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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

Two Interesting BOOK REVIEWS

Two books are being added to the Society's Library collection, held by Val Birch. One is new, the other published some time ago. Both cover items on the other side of the River, but which are of great significance in the history of the Hawkesbury in general, and connect with the experience of many people on our side of the River.

KURRAJONG – COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PO BOX 174 KURMOND NSW 2757 ABN 68930834921

Committee Members

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Deborah Hallam
Jenny Griffiths
Airdrie Martin

Marguerite Wyborn

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secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

St Matthews's Windsor, An Anglican Landmark Celebrating 200 years.

Ian Jack and Jan Barkley-Jack, Rosenberg Publishing, 2016.

This splendid publication was launched late last year at St Matthew's by former Governor, Dame Marie Bashir, who is an expert on Lachlan Macquarie and his era. And speaking of expertise, Ian Jack and Jan Barkley-Jack must be regarded as the pre-eminent historians of the Hawkesbury, and the book shows that admirably. As the current rector, Reverend Chris Jones, says in his foreword, the authors "have brought the details of buildings and structures to life with some of the stories and success and struggle to lead a church where convicts were compelled to attend and the well-off committed themselves when it suited".

This is indeed the strength of the book - the people come alive, and the physical history, beginning well before St Matthew's was in fact established, is fully documented, right up to the present day. The reason for the publication of this history in 2016 is that this marks the 200th anniversary of the commissioning of the church (and the ordering of bricks!) in 1816. There will be further celebration of key events such as the laying of the foundation stone by Macquarie in 1817 and the "founding stone" 1820, as well as the actual beginnings of services in the building. The final structure is a testament to the vision of Macquarie and others, and to the architect, Francis Greenway.

Book Review Cont. on page 5

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INSERT Nepean Belle BOOKING FORM

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



A CALL FOR INTEREST & ASSISTANCE

Kurrajong Village stand 25/11/2016 manned by President Steve Rawling & Vice President David Griffiths

On Saturday 25th November the President, Steve Rawling and Vice President, David Griffiths, embarked on a new initiative to promote the society and sell a few of our books. From 9am to noon they manned a table in Kurrajong Village.

"Despite the fact that according to some local experts, it was the quietest Saturday in their memory, we managed to speak to quite a few people and sell six of our books."

We would like to repeat the exercise again, possibly on a regular basis. We might try a Sunday morning as well. So if you would like to spend a morning in the village representing the society, please let David know."

vicepresident@kurrajonghistory.org.au

"Our thanks to Barbara Tarnawski for allowing us to camp on her front verandah." David Griffiths

President's Report

2016 was a busy and successful year for the Society, after a great start with our Australia Day Award. I don't need to revisit all the reports which have appeared in *The Millstone* about our activities, publications etc. We are in a very healthy financial position. Thanks to all who have contributed to our success, especially to the Committee.

We had the pleasure of visits from both of our parliamentary representatives. Dominic Perrottet, State member, and Minister for Finance, came to our AGM, and the newly elected Federal Member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman, came to our Christmas party and displayed a keen interest in and knowledge of the Hawkesbury and of our part of it. It is hoped that the interest shown by both of them will be sustained. We will ensure that they are well informed through *The Millstone*.

I believe that this newsletter is at the highest standard for this type of thing from a small society, and I hope that we can maintain this standard, and that we can continue to receive contributions of genuine historical interest. Such contributions are welcome at any time, from any member. If you are not confident in your ability to put a story together about something you believe would be of interest, please contact me, and I will be happy to work with you. (4567 7979, <a href="maintain:case-width:

Despite our success last year and ever since our inception, we need always to look to the future and plan our activities to meet membership needs and to pursue our goals, To this end, we will be holding a **Planning Meeting on January 15th**, at which the Committee and a small number of others will look at what we will be doing in 2017. Below is a list of some of the topics we will be addressing. If you have any comments you would like to contribute, don't hesitate to contact me or Suzanne. On the other hand, if you would be keen to give up a summer Sunday afternoon, let us know that you would like to join us on the 15th. The topics will include:

- Maintaining/increasing membership
- Generating interest in Committee positions
- Possible future publications
- Possible future excursions/visits
- Frequency and timing of general meetings
- The role of *The Millstone*
- Potential projects to make good use of our accumulated finds

A safe and peaceful 2017 to all members and their families. Steve Rawling AM

2017 COMMEMORATIONS for Your Diary

St Matthews Anglican Windsor 1817 200 Year Celebrations 8th & 11th October 2017

St David's Uniting Church Kurrajong Heights 1867 150 Year Anniversary Service 2pm 5th November 2017

WELCOME to NEW MEMBER

The Society would like to welcome new member

Lesley Abrahams (nee Hungerford)

HISTORICAL SIGNAGE IN KURRAJONG VILLAGE

This is a Society project which has been on the back burner for too long. A considerable time ago, Council agreed to fund a number of signs in the Village identifying existing or former buildings and sites of historical interest. The first of these was at the millstones, which most people have seen. This was a new design which Council recommended, meant to be easily replaced if vandalised. Unfortunately, the first version placed there proved to be easily vandalised, and had to be replaced.

The site of the millstones themselves is of course vulnerable, and is often the recipient of cigarette butts, drink cans, etc. It would be good if we all took responsibility as members to remove any rubbish we see there - this after all our symbol, our logo, and we should take pride in it.

Further signage has yet to be discussed with Council, let alone finalised, but we do have a preliminary list of what we might include:

- Site of Woodhill's Store
- Goldfinders Inn
- **Kurrajong Theatre**
- St Gregory's Church
- The site of Hart's Hall

- Robert's Butchers Shop
- Site of Lenord's Bakery
- War Memorial Hall (CWA Hall)
- Memorial Park
- Kurrajong Memorial Maternity Hospital (now Nursing Home)

This is a preliminary and indicative list and we would welcome suggestions for additional items worth a sign, and for information about any of the things currently on the list. **President Steve Rawling AM**



The Forum's KURRAJONG-a-BUZZ held on Sunday 20th November 2016, was a most successful event. The Society's photographic and digital screen display held in the CWA Hall with setup by David and Jenny Griffiths supported by Steve Rawling, Suzanne Smith, Marguerite Wyborn and Jennifer Stevens, generated interest throughout the day. A considerable number of K-CHS publications were sold totalling \$450.00, this assists the ongoing work of the Society. Display Images: David Griffiths



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HAWKESBURY

4573 1739

A "SURPRIZING" TALE from **Deborah Hallam**

In December 1789 the three convict transports of the Second Fleet departed the "Old Dart" for Sydney Town. On this most unfortunate of voyages were some of the most unfortunate of men and women and maybe some of the most fortunate.

To later become known as the "Death Fleet" the Second Fleet was little more than a Slave Armada for which the male convict transports were leased from the slave trading firm Camden, Calvert and King. Payment was for convicts LOADED after the STORES were landed.

Among the 254 male convicts embarked on the "Surprize" was 24 year old Edward Merrick, convicted of stealing food and sentenced to seven years transportation. Although embarked in mid-December, the convicts were kept chained below deck until the ships sailed on 7th January. 1790.

Accompanying the convicts were 114 soldiers of the newly formed NSW Corps few of whom were accompanied by their wives and children on the voyage. One of these more fortugentlemen was Corporal Obediah Ikin accompanied by his wife Sarah (Butts), three sons and two daughters.

Obediah was born in Shropshire in 1761 to Ann Ikin and an unknown father. In 1781 he married Sarah Butts (born 1758). Obediah had enlisted in the army in about 1784 and

ments until the newly formed NSW Corps in October 1789.

The voyage of the "Surprize" was unpleasant for all aboard as the small vessel regularly shipped great quantities of water flooding both convict and military quarters. Scurvy was rampant and the usual diseases, dysentery and typhoid fever were always present but the highest death toll was caused by starvation as the ship's master reduced rations in order to sell surplus stores on arrival in the colony.

The Captain of the Guard on the "Surprize", William Hill wrote of the nine hundred embarked male convicts in the fleet "three hundred and seventy are already dead and four hundred and fifty are landed sick and so emaciated and helpless that very few, if any of them, can be saved by care or medicine"

It is not known if Edward was one of the invalids but in 1791 he was working in his assigned position of blacksmith and in December of that year he married Mary Elizabeth Russell, a third fleet convict with whom Edward had consorted in England. As the marriage was celebrated shortly after Mary's arrival it seems likely she had engineered her own transportation.

In the meantime Obediah and family settled in Sydney where he was promoted to sergeant in 1791 and the first Australian born child was born in 1792. From 1792 to 1794 the Ikins were posted to Norfolk Island'

served in a number of different regi- On returning to Sydney Obediah received the first of many land grants being 30 acres at Lane Cove, currently the site of Lane Cove shopping centre. Ikin also owned 55 acres in Pyrmont, sold to Macarthur for payment in rum and 60 acres in Bankstown which he on-sold illegally. This is the first indication of a drinking problem. Perhaps as a result Obediah was reduced to private and then discharged in 1803.

> Edward and Mary meantime were living in Parramatta with three children. In 1799 Merrick was granted 30 acres on the Hawkesbury River in the vicinity of what is now Panthers .By 1800 he had cleared and cropped 12 acres. The birth of twins followed. The flood of 1806 was a major setback and the family struggled until in 1816 a further 60 acres were granted to Edward and adjacent blocks to his sons. The same year Edward and Mary's first (illegitimate) grandchild was born. The tide of fortune had turned.

> In 1816 Edward was appointed District Constable and Pound Keeper at North Richmond and in 1822 he was transferred to Richmond where in 1830 Edward achieved notoriety for the arrest of bushranger John Tiernan. Edward and Mary lived out their lives on the land at North Richmond surrounded by a large family of children and grandchildren.

> Edward died in February 1839 aged 76 years followed by Mary 15 months later.

The tale is continued on page 5



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> 70 Old Bells Line of Road KURRAJONG VILLAGE open 7 days p. 4573 1920

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A SURPRIZING TALE (cont. from p 4)

The by then large land holdings were left to their children and first granddaughter. They are buried at St Peters, Richmond and were survived by 7 children and 45 grandchildren. A long way from the criminal courts of England.

Life was not to be so generous to Obediah Ikin. Sarah left him to live with William Stephenson, a miller, in Windmill Street. On discharge from the army Obediah received two more land grants. Of interest to us is a grant on 160 acres at the junction of the Nepean and Grose Rivers, to become known as "Ikin's Farm".

farm is unknown but there are widely varying reports on his attitude to

report references a letter in which two very different people with a con-Ikin claimed his party had "destroyed nection to the Hawkesbury. many of them". However "A history undoubtedly were acquainted having of Aboriginal Sydney" refers to him shared the confined area of a very as living peacefully with them on his small ship and were somewhat farm. The farm was sold to Mr M neighbours in the early 1800s but it Kearns and Obediah seems to have is unlikely they were friends. Why bought and sold various houses consider these two colonials then. around the Rocks.

left nothing for his family.

the local aboriginal groups. One And so! Two very different stories of

Knowing my Hawkesbury back-In 1809 Obediah received another ground it had been fairly straightgrant being 60 acres at Penrith which forward to identify Edward and Mary he later stated was all he possessed. as direct antecedents. My husband's Obediah died on this property some- family tree. Not so easy! A series of time between 1811 and 1813. No dead ends, a later migration from a trace has been found of his death or Portuguese background were disburial. The property passed to a les- couraging. However an unexpected see and eventually became part of discovery with a great grandmother Sir John Jamison's "Regentville". gave me his 2nd Fleet ancestors Obe-How long Obediah remained on the Obediah Ikin died unrecorded and diah and Sarah! Truly a "Surprize"

Deborah Hallam

Do you know about sawmills?

We all know that one of the early industries in many parts of the Kurrajong was timbergetting and sawmilling. served the dual purpose of land clearing for agriculture and the provision of building timber in the area and bethe yond. Where were sawmills, and how many of them were there? It would make a very good project for a Society member to explore this part of our history - perhaps you know something about it already, and it might be possible for more than one person loog our record.

Vivienne Webb's history of Kurrajong pays little attention to this – there is no reference in the index, but I understand that there were several sawmills in and around the current Village site. The re-

mains of the **Buckett** Ness mill on Bells Line of Road west of Cut Rock will be familiar to most people, but where were the rest?

It is a different story in Bilpin, Meredyth Hungerford's thorough history in the book Bilpin the Apple Country contains many references and quite a lot of detail of sawmills from Cut Rock to Mount Tomah. Her history relates this industry to the development of agriculture in the area, as many of the mills were operated by families who were also involved in that industry.

their So, an overall look at the knowledge and come up with sawmilling industry over our something for the Millstone whole region would be a permanent great contribution.

Any offers?

Please contact: **President Steve Rawling** Mob: 0414 567 795 casrawling@bigpond.com



TIMBER WORKERS early C1920s at Hobby's sawmill, Bells Line of Road, in the vicinity of the present day Kurrajong Heights Bowling and Recreation Club - Image 034914 KCHS Archives - Photo curtesy Noreen Montgomery



THE ARCHIVES

In exploring the Society's *Image Archives*, I came across *Billy Hart's Foden Steam Lorry* which he used to take fruit to the railway at Richmond in the early 1900s before the train came to Kurrajong in 1926.

This was the first of its type, using a traction engine with a haulage wagon attached. The lorry was manufactured in England by Edwin Foden & Sons Co. Ltd.

KCHS Image Archivist: Jenny Griffiths www.kurrajonghistory.org.au



Two BOOK REVIEWS cont. from page 1

St Matthew's Windsor Celebrating 200 years

The book is profusely illustrated - over 220 illustrations, most in colour. It is an impeccably scholarly book, but is also eminently readable, and the illustrations help to bring it all alive. Sometimes known as "the cathedral of the Hawkesbury" St Matthew's is central to the history of the whole area, and equally so even to those of us west of the River.

The Foundation of Hawkesbury Agricultural College Documented by Charles Kerry and Co. Edited by Juliana Swatco, University of Western Sydney 2008.

Charles Kerry was one of the best known photographers in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and the photographs in this book were apparently taken between 1897 and 1917. The glass plate negatives were discovered more or less by accident by the editor, Juliana Swatco in the archives of HAC, now part of the re-named Western Sydney University.

As the book's sub-title indicates, the photographs here form a documentary history of the early years of the HAC, established in 1891, and seem to be a separate exercise from Kerry's large commercial photographic business in Sydney. His work was especially strong in images of rural Australia,

and the establishment of HAC obviously aroused his interest as an important training ground for the farmers of the future. The first diploma graduates completed their courses in 1893.

Initially, students lived at "Toxana" in Richmond, and the College's large acreage was a farm in itself. The photographs document the early buildings which were built over the period to 1917, including the original dairy factory, and many of the student activities such as clearing and fencing.

A somewhat surprising facet of the early farming activities was ostrich raising, "to provide feathers for women's hats". Other livestock activities were more orthodox, including an apiary, cattle and horses, and sheep of course. There are photographs of all of these. Together with activities on the agricultural and horticultural side.

While the students clearly had to work hard on what was a self-sustaining farm as well as a training ground, there was time for recreation and excursions, with many fascinating photographs.

I am not aware of any research indicating how many Kurrajong students attended HAC in its early days, but there were sure to be some. This could be a project a member might like to pursue.

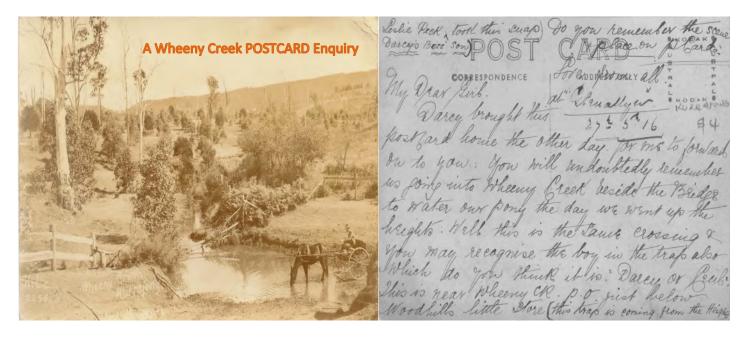
Steve Rawling AM



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"I'm contacting you as I have an original photo postcard of Wheeny Creek dated 27 May 1916, copy attached. The photo was taken by Leslie Charles Peck (1884-1962, brother of Richard Ernest).....This postcard is probably unique as it was the practice of the day to have a photographer printer put your photo onto a blank postcardmany Blue Mountains examples exist. After checking your website I think Darcy may be Darcy Allan Shepherd (who would be 18 at the time), or Darcy Wallace Hough.....Leslie was the son of Darcy's boss who was Henry Boatwright Peck. Cecil could be Cecil James Shepherd (he'd be 19) which would tie in with Darcy. It may also be Cecil Clarence Peck, son of Richard Ernest and nephew of Leslie but he'd only be 13. Or someone else. The writer is unknown but is likely to be a Shepherd if the above suppositions are correct. I can't quite decipher the property name where he/she writes "... love from all at....."? Hoping your Society can shed some light. From Christopher Woods in Tasmania (Please see below for research thoughts from Jenny Griffiths and Deborah Hallam)

Wheeny Creek Postcard Enquiry and follow-up discussion

What a most interesting email from Chris Woods. We do not have this particular *postcard* image in our collection.....but a similar one in "Kurrajong Collections" p.22, which is part of the Woodhill photographs. What is intriguing is that the horse can be seen very faintly bottom right. Everything else is the same but if you compare the two images the horse in the postcard has his head level with the leg in the water i.e. it is drinking, but in the Woodhill image the head is higher.....obviously one could conclude that the images were taken the same day, 1 or 2 frames apart. The house name is "Glenallyn". This was the home of James and Agnes Shepherd, parents of Darcy and Cecil.

View *Glenallyn* Image 080506 - KCHS Image Archive Collection www.kurrajonghistory.org.au *Jenny Griffiths*

The quality of the postcard photo is very good. I would say that a professional photographer i.e. the Woodhill's took it. It is not unreasonable to think that they had postcards made to sell in their store.....Leslie Peck could also have been a good photographer and had the postcard made.....What is also interesting from a historical point of view is that the post card confirms the presence of a Woodhills store at Wheeny Creek near the PO (Goldfinders). We do have evidence that Woodhills had a store at Wheeny Creek. This was probably the 2nd Woodhills Kurrajong store. It was set up in competition to the Kurrajong PO/General Store in the 1890s as a result of a disagreement between John Lamrock and his employee who decamped to Woodhills. It's just that Woodhills later moved to the current village that confuses people.....In 1816 the Kurrajong village centre was still basically Wheeny Creek. In addition to the two stores there was also a butcher shop and blacksmith (maybe two). I've been told by the owner that the foundations of the blacksmith shop are still on the property opposite Goldfinders.

Deborah Hallam

Ray White

KURRAJONG

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relationships with the local community and have the knowledge and expertise to talk to buyers about their property's potential. You are welcome to contact us today to have your property appraised.





2017 Dates for Your DIARY



KURRAJONG COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

16th Annual Australia Day Breakfast

Thursday 26th January 2017 9am - 11am

Venue: The Hut Bowen Mountain Park via Bellbird
Crescent, left into Lieutenant Bowen Road
BOWEN MOUNTAIN

Speaker: John Slavan on the work & history of The Crago Observatory Bowen Mountain

NOTE: Members are welcome to bring their own breakfast fare. There is an electric undercover barbecue, kitchen with fridge, cutlery, plates, table and chairs available.

The Society will supply tea and coffee

ALL WELCOME

Society TRIVIA NIGHT

with historical flavour to be held in the

KURRAJONG CWA HALL 7pm Saturday 11th February 2017

Book a table of 8, invite a friend or come alone Bring your favourite snack and liquid refreshment

LUCKY DOOR ENTRY - \$10.00

There will be excellent lucky door prizes and prizes for the best tables, but no auctions or raffles

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL Contact:

David Griffiths Ph: 4567 7993 or email vicepresident@kurrajonghistory.org.au

Lucky door prizes supplied by local businesses

Members & Friends WELCOME

Nepean Gorge History Discovery Tour

NEPEAN BELLE Paddlewheeler

Saturday 18th March 2017

KCHS members & friends are invited to join a tour further into the Nepean Gorge than the Nepean Belle usually takes guests. We would be retracing the steps of The Count O'Meagher's Picnic Tours on the MV Reliance

The Belle would cruise through the Gorge taking in Glenbrook Creek, Tyler's Quarry, Euroka Creek, Breakfast Creek, Fallick's Cave, and the site of he old jetty at Selfe Farm. The historical commentary throughout the Discovery Tour will be given by historian and author of "The History of the Blue Labyrinth" Bruce Cameron.

This special 5 hour cruise event will depart at 10am from Tench Reserve returning at approx. 3pm. *Morning Tea, beverages* and the Nepean Belle *Buffet Lunch* selection will be served during the tour. \$110.00 - Seniors Cost \$95.00

If you are interested in this event please let KCHS secretary Suzanne know: Email secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

Ph: 02 4567 7410

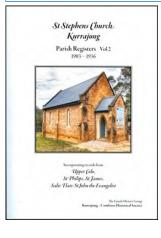
IMPORTANT

Please fill in the

BOOKING FORM INSERT and return to the Secretary PO Box 174 KURMOND 2757 by the 26th January 2017

(late bookings no later than the 1st February)





St Stephen's Church Kurrajong Parish Registers Vol 2 1903-1936

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Email: secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

K-CHS MARCH GENERAL MEETING 1pm Monday 27th March 2017

Bowen Mountain Park HUT

Guest Speaker: Ron Glenister presenting wonderful GLASS PLATE SLIDES of the Kurrajong Hills and Grose Vale region. These will presented in digital form and gifted to the Society's Image Collection by descendants of the Mayo family who will be present at the meeting.