



KURRAJONG ~ COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 Four sumpter horses**

John Low OAM was the guest speaker at the general meeting held on 27 May. His talk covered the 1813 crossing of the Blue Mountains with an emphasis on the role played by the four sumpter horses and how horses played a pivotal role in most of the expeditions of the early colony.

4 The Darkinjung Abstract

An extract from Geoff Ford's paper on the original people of the Hawkesbury & Blue Mountains districts. It is presented in a time line format from the 1790s to the present day. A very handy reference source for those researching the Aboriginal groups who resided in these regions.

6 Kurrajong CWA anniversary

Eighty-five people attended a luncheon on 17 April to celebrate the eighty-fifth anniversary of the Kurrajong branch of the CWA. CWA state officials and local members of parliament were present. This article is a summary of the talk Rita Doering gave detailing the history of the local branch.

8 Dates for your diary

Final reminder for the Society's mid-year dinner which will be held at Loxley on Bellbird Hill on Friday, 26 July.

Included inserts

Two inserts are included in this issue.

A notice of the Annual General Meeting giving details and a nomination form for the election of office bearers and committee members and a booking form for the Society's mid-year dinner as well as a membership renewal form.

Colo River tour

CAROLYNNE COOPER

Twenty people had booked to go on our tour to Colo on April 9 led by Wanda Deacon. We drove down Comleroy Road to the Upper Colo church where we were given an informative tour, Powerpoint presentation and morning tea before heading off on an adventure of a lifetime.

It is difficult to say when the Colo River was first discovered as white settlers had been living on the banks of the Colo River since the early 1800s with the first land grants being made in 1804. Initially it was called the second branch of the Hawkesbury River. William Parr on his way northward in 1817 wrote notes on the Colo as did Benjamin Singleton six months later, then John Howe went on an expedition to the Hunter in 1819 passing through the area. The original inhabitants were the Darkinjung Aboriginals and the name Colo means native bear.



Photo: Carolynne Cooper

Some of the participants of the tour during the visit at Somerset

The most memorable part of our tour was our visit to Somerset Outdoor Learning Centre where we were greeted by our host Arthur Crichton and his daughter Jenny. The house in which we had our lunch originally belonged to Wal Jones a well-known riverboat captain. Whilst partaking of a glass of wine Arthur told us about the early history of the area and of the work he is now doing there.

Arthur purchased the sixty acre block of land on the Colo River front in 1979. The name on the title deeds for the property was *Somerset*. He began working on the rundown old orchard, a couple of falling down houses and *Somerset* continued to grow throughout the eighties. Today *Somerset* is one of the largest outdoor education centres of its kind in the country.

Somerset was originally purchased for scout groups for a jumping off point and canoeing destination. Later on as it grew throughout the eighties they started offering school camps. Today *Somerset* provides outdoor learning opportunities for around 7,000 students a year offering camping skills, bushwalking, rock climbing and canoeing to name just a few. The children are taught orienteering in the surrounding twenty-five kilometres of bushland and with up-to-date computerised equipment.

The Dauntless Three and the Four Sumpter Horses

SUZANNE SMITH

On Monday, 27 May twenty-nine KCHS members and friends gathered at St Davids Uniting Church hall for an engaging talk by recently retired Blue Mountains Local Studies librarian, John Low OAM. We were also pleased to welcome newly elected president of the Blue Mountains Historical Society Judith Barham and her husband Ken, who had accompanied John across the mountains.

In his talk John Low disclosed many new thoughts and nuances with a focus on the four sumpter horses used in the 1813 Crossing of the Blue Mountains, an expedition led by Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson and William Charles Wentworth.

The dauntless three left Blaxland's South Creek farm on 11 May 1813 on their quest. John pointed out that their departure was noted rather quietly in a paragraph of the *Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser* several days later. The newspaper disclosed the attendant use of four packhorses, four servants and five dogs.

The botanist George Caley, son of a Yorkshire horse dealer, had earlier given thought to the role of horses in exploration. In a letter to Sir Joseph Banks on November 8 1802 he wrote, "... upon a horse I can take 100lb of food extra of all other articles."

After many expedition attempts with a horse, Caley eventually set out in late November 1804 to conquer the Carmarthen Mountains, without a horse, due to what he described as the unsuitably rugged terrain, accompanied only by three companions and a dog.

Continued page 5

Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society Incorporated

PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757
www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

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President's Corner

How time flies, it seems just last week or so that we were planning our Australia Day breakfast and now the ladies are planning the Mid Year dinner.

As we look back to the times that made history I clearly remember when I was at school and talked about the crossing of the Blue Mountains we said Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson. No one ever thought they were not a team or at least I certainly didn't, but today with celebrating the event the most significant thing seems to be whether it is Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth or Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson. Whichever way it goes poor old Lawson ends up last.

At our last general meeting our guest speaker was John Low who spoke at length about the makeup of the team that crossed the mountains; there were also five dogs and four pack horses known as Sumpter horses. John talked about these horses and the role they played and the difficulties they encountered in the crossing. Like our Macquarie year there are many functions this year on the crossing and they have all been very interesting so far.

At our Mid Year dinner which will be at the fabulous 'Loxley on Bellbird Hill' we will have Professor Ian Jack taking us into more detail of the crossing and the making of the road which enabled the colony to expand to more farming land out west. All this is very relevant to the Hawkesbury district as some of the convicts that helped build the road over the mountains were given land in this area. In fact Kurrajong is built on the land grant that Lawson was given.

One would think that Captain Arthur Phillip must have often wondered how and why he had chosen this small hamlet surrounded by these unbelievable barriers that rose around him in all directions to establish a base for his penal colony. The Hawkesbury certainly has a fascinating history throughout the early years of settlement and I look forward to learning more at our Mid Year Dinner.

I encourage and look forward to seeing as many members and friends at our dinner at 'Loxley'. In addition the girls are working to make this into a Christmas in July event and I'm sure with the large wood fire glowing it should be a good night.

I'd like to thank Wanda Deacon for our tour of Colo in April. The morning tea and Powerpoint presentation were real standouts. I also thank Arthur Crichton for his hospitality. It was a wonderful luncheon and very informative and interesting tour of the Somerset Outdoor Learning Centre.



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Continued from front page



Photo: Syd Hulbert courtesy Wanda Deacon

Wal Jones with his boat 'The Surprise'.
The boat has a load of watermelons on board heading for the markets.

The base knows exactly where these children are at all times because they never go out without wearing their tracking devices.

Walter Jones was born in Colo in 1888 and lived there most of his life. He was the son of Thomas and Eliza Jones (nee Caterson) being one of eleven children. Most of Wal's working life was connected to the river and boats. The most well-known of Wal's boats was the *Surprise II*, built by Wal's cousin John (Jack) Jones at Silverwater. Wal started working with his cousin John Jones in 1902. John was a shipwright as was his father John and his uncle William who built numerous boats for the river trade.

In the early years there were two public wharves near *Somerset*, Gees and Bullocks. The riverboats loaded the produce which was grown around the area to be taken down river to either Sackville or Brooklyn then on to the markets in Sydney. Most of the goods which were carried were watermelons, pumpkins, fruit and vegies, and in the earlier years they also took the maize down river. On the return journey they often took on passengers and delivered the mail.

Families along the river built their own jetties not only to get their goods to market but also to do their shopping. Boats such as the butcher's boat owned by Bob Everingham brought meat from his butcher shop in Sackville. A bread boat owned by William Moses carried bread as well as crockery, ironmongery, seeds and groceries.

Henry MacNamara and Robert Cameron owned the store boat *Daisy* which was built in 1902 by John Jones who had named it after his daughter. John had sold the boat to Robert and Henry who used it as a store boat until disaster when it sank in 1919 on a trip before reaching Wisemans Ferry. Another one of their store boats was the *Camac*. This boat, built by Malcolm Lowe and Sam Turnbull at Lower Portland of the hardest Australian wood, spotted gum. These boats were the shopping centres of their era bringing everything from clothing and farm equipment to groceries and anything else that was needed.

Wal Jones left the riverboat trade in 1950 and retired in 1962 selling his boat the *Surprise II* to Reg Handy. He then moved to the Central Coast passing away at the age of 104 in 1992.

Everyone who participated in the tour would like to express their thanks to Wanda and Arthur for such a wonderful lunch and tour of Somerset.

Our Colo tour is to be continued next year as we enjoyed ourselves so much at *Somerset* that time quickly ran out. We hope to see you all on our concluding tour next year.



From the Editor

I am not one to make political comment within this column but I was very pleased to read that the NSW State Government, in its latest budget, has allocated \$7.1 million to the State Library to enable it to transfer fifty-two of its most valuable collections to a digital format. As reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 19 June, the state librarian Alex Byrne said most of the library's WWI treasures, including diaries and newspapers, will be available online in time for next year's centenary. The diaries number nearly 1,000 and were written by soldiers, nurses, sailors and merchant marines. Also earmarked for digital formatting are the First Fleet journals.

The NSW State Library's website is a good source of information for anyone doing local or family history research. The web address is www.sl.nsw.gov.au

The Internet is generally most people's first port of call when doing research, regardless of the subject. Libraries and other institutions with collections of books and other printed material are still and will always be a valuable resource but many people are not able to access their material for a number of reasons. Making it available in a digital format enables nearly everyone to research their subject of interest without the need of travelling, paying admission fees and toiling through index files. The keyboard was a good invention.

I wish to extend a warm welcome to two new advertisers with the newsletter: Kurrajong Butchery on Old Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong and the Bank Bazaar on Windsor Street, Richmond. The income from the advertisements helps considerably with the cost of the production and distribution of the newsletter so I encourage members to support all those businesses who advertise within.

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Darkiñung Abstract

THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE OF THE
HAWKESBURY – BLUE MOUNTAINS

G E FORD 2013

These time line entries show who were the traditional people of the northern Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury region when the British settlers arrived. Does it matter? Yes. It matters for the descendants in the locality the same as it matters for people seeking recognition of their origins in any continent. Should the people from Ireland be called English? The findings from historical records are conclusive.

1790s

When Gov. Phillip led a boat expedition along the Hawkesbury River in 1789, navy Capt. Hunter observed that the Aborigines had been harvesting a yam along the river's banks. It was a root tuber from a sedge. After returning by land with Aborigines from Botany Bay in 1791 Phillip wrote:

"I found on the banks of the Hawkesbury, people who made use of several words we could not understand, & it soon appeared that they had a language different from that used by those natives we have hitherto been acquainted with. --- Two of those natives who have lived amongst us for some time were with us, which was from them that we understood, our new friends had a language different from theirs."

Words were recorded by Phillip near Sackville from two local men. A visit led by army Capt. Paterson in 1793 confirmed the Hawkesbury Aborigines were different to the Cumberland Plains people.

1820s

As settlers explored the mountains, John Blaxland jnr in 1824 first found that these Aborigines called the ranges 'Wallam-bine', written with a variety of spellings in English characters. Surveyor General Mitchell then instructed that the term be used as 'Wollombi' to establish a township at the junction of the two mountain streams.

Circa 1880s

A word list from local James Tuckerman at Sackville was published in 1887 with terms from families of the same people as Gov. Phillip had met. Native-born Robert Mathews had become friends with these Aborigines, first at Broke on Wollombi Brook. After moving to Parramatta, he would travel out to the Hawkesbury River to meet them. Mathews completed a record of their language which the people called *Darkin-nyoong/Darkinyung*, then spelt as *Darkiñung*.

While visiting a different group at The Black Town west of Sydney, Mathews also noted 'our talk' which had come from

Darkiñung is commonly written as
Darkinung, Darkinyung or Darkinjung

the Georges River at Liverpool. These Aborigines of the Cumberland Plains were identified by people from the Burratorang Valley as *Dharug* (*Dharuk*, *Dharrook*, *Dhoorook*). Mathews made it clear that *dh* is pronounced with the tongue behind the teeth like English *th*: *Thug* and *tug* are different terms and so are *Dharug* and *darug*. Earlier, local John Rowley had listed the language spoken from Botany Bay up the Georges River, which was shown by James Kohen in 1984 to be the same as Blacktown *Dharug* ('our talk').

Circa 1910s

Mathew's language records were well reviewed by Schmidt in Europe in 1913. Yet in Australia his findings were obstructed by British-born Professor Spencer at Melbourne University and Professor David at Sydney University, who intimidated other researchers such as those then at The Australian Museum Sydney (TAM) to ignore Mathews.

Circa 1940s

The impasse created by Englishmen was broken by Americans working at the South Australian Museum (SAM) and in 1940 Australian Norman Tindale at SAM published an extensive guide to Australian Aboriginal identifications. Unfortunately Tindale misread the grammar in an article by Mathews, who actually had reported that the *Darkiñung* of the Blue Mountains bordered the *Gundungurra* to their south. Instead, Tindale wrongly placed the *Dharug* from the Cumberland Plains in the mountains. This innocent mislocation was adopted by Fred McCarthy at TAM in 1946, who also used Tindale's misspelling of 'Daruk' for *Dharug*. McCarthy himself had had Tindale's errors corrected by David Moore and Arthur Capell in the 1960s when he became the first Principal of Australian Institute for Aboriginal Studies in Canberra (now AIATSIS), but a new edition of Tindale's map was published in 1974. Tindale's misspelling was last used in 1990 by Peter Stanbury and John Clegg.

Circa 1980s

A newly formed Blacktown Historical Society developed a liaison with descendants of the *Dharug* Aboriginal people who had lived at The Black Town. From there Jim Kohen formed a new 'Tribal Link' in 1988, for which he gave them a new name, 'Darug': a word from western Victoria which meant a vegetable root. This was to support his attempt to claim that it





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was *Dharug* people called 'darug' = yam, rather than *Darkinjung* people of the Blue Mountains, whom Capt. Hunter reported in 1789 were harvesting yams alongside the Hawkesbury River.

Circa 1990s

Kohen became the 'authority' on Aborigines of western Sydney when some Blacktown descendants adopted his new term 'Darug'. The new term, as misapplied to the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains is not accepted universally. This misapplication was not accepted in a case before the Federal Court of Australia. Unfortunately, Jack Brook of the Blacktown society had already used Kohen's mislocation of *Dharug* people to the Hawkesbury for a 1994 book in which he used *Dharug* for the people at Sackville, who had been recognised by Gov. Philip as speaking a different language, identified by Mathews as *Darkinjung*.

Circa 2000s

Some Aboriginal descendants of the Hawkesbury tracking their genealogy became involved in a family association with their cousin Dr Geoff Ford, a career researcher studying cultural heritage. Analysing colonial history records, he was able both to explain Tindale's mistake and to expose Kohen's Blacktown hoax in which *Dharug* Aboriginal people who had moved from the Georges River to The Black Town were mislocated into *Darkinjung* country, that is, across the Hawkesbury floodplain which had formed the ancient traditional border.

The complete Abstract and analysis of this history in the full 2010 'Darkinjung Recognition', with references located using search terms in a downloadable digital copy, are available online from the Sydney University Library at ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/7745

KURRAJONG

A good deal of consternation prevailed on the Heights on Monday evening last, when it was found that Mr Walter Smith, who had gone out shooting early in the afternoon, had not returned as expected. Search parties went out, and Mr W. Walker was successful in tracing him to a neighbour's place, where Walter was found, the least concerned of all.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette
17 September 1904



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Continued from page 2

In his journal he reported that from the top of Mt Banks "... to the eastward very highland is seen." This of course is thought to be the ridge along which Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson negotiated their way over the mountains nine years later.

Research has suggested that Caley conferred with both Blaxland and Lawson in the years between 1810 and 1813 and possibly discussed the use of this high ridge he had seen from Mt Banks in his 1804 expedition.

The 1813 expedition set off with seven men, five dogs and four sumpter horses carrying food provisions, cooking utensils, tents, brush clearing implements, compasses, seven muskets and ammunition. Blaxland reported that the horses travelled very awkwardly, "... being much incommoded by small trees and brush at places and the ridge they followed very crooked and intricate between the gullies ... the ground too, often sharp with jutting rocks ... loose stones making the ascents and descents difficult, severely testing the horses."

The general method of proceeding was to cut a path through the brush and then bring the loaded horses forward. A camp would be established and a couple of men remain to look after the horses and provisions, while the others cut and cleared a path forward returning to camp at the end of each day. It was tedious work.

The most serious and regular problem was lack of feed and water. Blaxland reported the horses surviving on coarse swamp grass which was often cut and loaded onto a horse for the next days journey. Feed for horses continued to be a problem even after the road was built. It is interesting to note that many of the feed and water locations identified in 1813 eventually became regular stopping places for stock, later locations for inns, and eventually towns as we know them today. Springwood, Lawson and Wentworth Falls can trace their stories in this way.

All three 1813 explorers owned horses and large pastoral properties. Blaxland had *Brush Farm* and *Lee Home* at Eastwood and South Creek respectively. Lawson owned *Veteran Hall* at Prospect and Wentworth *Vermont* on the banks of the Nepean River. On his first small property acquired at Concord in 1807 Lawson kept six horses and his interest continued when he established *Veteran Hall*.

Following Lawson's retirement from the military in 1824 he became a significant player on the Australian equine scene, importing a number of stallions and breeding and racing numerous horses. His horses were also in demand by the emerging coach services. In an 1826 memorial written to Earl Bathurst of the Colonial Department, Lawson claimed to own seventy horses, 9,000 sheep and 1,500 head of cattle.

One of William Lawson's early land grants extended over much of what is Kurrajong Village today.

A longer extract of John Low's talk can be found in the May - June 2013 issue of the *Heritage* newsletter on BMACHO's website – www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au and The Four Sumpter Horses of Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson at www.mtwilson.com.au/Historical_Paper_No_13

Kurrajong CWA anniversary

SUZANNE SMITH

On Wednesday, 17 April three committee members of KCHS attended the eighty-fifth anniversary luncheon of the Kurrajong CWA, Suzanne Smith, Kath McMahon and Carolynne Cooper. A number of other members, also CWA members, were in attendance.

The luncheon was very well attended with approximately eighty-five members and friends along with guest speaker Maureen Campbell, CWA State vice president and local members Bart Bassett MP and Louise Markus MP.

A brief history of the Kurrajong CWA was given by Vice President Rita Doering.

The first meeting of the Kurrajong CWA was held on 17 April 1928 in the Church of England parish hall which then stood on the corner of Roxana Road and Comleroy Road, Kurrajong, within the soldier settlement development.

An inaugural group of eight ladies elected Mrs Grace Lord as president, a position she held for fifteen years. Within the first five months membership had reached fifty.

During these early years the depression brought great hardship to the local community and the members of the Kurrajong branch offered much needed assistance donating linen, eggs, fruit and vegetables to local hospitals within the Hawkesbury at both Richmond and Windsor.

In the 1930s the branch established a library, the first for Kurrajong Village and surrounds. A block of land in Woodburn Road, Kurrajong was also acquired at this time.

The Kurrajong CWA became a founding member of the newly-formed CWA Nepean Group on November 20 1930, with Kurrajong's Mrs Lord elected group president at the inaugural meeting.

During the war years of the 1940s the members held regular sewing bees making clothes and rugs for British children. They also made camouflage nets and sent comforts to our servicemen.

During the 1950s, Kurrajong branch members, on behalf of the community, brought to the attention of the Progress Association and Windsor council many local issues requiring attention. The members lobbied for ice deliveries, street lighting and for other improved public health issues. Conditions related to the local train service, requests for adequate lighting at stations and the inability to purchase tickets for intermediate stations, from Kurrajong to Sydney, were some of the issues raised.

On 5 November 1956, members submitted an offer to the trustees of the RSL for the purchase of the current land and premises now occupied by the CWA in Kurrajong Village. Miss Mary Johns, branch secretary at the time, presided over the arrangements for the acquisition of the hall.

During the following years branch members continued to contribute to the community through child minding services offered on a voluntary basis, visiting the sick and elderly and looking after needy and new families in the Kurrajong district.

Over the ensuing years of the 70s and 80s membership fluctuated until in the early 90s it was feared the branch may close. A determined effort by members resulted in seven new enthusiastic members joining, bringing with them ideas, crafts and skills.

In the early years of 2000 improvements were made to the CWA hall, in particular the kitchen area through generous donations by members, their families and community groups. The renovations allowed for greater service to the community through extension of hall hire facilities. The upgrade has enabled catering by CWA members of the Anzac Day breakfast following the service in Memorial Park, Kurrajong. The ladies cater for up to 300 members of the community and their families on this day each year.

Many social events have taken place throughout the years and the CWA hall continues to be hired and used by the wider community including KCHS 'Back to the Kurrajong' weekend held during the annual Kurrajong Scarecrow Festival. Craft and antique fairs, a second-hand book fair, exercise classes, music and a drumming group, along with a regular dance instruction school, all part of Kurrajong Village life through hire and continued use of the hall.

In 2012 with the assistance of a grant from the NSW government a Colorbond roof replaced the old roofing on the hall.

The Kurrajong CWA branch holds monthly members friendship afternoons involving the making of craft items and afternoon tea. The members meet every third Wednesday of the month for friendship, ideas and support. New members are always welcome.

For further enquiries please contact the president, Dianne Fenech on 4567 7635 or the secretary, Eileen Ried on 4573 2679.

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Bobby & the lawnmower



Photo courtesy: Gladys Vincent

Bobby Taylor, eldest son of Les and Gladys Taylor, with their Allen Scythe. The photo was taken in 1951 at Kurrajong North on the family's property *Burnside*. The homes and orchards of Mill and Stan Dunston can be seen on the hills in the background.

The cutting blades of the scythe have either been removed or yet to be fitted. They protrude from the front and are considerably wider than the width of the wheels.

Although designed for cutting grass the Allen Scythe's main use was to cut rough and long grass on verges, fields, orchards and rough ground. A large-toothed cutting blade slides rapidly back and forth against a fixed knife bed to give a scissor like action. It was also marketed as a power unit which could be used with a range of attachments for a variety of other tasks. Twenty-seven implements and thirteen optional extras were available including a sawbench, horticultural plough, generator, hay sweep, rotary broom, carrier, centrifugal pump, sheep shears, grass mower and compressor.

It was manufactured by John Allen and Sons of Oxford, England between 1935 and 1973. More than 250,000 were manufactured and many are still in use today.

The Allen Scythe was notoriously clumsy and cumbersome to drive. Even though only sixteen years of age when this photo was taken, Bobby was a bit of a legend in the district in the handling of all kinds of equipment. The scythe was purchased specifically for him to use.

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Mart McMahon prepared for work in the paddock



Photo courtesy: Kathie McMahon

Marshall McMahon, better known as Mart, ready and prepared for a day's work on the family's property *Luckenough* at Kurrajong North, later known as Kurrajong Hills. The photo was taken in 1920.

Mart was well-known in the district as a local school-teacher. He began his teaching career at Bilpin school, then Oakville, Comleroy Road and Kurrajong schools. After his retirement he opened a shop opposite the Bellbird Echo Centre selling groceries and nursery supplies.

Kurrajong.

DURING last week two more fires occurred here. One occurred in the barn on the property of Mr. Smith, of Windsor, and resulted in the complete destruction of structure and its contents. These consisted of several farming implements of a costly kind, some harness, and a quantity of fodder. The other fire occurred in the stone house, at what is known as "The Mill," and is the property of Mrs Cleve, of Sydney. This house is not entirely consumed, but it is much injured, and it will cost a good deal to repair it. Nobody knows, nor is able to conjecture, how these fires originated; but it is the general opinion that the poor little rats, that are held responsible for so much mischief just now, are not to be blamed for these fires. Are any of these many fires that we have had lately incendiarism? It is certainly time that this matter should receive a thorough and critical inquiry.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette
Saturday, 24 May 1902

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 26 July

KCHS MID-YEAR DINNER

This year our mid-year dinner will be held at Loxley on Bellbird Hill. Arrive at 7 p.m. for 7:30 p.m. seating.

Special guest speaker will be historian Professor Ian Jack RAHS. His presentation will focus on the George William Evans story who was an explorer, surveyor and artist seconded by Governor Macquarie to survey the newly-found route over the Blue Mountains in 1813. George Evans resided in the Hawkesbury district.

Cost is \$55 per person. Bookings and prepayment are essential. For booking details please see enclosed flyer.

Sunday, 14 July

NATIONAL TRUST TOUR

Georgian homesteads in the Hawkesbury is the theme of this car tour lead by Prof. Ian Jack. Cost is \$30, bring your own lunch. Pre-booking and payment essential.

Contact nt.hawkesbury@gmail.com



Secretary's Snippets

GRANTS OFFICER

Due to the resignation of Garth Smith from the position of grants officer we are asking members for assistance in filling this position. It is open to any member willing to take on the task who feels they would be up to the challenge. As a not for profit society we are eligible to apply for a number of state and federal grants.

Thanks are offered to Garth on behalf of the members for his assistance over the years. Both he and Brenda have been very supportive members of the Society.

COUNCIL NOT IMPRESSED BY IDEA

A suggestion by a correspondent that an electric railway through Bilpin and Mt. Tomah might some day be necessary was received with complete scepticism by Colo Shire Council at its December meeting.

IN his letter the correspondent, L. Diggins, Kurrajong Heights, asked that the council request the Government not to dispose of the land used for the former Richmond–Kurrajong railway service.

He added that in another 25 or 30 years this might be required for an extension of an electric or diesel rail service through Bilpin and Mt. Tomah to join the main western line.

When this was read, Cr. Powell (whose home is at Bilpin) remarked that “we want a helicopter service up there!”

The President (Cr. H. C. Matheson) added, “I don’t think they have a hope of getting an electric service there.” He went on to say that the Department of Railways had already decided to hand back to councils concerned those portions of land taken originally to provide the Kurrajong rail service.

The council “received” the letter without further discussion.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette
13 January 1945

New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following new members

BARRY THOMAS
PAMELA THOMAS

LOXLEY

On Bellbird Hill

Catering for love
learning & leisure

We specialise in

Weddings
Conferences
Birthdays
Anniversaries
Special Events
Private Dining
Accommodation

Supporters & proud
members of
Kurrajong Comleroy
Historical Society



Loxley was proudly inducted into the
Australian Hotels Association
Hall of Fame

993 Bells Line of Road
Kurrajong Hills 2758
(02) 4567 7711

loxley@iprimus.com.au
www.loxleyonbellbirdhill.com.au

- Winner Western Sydney (WSABE) Award for Male Entrepreneur of the Year, Paul Maher, 2012
- Winner Western Sydney (WSABE) Award for Excellence in Sustainability in a Business Exclusive of the Environmental Industry, 2012
- Highly Commended Western Sydney (WSABE) Award for Excellence in Hospitality, 2012
- NSW Business Chamber Awards finalist in Excellence in Sustainability, 2012
- NSW Business Chamber Awards finalist for Business Leader, Paul Maher, 2012
- Winner Excellence in Tourism, Western Sydney Excellence in Business Awards, 2011