

## 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

## 3 St Stephens registers book launch

Sunday, 8 December was the launch of the Society's latest book, the first volume of the parish registers of St Stephens Church, Kurrajong. Both of the morning services were well attended by regular parishioners and others from afar. The book received widespread interest and praise and by all accounts this should be a book that those who have an interest in the district's history should include on their bookshelves.

## 4 RAHS state conference

The activities and subjects discussed at the recent state history conference of the Royal Australian Historical Society is covered in detail in this article by Valerie Holland. The conference was held at the Katoomba RSL and also included tours to State Records and the Blue Mountains Historical Society.

## 6 The built heritage of the district

Steve Rawling gives a timely reminder of the various levels of 'heritage' listings. While of interest to many people most of the listings have no protection value but rather they are regarded as items of interest. He also points out significant items that should be offered protection, but are not, and offers suggestions on how this might be rectified.

## 8 Dates for your diary

Final reminder for the Society's traditional Australia Day breakfast which will be held at Bowen Mountain Park. Allison and Bill Kerr will be guest speakers with a presentation of the history of Bowen Mountain. Awards will also be presented to members of the Society.

## Christmas gathering at Luckenough

SUZANNE SMITH



The lush countryside surrounding Kath's property is evident in the background of this photo, taken during debate as to who should be first to partake of the many tasty offerings brought and appreciated by all who attended.

Storm clouds cleared for the Society's Christmas gathering on Saturday, 23 November, kindly hosted by Kath McMahon at her beautiful rural property, glistening and verdant in the late afternoon sunshine.

During the evening festivities Kath was asked to present a brief synopsis of the McMahon family and a history of the property on which she now resides, with its lush green bowl shaped sides, gently folded at intervals forming tree clustered gullies, trailing down to the largest spring fed dam in the Kurrajong Hills. A divine place to spend a summer's evening together. Everyone arrived laden with food and in good spirits.

Well armed with photographs Kath began the story of Thomas Hinton, a convict granted land at the Kurrajong Brush in 1823. He sold on to Thomas Higgins who was born in Rathkeile, Limerick in Ireland 1791. Thomas had arrived on the *Surry* in November 1816. The day before he died he willed the farm, Portion 161, together with three cows in calf, a black horse named Captain, cart and harness to his sister Mary McMahon, née Higgins.

Mary and John McMahon were free settlers who sailed on the *Charles Kerr* from Limerick departing on 15 September 1838 to begin a new life in the Kurrajong brush, arriving in Sydney on 8 January 1839.

John and Mary originally settled on portion 161 down near the creek close to Mill Road. With the formation of Bells Line they moved up beside the road and built a small slab house known as *Luckenough*. Their eldest daughter Mary, a spinster, stayed on at *Luckenough* and their youngest son Thomas moved onto 100 acres at *Dural View*.

Some years later Thomas's son James Edward moved back to *Luckenough* and married Marie Norris. Here they raised five children: Marshall, Nita, Haley, Molly and Kevin (Kath's father). They built another slab cottage beside *Luckenough* to accommodate their growing family. *Luckenough* was later demolished for the building of Bellbird Echo.

During the great depression work was scarce and many of the residents in the Kurrajong region built guest houses. James and Marie McMahon, Kath's grandparents, built the Bellbird Echo guest house in the late 1920s. The women ran

## President's Corner

Elsewhere in this issue I have written about built heritage in our area, and the lack of legal protection for virtually all of it. The committee is currently considering the case of the Comleroy Road School of Arts, which was featured in the previous edition of *The Millstone*. As most of you will know, the building has been empty and unloved for some time now, so an important item in our history is threatened with continuing decline. For some reason it is not listed as an item of heritage value in the council's Local Environment Plan yet over 600 items in the Hawkesbury district are listed. Most members will be aware that the hall has an important place in the history of our area and its role as the location of the launch of our society. I think everyone would like to see it brought up to a usable state.

I am not familiar with the events which took place under a previous managing trust and was surprised to learn recently that a development application was made to council in 2009 which was approved in 2010 with a five year validity. Well-known local heritage architect Graham Edds designed an addition which included toilets, a kitchen and a 'supper room' connected to the main hall.

I discovered this when following up the extensive work which our past president, John Cooper, had done in investigating the possibility of KCHS taking over the role of trustee for the hall, including discussion with the member for Hawkesbury, Ray Williams, and officers of the Crown Lands Office.

Your committee is considering the implications of taking up the offer to become the 'corporate manager' of the hall, which has been made to the Society following John Cooper's work. There are several factors which need to be carefully considered, including:

- ♦ Whether there are sources of funding sufficient to undertake the upgrading of the premises as approved in the Development Application.
- ♦ Whether the skills exist in the Society or amongst its friends to take on the responsibility of project managing the upgrading and of continuing maintenance.
- ♦ Whether the plan as approved would provide facilities suitable for the Society's needs other than as a meeting place. A particular concern is the very limited parking available.
- ♦ Whether the Society wishes to take on the role of hiring the premises to other community groups.

These are all important issues which can be summarised as caution about biting off more than we can chew. If any member can contribute ideas, or volunteer their skills to any of the above issues, please feel free to contact myself or the secretary.

Also under discussion is the council's plan for the upgrading of Memorial Park in Kurrajong Village. This has progressed to the point of a tender being issued for the major landscaping work involved. Some time ago the Society offered to council assistance with providing input on relevant historical facts, starting with Lawson's original 500 acre land grant and on any plans to better display, protect and interpret the millstones. Frank Holland, former president, is representing the Society's interests which appeared to have been overlooked for a while but discussions have now resumed.

Frank is also involved in discussions about a proposal to apply for state heritage listing for the sites of Singleton's Mills, with advice from eminent historians added to the extensive research which he and Les Dollin have done.

The product of the enormous amount of work which the Family History Group has been doing for a long time has come to fruition with the publication of the first book of parish records for the parish of St Stephens, Kurrajong. It is a splendid publication which does the Society and the FHG in particular great credit.

Have a splendid Christmas and a safe and peaceful 2014.

### Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society Incorporated

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## St Stephens book launch

CHRIS UPTON

The Society's latest publication, the first volume of the parish registers of St Stephens Anglican Church, Kurrajong had its launch on Sunday, 8 December at its source. Firstly in the old church at the 8 a.m. service and then later at the 10 a.m. service in the current church. Shaun McGregor conducted both services and David Philpott, assistant minister, preached the sermon.

The 8 a.m. service in the old church was near capacity for the building with the 10 a.m. service resulting in some having to stand. The church ladies, assisted by the FHG ladies ensured morning tea was more than adequate for those attending.

As well as regular parishioners a number of guests were present, some travelling a considerable distance. Professor Ian Jack, former president of the Royal Australian Historical Society, Bev Thom, granddaughter of Reverend Shearman with her husband Mike who travelled from Dee Why, Rachel Maegraith, granddaughter of Maurice Gray who travelled from Forestville, and Lisa Tebbutt, her husband, mother and father, descendants of Sarah Howard. Lisa's mother and father live at Bligh Park and Lisa and her husband travelled from Cessnock. Others arrived by word of mouth, such as Chris Turner and her husband from Wentworth Falls. Chris had mentioned on a Facebook site that she was doing family history research on this district, Joy Shepherd had read the post and mentioned the book launch.

Professor Ian Jack, during conversation with Kathie McMahon, said that he thought the launch was appropriate for the book and he was impressed with the presentation and layout of the book and he was looking forward to returning home and having a good read of the content.

A specially wrapped and prepared copy of the book was given to Shaun McGregor by Carolynne Cooper and Joy Shepherd as without his permission and help the book would never have happened.

The FHG ladies came well armed with copies of the book for sale and by the end of the day approximately forty copies were sold and orders were taken on behalf of others not present.

John Leary, editor of BMACHO's newsletter *Heritage* will be publishing an article on the launch in their next edition. Word of mouth is often quoted as being the best form of advertising. Things are looking good for this book.



Carolynne Cooper & Valerie Birch ensured sales got off to an early start.  
A small group of those who attended the 8 a.m. service.



## From the Editor

With my spare time limited I was pleased to be able to organise matters so that I could attend the book launch at St Stephens. During the drive back to Lithgow I went over the day's activities in my mind, as I planned to write a short article yet did not take notes.

I spoke with quite a number of people during the morning and one comment, more than any other struck me as being common to many of the conversations I had: "I'm pleased to see that someone is publishing and putting on record some of our district's history." Not all examples were worded the same but the comments were equal in expressing their gratitude that part of the district's history has been put into a book which will be able to be accessed by future generations.

In past columns I have championed the importance of the printed word, rather than the digital. A couple of those I spoke to mentioned that they would be buying a copy of the book as even though they do a lot of their research via the Internet they always refer back to printed publications, if possible, to either confirm that what they have found online is correct, or to add to what they have found as often what is available online can be very limited in detail.

I am sure this publication should result in good sales for the Society and look forward to helping the FHG girls with the next two volumes.

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## RAHS State History Conference

VALERIE HOLLAND

The 'Great Divide Getting there from here' was the theme for the Royal Australian Historical Society's 2013 state history conference held at Katoomba RSL on November 1 & 2. Pre-conference tours to State Records and The Blue Mountains Historical Society at Hobbies Reach were held on Friday, 31 October.

**SESSION ONE** Following the 'Welcome to Country' message by Auntie Sharon Hall, RAHS president Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker addressed the conference by stating: "It is important to recognise that local history is a significant element in the state's economy. Destination NSW reports that in 2012 NSW welcomed nearly 9.5 million cultural and heritage visitors and they spent an estimated \$7.9 billion. This confirms for us the importance of the work which historical societies undertake on a voluntary basis for communities." Dr Whittaker emphasised the need for local historians to carefully analyse facts to give greater understanding to the context when using the many resources including the internet, Trove, property and State Records.

The 2013 Cultural Grants were presented by Rosa Sage, Member for the Blue Mountains.

Many poignant examples of the First World War were addressed during the day and the Lesley Muir Address by Associate Professor John McQuilton stressed the need for historians to explore place when analysing historic evidence. He explored the 'Impact of the Great War' on one place, north-eastern Victoria. In particular, he noted the considerable effects on women and Australians with German heritage.

**SESSION TWO** Jan Richards, manager of central west libraries of NSW told of the many ways her community was planning to commemorate the centenary of the First World War including a Coee March re-enactment and an app being produced for children. Cassie Mercer, representative from *Inside History* magazine, told of a plan to collate the First World War projects and researchers on a data base, [www.worldwarone.link.com.au](http://www.worldwarone.link.com.au). The website launched on November 11 for registration.

Graham Warmbath, past president of Blue Mountains Historical Society shared moving accounts of a collection of 132 First World War letters of Major Geoffrey McLaughlin MC to "Dear Em", which his society will publish in 2014. Linda Emery, archivist for Berrima District Historical Society told of ongoing research to record the names of local people who served as

nurses in the First World War and to record a social history of the war years. Joan Edwards, a retired historical geographer, teacher and author, told of the lives of women and the effects on children moved to the Blue Mountains as a safety precaution during the war. As there were so many extra children a children's library and craft club was set up in 1942.

**SESSION THREE** Dr Siobhan Lavelle, noted for her work in archaeology and heritage since 1985, reinforced the need for the whole of 'place' to be explored including 'mythos' and 'facts' as part of the context of research. She told of 'Buried History' at Linden and Woodford, such as the plesiosaur embedded at the Fossil Rock lookout and a unique insight into the structural remains and deterioration of the convict built sandstone structures for the original road across the Blue Mountains, for which she referred to Dr Grace Karskens, who developed a methodology to grade sandstone construction.

Rosemary Wrench, senior curator for the 'Many Nations' section of the new 'First Peoples' exhibition at Melbourne Museum, told of the museum's collaborative work with Aboriginal women by gaining knowledge from their stories about some of their fine crafts that have been collected. Amanda Reynolds, senior curator for the 'Our Story' section of the newly opened Bunjilaka Cultural Centre new 'First Peoples' exhibition in the Museum Victoria told of the partnership with Aboriginal people and the tracing of the histories and stories from their Creation.

At the conclusion of Saturday's sessions participants chose one of two tours of the historic Carrington Hotel and the Katoomba streetscape before meeting for dinner at Katoomba RSL.

**SESSION FOUR** Commenced with a business session followed by the presentation of 2013 Certificates of Achievement presented by Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker, president of RAHS.

**SESSION FIVE** Warwick Mayne Wilson, a heritage landscape architect told of the importance of maintaining and capturing the history and provenance of town parks, greens and commons and of items and flora therein. [www.maynewilson.com.au](http://www.maynewilson.com.au) has a copy of his book on the subject.

Dr Terry Cass, a consulting historian specializing in heritage, conservation work and writing commissioned histories, introduced 'Crown Plans: A Crucial Resource'. He gave a range



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of interesting information about reading town block surveys, portion and crown land maps. Emily Hanna, from State Records showed an example proving the value of exploring pastoral holding files and the many differing Crown Land Acts in place since 1861.

**SESSION SIX** Associate Professor Carol Liston chose 'Local History and Family history: Mirror Images'. She reinforced the need for historical societies and family historians to work together rather than spread their resources into separate groups. Also acknowledged was the importance of disciplined research, as although there are numerous sources of information online, such as Ancestry.com, research needs to be backed up by checking the relevant original sources. Carol Riley, honorary vice president of the Society of Australian Genealogists presented some ways to negotiate the website 'Find My Past'. The information found on this site is given by or sold to the site by members.

The final speaker was Malcolm Sainty, from the Biographical Database of Australia, former president of the Society of Australian Genealogists from 2005-2007 and councillor from 1970-2007. The organisation, launched in September 2013, is non-profit and has a board of five, one of whom is Associate Professor Carol Liston. The aim of the board is to bring biographical sources to the people. At present there are 500 entries and the number and complexity of information is growing. The founders are hoping it will be a trusted research resource as data is fully referenced. For \$25 a year one may become a subscriber and contribute to the database at [www.bdaonline.org.au](http://www.bdaonline.org.au)

*Continued from front page*

the guest accommodation and the men worked the farms to provide dairy produce, pigs and poultry for the guests. The guest stay offered horse riding, tennis, moonlight hikes and great food. Bellbird Echo was noted for its fresh cream, butter and milk which was produced on the farm.

After World War Two many of the guest houses closed down due to a general change in lifestyle. Bellbird Echo closed in 1948 when Kevin's wife Betty, Kath's mother, became ill with tuberculosis. Betty was confined to a sanatorium for many years and Kevin turned to planting an orchard.

For many years Marie McMahon, Kath's grandmother, had a stall at Bellbird Echo on the weekends selling fruit and vegetables from the farm. In the 1940s Kevin McMahon, Kath's father, planted 1,000 trees, oranges, lemons, grapefruit, peaches, nectarines and apricots. By the late 1940s Bellbird Echo Fruit Shop had become a landmark for travellers from Sydney. Kevin also purchased produce from other local farmers to sell in his roadside store.

Kath recalled early farming days with her father Kevin rising at sunrise to milk the cows then separate the milk. After a good breakfast he was off again to harness the horses and attach the slide to go down to the farm. He used a single furrow plough to till the soil before planting rows of peas. Corn was also grown to feed the horses.

Kevin also ran a wattle bark business. The black wattles thrive in the Kurrajong region, having a high tannin content and the bark was much sought after by the many leather tanneries in Windsor at the time.

In 1988 The Bellbird Echo Centre was opened by Kevin's daughter Kathleen McMahon. Over the years it was occupied by a cafe along with many other shops including a furniture restoration business, local crafts, fine arts and antique store, lead light and flower shop. Brian Dunston had worked for over twenty years with Kevin in the original fruit shop and Kath now considered he had 'returned home', opening a florist shop at the Bellbird Echo Centre in the 1990s. In June 2005 Kath sold the Bellbird Echo Centre to Pam and Alan McCarthy, the current owners.

After marrying Alex Nolf in 1998 Kath settled on the old McMahon farm where she now resides.

On behalf of the Society's members I wish to thank Kath for her hospitality and the wonderful venue. Special thanks to your friends Roger and Di for assistance during the evening and to our members for their creative interesting array of salads, cakes and treats.



**Happy New Year**  
*Here's hoping 2014 brings  
 our readers good health,  
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 appreciating that what we  
 have is a gift, not a given*  
**The Editor**

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## The Built Heritage of Kurrajong - Comleroy

STEVE RAWLING AM

Some time ago, 2009 in fact, I wrote a piece in *The Millstone* about the various levels of 'heritage listing' pointing out that while all such lists are of interest, most of them do not confer any real protection for heritage buildings or other material items. To summarise them again:

Councils list items of heritage interest in their Local Environment Plans (LEP), which then requires councils to consider heritage factors when assessing Development Applications. The State Heritage Office has a State Heritage Inventory, which draws on the councils' lists, but does not include all items, and is again simply 'items of interest'. For an item to be strongly protected, it must be chosen to be listed on the State Heritage Register, as being of 'State significance'. Then there is the National Heritage List, which contains only a small number of items, but is gradually being added to. The World Heritage List of course contains the Greater Blue Mountains, close to us, but that is a natural rather than a built item.

Perhaps the best known of all is the listing by the National Trust. It is certainly the longest-established, and it is often thought to confer protection on items it contains, but again it doesn't, it simply identifies important buildings and natural areas which are of genuine heritage interest, judged by people with expertise.

So how does our area, Kurrajong-Comleroy fare in all of this? The sad fact is that very little in our area appears on any list which would confer real protection. There are ninety-nine Hawkesbury items on the State Heritage Inventory, and fifty-one on the State Heritage Register. Of the latter, only half a dozen are in our area, mostly in Wilberforce and Ebenezer.

But we should start at the beginning, with council's LEP which is fairly inclusive, containing over 600 items in the Hawkesbury, about 120 of which appear to be in our area. Notable inclusions, which everyone would expect to appear, are *Westbury* at Grose Vale, *Reibycroft* at Freeman's Reach, *Goldfinders* in Kurrajong Village, *Lochiel* at Kurrajong Heights, *St*



A postcard of Lochiel House, Kurrajong Heights at the time it was the local post office. The gentlemen in the photo are believed to be Thomas Walker and Will Walker.

Courtesy: Bev Woodman

*John of God* at North Richmond, *Sunnyside* at North Richmond, *Rose Cottage*, *Stannix Park* and Australian Pioneer Village at Wilberforce, and of course the church and former schoolhouse at Ebenezer.

There are also various other churches, cemeteries, substantial early houses, and quite a few smaller houses and cottages. When our Society was first formed I attempted to locate all items on the list, but was frustrated by the fact that the old street numbering was used. The current version of the LEP can be accessed on the Web by googling 'Hawkesbury Local Environment Plan 2012'.

It has to be said that the original compilers of the list did a pretty comprehensive job. However, what is most surprising and disturbing is what is not on the list. Two items in particular, of great significance to anyone interested in the history of our area, are conspicuously absent. They are the Comleroy Road School of Arts and the Singleton's mills sites. How these were overlooked is hard to understand.

The School of Arts has of course a special place in our Society's history (see President's Corner earlier in this issue) and is a significant element in early twentieth century social history of the area. It is to be hoped that it can be rescued from its present poor state, whether or not the Society can be involved in that process.

The mill sites on the other hand are almost 100 years older, and were central in the thinking of the founders of our Society, hence the logo, representing as they do the earliest history of the Kurrajong district, and a vanished industry of grain growing and milling. The proposal to apply for State Heritage listing, referred to elsewhere, which is being co-ordinated by Frank Holland, will leapfrog other levels and, if successful, guarantee future protection of the remains of what we believe is of genuine state significance.

Any member with an interest in or knowledge of our built heritage is very welcome to contact the committee to discuss any action we might take on this front. For example, a project involving a photographic record of the items on the LEP could be of interest for someone with a camera!



A 1971 photo showing the rear and side view of Sunnyside

Courtesy: Mary Avern



# MYSTERY PHOTO



Photo courtesy: Jack Thomson

This group photo was taken on the steps of the (old) Kurrajong Heights Hotel. The lady standing in front is Marie Thomson and the seated lady is believed to be Molly Giddins, née Farlow, and the chap wearing the Hawkesbury Agricultural College jacket is Ray Sherwood. It is not known who the other adult and child are.

Marie Thomson's parents came to live in Kurrajong in 1934 and boarded at Miegunyah Guest House, on the Grose Vale side of Kurrajong school where there is now a tennis court. Molly's mother, Violet Farlow ran the guest house.

Molly married Russ Giddins and they ran the hire car service in Kurrajong for many years.

If you are able to provide further detail on this photo please contact Joy Shepherd at [joyshep1@bigpond.com](mailto:joyshep1@bigpond.com)

## From THE ARCHIVES



### Outside class at Kurmond



Maureen Chynoweth forwarded to the Society a number of photos including these showing an outside lesson at Kurmond Public School, taken circa 1950. The teacher, Mr Clancy was the headmaster at the time. The children seem to be more interested in the camera than the subjects on the blackboard or the kookaburra sitting atop it. The kookaburra, also shown below was often at their lessons.



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## AGNES BANKS.

The through mail service to Richmond is nothing short of down right humbug—even Harry Fong says so. We now receive our Richmond mail at 4:15 pm., and are thus compelled to leave our replies till the following day, which is an inconvenience—whereas, under the old service we were able to reply to a letter on the day of receipt. We would advise people to stir things along, so that at the end of three months we could enjoy our old service—or at least something preferable to the present one. By the way, Mr Editor, your scribe would like to know where the GAZETTE often goes to, as it turns up five and six days late, and the fault is not at our end.

Large flocks of paraquets have been playing havoc among the summer fruit, but shooters have waged a heavy war with the pests. So thick were they that a lad, named Lavender, killed four with cudgels. He then considered it time to operate with powder and shot, and in one afternoon bagged seventy birds in twenty shots. His best shot brought down eight. Mr James Williams beat this record with nine birds in one shot, and I am informed a lad, named Popp, eclipsed all with eighteen birds in one shot, [Steady, boy, steady.—Ed] However, after a few days rapid shooting the pests are now scarcer.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette  
Saturday, 18 January 1902

## Feedback



The photo of the 'Shooting Party at Wheeney Creek' shown in the Nov-Dec issue has generated considerable discussion.

Joy Shepherd, custodian of the Society's digital archive, is quite certain that the gentleman in the back row, second from the left with a white hat is definitely a Dunston and most likely Arthur, as he bears a resemblance to other photos in the Society's archive of Arthur's wedding. Joy feels that the person on the bottom left is her grandfather, Charlie Davis. Her birth date records show that he would have been five years younger than Albert Pope.

Debra Hallam thinks that the gentleman in the dark hat is her great-grandfather William Douglass.

Ray Goddard provided further details about Albert Pope. While at Wilcannia he met the 'Flying Parson', Rev. Len Daniels in 1928. Albert helped to build a landing strip and hanger and learned how to fly an aircraft. Len and Albert would search for telegraph line breaks from the air and land on roads to repair the breaks.

In 1932 Albert and his wife hosted the holidaying Tennyson couple Mr and Mrs Abe McMahon. Abe admitted having met more than a match in his friend whose knowledge of the sporting grounds provided many a good day's shooting and fishing.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Sunday, 26 January

#### KCHS AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

The Society's traditional Australia Day breakfast will be held between 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at the recently renovated 'Hut' in Bowen Mountain Park. It is situated in Lieutenant Bowen Drive off Bunya Crescent.

Please bring your own breakfast fare. An undercover electric barbecue is available. Tea and coffee will be supplied.

Allison and Bill Kerr will give a presentation on the history of Bowen Mountain. A rather special presentation is to be awarded to KCHS members in acknowledgement of their contribution and ongoing commitment to the work of the Society.

Cost is \$5 per person. Please indicate if you will be attending by contacting the secretary, Suzanne Smith on 4567 7410 or [secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au](mailto:secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au)

### Tuesday, 8 April

#### HAWKESBURY TOUR

A most interesting tour of the Hawkesbury, escorted by members Carol and Geoff Roberts is proposed for Autumn. The twenty-one passenger community bus has been tentatively booked. If numbers exceed this car-pooling is an option. Further detail will follow in the next issue. Approximate cost will be \$25 per person.



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- 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