



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

KCHS field trip to
Lithgow's Zig Zag Railway

CHRIS UPTON



2 Bathurst field trip

Members were treated to a rare and very informative tour of the many departments of the Land & Property Management Authority's premises at Bathurst. For those who were unable to attend, Valerie Holland's article explains each department's purpose and benefits in good detail.

4 Crossing the Blue Mountains

One hundred & fifty people, including members of KCHS attended the May 14 conference held at the Lithgow Workmen's Club. As a result of this conference another is being scheduled, subject 'How best to celebrate the crossing of the Blue Mountains'.

5 Matthew Everingham field trip

On 6 June some Everingham descendants joined members in a field trip, organised by Les & Anne Dollin, in celebration of Matthew's life. The afternoon brought a bonus of a personalised tour of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum.

7 From the Archives

Photos of 'Glenroy' on Serpentine Lane, Darcy Hough & his 1931 Triumph motorcycle, and one thought to be of Cecil Mangold and a draught horse named 'Nugget' taken at camp Mackay.

8 Dates for your Diary

Final reminders for:

Thurs 28 July mid year dinner at Panthers Club, North Richmond. Details need to be finalised by 11 July.

Thurs 25 August guided tour of Garden Island. Make sure you set your alarm as the day gets under way at Richmond railway station at 7 am.

On Monday, 27 June sixteen members of KCHS took part in a guided tour of the famous Zig Zag Railway at Lithgow. Our tour guides were David and Jenny Griffiths. David drove the train and Jenny was the guard. They have been involved with the Zig Zag Railway for between three and four years and this came about through their lifelong interest in all things related to trains, railways and transport.

The tour got under way at 11 AM and we travelled in an old Queensland Railway rail car. We alighted at various stops including the number one viaduct, Top Points signal box and the Bottom Points signal box where the workshops are located. At each of these places David and Jenny explained in detail the history and the past and present workings of each of them.

The Zig Zag Railway is a not-for-profit co-operative which operates steam trains for eight kilometres over the world famous Zig Zag. It was formed in 1972 by a group of enthusiasts who took over the track between the original Clarence station and Bottom Points. The tracks were relaid to narrow gauge and ex-Queensland rolling stock was obtained with the goal of creating a tourist railway.

Trains run every day of the year, excluding Christmas Day, and depart from Clarence Station on the Bells Line of Road a few kilometres east of Lithgow. The co-operative operates and maintains the trains, rolling stock and tracks. The railway passes over three sandstone viaducts and through two hand-hewn tunnels plus a cutting. The views during the trip down to the valley are striking.

The Zig Zag took three years to construct and was opened on Monday, 18 October 1869, strangely without an official opening ceremony. It remained in use until 1910 when it was bypassed by a new route utilising ten tunnels. It was constructed to

Continued page 3



Photo: Alexander Brodie 1867 - 1891

The three viaducts built with clear white sandstone from a quarry half a mile from the line. The photo was taken in 1878, nine years after construction.

May Bathurst field trip

VALERIE HOLLAND

On Monday, 16 May nineteen KCHS members and friends met at the Land and Property Management Authority at Bathurst. A -6°C start was followed by a sunny morning. We were greeted on our arrival by our guides David Taylor, Kathy Selwood and their assistants.

We were welcomed by the Director of Operations, Warwick Beecroft who explained that the building had been purpose built in 1976 to house the NSW Mapping Authority and at that stage had 450 staff. Over the years more sophisticated mapping technology was developed and additions were made to departments and other functions. Today the staff, many of whom reside in Bathurst, number 300 and of these there are still eighty staff members present who initially commenced work at the facility in 1976. The facility is also a valuable resource centre for the Bathurst University and Teachers College.

Following morning tea we were divided into two groups. We were taken past showcases containing an historic array of beautifully crafted instruments related to surveying, cartography and field telephony. It was explained that a broad arrow mark indicated a government survey and that on early parish maps land ownership is designated as a portion and on present maps as a DP.

On the wall opposite were copies of two original intricate maps of the known area of NSW around 1836, one in black pen by surveyor Sir Thomas Mitchell and a colour enhanced copy that surveyor Robert Dixon, who had worked with Mitchell,

Continued page 4



Members & friends with their goodie bags at the entrance to the L&PMA at Bathurst

Photo: Carolynne Cooper

President's Corner

Our financial year has now drawn to a close and annual reports are being written to cover the period 1 July 2010 through to 30 June 2011. These reports will be presented at our Annual General Meeting on 20 September and will be printed in the next issue of *The Millstone* so that everyone has the chance to review their content prior to the meeting.

The business to be conducted at the AGM will be to receive and adopt the various reports, to confirm the annual statement to be submitted to the Department of Fair Trading and to elect office bearers, committee members and a public officer for 2011/2012.

If shared around the roles need not be overly demanding. The president chairs the committee and general meetings and is the point of contact with most outside bodies. The vice president adopts this role in the absence of the president. The secretary is responsible for ensuring that minutes of meetings are accurately maintained and attends to correspondence as directed by the committee, a minute secretary is appointed to provide assistance. The treasurer ensures that all receipts are banked to the appropriate accounts, that payments are made on a timely basis and that the accounts of the Society are accurately maintained. Five committee members are elected and together with the above are charged with the responsibility of ensuring the lawful conduct of society business on behalf of members. Committee members are allocated various other tasks and responsibilities as required and can include projects, social activities, field trips, etc. There are also a number of positions that are appointed, for example accession officer, librarian, bookkeeper, auditor, webmaster and *The Millstone* editor.

I strongly encourage members to think about nominating for a position. A nomination form is enclosed with this edition of *The Millstone*. New appointees bring new ideas and this assists the Society to grow and prosper.

Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society Incorporated

PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757

www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

COMMITTEE

President	Frank Holland
Vice President	Airdrie Martin
Secretary	Valerie Holland
Treasurer	Lorna (Peggy) McCarr-Israel
Committee members	Carolynne Cooper, Patricia O'Toole, Steve Rawling AM, Kathie McMahon - Nolf, Suzanne Smith
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Continued from front page

transport people and produce from the western plains of NSW to Sydney. Designed by John Whitton, chief engineer of the NSW Government Railways, it is a series of gently sloping ramps resembling the letter 'Z' and the trains are alternately pushed and pulled down the escarpment. Its construction attracted a great deal of attention both in Australia and overseas. It was regarded as a major engineering feat and attracted many of the ablest engineers of the time.

The Lithgow Zig Zag was the second of two zig zags constructed to carry the western railway over the Blue Mountains. The first, at Lapstone Hill, carried the line up the eastern escarpment and the Lithgow, or Great Zig Zag, carried the line down into the Lithgow valley.

The *Australian Graphic* of 11 May 1889 reported that since the opening of the railway thousands of tourists had visited it and admired the skills of the engineers, "probably not surpassed on any railway in the world."

There were many mishaps on the Zig Zag and perhaps the most spectacular happened on 4 April 1901 when the English 'Mogul' B class locomotive ran out of control due to brake failure crashing into the dead end. The *Lithgow Mercury* reported that "The front part of the engine had demolished the buffer stop at the terminus and risen right over the wall of rock about three feet high." The bogey and leading wheels were suspended over the precipice and stayed there until the next day as they proved extremely difficult to haul back.

By the beginning of the twentieth century increasing rail traffic over the Blue Mountains started showing the limitations of the single rail line. Planning for a bypass of the Zig Zag was quickly followed by a ten tunnel line which was completed in 1910.

For forty years the Zig Zag was a lifeline to the west and a commercial link with the seaboard. Today there are few signs of the original formations as they have been taken over by the Bells Line of Road. A new Cityrail platform was constructed on the main western line to allow public transport access to the Zig Zag. In recent years rail traffic on the Clarence loop had ceased and the co-operative is planning to extend the operation of the railway into Newnes Junction station.

The tour came to an end when the rail car arrived at Clarence station at 1:30 PM. Some of the members decided to make the most of the day's wonderful weather by having lunch at the Workmen's Club and then visiting Blast Furnace Park and Hassans Walls Lookout.

All who took part would like to thank David and Jenny for passing on their knowledge of this fascinating piece of our history. ☺☺



David Griffiths explaining the operation & history of the Top Points signal box

Photo: Chris Upton



From the Editor

I am very grateful to Helen Webster for passing on some of her family history research to Joy Shepherd. Some of the more interesting items warranted inclusion in *The Millstone* and I have included them in this issue: The Tongue Lasher article (p6), and the photos of *Glenroy* and Darcy Hough (p7). Joy mentioned that Helen's research is ongoing and that other interesting snippets are bound to surface. As with many family history research projects I am sure Helen would be able to publish a book on the subject and if these samples are anything to go by it would make a very good read indeed.

I would also like to thank Dave Wilson from Lithgow Bike Stop for identifying Darcy's motorcycle. I spent many hours on the Internet with no luck whereas Dave identified it and I had his reply within an hour.

Having to work for a living it is very difficult for me to partake in the Society's field trips. Thus I was very pleased to be able to join the members who visited Lithgow for the Zig Zag Railway trip. The weather could not have been better and it was great to meet and speak to those who I generally correspond with via email. I have lived in Lithgow for near on thirty years and had never done the Zig Zag trip so Monday's excursion enabled me to kill about five birds with the one stone. From the conversations I had with others everyone found it to be an enjoyable and informative day.

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took to England without consent, before Mitchell could deposit his.

The Graphic Services Department has twenty-five printing and twenty-five conservation staff who are involved with the following: maps for the Central Mapping Authority, printing and scanning of books and perfect binding, posters, name cards, plate setter burns, laser burns etc. plus the NSW Surveyor General's valuation notices and the printing of council minute books. Another unique function is printing of the NSW Land Titles notices which now have a trust seal attached. In Digital Imaging 400,000 rolls of microfilm images have been transferred into digital images and this is a huge undertaking.

Conservation of historic maps is an ongoing and painstaking process and will keep staff occupied for years. Our members were able to view a huge map of part of the parish of Willoughby spread out for restoration.

Staff in The Geographical Names Board assign names to places and features within districts or towns and investigate the history and correct spelling of names in NSW. Proposals for names, or corrections, may be submitted by anyone, with the appropriate historical evidence.

Geocoded Rural Address System is another specialised area which covers the state. We learned of the technical processes used to match physical addresses with property addresses. This information is vital for emergency services to assist with prompt access to a correct location. As a result of this visit, one of our members will now follow up a correction to her own property address.

At the Light Detection and Ranging Imagery it was explained that laser imagery is collected by aerial scanning. A computer determines what the laser points indicate, such as the height of trees and objects and water management information, which assists in flood mitigation. It can also be used to superimpose buildings on a given site and therefore to gain council approval to proceed with construction.

After our tour, the two groups rejoined for lunch before moving to a lecture room to view an interesting online presentation at www.baseline.nsw.gov.au. This is a very interesting site for those members who enjoy searching for information on maps.

At the conclusion of this session, the staff members assisting were thanked for a very informative day and their commitment to the preservation of our history. Our members were grateful to have been given a unique opportunity to visit this facility and were amazed at the diversity and the quality of the work being undertaken at Bathurst.

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Lithgow Conference ~Crossing the Blue Mountains~

FRANK HOLLAND

Seven members of the Society attended the above conference at the Lithgow Workers Club on Saturday, 14 May. The conference was sponsored by Lithgow Council and Hartley District Progress Association. Approximately 150 attended on the day. A welcome to Wiradjuri country was given by Meg Hudelston and was followed by a welcome from Councillor Neville Castle, Mayor of Lithgow. The president of the RAHS, Dr. David Carment, introduced the program which was chaired by Naomi Parry, Cultural Development Officer, Lithgow City Council.

The key Speakers were: Andy Macqueen, Professor Ian Jack, Dr. Siobhan Lavelle, Dr. Anne-Maree Whitaker, Ray Christison, Billy Allan, Kath Shilling and Kevin Boyle. Topics covered the early attempts pre 1813, the journey of Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson, through the surveying by Evans and the development of the road to Bathurst by Cox. Ian Jack spoke about heritage issues relating to the crossing and Kath Shilling and Billy Allan spoke about related aboriginal involvement.

A major issue was 'How best to celebrate the crossing of the Blue Mountains'. As a result of this conference a further meeting is being scheduled to address this question.

Overall the conference was very well organised and the speakers were very knowledgeable. Those who attended found the conference very worthwhile.

UNCLE TOBY under the Microscope and the Analysis of TOBY OATS.

Under the Microscope the Oats are seen to consist of two or three envelopes, the outer being composed of longitudinal Cells, the second envelope is obliquely transverse. The third envelope consists of a layer



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Celebrating the life of Matthew Everingham

LES & ANNE DOLLIN

Matthew Everingham, a convict on the First Fleet, had one of Kurrajong's first land grants and in 1795 made an historic attempt to cross the Blue Mountains. On 6 June 2011, we presented a lecture and field trip on the life of this fascinating early pioneer. Society members were thrilled to be joined on this occasion by a good number of Everingham descendants.

Les described Matthew Everingham's life as a convict, a settler and an explorer. His presentation was based on the meticulous research of the late Valerie Ross who wrote four books on Matthew's life and on his descendants. In one of her books, 'The Everingham Letterbook', Valerie transcribed and analysed some letters which Matthew Everingham had written to his sponsor, Samuel Shepherd, in England. One letter contained an account of his attempt to cross the Blue Mountains in 1795 accompanied by John Ramsay and William Reid.



Valerie Frost with the paintings of Andrew Everingham & the homestead Knight's Retreat



Photo: Anne Dollin

Les Dollin, dressed as Matthew Everingham, with Valerie Ross at the 1995 celebration of the 200th anniversary of Mathew's attempted crossing of the Blue Mountains

Because of the poetic language of the letter, there were difficulties in interpreting the exact route taken by the explorers. We were amongst many people who assisted Valerie Ross in researching this journey in the 1980s. Les explained in detail his favoured route via the Vale of Avoca, Bowen Mountain, Kurrajong Heights, Wheeny Gap, Mt Irvine and ending at Mt Wilson. Their outward journey took seven days. For the last three days of their return journey, Matthew Everingham was without shoes and food.

After Les' presentation the group visited a property at Cedar Ridge which has a spectacular view of Wheeny Gap. Les showed the group the position of a huge cave, described in the letter, where Matthew Everingham in 1795 had spent the night during a tremendous thunderstorm. He wrote, 'in three or four reports I had entirely lost my hearing and was in a manner petrified.'

Then the group visited Everingham's 1809 land grant. Part of Frank and Valerie Holland's property on Comleroy Road is on this old Everingham 130 acre grant. Frank showed the group the historic well and artefacts he had found on the property. Everingham and his sons had agisted stock on this property and appeared to have built a small hut and well on this site.

In the afternoon, the group were treated to a personalised tour of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum. Everingham descendant, Valerie Frost, was keen to locate an old painting of *Knight's Retreat*, an early Everingham family homestead at Sackville. She believed this painting had been given to the Museum many years ago. Valerie showed an old photograph of the painting to Ruth, our museum guide. Ruth said she recognised the painting and went off to the archives to see if she could find it. To our delight, Ruth not only found this painting but also another painting of Andrew Everingham, Valerie Frost's great grandfather.

These exciting discoveries in the museum topped off an excellent day. This event was a tribute to Valerie Ross who did such a superb job of documenting the history of Matthew Everingham, an important colonial pioneer in Kurrajong's history.

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Tongue lasher is refused bail

A 41-year-old Blacktown man who allegedly tried to cut his wife's tongue off with a pair of scissors was refused bail on Monday after he was charged with setting fire to her house in Grose Vale.

Police believe Robert Henry Burnett set fire to his estranged wife's house in Serpentine Lane, Grose Vale, early on Monday morning. The property and contents of the house, "Jolimont", were destroyed.

Burnett was refused bail on Monday, and was due to appear in Windsor Local Court yesterday, at which time a committal hearing date would be set.

He will appear in Windsor Local Court on December 18, to face charges of entering a dwelling with the intent to commit a felony, malicious wounding, and using chloroform to commit an offence.

On that day, police will allege Burnett broke into his estranged wife's house at Grose Vale on August 24 with a key, chloroformed her, and attempted to cut her tongue off using a pair of pliers and scissors.

Police have alleged Burnett then changed his mind, bound his wife, and dumped her near Hawkesbury District Hospital. He then drove home and rang the hospital to tell them of her whereabouts before turning himself into [sic] police.

The Windsor & Richmond Gazette
23 October 1991

EDITOR'S NOTE A photo of *Jolimont* is on the facing page (p7). The photo is believed to have been taken in the 1950s. At the time the property was known as *Glenroy* and was owned by Bill and Charlotte Dunston.

NELSON.

The road to Kenthurst, via Messrs Maguire's and Ouvrier's properties, is receiving further attention. The track down the hill from Mr Ouvrier's orchard is being ballasted and formed, whilst clearing is going on across the Creek. The road is also being cleared a chain wide from the Settlement to Maguire's corner. The work is being done through the representations of Mr W Morgan M.L.A.

The Windsor & Richmond Gazette
27 March 1897

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ZIG-ZAG DISASTER.

DRIVER, FIREMAN, AND GUARD.

COMMITTED FOR MANSLAUGHTER.

SYDNEY, Wednesday.—The inquest in connection with the recent railway accident on the Zig-Zag railway line was concluded at Lithgow to-day. The coroner found that James Wilfred Costello died from injuries received by being knocked down by a railway train, which was under the care of James Bourke (driver), William Henry Fowler (fireman), and John Corr (guard), and that the occurrence was the result of negligence and carelessness on their part. He committed them for trial on a charge of manslaughter.

The Argus
Thursday, 17 Dec 1908



A SINGER LOVE STORY.

Steady Silas Slim saw sweet Susie,
Sagacious Susie sought Silas Slim's society,
Susie sat serenely sewing slowly,
Silas said softly, "Susie, say something sweet."
Susie started, seemingly surprised,
"Silas, stop saying such silly stuff,
Say something sensible."
Straightway Silas said,
"Sweetheart, such slow sewing seemeth slavery.
Say, Susie, secure a 'Singer,'
Simple, Silent, Speedy, Strong."
She said, "That's sense."
So Silas Slim sent for Singer's servant,
Singer sent something satisfactory,
Saturday saw Susie with her 'Singer' singing sweetly,
Silas said, "Sweetheart, say something softly sweet."
"Silas, stop such spooney stuff,
Say something sensible."
So steady Silas straightout said,
"Sweetheart, settle something soon."
Susie said, "Say Sunday."
"Settled! Settled!" shouted Silas,
Salute, Salute, XXX
SEQUEL :—Sweet Susie secured
Silas Slim satisfied,
Sings as she sews sweet Susie on her 'Singer.'

Hawkesbury—Shoalhaven Calendar, Directory Guide
& Historical Record 1905

Glenroy on Serpentine Lane



Photo courtesy: Jim & Betty Ezzy

A side view of *Glenroy*, Serpentine Lane, Grose Vale. It is thought this photo was taken in the 1950s and at that time the property was owned by 'Windy Bill' Dunston and his wife Charlotte, née Giddins.

The lady on the left is their daughter Florence (Florrie) Hough, the other two have yet to be identified. The motorcycle and sidecar on the right were owned by Florrie's husband, Darcy (Pud) Hough.

In more recent times the property was sold to Dr Saxby and then to Jeff and Judy Ferguson who changed the name of the property to *Jolimont*. It was later sold to Robert Burnett who burnt the house to the ground in October 1991.

Tilling the Soil



Photo courtesy: Family of Percy Stevens

This photo was taken at Camp Mackay, Kurrajong c.1939/40. The man is using a hand-operated scoop tethered to a draught horse to till the soil.

Another photo from this collection shows a horse which bears a striking resemblance. Its name was 'Nugget' and the handler was Cecil Mangold. Cecil worked at Camp Mackay clearing land in 1938 and set up the camp's vegetable gardens in 1945/46. He lived with his family in a Derring Lane Soldier Settlement cottage.

Darcy, Motorbike & Mate



Photo courtesy: Jim & Betty Ezzy

Darcy Hough on his motorcycle, thought to be the one in the *Glenroy* photo shown above, a 1931 Triumph NSD with 549 cc side-valve inclined engine.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday, 28 July

MID YEAR DINNER commencing 7:30 PM at Panthers Club North Richmond. Guest speaker will be Steve Rawling AM. His presentation will cover three interesting women of the Kurrajong district. Cost is \$30 per person and bookings are essential.

Details need to be finalised by 11 July so if you wish to participate please contact Valerie Holland 4573 2226 to book your place.

Thursday, 25 August

A GUIDED TOUR OF GARDEN ISLAND including the secure area, the chapel, the top of the Captain Cook dock and the Kuttabul memorial.

The day commences 7 AM sharp at Richmond railway station as the 7:18 AM train to Circular Quay is the latest which enables timely transfer to other transport. The ferry trip from Circular Quay to Garden Island is by the Watsons Bay ferry departing wharf 4 at 10:05 AM.

Garden Island is a unique place and there are protocols and procedures which need to be maintained, such as no cameras allowed when touring the secure area. Its construction also warrants sensible footwear, that which is both comfortable and workmanlike. Expect many steps during the tour.

Cost per person is \$20 and bookings limited to twenty-five. Seniors rail passes for the day cost \$2.50. You can bring your own lunch or it can be purchased on the island.

Details need to be finalised by 15 August so if you wish to attend or would like further details contact Valerie Holland on 4573 2226.

Tuesday, 20 September

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The venue will be Comleroy Road Public School and proceedings start 7:30 PM. After the meeting there will be a presentation on *Rose Cottage*, considered to be the oldest slab hut in Australia.

DR REX STUBBS OAM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by Hawkesbury City Council in February 2011. It recognises Councillor Stubbs' abiding commitment to both the Hawkesbury community and the historical significance of the area.

The scholarship funds the attendance of two people to the RAHS state conference and a two year membership of the society.

It is available to residents of the Hawkesbury LGA, members of historical groups within the LGA and volunteers of the Council's cultural services (museum, gallery & library).

Opens 1 June 2011 and will close 31 August 2011. The winners will be announced during NSW History Week in September.



For further information and an entry form visit:

www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/services/cultural/dr-rex-stubbs-oam-memorial-scholarship



DOLLAR DRILL from DOLLAR BILL

To make any sum of pounds, shillings and pence into dollars and cents, first make it into shillings and pence. For example, make £3 17s. 6d. into 77/6d. Change the pence into cents and now we have 77/5. Move the stroke to the left a space and make it a dot = 7.75. Answer: \$7.75.

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- Australian Bridal Industry Academy National Award Best Resort / Motel Reception 2008
- Hills Excellence in Business Awards for Excellence in Customer Service Environmental Management & Sustainability 2008
- Parramatta Regional Awards for Business Excellence in Sales & Marketing Customer Service, Chairman's Choice Contributing to the Environment 2005 '06 '07 & '08
- Western Sydney Industry Awards Excellence 2002 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 & 08
- Hotel Motel & Accommodation Association Best Short Break Accommodation in NSW 2003