

# THE MILLSTONE

KURRAJONG ~ COMLERoy HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Covering all of the Hawkesbury West of the River, from North Richmond to Bilpin, Grose Vale to Colo, including Wilberforce, Ebenezer, Glossodia, Tennyson, Freemans Reach and Bowen Mountain.

## Stock Routes Through The Kurrajong

It was in 1822 that Archibald Bell, a son of Lieutenant Archibald Bell, of *Belmont*, a little upstream along the Hawkesbury River from Richmond, journeyed west over the Kurrajong Ridge and Mt Tomah and subsequently marked the course of Bells Line of Road. Within the decade this route had become the great droving stock route for stock coming in from the Namoi and Macquarie River country, including the Mudgee Road region, via Brown's Mountain to the Homebush market or on to Fullagar's yards, eight miles further on.

The Macquarie River country was a good 350 miles distant in the hinterland and the journey with stock, took approximately six weeks. The country in these early years was largely unsurveyed, so it took expert men to bring their stock through intact. The drover received 7/- per head, with stock brought from further west 10/- a head. The drover in charge was allowed agistment expenses where such was required, the cost being 10/- per 100 head per night. Then the toll-bar charges of one pence per head for large stock and half pence for sheep had to be provided for as well.

The first of these toll-bars to be encountered on the Bells Line Route was at the North Richmond crossing, where a punt would ferry drovers and their herds, across the Hawkesbury River. As early as 1830 the Pack Horse Inn licenced to Thomas Parnell in 1929 was in operation. Later known as the Woolpack Inn and licenced to John Town, this would service thirsty drovers waiting to be ferried across the river with their herds.

There was another toll-bar at South Creek and a third at an Inn known as *The Fox Under the Hill*, and the last toll, was in the

vicinity of Westmead. Of interest, William Freame wrote in an article published in the Parramatta Argus in 1928 that he believed that the *Fox Under the Hill* Inn took its name from a famous landmark in Surrey, England. There is also a story told that the bushranger Jack Donohoe, when operating in the Prospect area in the 1820s often hid out at the *Fox Under the Hill* Inn. A Licence to operate the Inn, situated on the Western Road, was granted by the Parramatta Bench of Magistrates, A. Innes, John Palmer, William Lawson, R Lethbridge and G.T. Palmer and C.W. Wall for the year 1829 to John Peisley, as noted in the Sydney Gazette, 12<sup>th</sup> March 1829. A further Licence was granted in 1831, then in 1835 and 1855 to Luke Hughes for 50 pounds.

The droving mobs usually numbered 200 beasts and were entrusted to the drover in charge and assistant stockman. Their equipment usually consisted of a tent and tarpaulin to keep the bedding dry, a six quart tin container, for boiling meat and a tea billy. There was also a larger vessel for water transport.

Pilots would meet the drovers at Ben Bullen when Maddock's Line became the favoured route, superseding the Brown's Mountain Route. The pilots would see the drovers through as far as The Kurrajong, where a constant line of cattle could be seen passing through the district. Drovers with their herds from the Hunter River holdings, would also be seen streaming into Bells Line of Road from the Singleton - Comleroy Road route. The pilots were indispensable, as they knew the exact whereabouts of grass and water over the sparsely-herbaged highland portions of the stock routes. **Suzanne Smith**

This article is largely based on extracts from *BILPIN The Apple Country* by the late Meredyth Hungerford. Meredyth was an inaugural member of K-CHS.

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**The Fox Under the Hill Inn.** It is not dissimilar to the old Woolpack Inn that stood above the River at North Richmond.  
Image: Prospect Heritage Trust Collection

## President's Report

Well the AGM has come and gone. I am delighted to have the honour of continuing as the President for another year. All other officer bearers were also returned and Lesley Bobrige has joined the committee. Deb Hallam stepped down but will continue her research roles. Thanks to Frank Holland for acting as Returning Officer. The President's, Treasurer's and the Secretary's reports, as presented in the last Millstone, were all accepted by the meeting. I am pleased to say that a new record for brevity may have been set - 9 minutes!

Following the AGM, we held the September General Meeting. Our guest speaker was Trish Butler who gave an informative and at times amusing talk on *Streamwatch*.

I announced a new tour for early October which was to the Penrith Museum of Printing followed by a tour of the Australian Community Media printing facility at North Richmond. The tour was limited to 20 people. I was a little apprehensive as to how popular this tour would be, but in less than 24 hours it was 75% booked. The feedback I received afterwards was very positive. There is a full report elsewhere in the Millstone.

Our next activity is two stalls for the *Kurrajong-a-Buzz* event. The reason we are having two stalls is that this year the main event will be in Memorial Park Kurrajong, rather than just in the main street, so we decided it would be best to have a stall in the park where the action will be, but also retain our photo display in the CWA hall. This means there are plenty of opportunities for any members that would like to assist on these stalls. No special skills required, just a willingness to chat to people and tell them about our activities and the area's history. Contact me if you would like to be involved - Sun 10th November - Ph: 4567 7993

Our final event for the year will be the Christmas Party to be held at our place *Merrajong*, on Saturday 14th December at 17:00. Details on the back page. I hope we see a lot of you there.

If you have suggestions for future activities or wish to comment on Society matters, email: [president@kurrajonghistory.org.au](mailto:president@kurrajonghistory.org.au) or call David Griffiths on 4567 7993

**David Griffiths**

### Vale Ian Jack 1935-2019

It is quite some time since the sad passing of Ian Jack, and many tributes have been paid to his work as the pre-eminent historian of the Hawkesbury.

My personal memory of Ian goes back to 1961, which dates both of us, when he arrived at the University of Sydney via Scotland and London. I did not return to the University until 1979, by which time Ian was well-established as an historian, over a wide range of areas, including as the pioneer in Australia of industrial archaeology as a field of study, and as an academic leader as Head of the History Department and Dean of the Faculty of Arts. His role in the University at large was marked especially by his 40-year association with St Andrews College, as historian, archivist, mentor and

musical leader – he was himself an accomplished musician who once contemplated a career as a concert pianist. His role at St Andrews was markedly shown by the very large numbers of former students and others who attended a memorial service at the College.

Ian first published *Exploring the Hawkesbury* in 1986, and in more recent years provided leadership of the Hawkesbury Historical Society and BMACHO. Much of his prolific output was in concert with his wife, Jan Barkley-Jack, herself an historian of the Hawkesbury of longstanding. Together they contributed greatly to the current application for State Heritage listing for Singleton's Mills.

**Steve Rawling AM**

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[secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au](mailto:secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au)

## K-CHS Members visit the Penrith Museum of Printing & Australian Community Media (ACM) at North Richmond

Our print tour on Tuesday 15th October started at North Richmond from where we car pooled to Penrith to visit the Penrith Museum of Printing. This is perhaps one of the best kept secrets in Penrith. It is located in the grounds of Penrith Paceway/Showground and has been operating since 2001, but has managed to fly under the radar for most people.

The small team of presenters were all retired print industry workers, who provided a fascinating commentary with an amusing, jovial style.

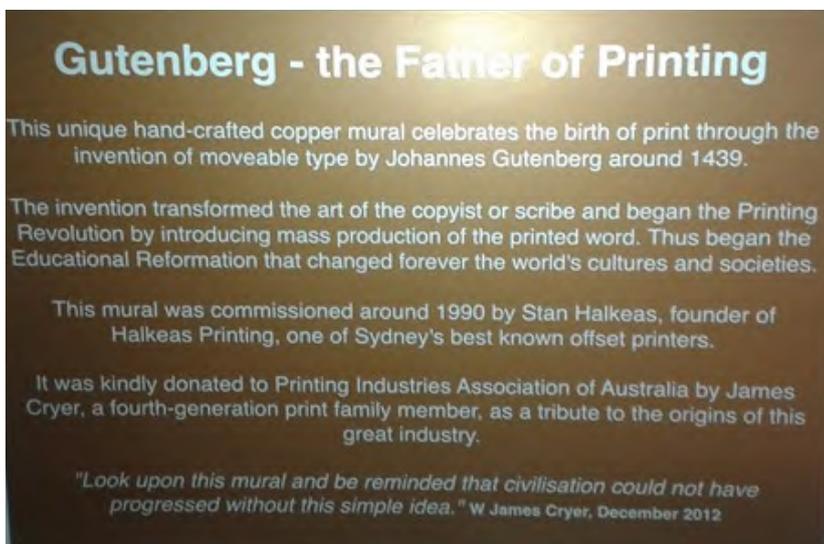
The museum has an extensive array of equipment and items relating to printing, right from the earliest techniques of letterpress through to more modern technology such as Linotype machines. Most of the machines were demonstrated working. They stopped short of showing a full size, high speed offset press, probably due to a minor space consideration, but they did have a model.

One of the revelations, to a lot of people, was the origin of the terms 'Upper Case and Lower Case' - I'll leave it to you to do a tour or look it up!

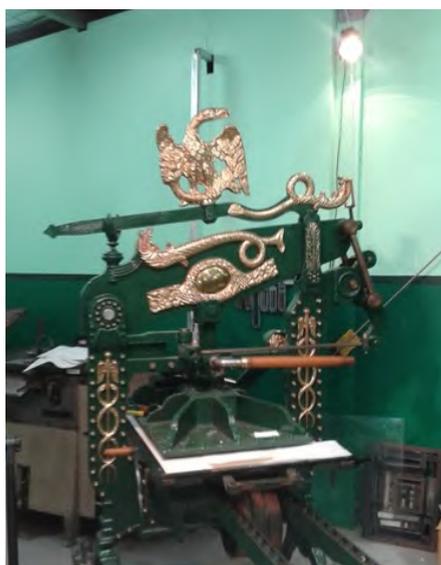
Johannes Gutenberg is credited with being the inventor of printing using movable type, around the 1450s. The Gutenberg Bible is perhaps his most famous work, but not his first. There are thought to have been between 158 and 180 copies of the Bible printed and this 'print run' took 20 or so workers about three years. Surprisingly it was rubricated, i.e. printed in black with red highlighting, which required two passes through the press.

We then ventured back to North Richmond for a tasty lunch at Australian Community Media cafeteria and then on to the tour of the printery. ACM of course was previously known as Nine Media (briefly), Fairfax Media and originally Rural Press.

**Cont. page 4**



Letterset Cabinets with drawers were used for well over 100 years to hold individual letters and numbers for Letterset Printing including with the print machine below.  
Images & Text  
Suzanne Smith  
15 Oct 2019



The ornate printing machine above was originally installed at Carcoar NSW and printed the Carcoar Chronicle 1872-1943. It was rescued from obscurity by the late John Fairfax.



A German Original Heidelberg Printer - 1914 was fitted with a motor and mechanised. It had a rather frighteningly robotic motion when in operation



1935 Intertype Machine, closely resembling the Linotype. The operator enters text onto a 90 character keyboard. Letterpress print uses a hot metal typesetting method.

**PRINT TOUR Cont.** I had hoped to time it to be there for the printing of the Hawkesbury Gazette but it happens at midday and lunch seemed more important, so we saw the Sutherland Leader and Blue Mountains Gazette rolling off the presses instead.

There are four web offset, full colour, lithographic presses in the building and they operate 24 hours a day, printing such things as the Newcastle Morning Herald every day, The Land, numerous regional papers and various other inserts and free standing catalogues, such as for The Good Guys.

The Sydney Morning Herald was printed there for a while after Fairfax closed their Chullora printing facility but it is now printed back in Chullora at the Murdoch facility. Who would have thought these two mortal enemies would print each other's papers? It allows considerable economies in distribution - one truck heading to Bathurst for example, can carry all flavours of paper.

The high speed presses are truly amazing! The 'web', which is the continuous sheet of paper, was running through the press at over 7 metres per second while being printed on both sides in four colours. Each roll of paper (about 1 tonne) lasts for about 15 minutes and the press does not slow down or stop to wait for the next roll to be joined on! It happens on the fly at 7m/s!

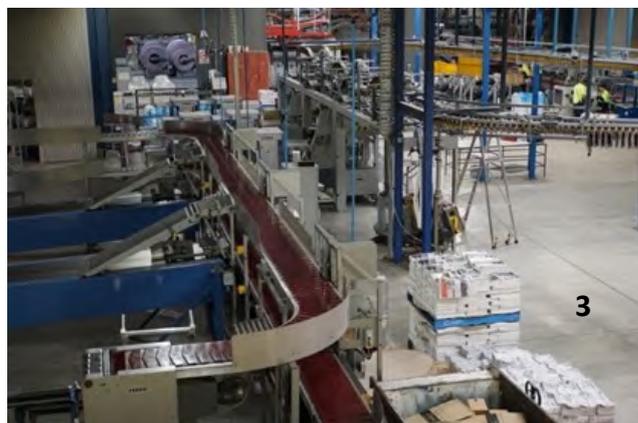
The printing industry has its own vocabulary. These presses are called 'Perfecting Presses' meaning they print both sides of the 'web' simultaneously, and there are two cold set, one hot set and one UV set presses at the facility.

We spent about two hours on the tour of ACM. All up everyone seemed to be very interested in everything we saw and had an enjoyable day.

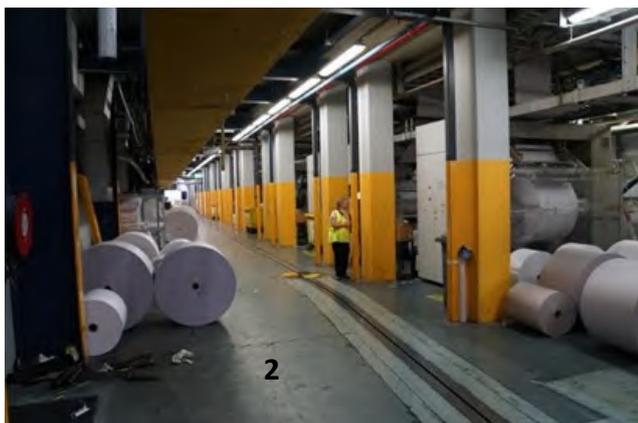
If you are technically inclined and want to spend an engrossing hour or two, I can recommend Wikipedia on the subject of printing, particularly Offset Printing. **David Griffiths**



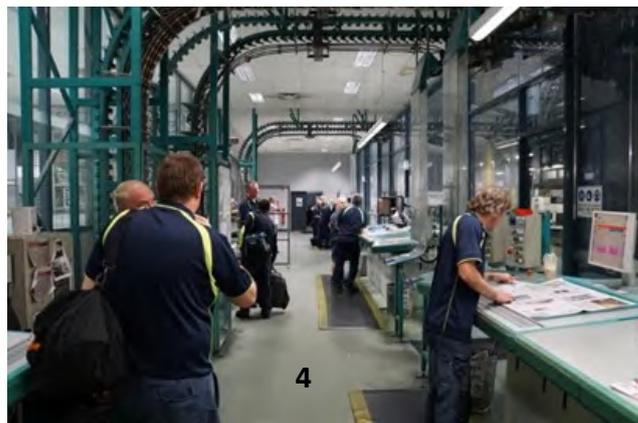
1



3



2



4

- 1. K-CHS Tour Group at ACM North Richmond
  - 2. Rolls of Paper ready to be linked to the continuous web.
  - 3. Conveyors where inserts are added
  - 4. Change of shift in the press "quiet" room
- ACM Tour Images: David Griffiths 15 Oct 2019

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### STREAMWATCH

Summary of GM talk - Pat O'Toole & Trish Butler

At our September GM we enjoyed hearing Trish Butler talk about a little known program operating in our local area, Streamwatch,

About 30 years ago Sydney Water Board initiated the program by inviting volunteers to monitor the health of local streams by testing electrical conductivity (salt content), oxygen, turbidity, temperature, PH and Ecoli. They provided training, equipment and chemicals. An exciting annual presentation, usually at Taronga Zoo, brought all groups together for an awards ceremony. Many groups were school based, giving children an opportunity to experience the natural environment.

Five years ago the Water Board passed the program on to the Australian Museum who introduced macro invertebrate study and continued to support the scheme until recently. Streamwatch is now with GSLCC (Greater Sydney Landcare Council). It has become a concern to volunteers that the main aim is to bring community together rather than to use the carefully collected scientific data.

Trish regularly tests 3 sites - Little Wheeny Creek behind McMahon Park and below the weir off Mill Road and Wheeny Creek at the ford on Comleroy Road.

Results consistently indicate healthy streams. Any sudden change indicates a problem. A Streamwatch test at North Richmond alerted volunteers and authorities to a dangerous spill which otherwise would have gone undetected.

Collecting stream bugs certainly elicited an enthusiastic response. Everyone enjoyed seeing the fanciful little critters identified by Trish with both scientific and common name, all quickly forgotten, except one named "fluffy bum". Trish also mentioned a Tasmanian researcher, John Gooderham, who uses water bugs to gauge the health of streams. Little Wheeny Creek has a healthy collection of bugs providing food for platypus and we need to ensure that it stays that way.

Trish has been doing Streamwatch for many years, but many of the older volunteers have had to step down. Our first leader, Ian McEwen has now passed away and Garth Smith and Ken Parsons have retired. New volunteers are needed to ensure our creeks continue to be a safe home for platypus.



"fluffy bum"

#### WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome new members

**Marilyn & Darrell McCarthy**

**Trish Carter**

#### Help! Honour Boards Richmond District Rural School

Frank Hurst's son William, who attended Richmond High School recalls seeing the Honour Boards for the *District Rural School* in the old Administration building. There is now a new building and the old boards are no longer there. A recent visit by Jenny Griffiths to both the Primary and High Schools has shed no light on what has become of them. If anyone knows their whereabouts, please contact Jenny: [images@kurrajonghistory.org.au](mailto:images@kurrajonghistory.org.au)



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## SCHOOL DAYS in the 1920s

Transcribed by Bill Hurst from notes hand-written in 1983 by his father Geoffrey Frank (Frank) Hurst (1911-1990)

I was born at my parents' home down the Hermitage Road in Kurrajong North on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1911. My mother was attended by Mrs Sarah Howard who was the local midwife for many years, even after I had grown up, and it was said that she had never lost a baby.

My father had an orchard there, mainly citrus though there was summer fruit too, so there was always plenty of fruit of many kinds to eat and I am still a great lover of fruit. There was bush on the property to roam about in and a nice permanent creek running through it that I used to play in: paddling, sailing little boats, catching yabbies etc.

When I was six years of age I commenced school at Kurrajong North Public School and I had to walk from 2½ to 3 miles each way each day. No buses or cars in those days to take children to school. Mr Knoblanche was the teacher there then but at that time he had an assistant lady teacher for the lower classes, so she was my first teacher. She was Miss Amy Sim and she later married a local man Arthur Roberts, a son of the local butcher, and gave up teaching. Mr Knoblanche was transferred and succeeded by Mr Will Carter.

The playground at Kurrajong North was very hilly and bushy in parts and unsuitable for playing football or anything like that and only a simple form of cricket with a soft ball could be played but there was a good tennis court there provided by the P&C Association, which was very popular, and a table tennis table in the weather shed.



1923 Kurrajong North School group - Teacher Mr Carter

When I finished 6th class I was too young to leave school. The nearest higher school or High School was at Parramatta and I had no chance of going there. In those days you couldn't go on to a High School straight from 6th class unless you had passed an Entrance to High School Exam, which I hadn't sat. There was an Intermediate Commercial High School in Parramatta that I could have attended but it was quite impossible for me to travel from Kurrajong to Parramatta.

Mr Carter kept me and others in the same position as a 7th class for another year. He kept this class going the following year (1925) doing the same, but luckily for us, in March that year Richmond Public School was made into a District Rural School with a three-year course leading to the Intermediate Certificate. A bus was arranged to take us and others in the district to Richmond. With the others in Richmond and surrounding districts we became the first 1st year class of the Richmond District Rural School. Mr A J Sauter was the headmaster.



Originally a school built by the Presbyterian Church in 1860, it became Richmond Public School in 1867, renamed Richmond District Rural School in 1926, providing education to Intermediate Certificate, before a new school opened at *Kamilaroi*

Our 1st year was spent in the Public School building which was near the Richmond School of Arts where the Masonic Temple now stands. For sports we used to play rugby league and cricket in the Richmond Park. There was a concrete cricket pitch in the park then. We used to play football against Windsor Public School. A Liverpool school, where our sports master had formerly taught, sent a team to play us, and Fort Street Boys High also sent one of their weaker teams.

There were about 45 students in 1st year at the commencement. In all subjects taken by both boys and girls we were always taught as one class and we never heard any of our teachers object to the size of the class. Early in 1926 when we were in 2nd year we moved up to *Kamilaroi*, a large old residence with an upstairs floor, along with the new 1st year. The primary classes remained where they were.



*Kamilaroi* - built for Benjamin Richards, owner of the Riverstone Meatworks in 1893. Acquired by the Department of Education in 1926, it became the Richmond District Rural School in 1927.

I spent 2nd and 3rd year at *Kamilaroi* and in November 1927 I sat for the Intermediate Certificate exam in nine subjects. When the exam results came out in the daily papers in January 1928, I found that I was the first Dux of the Richmond District Rural School, which of course some years later was upgraded to the Richmond High School. My 3rd year teacher for woodwork and technical drawing was Leslie W. Hayes. He was a very good technical teacher so much so that I attained the highest passes in his subjects. He was also the British Empire Amateur Billiards Champion. His name is mentioned in Walter Lindrum's book on billiards.

**Story submitted by Jennifer Griffiths**

 **From THE ARCHIVES**



**Two Eras:** The old and the new trains stand side by side at Richmond Station to celebrate the arrival of the first electric train on 17th August 1991. The electric train is a Comeng "S Set", in "L Set" configuration. These trains operated on the Sydney network from 1972 to 2019. The steam loco 3112 is one of the 30 Class Tank locos built in the early 1900's



People gather in the old railway yard, now McDonalds restaurant and car park, to see the first electric train arrive at Richmond Station. The Richmond Branch Line was the last to be electrified in the Sydney Metropolitan Area. Images: 190805 & 190802 and others can be viewed in the K-CHS Image collection [www.kurrajonghistory.org.au](http://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au) Images courtesy of Dorothy Phipps

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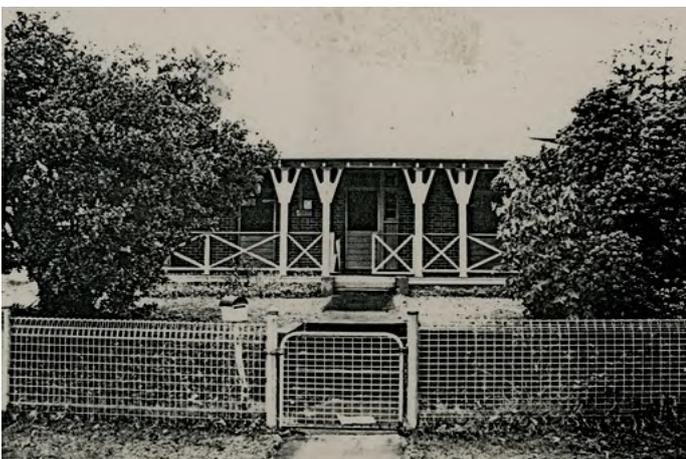
**NORTH RICHMOND POLICE STATION** by *Marguerite Wyborn*

In 1910 the North Richmond Police Station was constructed at 39 Bells Line of Road North Richmond. This was the township's first purpose built office and residence for our law-enforcers. It opened in 1910 and was de-commissioned in 1933 as it was then considered unnecessary to have a police station in North Richmond. After this the site was used intermittently as a police station during floods.

Historically, the station is largely intact, with residence and attached cell and exercise yard. It is the only one of its type in the Hawkesbury. The building is described as a Federation Queen Anne bungalow style with "potential to demonstrate past lock-up facilities for prisoners and accommodation for police and their families." After closure in 1933 it was used as a residence for police and their families until 1998. In 1993 Councillor Robert Calvert had proposed that it be re-opened, supported by Kevin Rozzoli. However this did not happen.

It has been said by a member of one of the police families who lived there, that there could have been gold and money thrown into the wells by thieves to avoid being arrested. However these wells were cemented over and so this will never be known.

In 2000 approval was given for commercial development and heritage restoration of the building. It was converted and became a restaurant for a few years under the name of "Red Rum". Today the building is leased by a local lawyer as his office.



**North Richmond Police Station 1910**  
Image: Courtesy Graham Edds & Associates



**The Police Station, residence and lockup built in 1910. A Police Station was first established in Nth Richmond in a cottage on Bells Line of Road in 1891.** Image: K-CHS LEP Collection by Paul Hulbert

## Dates for Your DIARY

### Kurrajong-A-Buzz

A Kurrajong FORUM event  
Kurrajong Village

Sunday 10th November 10am—2pm

- K-CHS will be holding photographic displays in the CWA Hall, along with a book stall in the park.
- Members willing to assist please contact: David Griffiths president @kurrajonghistory.org.au



Kurrajong-Comleroy  
Historical Society

### 19th Annual

**Australia Day Breakfast**  
Sunday 26th January 2020

All Members & Friends are welcome

Venue: *The Hut* Bowen Mountain Park  
Guest Speaker: Carol Edds NT

Further details in the  
January Millstone Newsletter



### K-CHS Christmas Gathering at *Merrajong*

14th December 2019 - 5pm

This years function will be fully catered for with roast meats, baked potatoes, salads and desserts. Please supply your own drinks & nibbles, including alcohol

RSVP Bookings essential via K-CHS Website  
www.kurrajonghistory.org.au  
Cost \$10.00 Members \$15.00 Friends

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### Medieval Hearth Tax

*“Rates were charged according to the number of fireplaces in a dwelling”*

The Society of Genealogists announce a new Search Site

Hearth taxes were levied in medieval and modern Europe, notably in France and the Low Countries, but were not levied in the British Isles until the late seventeenth century. Following the Restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660, the hearth tax was levied in England and Wales from 1662 until 1689 (it continued to be collected in Ireland until the early nineteenth century). *It was charged according to the number of fireplaces in dwellings*, and was collected twice each year at one shilling per hearth. It was also levied in Scotland in 1691 with collection lasting until 1695. The hearth tax provides a remarkably rich series of records on population, wealth distribution and poverty in a period of key political, social and economic change.

**Launch of Hearth Tax Digital** <https://gams.uni-graz.at/context:htx>. Note: At present the City of London and Middlesex, Durham, York, parts of Yorkshire and Westmorland are online and Bristol, Essex, Kent and Surrey are currently being worked on. The site could be useful for members searching their family history also visit the Australian Society of Genealogists website <https://sag.org.au/> OR <https://www.sog.org.uk>

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