

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 Memorial Park reopening**

Photos of the Society's participation in the reopening ceremony at Memorial Park, Kurrajong on Saturday, 15 November.

4 Website & image archive update

David Griffiths gives a detailed account of the changes which have been made to both the website and digital image archive. He explains the new features as well as how he and his wife Jenny have incorporated the image archive into the website.

5 Heights Hotel guest register

A new member, Katherina Koszrak, brought to the Society's attention the existence of the original guest register of the Kurrajong Heights Hotel. It has been loaned to the Society and will be on display at the Australia Day breakfast function.

8 Dates for your diary

Final reminder for the Society's Australia Day breakfast function. It will be held at Sassafras Creek Restaurant, Kurrajong Village, Monday, 26 January 9 to 11 a.m.

Christmas at St Clements

SUZANNE SMITH



New Fernhurst, Kurrajong Heights c1918

What a warm and comfortable evening was enjoyed by all who attended the Christmas gathering at *St Clements* on Saturday, 6 December. Steve Rawling, president and host, obligingly met members and their friends at the St Davids car park and ferried us down through the rain to his home, *St Clements*, where Judie as hostess greeted us all.

During the evening Steve gave a brief history of *St Clements*, the land having been included in a Northfield Village sub-division of Samuel North's Northfield Estate in 1839. Few of the suburban sized lots sold and none were occupied or built on until 1859 when one was bought by Louisa Atkinson and her mother in 1859. They soon purchased a number of other allotments ending up with a property of more than five and a half acres. It was here that they built their cottage *Fernhurst* where Louisa pursued her work as the botanist of Kurrajong, her writing and her many other pursuits.

Louisa and her mother left in 1865 and it appears the property was used as a weekend or hill station by a number of owners. A second house was built in the 1880s. Over time there were some well-known and wealthy owners who had extensive property interests elsewhere in Sydney and other parts of New South Wales.

Eventually the property, now extending to over eleven acres, was bought by William Harry Tietkens, the explorer and father-in-law of Leonard Daniels, the 'Flying Parson'. Tietkens demolished both Louisa Atkinson's *Fernhurst* and the 1880s house and built the present house in 1918 it is believed for his son. Sadly the son died in 1921 and was buried in the small graveyard at St James, the de-consecrated church on the other side of the road.

Alwin and Alice Peck ran the property as an orchard until Alwin's tragic death in 1928 when it again functioned as a guest house. After World War II there were several more or less absent owners including the owner of the horse Peter Pan who won two Melbourne Cups, one of which had pride of place in the front hallway of the house and is now in the National Museum in Canberra.

For a time the property was owned by the parents of Dr Phil Moors, later director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, who remembers happy times in the garden and Kurrajong when he was a child.

New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following new members

MARGARET JOHNSON

THOMAS JOHNSON

NOREEN MONTGOMERY

PETER O'DONNELL

JILL READON

ROGER READON

President's Corner

Continued from front page

At this time Tietken's house, still intact but with alterations and additions, was still known as *Fernhurst* but at some stage it was renamed *St Clements*. Well, there are oranges and lemons along the driveway.

Orcharding wound down in Kurrajong Heights and in 1960 or 1961 it was subdivided into blocks of varying sizes with *St Clements* remaining on 5,000 square metres, or half a hectare, or an acre and a quarter. Judie and Steve purchased the house and an almost nonexistent garden in 1996.

Judie's garden was verdant and delightful in the late afternoon rain and mist, a treasure trove of plants. We all feasted on rather wonderful Christmas fare sharing stories and enjoying one another's company. A special thank you to Marguerite for the moist Christmas cake and Jenny for the rum ball treats. Thank you Judie and Steve for a memorable evening.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Steve Rawling gave a presentation at the Society's 2008 Australia Day function. His subject was Louisa Atkinson, lesser known facts about her and her association with St Clements. His presentation is detailed in issues March-April and May-June 2008.

Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society Incorporated

PO Box 174 Kurmond NSW 2757

www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

ABN 68 930 834 921

COMMITTEE

President Steve Rawling AM

Vice President Kathie McMahon

Secretary Suzanne Smith

Treasurer Marguerite Wyborn

Committee members Carolynne Cooper

Wanda Deacon

Deborah Hallam

Paul McDonald

Patricia O'Toole

Accessions / Librarian Valerie Birch

Millstone Editor Chris Upton

Webmaster David Griffiths

Digital Archivist Jenny Griffiths

Public Officer David Griffiths

Grants Officer (vacancy)

Hon Auditor Bruce Obermann

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On a recent weekend, Judie and I spent a very pleasant time on an excursion in the Quirindi area on the beautiful Liverpool Plains, with the northern NSW branch of the Garden History Society. As part of the tour we visited the two (yes two!) Quirindi history museums, one in a house in the town and one in a large rural shed outside the town. Between them they hold a huge variety of items and artefacts, domestic, rural and commercial, well displayed and curated by volunteers.

In discussion with some of the volunteers it was obvious that they were working with their strengths, a large amount of material available in their community which can be put on display. I contrasted this with our strengths which lie in our photographic collection, the visual archive, in our record of publications which I believe is very impressive for a relatively small society covering a relatively small area, and in our website. The people in Quirindi have nothing to match them.

The Millstone is going strong in its thirteenth year and we have the two splendid publications using material from the digital archive. I believe that we can hold our heads up amongst historical societies and I acknowledge the debt we owe to those of our members who have worked hard to produce these things. If we add the Family History Group's publications, and others associated with the Society, like those from Paul Hulbert and Vera Bentvelzen, I think this displays real strength.

I then look at the archive itself and think of the countless hours which Joy Shepherd principally spent building it up to its 5000 plus images. How many societies can match that? The committee are looking at further publications like journals which reprint 'the best of *The Millstone*'. These should be saleable. And the FHG is working on the next stage of the parish registers transcriptions. Our Anzac commemorative book will appear in 2015.

The archive has of course become the most prominent feature of the website. Please read the article in this issue, and more importantly explore the new features which make the website more accessible and incorporate a greater variety of material.

Speaking of photographs, our project to photograph heritage buildings in the area has captured the attention of the Hawkesbury Historical Society, the museum and gallery, as well as the Camera Club, who want to replicate our work in other areas of the Hawkesbury. They have acknowledged that our Society has shown real leadership with this project.

2015 will be a good year for the Society I am sure. I wish all members a safe and peaceful year following an enjoyable Christmas season.



Memorial Park reopening pictorial



Bryan Wyborn having a close look at the detail of the mill model



The Society's well presented and attended display



Brian & Wendy Dunston paying their respects

Photos courtesy
Hawkesbury City Council
Carolynne Cooper



From the Editor

**After eight years in the editor's chair
it has come time to hand over the reins**

I was taught to swim when I was at school in fourth or fifth year, I can't quite remember exactly. I clearly remember the method though. As I stood on the starting blocks at the deep end of the pool a fellow student pushed me from behind and the teacher yelled out, "Flap your arms and kick with your feet!" I survived and went on to be awarded a Bronze Medallion in life saving.

Much the same happened when my brother, Greg asked me to take over the editor's role back in September 2006. I jumped in the deep end. How gratifying and rewarding the years have been though. Initial trepidation was soon replaced with interest in subjects I had given only brief thought to in previous times.

Recent changes to my personal life and the commitments I now must make mean that I will not be able to spend the time that I have in the past on the newsletter. I feel it would be best for me to hand the role over to someone who has the time and creative flair to carry the flag and rally the troops.

A bit of creative flair would be a handy asset but not necessary. I do not consider myself an artist, but during the time I have been editor I purchased many books on typography, grammar, page layout and graphic design. These were not a necessity but rather they gave me a better understanding of what I was enjoying doing, and what was possible with a keyboard, mouse and screen.

The editor's position is not restricted to those on the committee or members. I was not a member of the Society when I took over the role but quickly joined.

If you, or anyone you know might be interested in taking on a new challenge: editor of this newsletter, feel free to contact myself, the president or secretary.

notpuc@bigpond.com

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

To follow on from Chris Upton's fantastic work on The Millstone, we urgently need someone with the interest, time and skill with something such as Microsoft Publisher. Is that you, or can you suggest someone?

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Website & image archive update

DAVID GRIFFITHS

David Griffiths has taken over the webmaster role from Greg Upton and Jenny Griffiths has taken on the digital archivist role from Joy Shepherd after both Joy and Greg indicated they did not wish to continue in these roles.

Both David and Jenny have been active members of the Society since its early days. They bought land in Kurrajong Hills in 1997 and after spending two years designing and six years building their house they moved there full time in 2005.

In 1999 they established the Kurrajong community website to give local businesses an economical web presence and to promote the area and its many beauties.

David has a background in electronics and computers. He has been involved with database development since 1986. Jenny is a retired schoolteacher and librarian whose faculties before entering the library were English and history. Together they operate their own business doing custom electronic design and consultancy.

WEBSITE AND DIGITAL ARCHIVE

David assessed the current KCHS website and found that although it had served a very useful purpose to date, it was time for a major revamp. The image archive was separately hosted by a commercial organisation. The site search was also external and returned advertisements with the results. David was able to develop the software to incorporate the Society's digital images into the website itself which gives a more uniform appearance and saves the Society quite a bit of money each year. The new site incorporates all the information that was on the old site plus more.

At the same time new facilities were added to include documents and other non-image assets that the Society holds. In the case of documents it is now possible for these to be provided online for easy access and directly linked to and from any associated images, making browsing the image collection more interesting. Two random images are displayed on the home page to tempt visitors into browsing our collection.

Jenny has been able to use her librarian experience to do a general tidy up of the database, including making categories (keywords) and locations more consistent. She is working with our accessions librarian, Val Birch, to enter all the existing accessions registers into the database forming a catalogue of all our acquisitions.



Jenny & David Griffiths volunteering on a heritage train (their hobby).
Photo taken in 2006 a year after they moved to Kurrajong.

All members are encouraged to check out the new website and explore the image and resource archives. There is a four page help document explaining the finer points of searching the image archive, look for the Help button. The website is intended as much for members as it is for visitors.

OUR IMAGE DATABASE

Key features of the new image database are:

- Random images are displayed.
- Simple search for simplicity or advanced search for detailed options.
- Full search options on all fields including contributor.
- Browse All button to make it easy to browse.
- Search by decade, category (keyword) or location.
- Encouragement to help fill in the blanks by browsing 'Unidentified'.
- Users can comment on any image for correcting problems and to provide additional information.
- Direct links to associated images and documents.
- Button to email image link to a friend.
- Includes a 'People' database to show the family links and information on people who appear in our photos.
- Linked to Trove.
- Over 5,300 images and 430 non images are available.

Although 5,300 is an impressive number, we are sure there are many more photos and documents available. If you have anything to contribute or you can turn up items from friends and neighbours, please get in touch with Jenny at: images@kurrajonghistory.org.au

LINK TO TROVE

We now have a link to the National Library of Australia's wonderful Trove search facility. Trove has been available for five years and started by digitising most old newspapers in Australia up to about 1954. Then they added other archives that could be searched. They include many outside contributors such as us.

If anyone searches for something that is relevant to our image collection they will be shown thumbnails of the images and if they click these thumbnails they will be brought to our site. This should make our collection available to many people and hopefully result in more people visiting other pages of the Society's website.

Trove: trove.nla.gov.au

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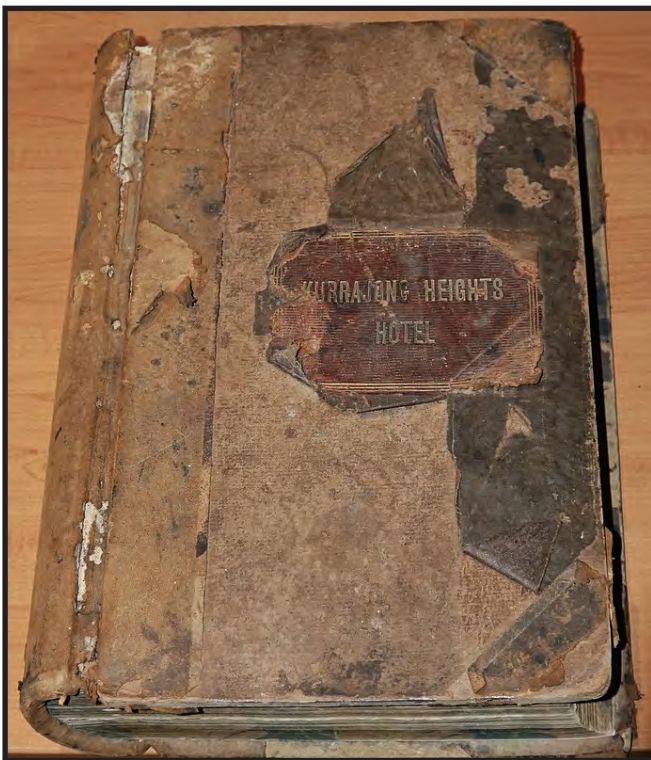
Kurrajong Heights Hotel Guest Register

DAVID GRIFFITHS

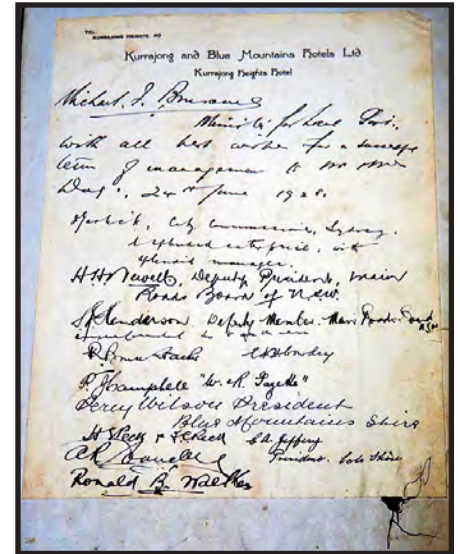
The Society was recently delighted to be shown the original guest register from the Kurrajong Heights Hotel. It is an impressive volume, weighing a respectable seven kilograms. It has 1,002 numbered pages and was supplied by John Sands Ltd.

The book was brought to our attention by one of our newest members, Katherina Kostrzak, an employee of Ray White, Kurrajong. One of her customers mentioned she had the book and Katherina immediately knew the Society would be interested in its historical significance. She arranged a meeting, at the hotel of course, where the book was viewed and passed on to be photographed. It will also be on display at the Society's Australia Day breakfast function.

There is a dedication page pasted in at the front with best wishes from Lt Col Michael Bruxner, Minister for Local Gov't, and various other politicians and dignitaries. The dedication page is dated 24 June 1928, but the official opening did not actually occur until 18 August 1928. The entries in the book date from 11 August 1928 through to November 1950.



The first few pages of entries are the names of about eighty-eight guests at the official opening. Newspaper reports at the time mention 100 guests. There is a single entry dated 11 August. The others are dated 17 August, a Friday, presumably staying overnight for the official opening on the next day.

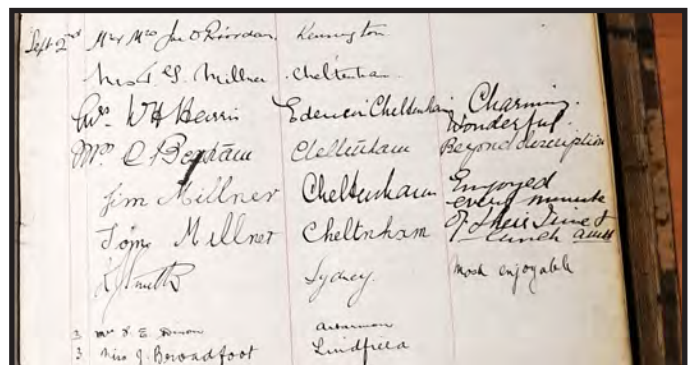


Throughout the book there are entries for people travelling from all parts of Sydney and beyond. In the early years many guests wrote very favourable comments, although not all agreed. From the mid 1930s onwards the comments largely ceased.

Due to the licensing laws which were in place in the 1950s people had to be 'travellers' before they could be served alcohol at certain times of the day. We suspect that many of the entries may have been made by such 'travellers'.

In November 1950 an unfortunate accident befell the book. An ink well or ink bottle was spilled over the book and its purpose was discontinued. Four pages have been removed in the damaged area.

Continued page 6






Carey & Co

Live Life in Style

Womens fashion
Homewares
Furniture

Children's toys books & clothing

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High Tea with Nana



I tiptoed to the kitchen and tried not to make the floorboards squeak
I thought I'd sample some of Nana's biscuits stored in the old Arnotts
tins ... stacked up so neat!

She hides them behind the chimney near the old fuel stove
To me it's quite exciting to unearth this treasure trove!
She surely won't miss some ... two, three or maybe four!
What's that? Shhh! I think I hear someone coming through the
kitchen door!

Dive under the table or hide behind the couch
Too late! She's caught me ... and smacked my fingers ... ouch!!

"Why didn't you just ask me ... I made them just for you to eat
I thought you'd love the jam drops and baked them for a treat!
So off you go and wash up then come on back to me
We'll sit out in the garden and enjoy our own high tea!"

I rushed out to the tank stand and pumped and pumped some more
until the water gushed out into the bucket, some spilling on the floor
I ran the brush through my long blonde hair until it truly shone
then ran to the garden seat to sit and wait upon
My Nana with all the delights that she had baked ...
Jam drops, shortbread and even some chocolate cake!

Oh how I still remember the taste of those sweet delights
They linger still with me as I sit here tonight
But Nana's no longer with me - she's gone to the big kitchen up above
To continue baking bickies for the many folk she loves ...
She left me with a legacy, one that will stick with me as time goes on
Happy thoughts and memories of when
I sipped high tea with Nana upon the garden lawn.

Dedicated to my grandmother, Linda May Hobbs (née Walker)

Bev Woodman 28 March 2010



Continued from page 5

RUBGUM
TRADE MARK

DRY SHAMPOO
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LAMP SHADE
DRY CLEANING "PUFF"

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705 Jan 1954			
Durham Hotel		Wingen N. S. W.	
DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	REMARKS
4/1/54	Mr Mrs E. L. Lons	Karung New Guinea.	
5/1/54	Ron Gallagher	Spdney - Armistade	

A little mystery appears on page 705 which is just a few pages past the damage caused by the ink. There is a new heading, 'Durham Hotel, Wingen.' Wingen is a small town on the New England Highway between Scone and Murrumbidgee. There are only two entries in January 1954. We have no idea how the book found its way to Wingen and why those who possessed it did not continue to use it.

The book was found locked in a desk that had come from the Kurrajong Heights Hotel. The next question that sprang to mind was, "How did it survive the fire in 1975?"

We were able to get an answer to this question from a hotel regular, John Bryce, who lives nearby. He remembered the current owner, well after 1975, becoming aware that the book was being auctioned in Young, New South Wales, and going there to purchase it. Thus it was probably nowhere near Kurrajong in 1975. Its whereabouts between 1954 and the 1990s remain a mystery.



Mystery photo



Photo courtesy: Alice Brown / Gertie Telling

This photo is a recent addition to the Society's digital image archive. It is one of a number which were in an album belonging to Gertie Telling, née Smith, which was given to the Society after the death of her daughter, Alice Brown.

As with many of the photos in this album there was nothing recorded with it to indicate the time and place it was taken and the identity of the lady.

There is bound to be a story behind this photo. The inclusion of the house, the defiant stance, the support of a staff/weapon, the impressive mid and far backgrounds gives the impression that this is a staged photo rather than a happy snap.

If you are able to shed any light on this photo please send the detail to our image archivist Jenny Griffiths.

images@kurrajonghistory.org.au

Valerie's BOOK REVIEW



WILLIAM CHARLES WENTWORTH

ANDREW TINK

This biography is written by Andrew Tink, a former Australian politician who served as a member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly from 1988 to 2007.

The Wentworth that emerges from this engagingly written biography is larger than life. Described by Manning Clark as 'Australia's greatest native son' William Charles Wentworth led a life of firsts. He wrote the first book by an Australian to be published, was joint editor and proprietor of the colony's first independent newspaper and was founder of Australia's first university.

Wentworth's great personal achievements have been largely forgotten. Andrew Tink has written this biography that is long overdue and is a fascinating insight into the life of this complex man and the young nation he helped to create.

Happy New Year
Valerie Birch

STATE LIBRARY ?

NEW SOUTH WALES

State Library eresources

If you are a current NSW public library member you can register for a State Library of NSW membership account using your existing public library card.

The account allows you to access a range of online resources at the State Library including databases for local and family history research and many other resources.

<https://forms.sl.nsw.gov.au/eresources-register>

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 26 January

AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

Members and friends are welcome to attend the Society's annual Australia Day breakfast which will be held at Sassafra Creek Restaurant, Kurrajong Village from 9 to 11 a.m. A traditional breakfast will be offered. Awards will be presented at approximately 10 a.m. Guest speaker will be John Bryce who will bring us stories from the past with a focus on the Kurrajong Heights Hotel and surrounding region.

Bookings are essential and must be placed with the secretary by Wednesday, 21 January. Cost per person is \$25.

For enquiries and bookings contact the secretary, Suzanne Smith on 4567 7410. Cheques can be mailed to: Secretary KCHS, PO Box 174, Kurmond NSW 2757. Direct debit to KCHS Bendigo Bank, account 118125632 BSB 633-000.

We trust you are able to join us for this fourteenth anniversary of the founding of the Society.

30 March

AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING

This meeting will feature the launch of 'A Social and Conservative History of the 1809 Land Grant of Rowland Edwards and the Goldfinders Home Inn' by Christopher Hallam. Further details will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

KCHS Members Library

A new book borrowing system will be in place for members in 2015

- 1 Visit the Society's website
- 2 Select 'Archive'
- 3 Select 'Members Library' and choose a book from the listing
- 4 Note title and author
- 5 To place an order for your book request email librarian@kurrajonghistory.org.au

A pre-arranged book collection and return is now available via Pat and Ian O'Toole at the Radio Museum Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights

Windsor Castle

THE FIRE AND ITS SECRETS

Dennis Overton

Saturday 14 February 2 pm
St Andrews, Richmond

The Family History Group is organising an afternoon tea on Saturday, 14 February at St Andrews auditorium, 25 West Market Street, Richmond. The guest speaker will be Dennis Overton, a member of the Society. He was awarded an Anzac fellowship in 1978 and a Churchill fellowship in 1995.

The main subject of his presentation will be the fire that caused considerable damage to Windsor Castle on Friday, 20 November 1992. The fire destroyed many rooms and centuries of history. Dennis was personally involved in the restoration and its planning which took five years and unearthed many hidden treasures.

His presentation will reveal plenty of behind the scenes information, explain many of the issues which had to be overcome to restore the castle to its previous state, and will include slides from the Royal Collection interwoven with historical information. Some royal secrets might also be shared.

The afternoon tea will be served on fine china crockery, the auditorium is spacious, air conditioned and ample parking is available.

Cost per head is \$25 and as numbers will be limited please book early to avoid disappointment.

Enquiries and bookings

Carolynne Cooper 4576 0356
Joy Shepherd 0417 029685

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- 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