

# THE MILLSTONE

## 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*

### W.H.TIETKENS and Kurrajong Heights



Some weeks ago, the Society received a request from an author in South Australia for information about the connection between William Harry Tietkens and the Kurrajong, specifically Kurrajong Heights, as he was working on a biography of Tietkens. His curiosity was aroused by a photograph of Tietkens in our digital archive. Joy Shepherd, who had included that photograph some years ago, was able to help with a connection to a woman in South Australia who was a descendant. Tietkens had spent some time in that State during his long and varied career. Eventually, the two South Australians were put in touch with each other.

William Harry Tietkens came to Australia at the age of 15 in 1859. *The Australian Dictionary of Biography* summarises him as "explorer, plant and seed collector, public servant, silver lead and zinc miner, and station hand". Tietkens had a number of Hawkesbury connections, but his most lasting impact was at Kurrajong Heights, where the house he built still stands.

He was best known as an explorer of note in central and Western Australia, which role he took on after early experience as a newsboy, shop assistant, cowherd, and railway clerk. In 1865 he teamed up with Ernest Giles on a journey to explore the pastoral potential of the upper Darling River, after which he spent seven years in Western NSW and northern Victoria working as a station hand, but doing some exploration on the side!

Tietkens then joined Giles as second in command on journeys of exploration in 1873 and 1875. These took them from inland South Australia to the far west of the continent. Tietkens left the expedition in Perth, to complete studies in 1878 for the

South Australian Licensed Surveyors' examination. He explored, unsuccessfully, the pastoral potential of Maralinga in South Australia, and worked again as a station hand and prospector. He was eventually able to gather support for a major journey of exploration in his own right, in 1889. This began in Alice Springs, and resulted in the discovery of a number of major landscape features, and saw him photograph Ayers Rock (Uluru) and the Olgas (Kata Tjuta) - for the first time.

He then worked as a surveyor for the NSW government from 1891 until his retirement in 1909, including a period on the south coast.

But what about the Hawkesbury connections? When he first began work as a surveyor in NSW, it was at Richmond and Windsor, marrying during this period, at Richmond in 1882. He had a cottage in Kurrajong Heights, which was later lived in by his daughter, Emily, and her husband, Leonard Daniels, "the flying parson" and long time rector of St Stephen's at Kurrajong. Tietkens' main residence was in Eastwood.

In 1918, he purchased the property *Fernhurst*, (now known as *St Clements*) in Kurrajong Heights, which had been first occupied, and a cottage built, by Louisa Atkinson and her mother, Charlotte Barton, in 1860. A second house had been built on it in the 1880s, which operated as a guest house. **Cont. p3**

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# President's Report

## AGM, & General Meeting 2015

**AGM** The AGM and the following general meeting were held at the Grose Vale Hall on September 28<sup>th</sup> 2015, with 28 members in attendance. As the annual reports 2014-15 had been previously circulated in the Millstone, the main business of the AGM was the election of office bearers and Committee members, and appointments to other roles. With the assistance of Ron Rozzoli as Returning Officer, the following *office bearers* were elected unopposed:

**President: Steve Rawling**

**Vice-President: David Griffiths**

**Secretary: Suzanne Smith**

**Treasurer: Pat O'Toole**

There being more than five nominations for general members of the Committee, a secret ballot was held, and the following members were elected: **Jenny Griffiths, Deborah Hallam, Paul Hulbert, Marguerite Wyborn and Airdrie Martin**

*The following appointments were confirmed:*

**Acquisitions/Library Officer, Val Birch; Digital Archivist, Jenny Griffiths; Webmaster, David Griffiths; Grants Officer, Frank Holland; Public Officer, David Griffiths; Millstone Editors, Suzanne Smith and Steve Rawling; Project Officer, Steve Rawling.**

It will be immediately apparent that most of the appointees are Committee members, who have been prepared to carry out both roles. In many organisations these active roles are occupied by other members. We are very fortunate that we have such committed Committee members, and of course there are other members who are active contributors to various projects, but we are asking a lot of a core group. Any member willing to take on or assist with one of the appointed roles would be very welcome.

**After the formal business of the AGM**, Paul Hulbert gave an illustrated presentation on the Heritage photography project – reported elsewhere in this issue.

### General Meeting

This meeting followed the conclusion of the AGM. The President gave a brief report on activities since the last GM, which included: a successful application for a grant from Council to assist the publication of the ANZAC Centenary book, *We Remember Them*; participation in the Kurrajong Public School fete, and in a local history classroom presentation (special thanks to Jenny and David Griffiths and Suzanne Smith for the latter); A report on RMS preliminary planning for an upgraded route from Kurrajong Heights to the Western Sydney Orbital which appeared to ignore the existence of items of heritage/historical interest; The purchase of a quality microphone for use in meetings; along with the purchase of 20 copies of the Hawkesbury History booklet to be on-sold; the visit of the local member, Dominic Perrottet to the FHG and his interest in their projects; and the receipt of a grant from the state government via the RAHS to the Society to assist with the work of the FHG.

**Kurrajong – Comleroy  
Historical Society Incorporated**  
**PO BOX 174 KURMOND NSW 2757**  
[www.kurrajonghistoy.org.au](http://www.kurrajonghistoy.org.au)

**ABN 68930834921**

### Committee Members

**President** Steve Rawling AM

**Vice President** David Griffiths

**Secretary** Suzanne Smith

**Treasurer** Pat O'Toole

Deborah Hallam

Paul Hulbert

Jenny Griffiths

Airdrie Martin

Marguerite Wyborn

**Millstone Editor** Steve Rawling

**Co-Editor/Publisher** Suzanne Smith

**Webmaster** David Griffiths

**Digital Archivist** Jenny Griffiths

**Accessions / Librarian** Valerie Birch

**Public Officer** David Griffiths

**Grants Officer** Frank Holland

**Hon Auditor** Bruce Obermann

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secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

## Presidents' Committee Report

**The new Committee** met for the first time on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Three members were absent overseas. Six were present. Some important proposals were discussed, especially upgrades of the ways in which improvements can now be made by the use of online methods of handling financial transactions and membership records. The Committee will discuss these further at its next meeting.

**A sub-committee** was appointed to review the Society's Constitution, as there are areas which are in need of update. A paper was agreed to for circulation to members, clarifying the responsibilities and authorities of individuals, sub-committees and working parties as they relate to the responsibilities of the Committee "to control and manage the affairs of the Society".

**President Steve Rawling**



## Photographing Historical Buildings & Structures in the KCHS Area

In 2014, Paul Hulbert took up the challenge of photographing items which are listed on Hawkesbury Council's LEP as being of heritage interest. As noted before in these pages, inclusion on this list does not confer absolute protection – it simply requires Council to take heritage factors into account when considering development proposals.

It therefore seemed a good idea to record as many of the 120 plus items as possible on the pessimistic assumption that any of them could disappear in the future. Paul, assisted recently by Suzanne Smith, Airdrie Martin and Lesley Hulbert, has been on the task since mid-2014. It had been hoped that it would be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> this year, but as Paul outlined in his interesting talk to the AGM, there have been some obstacles in the way. Paul Hulbert's talk at the Society AGM, also included some fascinating insights into photographic techniques.

When interest was first aroused soon after the Society's foundation, the main obstacle was the fact that the LEP contained the old street numbering on rural roads, so many properties could not be found! There continued to be some hangover of this problem, but there were houses, cemeteries, barns, war memorials, and so on which could be located, and almost 70 have been photographed, with the work continuing. Added value will come from research into each property, being carried out by Deborah Hallam.

Most of those already covered could be photographed from the road, but where this is not possible, permission of owners is required, and this has proved more difficult than expected. Some locations proved to be empty paddocks, to contain modern houses or even a shopping centre. Some owners have not responded to written requests.

With the inclusion of more than one image for some properties, there are now 155 on the KCHS website, visit [www.kurrajonghistory.org.au](http://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au) - go to the Digital Image Archive, choose Categories, then click on LEP Heritage to view them.

**Below - INVERARY at Kurmond 1870**



House and Barn 1880s at Freemans Reach on the Hawkesbury River Floodplain



Harmony Farm at Pitt Town Ferry Road Wilberforce

### W.H.TIETKENS and Kurrajong Heights (cont. from p 1)

The son of Louisa Atkinson's best friend recorded that both houses were demolished and *New Fernhurst* built, in 1918. The house was built for Tietkens' son, Jack, who tragically died in 1821, and is buried in the church yard of St James', the former Anglican Church just across Bells Line of Road from *St Clements*.



His sister Emily and Leonard Daniels are also buried at St James'. A sad but enduring link in Kurrajong Heights with the remarkable W.H.Tietkens.

**Steve Rawling AM**

A KCHS members visit to the Tennyson Light Horse Museum revealed a wonderful collection of items. Room upon room of labelled and well categorised items from numerous campaigns were most definitely enlightening. Stewart & Joan Thompson our hosts along with their troopers Robyn Woodward & Dianne Bashford introduced us to their treasured horses, before engaging us in an arena drill re-enactment of Australia's military horseman. John Stewart Thompson holds an OAM for service to the community through the Australian Light Horse Regiment 'A' Troop - Commander since 1978, a Police Valour Medal (PVM) and a Reserve Forces Decoration (RFD). Stewart was for a number of years a volunteer guide on the Kokoda Memorial Track at Concord and currently works as a volunteer at the Mounted Police Museum Redfern. Stewart revealed a most interesting life, from boyhood to the present day, including on leaving the Australian Army in the late 1950s to join the NSW Mounted Police. Below are a few images taken by David Griffiths and Les Dollin on the day of our KCHS visit.



Stewart Thompson captured by Les Dollin during his engaging talk to members over a cup of tea.



Stewart and Robyn Woodward trooping the colours in a traditional re-enactment of a Light Horse Military drill.



Museum collections - Light Horse Campaigns - Sth African Boer Wars 1880-1881 / 1899-1902 and WW1 1914-1918



Stewart as Master Farrier - Blacksmithing

### WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members

*Tanya Connell*

*Joan & John Stewart Thompson*

### Reminder to Members - Late Renewals

Please forward 2015-2016 Membership Renewals to:

Treasurer PO Box 174 KURMOND NSW 2757 or

Direct Credit: KCHS Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000

Account No. 118125632

**Also NOTE:** The Millstone Newsletter is available through your email service—please inform Secretary of email address if you would like to receive electronically



## Cavanough Family History

**Owen Cavanough was an Able Seaman on the H.M.S "Sirius" the flagship of the First Fleet, arriving in Sydney Cove under Capt. Arthur Phillip R.N. in 1788.**

Owen Cavanough was the first man to land, holding the boat for the rest of the party. This is confirmed by Herbert J. Rumsey ELGS FSAG in his book "Pioneers of Sydney Cove" in which he states; "Owen Cavanough was in the boat with Governor Phillip taking soundings when the party reached Sydney Cove on the 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1788 and held the boat for the officers to land". This has also been confirmed by Peter Christian, President of The Fellowship of First Fleeters.

Owen was born at Gosport near Plymouth Hampshire and baptised in the Anglican Church there on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1762.

Owen was on the "Sirius" when it was wrecked at Norfolk Island, 19<sup>th</sup> March 1790. He returned to Sydney in February 1791, returning again to Norfolk Island on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1791 after receiving a grant of 60 acres on the southern side of the Cascade Stream, Norfolk Island.

Margaret Dowling, a First Fleeter on the "Prince of Wales", arrived on Norfolk Island 19<sup>th</sup> March 1790. Margaret married Owen Cavanough on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 1791 and the marriage was solemnised by the Rev. Johnson. Two children were born on Norfolk Island from the union, Owen 1792 died 1794, and Grace born 28<sup>th</sup> September 1794. Grace later married Ralph Turnbull.

Margaret and Owen returned to Sydney on the "Francis" on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1796, settling in the Hawkesbury where they had five more children. Owen received a land grant at Portland Head on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1797 from Gov. Hunter, followed by 100 acres at Mulgrave Place 19<sup>th</sup> April 1803 granted by Gov. King.

It was Owen Cavanough who donated the four acres of land for the building of the Ebenezer Church. Owen and Margaret are both buried at Sackville Reach cemetery, although some years later their headstones were removed and placed at Ebenezer Church.



Image: Cavanough's Accommodation House on the left. Colo Anglican Church on right. C1920's



Above: Jane Gosper  
B.3/3/1820 - d.23/7/1896

The giving of land for the erection of schools and churches appears to run in the family, as their youngest son George Cavanough, born 5<sup>th</sup> July 1807, married Jane Gosper, daughter of Thomas Gosper jnr., and Mary Humphries. In 1857 Thomas Gosper Jnr. left in his will,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre for a school and church to be built alongside the existing cemetery at Upper Colo.

Thomas died in 1864 and his will was probated on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1865. The people of Colo contributed donations for the erection of the Anglican Church which was not completed until 1906. The official opening was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1906.

Across the road [Comleroy Road, Colo], was Cavanough's accommodation house which for many years was the social centre of the valley. Owen also held land at Wheeny Creek Colo, where he grew many crops.

It may be considered ironic that Owen sailed all the way from England to Australia, survived the wreck of the "Sirius" on Norfolk Island, made two journeys between Norfolk Island and Sydney, and then on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 1841 he drowned in the flooded Wheeny Creek Colo.

**George and Jane Gosper are my G.G. Grandparents**  
**Wanda Deacon**

### The KCHS Family History Group

Welcome members & friends to an

**AFTERNOON TEA** event to be held at the

**Tebbutt Room Deerubbin Centre**  
**Windsor**

**25 November at 2pm**

**Guest Speaker:** Duncan Macniven  
Retired Registrar General - Scottish Registry

**Cost \$5.00**

**RSVP:** Carolynne Cooper 45 760 356

Joy Shepherd 45 885 867 or email

KCHS secretary

secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

## From THE ARCHIVES

**"Kurrajong Heights**, in the early 1900s, looking up present day Warks Hill Road at a time of changing transport. The horse and cart is near the Telling property (more recently the "Opal Shop"). The next house up the hill is 'Belmore Lodge', a well-known guesthouse at the time. The car is just past the house known as 'Beewah' (much later "Le Pressoir" Restaurant). At the time of this photo, Bells Line of Road turned to the right behind "Beewah" along what is now Tomah Street." I wonder if anyone can identify the model and date of the car in the photo? **Digital Archivist Jenny Griffiths**



### *Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Presentation*

*Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2015*

To coincide with our HSIE study of the **Local Area-Then & Now**, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society was invited to Kurrajong Public School to present a talk about the history of the local area. Mr and Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Suzanne Smith spoke about the steam train that ran from Richmond station to Kurrajong and presented a slideshow, depicting local buildings, transport, schools and churches from Kurrajong, Nth Richmond and surrounding areas of Kurmond, Bilpin and Grose Vale.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and asked thoughtful questions, when asked about what they had seen.

The Society graciously presented the school with copies of 'The Pansy' rail story and 'Kurrajong Collections' publication, that will be kept in the school library for future generations to read.



Charlotte and Bailey did a wonderful job thanking our presenters and it was noted by Mrs Smith, what beautiful manners the Year 3 and 4 students had during the presentation. An informative and engaging afternoon was had by all, with many connections being made between then and now.

**Mrs Jane Sidis Year 3/4 Class Excursion Coordinator**



**Left:**

Two Treasurers,  
Pat O'Toole &  
Marguerite Wyborn  
Richmond Festival  
KCHS Stall 20/9/15  
Richmond Park

**Right:** KCHS Family  
History Group with  
Dominic Perrottet  
MP 24/8/15





## DATES for YOUR DIARY

### **KCHS ANZAC Book Launch**

*will be held at the*  
**RICHMOND RSL premises**  
*following the 11am*  
**Remembrance Day Service**  
**Richmond Park War Memorial**  
**11th November 2015**

**RSVP essential:** KCHS Secretary  
Suzanne Ph: 45 677 410 or email  
secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au



### **The KCHS Family History Group**

**Afternoon Tea**  
**Deerubbin Centre**  
**25 November at 2pm—details page 6**

### **K-CHS Excursions**

Over the years the Society has conducted many interesting tours and excursions. There is a full list on our website under Activities/Excursions. Perhaps you would like to review the list and see whether any of these tours are worth revisiting. After all, it has been 13 years since the first ones. We would also like to hear suggestions of any other locations of historical interest that you might like to visit. They do not have to be in our area and we are not asking anyone to do the organising, but of course offers are also welcome! Get in touch with any committee member with suggestions, perhaps at the Christmas Party?

David Griffiths Vice President

### **KCHS CHRISTMAS PARTY & GM**

**All members welcome**  
**4pm Saturday 5th December 2015**

Our hosts this year for the Society Christmas Gathering are Jenny & David Griffiths  
We will once again be ordering the Windsor Pig-Out fare - \$20 p.p.  
(please bring own drinks)

**RSVP essential** : contact David on 4567 8999  
webmaster@kurrajonghistory.org.au OR  
Secretary Suzanne on 45 677 410 Further details  
and address will be given at time of booking.



### **KCHS 15th Annual AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST**

**9am - 26th January 2016**

**Kurrajong Heights Bowling & Recreational Club**  
will be the VENUE for the Society's 15th Annual  
Breakfast - Bells Line of Road Kurrajong Heights  
**Presentation Speaker to be announced in**  
**January 2016 Millstone**

A traditional breakfast will be cooked by staff  
COST \$15.00 pp

Early Bird RSVP to: KCHS Secretary  
Ph: Suzanne 45 677 410 or email  
secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au  
Direct Debit Payment KCHS Bendigo Bank  
A/c 118125632 BSB 633-000  
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