

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

5 Edward Merrick

Joy Shepherd's article giving an overview of the life of her great, great, great grandfather-in-law. He arrived on the Second Fleet and through hard work rose to the position of District Constable in North Richmond.

6 Willow Glen & Westbury

Part two of Kath Dunston's tale of the time she and her husband, Joe spent on their two properties. This article recounts some of the more adventurous episodes which happened there.

8 Trove

The National Library of Australia began a programme in 2007 of digitising many old newspaper titles. Recently a number of Hawkesbury newspapers from 1843 to 1945 have been added to this vast database. Michelle Nichols describes the programme in detail and gives tips and advice on how best to utilise the resources. The editor of this newsletter has been using this resource since its inception.

12 Dates for Your Diary

Final reminders for: **The Annual General Meeting** on Tuesday, 20 September. **Earning a Quid**, in conjunction with the Scarecrow Festival, Friday, 21 October. The **State History Conference** being held in Maitland, 29 & 30 September.

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Jane Franklin in Kurrajong Heights

STEVE RAWLING AM

This article is an extract from the talk given at the KCHS mid-year dinner on 28 July 2011, entitled **Three Remarkable Women (with a Kurrajong connection)**. The other two women, Louisa Atkinson and Evelyn Hill, have featured in previous issues of *The Millstone*.

The portrait is of Jane Griffin at the age of twenty-five, in 1816 when she was active in London society. Most young women of her age were already married; she had refused several offers. Jane who? you may ask. Her admittedly brief Kurrajong connection took the form of a visit in 1830 to Kurrajong, Kurrajong Heights and beyond. By this time she was Lady Jane Franklin, wife of Sir John Franklin, Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania and Arctic explorer.



Her comments on a stop at what is now the restaurant Lochiel are fairly well known:

...came to an inn by the road on the left, Mrs Douglas's, an impudent, ugly woman who was not supported by by gentry – but has neat clean house where we might might very well sleep, and good eating also tho' had brought had brought our own provisions. She put out roast pig, fine potatoes, the growth of her own country here – being particularly good for potatoes, beautiful butter & light excellent damper different from & better than and had seen in the colony before. The woman was very familiar and communicative as to behaviour of certain young officers who lately been there. Her husband was originally a prisoner – she with family came out to him & Darling gave them 50 acres here. The husband is a scourger – a girl of hers goes to the School – why not there today – because she was wanted to clean the house. She wanted us much to stay the night.

This is a fascinating glimpse into what life in Kurrajong Heights was like in 1839, they were obviously well fed, and also of social attitudes. There is no doubt that Jane Franklin saw herself as vastly superior to 'the woman' running the place.

Less well known are Jane Franklin's comments about Kurrajong Hills and the country beyond Cut Rock:

Mr North & Mr Archibald Bell came to accompany us on way to Kurrajong Country in tandem – Mrs Cox & I in pill box – others on horseback. After first space of bush, found the country intermixed with cultivation and queerly broken & hollowed – a wooden cottage or hut perched here & there shewing subdivision of land into small farms – some farms of 10 acres are leased and support a family – this country on account of mountainous character & fine soil was reserved for small settlers, who had small grants made to them, lowest 50 or 30 acres – largest farms here are 2 – of 500 & one of 550 – latter is Mr North's, Police Magistrate.

Continued page 2



From the Editor

Many obstacles, challenges and crises can be encountered during the production of any issue of a newsletter, and generally at least one of them will have to be overcome.

I ran into a real doozie with this issue. Just two weeks ago, mid August, my computer decided to have a bit of a stroke. It still had some life in it but the only way to get it workable was to restore it to the state of my latest 'backup' copy, 17 July. The trade off with getting back to workability was that everything I had done since that date was thrown out with the bathwater.

Panic soon set in. Two and a half weeks to deadline and I'm back to square one and as all the files I had been sent from contributors were also lost it appeared unlikely that this issue would have any chance of going to press.

But it has, thanks to a bit of crisis management and a great deal of help from my brother Greg, mum Betty, Joy Shepherd, Frank and Valerie Holland. As well as a few long nights and a considerable amount of typing. Please afford me some understanding if the quality of this issue is not up to the usual standard as it's a bit difficult trying to do in three nights what you generally spend a month and a half toiling over.

There are bound to be other hurdles to overcome with future issues and for reasons unbeknownst to me, I'm looking forward to them.

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Continued from front page

After about 6 miles came to Schoolhouse of stone not mortared & cracking from each other – large glass window in it broken by hail storm. Bishop's school is attended by children from distance of 3 miles – number averages 30, tho' 45 on books – today only 22. Why? Because Mr Stiles had been there the day before – though this should have acted the other way – he performs divine service & preaches there every alternate Wednesday. No mistress – children seemed cold tho' weather beautiful, and looked dirty – many were barefooted. They were divided in classes, boys and girls teaching – torn cards & paper on walls – schoolmaster's dwelling, the former schoolhouse (a wooden cottage) adjoins – fine view hence of the undulating mountain country & of the extensive horizon all around – Windsor and Richmond and Mr Cox's part of the view. There is no view of such extent in VDL.

Her social status had enabled her to have as her guides two of the most prominent citizens of the area, Archibald Bell and Samuel North, while she clearly didn't think much of the ordinary people or at least their children.

Only one mile farther [from the Douglass property] come to what is called the Cut Hill where road winds round & round own precipice – river seen other side – 14 miles from Douglas's is Tomah Mountain, the highest I believe in range. Snow sometimes rests several days on it – splendid views from it – carriage can go so far as 15 miles from Cox's river which is 45 from Bathurst. Mr Bell who was with us discovered this passage in this range in 1821. In 1825 this road was begun by Government. Since then, a better sweeping line tho' a little longer has been found by Mr Bell & if road is finished, latter will be taken – would be much easier line of road for Bathurst produce than that from Penrith & would bring to water carriage to Windsor where it might be shipped to Broken bay. Penrith opposed to it of course & Sir John Jamison and Mr Blaxland in company – Mr Bell got grant of 1000 acres for discovering it – and afterwards another grant on accomplishing this road at Government expense from Governor Darling – his first grant is at Hunter. Did not see the Kurrajong trees – it is very tough, fit for chains and leather.

This is a particularly fascinating comment. Can we put her down as the first advocate of a Bell's Line expressway?

So she was an extremely observant person and a prolific recorder of her observations. These extracts are taken from her diary edited by Penny Russell, University of Sydney historian, of this one trip to Port Phillip and Sydney, then to the Hunter and Kurrajong. She was a prolific diarist. Penny Russell tells us that she edited it down considerably but it still runs to almost 200 pages.



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But why was she here in Kurrajong? The answer is simple. She was one of the nineteenth century's great travellers and I find it intriguing that she chose to come here. Before her late marriage, aged thirty-seven to a widower, she had travelled extensively with other family members throughout England and Wales and made a two year trip through France, Italy and Switzerland. She made annual trips to the continent including Germany, Holland and Denmark and she had even been to Russia. When Sir John Franklin, a naval officer, was posted to the Mediterranean she travelled independently through Greece, Egypt, Palestine and Turkey.

And of course she travelled as the new Lieutenant Governor's wife almost literally to the ends of the earth. If you have ever been to Macquarie Harbour, on Tasmania's west coast, you will know what I mean. And she travelled there with a party overland, a journey which is difficult to comprehend even today. She also went to many other challenging parts of Tasmania. And by the way, during the journey to Tasmania she climbed Table Mountain. She also went into the interior of South Africa.

Many in the Tasmanian establishment disliked her and regarded her influence with her husband as unacceptable. Her love of travel, which brought her as far as Kurrajong, her adventurous spirit and her intense curiosity were portrayed as vagaries, eccentricities and "the perversion of ordinary female qualities". She responded by being the first lady to travel overland from Melbourne to Sydney.

After the Franklins returned to England and Sir John undertook his ill-fated search for the Northwest Passage, Jane became world famous for her attempts for twelve years to find his lost expedition, funding a number of the searches. That's another story. She went to America to drum up support and funds for the search and just happened to climb Mount Washington while she was there.

When the search was finally declared over she resumed her passion for travel. She went to Canada, sailed from New York to San Francisco, went to Brazil, Chile, Panama, British Columbia, Hawaii, Japan, China, Singapore, Malaya, and India. She rode on bullock carts, elephants, and in canoes.

After some time back in England she went to Rome for an audience with the Pope and made another trip to India, then to America again and Alaska. In the United States she travelled to Salt Lake City, Cincinnati and elsewhere. All this later travel was undertaken when she was almost seventy years of age. She lived until she was eighty-four.

And she chose to come to Kurrajong.

A grand moonlight concert is being arranged to take place at the Parsonage, Kurrajong, on Wednesday, January 13th. Masters Pope, and other celebrated artists have promised to assist. See advt.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette
2 January 1897

President's Report

FRANK HOLLAND

Being my last annual report I am taking the opportunity to briefly look back over the past. The Society is now in its eleventh year and it is with some pride that the Society can say we have come a long way since that very first meeting of interested people in January 2001.

Many members have contributed to the growth of the Society in both its membership and the achievement of recording the history of the Kurrajong district. The efforts of the first office bearers and committee should not be forgotten. They began the collection of information, commenced research projects, saw to the incorporation of the Society and developed the initial goals, first events, and displays.

From a minimal financial beginning they commenced the fund raising activities that enabled the work of research to commence. Over the years many have worked hard to build on this start and today we enjoy a solid reserve of funds and have a sound base to ensure a regular cash flow into the future.

From a beginning of around forty interested people the membership of the Society later grew to 176. In recent months we have seen this number reduce slightly as members have aged or moved away from the district. This is a major challenge for all members and the incoming committee.

Family history has always been a key component of research and collection of local history. The digital archiving project was an early project and has collected an impressive library of photographs of local families and events which continue to grow. More recently a Family History Group has been formed so as to further pursue and document the many family histories and linkages within the Kurrajong district. *The Millstone* and the website have allowed the Society to reach out beyond our boundaries resulting in many new contacts. History research and family history are closely intertwined and both areas need to be pursued. I believe we are indeed fortunate that these areas of research operate under the same umbrella in our Society.

I could not do justice to giving thanks to all who have helped me over the past five years and it would not be fair for me to single anyone out, however, I must acknowledge the great help given by members of the various committees over that time. All have contributed to the well-being of the Society.

My final thanks go to each and every member for without your membership and support there would not be a Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society.

Valerie and I wish the Society every success in the future. We will be members but now is the time for fresh ideas and a new direction.

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Secretary's Report

VALERIE HOLLAND

The Society is grateful for donations of gifts and time from members and friends that have assisted in further development of KCHS's aim to reach out to the community and be recognised by our peers for our commitment to research and preserving the history of the Kurrajong district.

Donations

An account of childhood memories of *Westbury*, Grose Vale written by Mrs Esther Bowly, née Dunston, donated by her sister-in-law Kath Dunston. Betty Upton permitted copying of some of her Dunston research files. Donations also received from Beth Johnston, Jenny Griffiths, Jan Livingstone, Leanne and John Alessi, Henry Wilson, Michael Ginnings, Professor Fred Stephens, and Gloria Gorman. On winding up, TRAK donated funds for the purpose of a reprint of the 'Pansy' book.

Millstone advertisers

We sincerely thank the following local businesses for their support during the past year: Loxley on Bellbird Hill, Sassafras Creek, Carey & Co, Kurrajong Cellars, Harmony Fashion Boutique, Kurrajong Antique Centre, Kurrajong Friendly Grocer, and Tai Chi in the Wollemi.

Grant

VSEG – \$3,750 for a computer, software and scanner for the Family History Group.

Awards

Royal Australian Historical Society Certificate of Appreciation to Les and Anne Dollin. KCHS Achievement Certificate to Alex Nolf.

General meetings and AGM

27 July 2010: Kevin Rozzoli AM spoke about the special relationship between Lachlan Macquarie and the people of the Hawkesbury. AGM 20 September: Professor Ian Jack presented *'Fernmount'*, a country retreat at Kurrajong Heights'. 27 November: The Richmond Literary Institute's celebration dinner for the two-hundredth anniversary of the naming of Richmond. 26 Jan: The Australia Day meeting celebrated the tenth year birthday of KCHS and the launch of our second photographic book, 'Kurrajong Collections'. 28 March: Andy McQueen spoke about Frederick Robert D'Arcy, colonial surveyor, explorer and artist. 23 May: Graham and Carol Edds presented 'The History and Construction of Historic Barns of the Hawkesbury District'.

Macquarie re-enactments and celebrations

2010 saw the culmination of three years of research and preparation to celebrate Governor Macquarie's visit to the 'Kurrajong'. These events, on 30 August, December 1 and 3, have been reported in previous editions of *The Millstone*, however, the Society is most grateful to the following members for their efforts and dedication: Valerie Birch, Les Dollin, Jennifer Griffiths, Frank and Valerie Holland, Paul Maher, Ian O'Toole, Steve Rawling AM, Ron and Margaret Rozzoli, and Bryan Wyborn. Other help came from the staff at Loxley, the Richmond Players, NSW Corps of Marines, Wendy Kilroy, Ian Henry, and Kurrajong Primary School. KCHS was represented at events organised by Hawkesbury City Council: the launch of the Macquarie Rose and Iris ceremonies, Proclamation Day, Governor Macquarie's commemorative church service, and the Governor's luncheon at UWS.

Field trips

7 March: Field trip to Wilberforce Australiana Village. Our guide was Lesley George; University of Western Sydney, formerly Hawkesbury Agricultural College. Our guide was Jim Wilson and coordinator UWS Provost Shelley Burgin. 16 May: Field trip to the Land and Property Management Authority at Bathurst. Our guides were Kathy Selwood and David Taylor. 6 June: Les and Anne Dollin's presentation on Matthew Everingham's colonial exploration through Wheeny Gap in 1795, a short tour of appropriate sites and a visit to Hawkesbury Regional Museum. 27 June: David and Jenny Griffiths were our driver and guide on an historic motor rail trip on the Zig Zag Railway at Clarence.

Family History Group exhibition

4 July 2010: Display at the Hawkesbury Model and Hobby Show. August 2010: Display at the Family History Fair at Hawkesbury City Council. Further details of the groups activities and contributions are detailed in Carolynne Cooper's report on page nine.

Book Committee

Airdrie Martin, Valerie Birch, Paul Hulbert, David and Jennifer Griffiths researched and successfully launched 'Kurrajong Collections' and a reprint of an enlarged 'Pansy' history.

Communication

Outreach to members and the community was achieved through the efforts of the following people: Joy Shepherd – digital image project leader, Greg Upton – webmaster, Chris Upton – editor of *The Millstone*, the Family History Group, Patricia and Ian O'Toole attended to the newsletter mail outs, Lorna (Peggy) McCarr-Israel our treasurer has maintained the critical link between our society and *The Millstone* advertisers and with our bookkeeper, Chris Veitch. Valerie Birch our librarian and accession officer has continued to maintain our records. Garth Smith has explored grant possibilities and Vera Bentvelzen has continued to file birth, death and marriage newspaper cuttings.

I thank all present and past KCHS committees, members and the community for their support and am grateful for the bonds of friendship I have forged during the past seven years.

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From Death Fleet to District Constable

JOY SHEPHERD

The Second Fleet to Australia in 1790 has gone down in history as one of the most horrific voyages of all time. The new colony on Port Jackson eagerly awaited the arrival of the six ships, supposedly bringing 1,017 able-bodied convicts to assist in the advancement of the new settlement. Instead, the ships brought to Port Jackson 759 starving, abused and near to death individuals. A total of 258 convicts did not survive the trip and others died soon after their arrival.

The Reverend Richard Johnson, Church of England chaplain of the First Fleet and the new colony, after visiting the convicts below decks in the *Surprise* upon its arrival, reported:

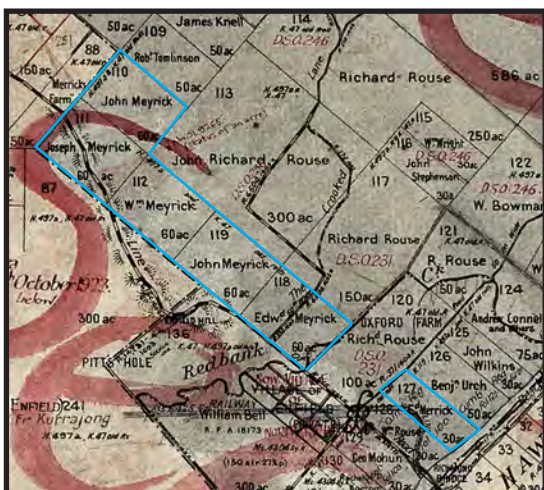
I beheld a sight truly shocking to the feelings of humanity, a great number of them laying, some half, others nearly quite naked, without bed or bedding, unable to turn or help themselves. Spoke to them as I passed along, but the smell was so offensive that I could hardly bear it.

One such convict arriving on the *Surprise* was Edward Merrick (also known as Meyrick). He had been convicted at the Old Bailey for stealing tea, sugar, rice and pepper to the total value of fifty shillings. He was sentenced to Newgate Prison, and later to the *Cerus* hulk to be transported across the seas for seven years.

He apparently recovered reasonably well from the ordeal of the voyage and was assigned as a blacksmith in Sydney. In 1791 he married Mary Russell, a convict from the Third Fleet, by the same Rev. Richard Johnson at St Phillip's Church of England, Sydney. They made a good team, and two children were born in the Parramatta area.

On 1 August 1799 Edward was granted thirty acres of land on the banks of the Hawkesbury River, known as 796 Mulgrave Place, for rent at the rate of one shilling per year commencing after five years and set to farm the alluvial soil. The family grew with seven children, including twins born in January 1812. Eldest daughter, Mary, conceived an illegitimate child born in 1816, and little Elizabeth was added to the household being brought up as one of their own.

Edward and Mary suffered many setbacks with floods as did the other settlers. Over the years Edward was granted more land ending up with 140 acres stretching as far as the Kurmond area. His sons also received land grants: John two sixty-acre blocks, Joseph sixty acres and William sixty acres. The family was hard working and well respected.



An early parish map showing the 330 acres of land Edward & his sons were granted bordering the Bells Line of Road and the Hawkesbury River. A note on the map states it was put into office use 16/4/17



A replica built in 1970 of the Royal Navy frigate *Rose* later converted to *HMS Surprise* with considerable attention given to detail and authenticity

In 1815 Edward became District Constable and Poundkeeper at North Richmond. In 1822 he was elevated to District Constable at Richmond, whilst son William took over the position at North Richmond. In that same year Edward was called to a race meeting at Richmond to quell a drunken riot. He received a broken arm during the disturbance but was reported in the *Sydney Gazette* of 13 September 1822 as being “.. a discreet and respectable officer” who was “.. much beaten”.

In 1830 Edward captured a bushranger, seventeen year old John Tiernan, in the act of stealing a horse. Tiernan was hanged for his crimes. After retiring from his duties as Police Constable, due to ill health, Edward and his family continued to farm their properties. Here, on 9 February 1839, he died and was buried at St Peters, Richmond two days later. In just over twelve months Mary followed him there.

North Richmond, or Enfield as it was known in early days, has changed little over the years. Standing on Edward's original land grant is the well known Panthers Club, previously the Hawkesbury Sporting Club. The Reg Turnbull Oval and tennis courts are on the land along with factory units nearby. There is also a housing development fronting the Hawkesbury River. Colo High School stands on one of the other Merrick grants, which continue up both sides of the Bells Line of Road and across to Slopes Road.

We are proud to own just a small remnant of the family land. Edward Merrick was the great, great, great grandfather of my husband Philip. He was obviously a man who fought against greater adversity than any of us could imagine to secure a future for his family in the colony.

References

- Yvonne Browning, *St Peters Richmond: The Early People and Burials 1791 – 1855*
Y. Browning, 1990

Memories of Willow Glen & Westbury

KATH DUNSTON

These are some of the episodes that happened at *Willow Glen* and *Westbury*.

A man living down Vincents Road owned a St Bernard dog and somehow the dog became attached to *Westbury*. He would regularly wander up and Joe would have to take him back. A few days later he would return. This went on for quite a while until the owner asked Joe if he would like to keep him. Joe agreed and he and the dog, Brandy, became inseparable.

Brandy went everywhere with Joe. One day they went down to the farm, Joe to work and Brandy to lie under a black wattle tree. It was a hot day and Joe called Brandy when it was time to go home. When he didn't come Joe went looking and found him dead under the tree. We think he must have been bitten by a snake.

An incident with Joe's tractor happened one day. He parked it on the side of a hill and went to work digging out scotch thistles. He looked up a little while later to see the tractor moving slowly towards the dam. Of course that is where it ended up and a kind neighbour brought his heavy tractor and they eventually pulled it out. It took many days to dry it all out but it worked again.

Joe and I were both good shots, which is frowned upon these days, but it regularly helped us put food on the table. Joe would pick out a couple of nice young rabbits, skin and dress them properly and many a nice rabbit pie was consumed by a hungry family.

One afternoon I heard a commotion in the chook yard and on investigation saw a big goanna eating the eggs. I raced up to the house and got the .22 calibre rifle and by the time I got back he was halfway up a large gum tree. I felled him with one shot. They called me 'Annie get your gun'. I know it would be very much frowned upon these days, but back then eggs were more important to us than a goanna.

Another night we heard squawking coming from the chook yard. Joe jumped out of bed and found a number of dead chooks. A quoll or possibly a spotted cat was the intruder this time. I can't remember if it was disposed of or driven away.

We had a small stone fruit orchard on the farm and nearly every November, when the apricots were ready to be picked, packed and sent to the fruit markets, we would have to pick furiously as storms would be approaching. It was often a race against time.



Photo courtesy: Kath Dunston

Social group at Westbury tennis court Grose Vale 1946
Bk L-R: Joe Dunston, Fred Bullock, Cliff Bullock, John Sorby & Jean Evans
Ft L-R: Rachel Sorby, Edwina Bowly, Tiny Bowly & Eddy Sorby

We used to look forward to tennis on Joe's court at *Westbury*. We had many good players such as Cliff and Fred Bullock, Peggy Hibbert, Jim Vincent, John Horrex, Dick Bowly, Lionel Lindsay, the Bowly girls, Peter and Marie Keith as well as Joe and myself. The ladies provided luscious cakes and sandwiches which were consumed between sets.

Many relatives lived at *Westbury* on and off. Our son was born in 1950 and very spoiled because as soon as he whimpered someone would pick him up, so when our daughter was on the way we decided to move out. We bought *Plynlimmon* on Grose Vale Road, near Joe's dairy, from Les Dunston. *Plynlimmon* used to be a guest house and was named after a mountain in Wales.

The first time we were there and a severe westerly wind blew, poor old *Plynlimmon* swayed like a ship at sea and we thought it would be blown down. We raced back to *Westbury* with the safety of its foot-thick stone walls. We might have known that *Plynlimmon* had stood many such winds and is still standing today.

This article is a companion to 'Farming at Willow Glen & Westbury' published in the May-June 2011 issue. Both articles are excerpts from Kath Dunston's document 'Memories of the Years of Farming by Joe Dunston & Myself at Westbury and Willow Glen Farm'

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A Fire at Kurrajong.

An inquest was held at Kurrajong Heights, at the residence of Thomas Woods, foreman to Peck Bros, on a fire which was discovered about midnight on Feb. 6th last. The house was the property of Henry Edward Peck, who resides within half a mile from the scene of the fire. Mrs. Woods, wife of Thomas Woods, was the first to discover the fire; she was sleeping, and was awakened by a crackling noise; her bedroom door, which looks into the sitting room was open, and she saw a light from a fire under a sofa where two of her children were sleeping; she then woke her husband, who got a bucket of water and threw it on the floor of the sitting room, which was over the fire; the house was a four-roomed weather-board building, all pine; it is built on piles about 2 or 2½ feet from the ground; Mr. Wood threw another bucket of water where the fire was under the house, and afterwards went under the building to examine it; he found two calico bags, portions of a man's shirt, and a piece of blue print with a flounce in it, all stuffed between the lining of board inside and the weather board outside; a towel was under it, which was stained with something like red paint and had "H. Peck" marked in it with ink; all these things, when found, were saturated with kerosine oil; the rags could not have been on fire more than a couple of minutes before the fire was discovered, as they were only partly burnt; the house was insured in the Liverpool, London, and Globe Head Office, Sydney, for £220. An agent from the Insurance Office had seen the building before it was insured. At the inquest

five witnesses gave evidence, namely, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Henry Edward Peck, Mary Anne Peck (sister to Mr. Peck), and also George Peck, brother. None of them had any knowledge as to who set fire to the house or caused it to be set on fire. Henry Peck swore that the building was mortgaged for £1000 along with other buildings which belonged to himself, his mother, and brother. The mortgagees hold the policy for the insurance money on the house which was burnt; he also said he could not point to or name anyone who would set fire to the house, but believed he had enemies as the land where he gets the timber for the saw mill is now closed as a reserve, and this will injure his business; if the house had been burnt down he would derive no benefit, as the mortgagee held the policy; he did not report to the Insurance Company that the house had been set fire to. Mary Anne Peck gave evidence that she had written the name H. Peck on the towel about 7 years ago, and that it was her father's name; she had not seen the towel for the last 2 years, and did not know what had become of it. Mr. Peck states that he is willing to give £25 reward, in addition to what the Government might offer. The jury found a verdict that the house was set wilfully on fire by some person or persons unknown, and also added a rider requesting the Government to offer a reward to any person who will give information to secure the conviction of any person or persons who wilfully set the place on fire.

The Windsor & Richmond Gazette
Saturday, 15 March 1890

Earning a Quid

As the Family History Group has been transcribing the records at St Stephens members have particularly noticed how the occupations of the residents of Kurrajong have changed since the late 1800s. With the Scarecrow Festival approaching in October the group came up with the idea of mounting a photographic exhibition called 'Earning a Quid' at the CWA hall at Kurrajong. The subject of the display will be the many and varied trades and occupations that have been undertaken in the district and their changes over the years. It is hoped to include all of those which helped to establish, feed and house the settlers as well as the development of the district to its present day, such as sawmills, bakeries, butchers, slaughter yards, orchardists, farriers, cart makers, tinkers etc.

We will be re-introducing our much loved 'Back to the Kurrajong' evening on Friday, 21 October. There will be an opportunity to view our new exhibition before the display boards are moved to the side to allow for seating space for our guests to enjoy the range of speakers.

In the early days many of the workers in the Kurrajong area were involved in various aspects of the timber industry. It was back-breaking and dangerous work felling and working with the massive trees. Sawmills, primitive at first, became more sophisticated over the years. We will have some members of one of the most prominent and well-known sawmilling families speak to us about the transition over the years.

A couple of our well-known local lads will tell some tales about the days of rabbit trapping and ferreting. A nice little



Workmen outside the wheelright's, Windsor St Richmond

income could be made in selling the skins and the carcasses so it became a serious industry for some and a great hobby for many of the younger family members. Our own Kathie McMahon will be back in town. She will enlighten us about the local fruit stalls and how they helped many struggling farmers stay afloat.

Afterwards supper will be served and there will be time to mingle and catch up with old and new friends. Total cost of the evening should be \$10 per head.

Although we have gathered many photographs we are hoping that members and readers might be able to forward others for scanning and inclusion in the display. Your precious photographs can be scanned on the spot and returned to you. If you have any photos or documents related to the above which you think might be of interest, please contact:

Joy Shepherd 45711524 joyshep1@bigpond.com

Hawkesbury newspapers now online

MICHELLE NICHOLS



Members of Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society might be interested to know that a number of Hawkesbury newspaper titles have recently been digitised with the generous support and funding from Hawkesbury Library Service. We are pleased to announce that seven of the Hawkesbury newspapers sponsored by the library are now being released through TROVE and the Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program over the coming weeks. Developed by the National Library of Australia, TROVE provides free online access to digitised Australian historic newspapers. Access to the historical newspapers is via trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper and the Hawkesbury newspapers now appearing are:

Australian, Windsor, Richmond & Hawkesbury Advertiser

1873–1899

Hawkesbury Chronicle & Farmers Advocate 1881–1888

Hawkesbury Courier & Agricultural & General Advertiser

1844–1846

Hawkesbury Advocate 1899–1900

Hawkesbury Herald 1902–1945

Windsor & Richmond Gazette 1888–1921

Windsor Express & Richmond Advertiser 1843–1844

Already an excellent source for Australian research the Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program started in 2007 with the *Sydney Gazette* 1803–1842 and the *Sydney Morning Herald* 1842–1954, providing researchers an insight into not only the Hawkesbury but also all of NSW and interstate. According to the manager of the programme, "The scope, quality, quantity and searchability of newspaper content... makes Australian Newspapers a much valued resource of national importance".

Researchers can actively participate in the project enabling users to enrich and enhance the data by correcting text, adding subject tags and annotations. The process of extracting the text from scans with optical character recognition software has been challenging and errors are common. However, the community has voluntarily been correcting the text which has greatly improved the search results. One volunteer has corrected over 850,000 lines. All of the newspapers involved in the project have been digitised in a standard format and supports long-term preservation.

As of June 2011 there were over five million pages available to search including major newspapers with more local newspapers regularly appearing. For a full list of titles and coverage see trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/about.

The Hawkesbury Advocate

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J. C. HORN, Richmond.	L. H. SIMPSON, Wilberforce.
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The Hawkesbury Advocate
Friday, 3 August 1900

Why are newspapers useful?

Family and local history research involves using a variety of sources to add more detail to the story. Information located from newspapers is often unique and not found in other sources.

What can you find?

Legal information such as court cases to delve into the past
Shipping news including arrivals, departures and transport information

Businesses advertisements and images

Places, local news and social activities

People, births, obituaries, marriage and death notices

Recreation and leisure

Background information of a particular place and time

The newspapers are text searchable and there are a number of ways to refine the results to provide excellent access to Hawkesbury's heritage. It is best to use the advanced search as more options are offered. Searches include Boolean (or combination) searches, phrases, dates, exact terms and wildcards. You can also search every newspaper title or specific titles. A search on 'Comleroy' finds over 400 instances in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and now with the inclusion of the Hawkesbury newspapers there are more than 400 instances in the *Hawkesbury Herald*, 260 in the *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* and over ninety in the *Hawkesbury Advocate*, with the earliest mention of Comleroy Road appearing in the *Hawkesbury Courier* in 1845.

I would encourage you all to use Trove for searching as you can discover for yourself how easy it is to find a wealth of valuable information. Whether you are researching a topic or person, reading for pleasure, teaching or studying, Trove will help you and it is free.

If you have any enquiries please contact Michelle Nichols, Local Studies and Outreach Librarian, Hawkesbury Library history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



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Digital Archive Report

JOY SHEPHERD

It has been an interesting year for the Digital Archiving project, despite many interruptions to progress due to more pressing needs, including the huge task taken on by the Family History Group in transcribing the records of St Stephens parish. We have also had an exciting trip overseas which included some research of our early family history. This, topped off with a few bouts of ill health has slowed down the work at some stages. Despite that we have been grateful to receive some interesting additions to the photographic archives.

Phil Peck unearthed some great photographs of Kurrajong Heights from the early 1940s. Allan Cox of Grose Vale provided us with some images of Camp Mackay. Allan's father was one of the police officers at the camp and the family lived on the property, so it was great to add to our collection in another time frame – the 1960s.

Yvonne Caughey came forward with some images of her childhood including a classic photograph of her grandfather Mill Dunston.

Arthur Cooper did an incredible job in recording the story of the old overhead bridge at North Richmond which was removed overnight on 29 June 2010. We have some amazing exclusive before and after shots of the procedure thanks to Arthur's tenacity in spending a couple of long days and a whole night in the cold – he didn't miss a thing.

Jim and Betty Ezzy provided us with some early shots of their family. They also had in their possession some terrific early shots of the 'Windy' Bill Dunston family property *Glenroy*, in Serpentine Lane and of the Hough family and property. These were scanned and printed then loaned to Helen Webster, a descendant of these families and she has been able to find more information from her mother. They included photographs of Helen wearing Florrie Hough's wedding dress of the 1920s at an anniversary celebration at St Peter's, Richmond. Helen also loaned me images of the ruins of *Glenroy*, later called *Jolimont*, which was tragically burnt down in 1991.

Carolynne Cooper was able to obtain copyright to some very old Shepherd albums and has spent considerable time restoring these images. I am grateful to Carolynne for her expertise in restoring so many old images to their former glory.

Val Birch was able to pass on some images of Bilpin Sunday School belonging to the late Betty Bennett. Two of my mum's Davis cousins unfortunately died within two days of each other which gave me the opportunity to scan the old family album overnight while the family were in town. We also got hold of the original Bennett family 'Arnotts' Biscuit Babies' advertisement to process for our collection.

Brian and Wendy Dunston had some photos to add to our Dunston and Douglass collection. I processed all of my colour slides from 1961 – 1963 uncovering great views of *Burnside* and the surrounding areas. We are grateful for any further donations, which if necessary can be scanned on the spot and given straight back to the owner.

All images are scanned to our programme, printed, laminated and stored in vermin-proof boxes. As much information as possible is obtained and added to the programme. They are copied to two sets of CDs, two sets of DVDs, and two external hard drives. These are kept safely at various locations including Lithgow and the Hawkesbury Library. Hopefully our more recent images will soon be appearing on our website.

Family History Group

CAROLYNNE COOPER

We six have a full time job at present interviewing old families of the district, putting their family history together, researching their family's past and field trips to visit their family's land grants, properties and grave sites. We have interviewed five families: Dunston, Ezzy, Davis, Jones, and Taylor. We have a lot more lined up to do as well.

We have done a field trip to Colo to familiarise ourselves with what is and was there as well as the families that came from there. Wanda Deacon was our guide along with Wendy Ward who opened the church and her home for us, taking us to the graves of the Gaspers' that are buried on their property. Dorothy Simmons came along with us and gave us an insight into the Simmons family history. We also had lunch with Ron and Val Males. Our biggest adventure for three of us was the trip to Bingara. This is ongoing as we are researching the Bingara connection to the Hawkesbury.

We received a \$3,750 VSEG grant which enabled us to buy two laptop computers, a desktop computer, printer, scanner, two portable scanners and an external hard drive. We also bought Family Tree Maker. This has helped us so much with not only being able to file the tree but also with the research.

The transcribing of St Stephens Church registers is getting closer to finishing and the next step is to start getting them ready for a book. We have made the decision to put more information on the history of the church and its ministers in it.

John Cooper has offered us the signal box on his property as an office and headquarters. It needs fixing up and we are hoping to get some help with it through donations and members with the skills to be able to fix it up. At present we are working in my old office which is to become a bedroom. This has been great for us so far because we have been able to use my two computers as well as the FHG one.

We had a very successful time at the Hawkesbury Model and Hobby Show this year once again. Also we had many enquiries to deal with and help people with their family history.

Finally I would like to thank my team of very hard workers: Joy Shepherd, Wanda Deacon, Val Birch, Carol Roberts, and Kathie McMahon-Nolf. Others that are also helping are Robyn Fuller who does our transcribing of the interviews and the late Alex Nolf who wrote the programme for us to use for the church transcriptions. Last but not least Bob Emson for taking over from where Alex finished off and helping us with our computer work, and Mark Colman our computer technician who keeps our computers running smoothly.

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Profit & Loss Statement

July 2010 – June 2011

Income

Membership subs 2010-11	230.00
Membership 2011-12	2,950.00
Grants	
DFACS – Small Equipment	3,750.00
Total grants	3,750.00
Advertising	1,440.00
Donations received	2,907.22
Donations received – FHG	210.00
Field trips	870.00
Other functions	
Coach tours	1,193.00
Annual dinner	805.00
Formal dinner – Loxley 1/12/10	5,830.00
Australia Day 2011	950.00
Midyear dinner 28/7/11	270.00
Total other functions	9,048.00
Postage received	4.60
Reimbursement	239.30
Retail sales	
Photographs	232.00
'On the Kurrajong' books	131.80
'Kurrajong Walks' books	112.00
'Diggers Hill' books	312.85
'Glimpses of the Kurrajong' books	24.95
'Future History' books	169.95
Postcards	173.00
Archival material	20.00
'Kurrajong Collections' books	5,326.00
'Pansy' books	1,070.00
'HHS' books	40.00
Spanning Centuries	120.00
Books unspecified	40.00
Total retail sales	7,772.55
Bank interest	757.95
Interest – Pansy term deposit	41.24
Postage reimbursed	130.00

Total Income **\$30,350.86**

Cost of Sales

Purchases for resale	
'On the Kurrajong' books	59.40
'Diggers Hill' books	252.00
'Glimpses of the Kurrajong' books	3.29
'Future History' books	516.52
Postcards	82.52
New book prints	70.00
'Kurrajong Collections' books	1,036.58
'Pansy' books	327.85
Lachlan Macquarie books	120.00
Total purchases for resale	2,468.16

Total Cost of Sales **\$2,468.16**

Gross Profit **\$27,882.70**

Expenses

Awards	250.00
Bank charges	3.50
Bookkeeping	304.00
Coach hire	508.00
Catering – coach tours	510.00
Computer & printer	1,864.60
Depreciation	1,141.16
Donations given	200.00
Digital archiving	326.10
Dues & subscriptions	193.00
Display equipment	94.00
Gifts/flowers etc.	50.00
Functions	
Catering	9,005.00
Drinks	70.00
Entertainment	2,885.37
Hall hire	333.00
Entrance fees	770.00
Total function expenses	13,063.37
Insurance	528.00
Library & literature	274.99
Licence fees	48.00
Office supplies & stationery	667.98
Photocopying & laminating	51.54
Postage & printing	1,864.03
Meeting venue hire	54.00
Stationery – FHG	123.55

Total Expenses **\$22,119.82**

Operating profit **\$5,762.88**

Other income	
Interest income	49.65
Total other income	49.65
Other expenses	0.00

Nett Profit **\$5,812.53**



Hawkesbury–
Shoalhaven
Calendar
Directory Guide
& Historical
Record 1905



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Balance Sheet

As of June 2011

Treasurer's Report

LORNA MCCARR-ISRAEL

[EXTRACT]

Assets

Current assets		
Cash on hand:		
Cheque account - Bendigo Bank	3,076.36	
ING Direct	15,997.30	
Pansy term deposit	3,003.68	
Total cash on hand	22,077.34	
Trade debtors	3,685.00	
Inventory	6,333.54	
Total current assets		32,095.88
Property & equipment		
Stock on hand		
On the Kurrajong books	49.50	
Light Railways No 89 books	3.90	
Diggers Hill books	432.00	
Glimpses of the Kurrajong books	6.58	
Future History books	2,213.58	
Postcards	259.94	
Pansy book	2,702.65	
Total stock on hand	5,668.15	
Equipment		
Audio visual	3,698.10	
Camera equipment	410.00	
Computer equipment	8,880.50	
Equipment accum depreciation	-9,256.65	
Total equipment	3,731.95	
Total property & equipment		9,400.10
Total Assets		\$41,495.98
Liabilities		\$0.00
Nett Assets		\$41,495.98
Equity		
Retained earnings	35,683.45	
Current year earnings	5,812.53	
Total Equity		\$41,495.98

This year has been marked by an improvement in our financial standing as a society even though it has been a year of major expenditure. Although we tried to make as many activities as possible self funding this was not always possible.

The committee initially agreed to underwrite the cost of the celebrations to a figure not to exceed \$6,000 however, the cost to the Society was held to around \$2,200. The major expenses were associated with the activities relating to the formal dinner at Loxley on Bellbird Hill, primarily the cost of presenting our historical tribute 'Birth of a Nation'. We were indeed fortunate to receive some donations to offset expenses by way of reduced fees from our technical people, actors gave their services free of charge and Paul Maher provided free champagne and covered the cost of our official guests and support staff. The Hawkesbury City Council provided a donation of \$1,000 to help offset the cost of the re-enactment for school children and members provided their time free of charge. All other events were self supporting.

Apart from members subscriptions the other major source of income has come from the sale of our books, this year primarily 'Kurrajong Collections' and the reprint of 'Pansy'. As at 30/6/11, we held 'Kurrajong Collections' - 1,176 and 'Pansy' - 852. These books should provide an ongoing cash flow into the future. We are indebted to the work of the book committee and to Airdrie Martin who keeps the sales ticking over. This ongoing income will continue to provide the funding for our research activities and cover numerous expenses related to our everyday needs.

I have decided to stand down as treasurer due to family needs and I take this opportunity to thank everybody who have helped me over the past two years. In particular I would like to acknowledge and thank Chris Veitch, our bookkeeper, who has been a tower of strength and support.

In closing I wish the new committee every success and offer my support to the new treasurer.



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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* at Wilberforce considered to be the oldest slab hut in Australia. A gold coin donation for supper would be appreciated.

Fri 21 – Sun 23 October

EARNING A QUID is the theme of our photographic exhibition being held in conjunction with the Scarecrow Festival. The opening will be on Friday night at 7 PM at the CWA hall. More detailed information on the weekend's activities appears on page seven of this issue. For bookings & further details contact Joy Shepherd on 4571 1524.

Sat 29 & Sun 30 October

OF DROUGHTS AND FLOODING RAINS. Australian disasters will be the subject of the annual State History Conference which will be held at Maitland. RAHS president David Carment's address will be 'Remembering Darwin's Disaster'. Further information is available at the website www.rahs.org.au or by phone (02)9247 8001.

Saturday, 26 November

THE KCHS CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held at the home of Paul and Lesley Hulbert, 81 Warks Hill Rd, Kurrajong Heights. Festivities get under way at 5:30 pm. Please bring meat, poultry or fish for the BBQ and drinks, nibbles and chairs. Salads and bread will be provided. Please advise the secretary if you will be attending.

Committee Nominations

The following nominations have been received for positions on the committee

President	John Cooper
Vice President	Steve Rawling AM
Secretary	Carol Roberts
Treasurer	Marguerite Wyborn
Committee	Carolynne Cooper Peggy McCarr-Israel Airdrie Martin Patricia O'Toole Suzanne Smith

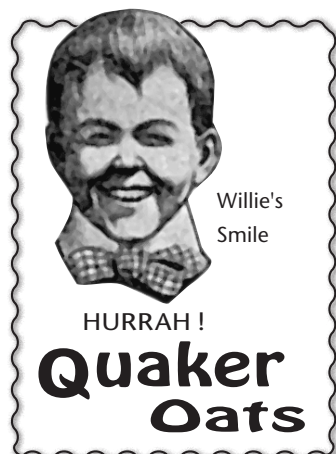
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Windsor & Richmond Gazette
23 May 1896



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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