

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

2 Committee changes

The new lineup of office bearers and committee members elected at the recent annual general meeting. The changes are minor

3 George Harper's testimony

Michelle Nichols gives an insight into the workings of the Courts of the early colony using the case of perjury against George Harper of Kurrajong and the shooting of James Duffy in August 1840

4 Governor Bashir visits Mull

Patricia O'Toole chanced upon a Vice Regal notice in the SMH advising that Governor Bashir had laid a wreath at Lachlan Macquarie's tomb on the Isle of Mull. Her article gives a brief outline of the man and his influence on the early colony

8 Dates for your Diary

Final reminders for Saturday 27 Nov: Celebration dinner & function at the Richmond School of Arts to mark the bicentenary of the founding of Richmond. Wednesday 1 Dec: The Society's celebration of Macquarie's visit to Kurrajong being held at Loxley on Bellbird Hill

New Members The Society would like to welcome the following new members JANET FOX MARIE GOUGH **CHRISTOPHER HALLAM DEBORAH HALLAM**

DENISE NEWTON

Retracing Macquarie's Hawkesbury Visit

LES & ANNE DOLLIN

wo hundred years ago Governor Lachlan Macquarie led an epic expedition from Parramatta through the Emu Plains, Castlereagh and Kurrajong areas, inspecting the first farms that had been established in this outlying area of the colony. He was accompanied by Mrs Elizabeth Macquarie, attending staff, surveyors and leading citizens of the colony.

On 30 August 2010, fifty members of the Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society (KCHS) retraced this historic journey, led by Jenny Griffiths, Val Birch and Les Dollin. Each person on the tour was allocated a role to play ranging from convicts, free settlers and soldiers to explorers, surveyors and Governor and Mrs Macquarie themselves. At each key locality on the tour the members re-enacted scenes from the original expedition based on Governor Macquarie's fascinating diary account of the journey. For more details visit the Society's web site: www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

In 1810 the expedition members travelled overland on horseback, with Governor and Mrs Macquarie travelling some sections by coach. They brought with them a longboat on a wagon to explore the newly discovered Warragombie River. Their first campsite was at the 1,000 acre farm of Dr Jamison on the banks of the Nepean River, now part of Trent Park in Penrith. The expedition members rowed up the Nepean River to see the junction of the Warragombie, now known as the Warragamba River, then they rowed further up the river as far as they could go.

The next day Governor Macquarie and his companions inspected some farms along the Nepean River. The KCHS members retraced this journey, stopping at the Upper Castlereagh Uniting Church for an informative talk by Reverend Russell Davis on the area's history. This was the site of the first Methodist Church in Australia and Macquarie would have actually travelled along this stretch of Castlereagh Road that was built in 1795. The group then enjoyed a delicious morning tea provided by the church ladies.

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KCHS members boarding the coach after their visit to Upper Castlereagh Uniting Church during the re-enactment tour

www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

President's Corner

Hello everyone. The AGM was held on 20 September and the committee for 2010/11 elected. It is a pleasure to welcome Suzanne Smith, the return of Kathie McMahon to the committee and to thank continuing members for their support.

The committee meets a minimum of eleven times per calendar year to attend to the affairs of the Society on your behalf and, in addition, each member takes on various duties related to the functioning of the Society. Without their dedication the Society would cease to function, so thank you to all who give so willingly of their time. It is also timely to remind members that if they wish to bring any matter to the attention of the committee please contact the secretary or any member of the committee.

A big thank you to Jenny Griffiths, Les Dollin and Valerie Birch for the excellent field trip on 30 August tracing Governor Macquarie's journey from Penrith to Kurrajong. Fifty members and friends joined the coach at Kurrajong and were promptly given name tags identifying them either as part of Macquarie's touring party or local settlers, soldiers or convicts. On arrival at various locations an impromptu re-enactment of events was performed. Many letters and messages of congratulations were received following this outing from people who had found the day most enjoyable and informative.

I represented the Society at a function held at Wentworth Falls for the opening of a new wing on the Blue Mountains Historical Society building at Hobby's Reach. The new wing was opened by Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir accompanied by Sir Nicholas Shehadie. It was a good opportunity to meet up with our friends on the other side of the Grose River.

Preparations for the formal dinner on 1 December continue to progress. Rehearsals for the historic presentation to be made on the night are going forward together with preparation of sets and costumes. Arrangements are in hand with Paul Maher and his staff at Loxley. It should be a night to remember. Thank you to all who have sent their payments as it makes it so much easier to manage the event without the Secretary having to phone around to check if people still want to attend.

The preparations for the re-enactment for school children, on 3 December, of the Macquarie party passing through Kurrajong are also well in hand. Final arrangements with Council and the NSW Marine Corps will be completed early in November. If anybody would like to be part of the re-enactment by dressing up as a settler or convict you would be welcome but please contact me so that you know how and where you would fit in.

As this is the last issue of *The Millstone* before Christmas I take the opportunity to wish all members and their families a peaceful, joyous and safe festive season with the hope that 2011 will be a good year for all.





BREVITY IS THE SOUL OF WIT. This well-known quote was written by William Shakespeare and applies to this issue's column as the page layout has necessitated a move from my usual page. I don't mind and will keep matters brief, but my ability at 'wit' is not in the same class as dear William's.

The 'new members' call out box is one that I always ensure is updated as it gives a good indication of the local community's interest in the area's history, heritage and pioneers. There are five new members this issue which is very pleasing. The Society is grateful for their membership and all members are encouraged to spread word of the Society's interests and activities amongst friends and acquaintances.

My next column will be in the New Year so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed articles and feedback during the year. I would also like to extend a big thank you to our loyal readers and I hope my efforts have kept you informed of not only the Society's activities but of some of the many varied stories of the area's rich history. And we all should give a big thank you and pat on the back to those who help me publish and distribute the newsletter: our printer Lynette Parry and rouse about Patricia O'Toole.

I wish you all a safe, happy and prosperous Christmas and New Year and I look forward to the variety of material which might come across my desk in 2011.

notpuc@bigpond.com



Continued from front page

The original expedition travelled on to Donald Kennedy's farm, now the site of the old Castlereagh Council Chambers on Castlereagh Road. From this site, which overlooks the floodplain of the Nepean River, Governor Macquarie could see that the settlers needed a town site above the level of the flood waters. So the governor rode off and selected a site for the new township, later to be named Castlereagh. Mary Thorne, Heritage Officer of Penrith Council, showed the KCHS members remnants of the old Castlereagh township.

Governor Macquarie proceeded to Agnes Banks to inspect the farm of his close friend Andrew Thompson who had recently died from the effects of one of the devastating floods. Andrew named the farm *Agnes Banks* in memory of his mother. The farm was regarded as one of the finest properties in the Hawkesbury district.

They set up a camp on the Yarramundi Lagoon, then known as Yellow-Mundie Lagoon. On the following day Macquarie's expedition crossed the Hawkesbury River and travelled up to the 1,500 acre property of Lt Archibald Bell at Richmond Hill, now the site of the St John of God Hospital. Mrs Bell entertained the Governor and Mrs Macquarie and their party in her cottage. The KCHS group retraced the expedition's footsteps.



Les Dollin, dressed as surveyor James Meehan, and David Griffiths watching members re-enacting a scene at Donald Kennedy's farm. Lady Macquarie played by Jenny Griffiths, Governor Macquarie by Frank Holland & surveyor George Evans by Ian O'Toole

Finally Macquarie's expedition rode up to a high point in the Kurrajong area where they had a grand view of the surrounding district. Governor Macquarie wrote in his diary, "We rode through a fine open Forest and hilly country for about 5 miles to the foot of the Curry Jung Hill, which is very long and steep to ascend, arriving on the summit of it at 12 o'clock, and from whence we had a very grand and noble Prospect of the low grounds on both Banks of the River Hawkesbury as far as the Green Hills."

The KCHS members stopped at St Stephen's Anglican Church in Kurrajong to see a very similar panoramic view of the district, review the whole expedition and to take commemorative photographs. The society members were proud to re-enact the first visit by Governor Macquarie to the Kurrajong district on its two-hundredth anniversary.

The false testimony of George Harper of Kurrajong MICHELLE NICHOLS

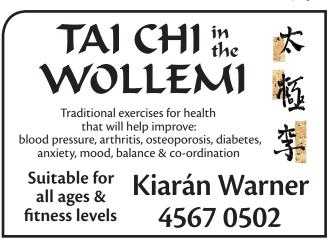
The following incident took place in the Hawkesbury in 1840. On the evening of 19 April 1840, which was also Easter Sunday, James Duffy and his family were enjoying some family time around the kitchen table. A noise was heard outside so Duffy went outside to inspect but he was shot and "wounded by slug shot, several of which were subsequently extracted from his body, and others from the door." His wife and a friend ran outside to help but Mrs Duffy was also fired at and "received several slugs in her body."

Both survived and Duffy offered a reward for more information and George Harper a sawyer from Kurrajong came forward stating that John Dalley and John Woodrop were responsible for the shooting. However both men had strong alibis for the day in mention and Harper was then charged with 'willful and corrupt perjury'. The case was heard in Sydney at the Supreme Court of NSW on 6 August 1840 before Judge Stephen, the Crown prosecutor, Mr. Carter, and a jury. The case was also reported in the newspapers of the time. They stated that "George Harper, free by servitude, a sawyer of Kurrajong was indicted for willful and corrupt perjury, in having on the 28th of May last, before Josiah Allen Betts Esq. a Magistrate of the Territory at Windsor, made an affidavit charging John Dalley and John Woodrop both of that district, with maliciously firing at and wounding one James Duffy a resident in that vicinity on Easter Sunday."

Duffy, keen to "*discover the perpetrators of this outrage*" put up a reward but nobody came forward with any clues. Then, George Harper visited the Magistrate, Josiah Betts and advised him of what he apparently had witnessed and who was responsible for the state of affairs. Harper told Betts that:

"while passing along a road in the vicinity of Kurrajong late it the afternoon of Easter Sunday, he saw a fire a little off the road, and going up to see what it was, he perceived that it was a dead tree on fire, and that there were two men there, one named Dalley and another named the Conjuror who had an old metal pot on the fire. After he had spoken to them a few words, the Conjuror took out a clasp knife with which he drew a small strip on the ground about a quarter of an inch deep and eighteen inches long, into which he poured some melted lead from the pot; he afterwards picked up the cold metal and began cutting it up into slugs. While the conjuror was doing this, the other man, Dalley, was busy cleaning an old musket, when Harper

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Governor Marie Bashir Visits Mull PATRICIA O'TOOLE

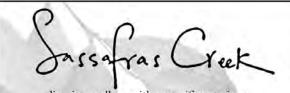
Lachlan Macquarie was born on 31 January 1761 at Ulva, a small island of Scotland's Inner Hebrides. Around 1772 his carpenter father moved the family to a nearby island, Mull, where he leased seventy-five acres from the Duke of Argyll. Lachlan's cousin was the last chieftain of Clan Macquarie. His mother, Margaret, was sister to Murdoch Maclaine, chieftain of Lockbury on Mull.

Murdoch ensured Lachlan received an education and when fifteen Lachlan volunteered for the British Army. Two years later, as an ensign, he joined the Royal Highland Emigrants and served in Canada and America. By 1784 conflicts were few and Lachlan, now a lieutenant, was able to return to his family at Oskamull on Mull.

In 1787 he began a long period of active service, mostly in India. As military secretary to the Governor of Bombay he gained experience as a colonial administrator. He met and married Jane Jarvis, who sadly, lived only three years after they



Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW, laid a wreath at the Macquarie Mausoleum on the Isle of Mull Sunday, 5 September 2010



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VICE REGAL



On Sunday, in the morning, Her Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Sir Nicholas Shehadie, laid

a Wreath at Governor Lachlan Macquarie's Tomb, on the Isle Mull.

Following, Her Excellency was interviewed about Governor Macquarie and his contribution to Australia by Ms Seona Robertson, Managing Director, Caledonia Television, on the Isle of Mull.

News of the Governor-General's activities can be viewed at http://www.gg.gov.au/program. php

> The Sydney Morning Herald 6 September 2010

married. While in Egypt he met his brother, Charles, and discussed the possible purchase of an estate on Mull.

In 1803 Major Macquarie returned to London. When visiting his family on Mull he met a distant cousin, Elizabeth Campbell. However, it wasn't until November 1807, after yet more military service in the East, that they were married.

Lieutenant Colonel Macquarie was appointed Governor of New South Wales and in May 1809 Macquarie and Elizabeth sailed from Plymouth on the Dromedary. After arriving in Sydney on 28 December 1809 Lachlan took up his commission on 1 January 1810 at a public ceremony where all were welcome.

Unlike previous governors, he saw beyond a penal colony and during his twelve years as governor worked to improve the lot of all settlers. With his trusted Seventy-third Regiment he restored order. Currency and a bank made honest trading possible. Convicts constructed many public buildings and roads. Emancipists, convicts who had served their sentence, received equal rights with free settlers. Governor Macquarie and Elizabeth, in spite of the hardship involved, visited outlying parts of the colony. Their great joy while in NSW was the birth of their son, Lachlan. It was Macquarie who first used the name, Australia, for the colony.

Macquarie's liberal attitude offended authorities both here and in Britain. His return to Britain in 1821 after twelve years of amazing achievement, received little accolade and his retirement to his estate on Mull was short lived. He died in London on 1 July 1824 when called there to receive his promised pension.

His grave, on Jarvisfield Estate on Mull is administered by the National Trust of Australia. Inscribed on the headstone is the title, "Father of Australia".

Our Governor visited Mull as part of a production of a television programme on the life of Lachlan Macquarie which is to be shown in West Scotland and Australia early next year.

INSTANT DEATH

LATE MRS. GEORGE WOODHILL

FATAL ACCIDENT AT NOWRA

HUSBAND SERIOUSLY INJURED

WIDESPREAD regret was felt throughout the Hawkesbury district on Monday when the news spread round that Mrs. Lillian Jane Woodhill, wife of Mr. George Edward Woodhill, of the well-known firm of Woodhill and Co., Ltd., of Richmond, Windsor and Nowra, had been killed in a motor accident, and her husband seriously injured.

THE fatality occurred near Nowra, where Mr. and Mrs. Woodhill had been residing for the past twelve months. Mrs. Woodhill was driving, and she and her husband were proceeding to Huskisson for a day's fishing. No one actually saw the accident, but from the tracks it appeared that the car skidded and overturned.

Mrs. Woodhill, who remained in the car, was killed instantly. Her husband was thrown out and sustained a broken arm and serious wounds on the head and leg. He was picked up unconscious by a passing motorist, who took him to Nowra. Although he was admitted to hospital in a serious condition it is expected that he will recover.

The news of the accident came as a great shock to Hawkesbury folk, as both Mr. and Mrs. Woodhill are widely known and greatly beloved in this district. The deceased lady, who was 61 years of age, was a daughter of the late Mr. T. R. Smith, ex-M.L.A., of Penrith. For many years she lived with her husband at Richmond and reared a fine family of four sons and three daughters, viz., Stanley (Richmond), Iris (Mrs. H. Nisbet, of Tamworth), Bertie (Windsor), Norman (Nowra), Thelma (Mrs. Urban Holland of Wollongong), Marie (Mrs. L. Failes, of Coonabarabran), and Dudley (Richmond).

During their residence in the sister town, Mr. and Mrs. Woodhill were prominent citizens, and took an active interest in all movements for the benefit and advancement of the district. Mrs. Woodhill was possessed of a happy disposition and kindly nature, and her demise has caused much regret amongst a wide circle of relatives and friends.

Some years ago Mr. Woodhill retired from active business and went with his wife to live at Coogee. Subsequently they removed to Northbridge, and a little over twelve months ago to Nowra.

We extend sympathy to the bereaved husband and family, and join with a host of friends in wishing Mr. Woodhill a complete and speedy recovery.

> The Windsor & Richmond Gazette 17 January 1930

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.) DISASTROUS FIRES AT KURRAJONG. A WOMAN BURNT TO DEATH.

WINDSOR, Tuesday.

The bush fires continue. At Wilberforce the flames were around the Church of England and the old schoolhouse. The residences of Mrs. J. Flemming and Mr. Dunstan were in great danger at times. The fires extended down into Mr. S. Burdekin's property.

At Kurrajong the fires yesterday were much more disastrous than was at first anticipated. Reilley's butcher shop and residence, Mr. R. Pitt's barns, stable, kitchen, and outhouses, The Hermitage, Donkin's and Wilson's places were all burnt to the ground. Fences and everything were swept away.

Mrs. Reilly, sen., who was missing yesterday, and was supposed to be burnt, was found about midday today.

A black woman, who has been in the employ of Mrs. Pitt for upwards of 20 years, was this morning found burnt to death.

It is reported that a portion of Northfield (Rev. J. Comrie's premises) was burnt down last night, and that the remaining portion was saved by the college school boys. Mr. Icely and other owners on Sallis Flats are also great sufferers by the fires.

> The Sydney Morning Herald Wednesday, 11 September 1895

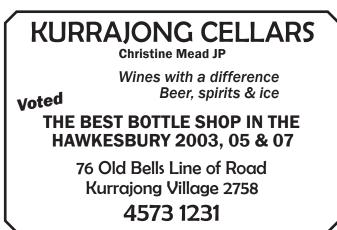
VINEYARD

On January 1st a daily mail was started from Riverstone to Scheyville, via Vineyard, and extended on to Forrester, three times a week. It is many years since the local Progress Association started to agitate for a daily mail. The next move will be to have the telephone connected with the local Post Office.

Holy Communion will be administered on the last Sunday in each month at the Vineyard Church, in lieu of once a quarter as formerly.

Captain Halcrow, who 12 years ago resided at Killarney house, has been on a visit to the district, looking up old friends. The genial skipper is looking hale and hearty, although a bit aged.

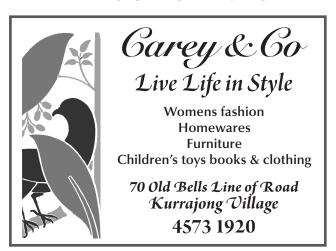
> Windsor & Richmond Gazette 12 January 1912



Continued from page3

asked them if they were going a Kangarooing to which the Prisoner replied "Yes, we are going to look after a kangaroo that has done for many a one." They afterwards stated, that they had better get on their way, as the other man would be waiting for them. He also swore, that when the conjurer proceeded to gather up the slugs, one of them fell again on the ground, which he again took up, and, holding it between his fingers, said, "If the old growler, Duffy, gets this in him, it will make him wonder what is the matter with him;" after which he left them, and they went in the direction of Duffy's house. It also appeared, that there was a report in circulation that Duffy could not prosper, as he had been cursed by the priest, and had told the prisoner Harper of the Priest's having so cursed him. In consequence of this information, a warrant was issued, and the men Dalley and Woodrop were taken into custody, and remanded for examination till the 2nd of June, when the prosecutor again made oath of the truth of the above statement as contained in his affidavit, and also identified the prisoners, then in the dock at Windsor, as being the parties alluded to in his affidavit. In defence, the men, Dalley and Woodrop, adduced a number of witnesses, who clearly proved, that on Easter Sunday they never were out of their company on that day, and, consequently, could not have been either at the burning tree or at Duffy's. It was also proved before the magistrates, that on the night in question, Harper was in liquor, and had sworn that he was perfectly sober. In consequence of the prisoners having so clearly established an *alibi*, the magistrates committed Harper to take his trial for having committed willful and corrupt perjury.

Before putting the case to the Jury, His Honour enquired of Mr. Carter, if he had no more proof to make out the first allegation contained in the indictment, as, though it had no business there, yet its having been inserted, entitled the prisoner to have it proved. He lamented exceedingly that the modern practice in England, with respect to informations for perjury, had not yet been adopted here, as it was not necessary to enter into the details of the case in which perjury was alleged to have been committed. He considered the present was as gross a case of perjury, and as malicious a proceeding on the part of the prisoner, as ever had come before a court, and he was afraid, he might escape through a legal loop hole, but if he did so, he should take care that he should be the last, as within twenty four hours he should have a measure ready for the Legislative Council to enact, for the purpose of preventing any prosecution

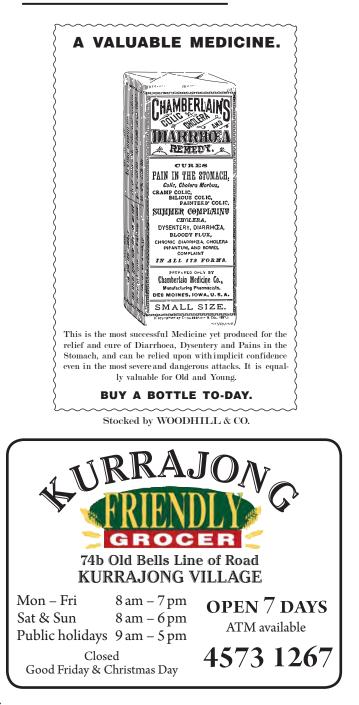


before the Supreme Court in future, from being quashed from informality. He then went over the case and reserved two points that presented themselves in the prisoners favour through the informality of the information. The Jury returned a verdict of guilty against the prisoner, subject to the decision of the Judges, on the points he had reserved. The prisoner was ordered to be brought up to day at ten o'clock, to receive sentence."

George Harper's sentence was quite harsh and the newspapers reported that he was "convicted of willful and corrupt perjury, was sentenced to transportation for seven years, and recommended to be worked in from during the whole period."

References

http://www.law.mq.edu.au/scnsw/ *Decisions of the Superior Courts of New South Wales, 1788-1899* The Division of Law, Macquarie University *Sydney Herald* 7 August 1840 *The Australian* 11 August 1840





H & Peck & Sons orchard Kurrajong Heights



This photo is a portion of a panorama of H E Peck & Sons orchard at Kurrajong Heights. It is believed to have been taken in the early 1920s, approximately 200 metres west of the junction of the Old Bells line of Road and Warks Hill Road. The orchard was bounded by Bells Line of Road to the east, the Kurrajong Heights Hotel location to the north and Warks Hill Road to the south and west. A portion of the Bells Line of Road can be seen in this photo along with sheds which were used as horse stables and for housing farm equipment

A good Investment.

A man who is paid piecework discovered the other day that by taking Oxo as a beverage daily he was able to earn over 20 per cent. more per week than before – it gave him staying power. Needless to say he swears by Oxo.



Hawkesbury Shoalhaven Calendar Directory Guide & Historical Record 1904

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Percy Hutchison



The date of this photo is unknown and shows Percy Glen Raymond Hutchison of Glossodia, his dog and a recently-killed fox. The background items in this image are also of interest - the pile of wooden packing crates, the metal saucepans and bucket, and the water tank indicates there was no town water supply at this location and time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 27 November

Instead of a Christmas function this year we will be supporting the Richmond Literary Institute's function to mark the bicentenary of the birth of Richmond. Richmond School of Arts is the venue and proceedings begin at 6 p.m.

Paul Brunton, senior curator at the Mitchell Library, will discuss the cloak and dagger operation which secured the prized 'Macquarie' papers offered for sale by Lady Strathallan at auction in London in 1914. A celebration dinner focussing on Macquarie's visit to Ham Common on Monday, 3 December 1810 will follow in the Murray room.

Costs for the night are \$55 for the three course dinner and drinks or \$5 for the presentation only.

4578 2110 Wed and Fri 8.30 - 12 richschoolofarts@bigpond.com

Wednesday, 1 December

Her Excellency, Governor Marie Bashir AC CVO and Sir Nicolas Shehadie AC OBE will be guests of honour at our celebration of the two-hundredth anniversary of Lachlan Macquarie and his wife Elizabeth's visit to 'The Kurrajong' on the first of December 1810.

The celebration will be held at Loxley on Bellbird Hill where a three course formal dinner and bar service will be followed by a tribute to Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie by KCHS members in conjunction with the Richmond Players.

Cost is \$55 per head. A waiting list exists if you have not yet booked and would like to attend.

For further details and confirmation of bookings please phone 4573 2226 or email frank.holland@bigpond.com



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