has an interesting background. He was born in December 1847 in Market Street, Wollongong, but when Henry Newcomen named him as one of the executors of his estate in 1880 he was shown as superintendant of *Angledool*. Among his various activities he spent some time as a gold miner at the Ravenswood goldfields southwest of Townsville in Queensland. He is on record as having been the first person who "... picked up some pretty coloured stones" at Lightning Ridge in 1873 and sent them to Sydney for evaluation, only to be informed they were of "...no commercial value". The samples he sent were rich in opal.

He is also on record as having been manager of *Muggarie Station* on the Narran River even before Henry changed its name to *Angledool*. He died in 1912 on *Cookooboorrha Station*, Gunnedah, which probably was his own grazing property.

Henry would have been proud of his grazier grandson Peter Belmont Newcomen CBE. Born at Mudgee on 27 September 1895, Peter was educated at Barker College and Sydney Technical College.

Between 1919 and 1960 he was deeply involved with ten bodies mainly in Queensland, Commonwealth and State, associated with woolgrowers, farmers, graziers, beef cattle research and so on. With four he was president, three as a member, one as chairman, one as councillor and one as Wool Adviser to the Australian delegation at the International Trade Conference in Geneva in 1947.

Henry Newcomen died on 10 October 1884 at *Belmont* aged sixty-one. According to Dr Callaghan of Windsor the cause of death was, "a serious effusion of the brain". He was buried in St Peters Cemetery at Richmond.

His extensive Will signed in June 1883 made substantial provision for his family and also for his two spinster sisters, Ann and Eliza, still living near Louth in Lincolnshire. Seven valuable horses from "... my property known as Angledool" went to Robert Moore while Henry's overseer, Joseph Waldron, was financially rewarded for "... many years of faithful service".

THE ARCHIVES



Lucy & Ethel Maxwell, their mother Isabel Emily, 5 cats, 2 dogs & a lamb. Circa 1915

The menagerie

The twins in this photo are the same two rescuing the bogged horse in the photo published in the Jan-Feb issue. There are no doubts as to their names, Lucy and Ethel, but there is no indication as to which is which.

Their love and interest in animals clearly stretched further than only horses. Dogs and cats on their own can be wonderful companions, but in tandem they can be a considerable burden. To add a very young and helpless lamb to a photo shoot and the word 'volatile' quickly comes to mind.

The photographer has excelled in not only the composition of the photo but also in keeping the pets stationary long enough for its exposure and from tearing each other to pieces.

Save those old newspapers

Advertisements in old newspapers and magazines are a great source of uncovering finer detail concerning all aspects of daily life in years past. The Reg Hurst Motors advertisement at the right is a good example of where the fine print can tell a broader story.

The price of petrol has been constantly mentioned in the media of late and was a central element of the previous federal election. But as the statement ".. allows you to buy a lot of petrol .." in the spiel for the Valiant Regal shows, the price of fuel has always been an issue for motorists.

Our changing tastes in fashion is evident in the spiel for the 1973 Holden, one of its selling points being the vinyl roof. It was a very popular option during the nineteen seventies, but just a few years of exposure to Australia's harsh climate and it soon split, deteriorated and actually lessened the value of a car. To chance upon one today indicates that car has been garaged since new.

Happy New Year to all



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Windsor & Richmond Gazette January 1980



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 23 March

General meeting. The March general meeting will be held at St Davids Uniting Church Hall at Kurrajong Heights and will start at 7.30 pm. Guest speaker will be Brian French and his subject will be the explorer William Lawson.

Also town maps of Lithgow will be handed out to those wishing to join the field trip to Lithgow on Friday 3 and Saturday, 4 April.

Please bring a cup for supper and a donation would be appreciated.

Fri 3 & Sat 4 April

Lithgow's early history. Discover some of Lithgow's early history. You may choose either a one or two day option for this field trip.

Friday – meet at 10.00 am at the Lithgow and District Family Historical Society resource centre at the corner of Tank and Donald Streets. If coming via Bells Line of Road turn right at the traffic lights at the Court House and continue ahead past the Workman's Club. The resource centre is on the next corner and clearly signposted. Parking is on-street and tea and coffee will be served.

From 2.00 to 4.00 pm activities will be held at the State Mine Heritage Park & Railway Museum. These will include a guided tour of the remaining buildings of this once thriving industrial site.

Saturday – meet at 10.00 am at the Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum. If coming via Bells Line of Road turn left at the traffic lights at the Caltex/Woolworths service station and follow the traffic. The museum is well sign-posted and parking is on-street. Tea and coffee will be provided. This once thriving industrial site was constructed in 1912 to produce weapons for the Australian armed forces and has a wonderful, colourful and extremely interesting history.

From 2.00 to 4.00 pm activities will be held at *Eskbank House*, built in 1842 it was the home of one of the district's first industrialists, Thomas Brown and his wife Mary Maxwell.

Lithgow Workman's Club is a convenient location for meals as the club has a wide variety of options for both lunch and dinners. If you choose to bring your own there are many parks and relaxation spots within the town. If you decide to make a weekend of it book accommodation well in advance as itinerant workforces can sometimes fill all available rooms at short notice. [The Zig Zag Motel is highly recommended. Editor's note]

Cost per person for Friday is \$11 and Saturday \$14. Bookings are essential and should be placed no later than 23 March. To place your booking please phone Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.

LYNETTE HAGGART

August 1929 — January 2009

ELIZABETH RYAN

LYNETTE DOREEN HAGGART was born on 3 August 1929 near Bombala, the eldest daughter of Jim and Ivy Rayner.

The family moved to the Camden area and were living at Prestons when Lyn's sister Edna was born in 1932 and brother Lester Donald in 1934.

The Rayners were living at Razorback when war was declared. During the war the family moved to Hermitage Road in Kurrajong where Jim continued his work in the timber industry.

Lynette completed primary school at Kurrajong North School and then attended Richmond High School.

Lynette met Ken Haggart in Kurrajong when he returned from the war and they were married on 3 October 1949 at St Stephens Church, Kurrajong. They initially lived with their parents and later bought some land and built a house in Woodburn Road.

Later in life Lynette became a member of the Hawkesbury Show Ladies Auxiliary and began working in the Legacy Op Shop. Both gave her much enjoyment and created many fond memories with the dear friends she made.

Everyone who knew Lynette knew her for her kindness and generosity. She will be sadly missed by many people.



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- Winner of Western Sydney Industry Awards for Regional Excellence in Outstanding Service 2006
- Winner of Parramatta Regional Awards for Excellence in Sales & Marketing 2005
- Winner of Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Meetings & Business Tourism & Most Outstanding Contribution to Western Sydney Tourism by a Small Business 2003
- Winner of the HMAA Best Short Break Accommodation in NSW for 2003
- Winner of Western Sydney Industry Awards for Excellence in Tourism, Hosted Accommodation 2002

You and our Society

Is you know our Society is a vibrant, growing and successful organisation. One reason for our success is because we have many facets making up the whole. One of the lesser known facets is that called 'Projects' – an area in which you find treasures of researched articles and books by members, some completed, some in progress, some planned and some just an idea.

It is in Projects that each member has the opportunity to be actively involved in our Society and thus in history. No prior skills are needed and you just become involved to whatever extent you want.

You will see from the accompanying Projects list (over page) that there are opportunities for you to assist in the research of 'Guest Houses in the Kurrajong' or to be the leader for 'Post Offices in the Kurrajong' or 'Schools in the District'. Some members may like to research the family histories of those in their surrounding area.

If you would like to know more about what is involved or have ideas of a project you would like to get underway, give our Projects Officer a call – Paul Hulbert on 4567 7388.

Project & Activities register

excludes exhibitions & displays

AS AT **2 Feb 2009**

	Name and description	Leader and team	Start date and status
1 2	On the Kurrajong – booklet Photo digital archiving	Valerie Birch Joy Shepherd (L)	2003 - Completed 2002 - Ongoing
3	Camp Mackay – history	Valerie Birch Valerie Holland (L) Valerie Birch	2002 - Ongoing
4	N/A		
5	Ben Singleton's mills model	Les Dollin (L) Bryan Wyborn	2002 - Model built
6	Road to Comleroy – tour	Les Dollin (L) Bryan Wyborn	2002 - Tour completed
7	Guest Houses of the Kurrajong	Valerie Birch (L) Kathie McMahon (?)	2002 - Collecting material Helper required
8 9	Sawmills of the Kurrajong N/A	Greg Upton	2003 - In progress
10	Built environment	Steve Rawling	2002 - Evolved to project 25
11	The Grain Road – tour	Les Dollin (L)	2005 - Tour completed
12	Bells Line of Road – tour	Les Dollin (L)	2005 - Tour completed
13	Post Offices of Kurrajong	Valerie Birch	2005 - Collecting material Leader required
14	Website	Greg Upton (L) Les & Anne Dollin	2006 - Under reconstruction
15	Hawkesbury River trip	Les Dollin (L) Valerie Holland (L)	2006 - Tour completed
16	Fernhurst – A History	Airdrie Martin	2006 - Completed
17	Sassafras and Timber of the Kurrajong	Brenda Smith Pat O'Toole	2006 - Completed
18	The Kurrajong Diggers of World War One	Valerie Birch (L)	2006 - Ongoing
19	North Richmond Bendigo Bank	Valerie Holland (L)	2006 - Completed
20	Index of RAHS articles	Frank Holland	2006 - Ongoing
21	Family histories	Valerie Birch	2005 - Ongoing
22	Schools of the district	Valerie Birch	2000 - Collecting material Leader required
23	History for the Future – book	Paul Hulbert	2006 - Completed
24	Glimpses of the Kurrajong – book	Airdrie Martin (L) Valerie Birch Paul Hulbert David Griffiths Jenny Griffiths	2007 - Completed
25	Buildings of the Kurrajong – book	Steve Rawling Airdrie Martin Valerie Birch Paul Hulbert David Griffiths Jenny Griffiths	2008 - Ongoing
26 27 28	Three mills on the Hawkesbury River Hidden secrets of the Blue Mountains Mills in Little Wheeny Creek	Les Dollin (L) Les & Anne Dollin Les Dollin (L)	2007 - Tour completed 2008 - Tour completed 2008 - Tour completed