

THE MILLSTONE

KURRAJONG ~ COMLERoy HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

The Kurrajong

Extracts from: *The Kurrajong - Its History & Natural History* by A Musgrave as published in The Australian Museum Magazine, 15 December 1953 - Part 1

The Kurrajong district, lying some 45 miles north-west of Sydney, is perhaps best known to most people for its citrus orchards, the fine view from the Heights, the location of the Police Boys' Club and to geologists as the site of the Kurrajong fault. But in addition to these the district offers a wide field for those who are interested in Australian history and natural history and who are prepared to walk some distance or scramble off the beaten track.

The Kurrajong range forms part of the northern extension of the Blue Mountains and is bounded on the south-west by the Grose River, which junctions with the Nepean to form the Hawkesbury River just south of Richmond. The northern boundary is the Colo River which flows into the Hawkesbury north of Windsor.

For many years the district has held a fascination for me, for as far back as 1905/1906 I spent six months there on a farm as a result of a doctor's suggestion. My school holidays often found me here and after leaving school to join the staff of the Museum in 1910, my annual leave was sometimes spent there... perhaps I may be permitted to tell something of what I have gleaned of it down the years.

My further associations with the Kurrajong I owe to my friends, the late Mr & Mrs James Stewart and family, who must have imparted much of their own deep regard for the district.

Historically, the political history of the Kurrajong is almost as old as that of the State itself, for only a little more than a year after the arrival of the First Fleet, exploring parties would have seen the steep wooded slopes of the Kurrajong Range. In 1788 early names for the northern Blue Mountains were those of Governor Phillip's, Carmarthen Hills and Lansdowne Hills for the southern range and for a hill in between, Richmond Hill.

In June 1789 Governor Phillip and his party sailed up the Hawkesbury River, naming it after Lord Hawkesbury, and in July of the same year further explored the river and its tributaries, the Colo and Macdonald Rivers, journeying by boat as far as the Grose River junction. He also visited Richmond Hill... which would appear from its position on the old maps, to be where *Belmont* on the Grose Wold Road is now situated.

Captain Watkin Tench and a party, in June 1789 had discovered the Nepean River and later in May 1791, accompanied by Lieut. Dawes, it was found that the Nepean and the Hawkesbury were one river. On this later expedition, Tench's party included Sgt. Knight of the Marines... mountainous country prevented their continuing further and lack of provisions and a fear of a rise in the Hawkesbury River forced them to retreat. They called this turning point in the expedition, Knight Hill, later identified as Scott's Trig. Station on Kurrajong Heights.

From Knight Hill, Tench's party saw in the distance, peaks they named Saddle Hill and Round Hill ...since identified as Mt Tomah, Mt Bell and Mt Hay by Mr Campbell a surveyor. (Below is a view to the west across the Devils Wilderness to Mt Tomah, Mt Charles and Haystack much as the early explorers would have seen it. The Grose Valley is on the left.) **Cont. p 3**

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KURRAJONG – COMLERoy HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PO BOX 174 KURMOND NSW 2757

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Committee

PresidentDavid Griffiths

Vice PresidentSteve Rawling AM

SecretaryMarguerite Wyborn

TreasurerPat O'Toole

Lesley Bobrige

Jenny Griffiths

Airdrie Martin

Terry Murray

Suzanne Smith

Millstone EditorSteve Rawling

PublisherSuzanne Smith

WebmasterDavid Griffiths

Digital ArchivistJenny Griffiths

Family HistoryValerie Birch

Librarian/Accessions Valerie Birch

Public OfficerDavid Griffiths

Grants OfficerSteve Rawling

Hon Auditor.....Marilyn McCarthy

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secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

President's Report

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of our long-standing member, Nell Downes. She always enjoyed receiving The Millstone and had just achieved the 100 year mark before passing in April. There is an article about Nell on page 7 of this Millstone.

Well what strange times we are in! I trust you are all keeping well and not climbing too high up the walls (yet). This report will be very brief, for the obvious reason that not much has been happening.

We had to cancel our March General Meeting and postpone the April Pansy Tour and all other planned activities are on hold until further notice.

The book that I have been working on with Richmond Players for the last 18 months was tantalizingly close to sending to the printers for a June Book Launch, but that now seems very unlikely to happen, so it too is on hold. At least we won't have any excuse for any typos or other errors as it is proofread to within an inch of its life!

The Kurrajong RFB had their book launch / 80th birthday party on 7th March. I presented them a cheque on behalf of K-CHS to support the book. The book is available via the K-CHS website.

We held a street stall in Kurrajong on Saturday 7th March and one at Richmond Good Food Market on Sat 21st. Both had a good level of interest and reasonable book sales.

With all this enforced free time, we trust you enjoy this edition of The Millstone and look forward to seeing you all in person soon.

David Griffiths

Email: president@kurrajonghistory.org.au

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome new members

Sarah & Scott TOWNEND

Rita WALKER



Order a Copy via the K-CHS website
Visit: www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

THE KURRAJONG RURAL FIRE BRIGADE was formed in 1939 which makes it the first official Brigade in what was then known as the Colo Shire area. Over the past 80 years the Brigade has seen many changes. Originally the area covered by the Brigade included Grose Vale, North Richmond, Tennyson, Comleroy, East Kurrajong, Kurmond, The Slopes, Kurrajong Heights and Bilpin. Over time these areas would evolve to create their own Brigades.

The 80th Anniversary booklet has been produced to commemorate the years of service given by members of the KRFB and to elaborate some of the significant incidents and bushfires that have endangered the area. Fierce bush fires during the 1930s, particularly those in 1936 and 1939 endangered residents and their properties and contributed to raising awareness of the need for a coordinated fire-fighting force, methods and supply of equipment, including requiring assistance and official recognition by both local and State Government.

As the Brigade evolved, so too has the equipment, training and technology. The book gives in-depth insight into the history and work of the Kurrajong Rural Fire Brigade. An informative publication for regional residents and organisations.

The Kurrajong - Its History & Natural History (Cont. from page 1)

In 1793 Captain William Paterson explored the Grose River for 10 miles... naming the river after Major Francis Grose acting Governor, also of the NSW Corps. Sir Joseph Banks had been instrumental in the appointment of Paterson to the Corps, as he was a student of botany and Sir Joseph Banks was ever ready to advance the study of science. Captain Paterson later became Lieut. Governor of the Colony and played a part in the Governor Bligh debacle in 1809. He died on the way home to England. The wild iris *Patersonia glabrata* serves to remind us of this explorer/pioneer of the Kurrajong district... the Paterson River near Newcastle was also named in his honour.

Ten years later Robert Brown the botanist and artist Ferdinand Bauer, visited the Grose River. Governor King in a letter to Sir Joseph Banks dated 9th May 1803, states; *whilst the 'Investigator' lay here, Flinders used much despatch in refitting. His scientific gentlemen were busily employed in their several pursuits. Mr Brown and Mr Bauer, visited the confluence of the Grose, Nepean and Hawkesbury and were indefatigable.* Later Robert Brown in a letter to Sir Joseph Banks dated 21 February 1805 says; *since my last letter I have, as well as my strength*

would permit, examined the banks of the Rivers Grose and Hawkesbury and added a few new species to my herbarium. The art of Ferdinand Bauer, who accompanied Matthew Flinders and Robert Brown on the *Investigator*, is discussed in W. Blunt's *The Art of Botanical Illustration*, where both receive the highest praise.

One of the earliest explorers of the Kurrajong district was George Caley, a botanist sent out by Sir Joseph Banks to collect plants and seeds, but he was also a collector of other natural history specimens. In November 1804 with four of the strongest men in the colony he made his way over the Kurrajong range to Mt Tomah, which he called Fern Tree Hill, ascended it and Mt Bell (Saddle Hill) discovered and named Mt Banks (Mt King George) on 14-15 November 1804. He thought the mountains impassable not realising that he was only about 8 miles from where he would have arrived at the Cox and Lett River country.

(To be continued in the next issue)

Document accessed by Suzanne Smith from the Mt Wilson Mt Irvine Historical Society Archives 3 February 2018.



Looking East across the Cumberland Plain from Kurrajong Heights



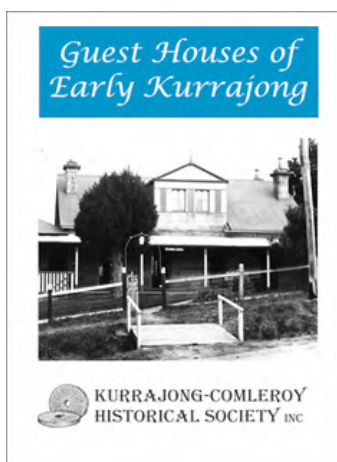
Grose Valley

Guest Houses of Early Kurrajong

A delightful glove box size booklet has now been added to the Society's publication collection. The booklet is the culmination of the research of our Family History Co-ordinator & Librarian Valerie Birch, with substantial contributions from Airdrie Martin (Committee Member). The booklet gives insight into the numerous guest houses offering holiday accommodation in the Kurrajong Comleroy region in the early years of the 1900s.

In the 1920s & 1930s, the district contained many guest houses, especially along Comleroy Road. The beautiful scenery of rolling hills with the mountain backdrop attracted many city people for a stay in the country. The Kurrajong Heights Hotel, a magnificent building with panoramic views towards the coast, was opened in 1928 but destroyed by fire in 1975. The 1950s and 60s saw a decline in local tourism as people began to travel further afield for their holidays, by road or air travel. Although today, once again, the Kurrajong, Comleroy, Grose Vale and Bilpin regions have numerous beautifully appointed B & B accommodation stays, with most set on rural or in natural bushland environments. So the Kurrajong region continues to attract many weekend and holiday makers, just as in the past.

To place your order for a copy of the *Guest Houses of Early Kurrajong* visit:
www.kurrajonghistory.org.au



Guest Houses booklet

Cost: \$5.00

(members \$4.50)

Postage \$3.00

The KURRAJONG HEIGHTS HOTEL 1928

In the Windsor & Richmond Gazette dated the 27th April 1928, can be found a reference to the Kurrajong Heights Hotel: "An application was granted at Windsor Licensing Court on Monday for an extension of time for the transfer of the license of the historic Black Horse Hotel, Richmond, to the new hotel at Kurrajong Heights, owing to the fact that the latter building is not quite completed. The final hearing of the transfer was set down for June 1, when the Chairman of the Licensing Reduction Board will attend and preside over the matter."

A newspaper article on the 29 June 1928 published a review: "The position selected for the Kurrajong Heights Hotel is unequalled. Situated among extensive orange groves, 50 miles from Sydney and 40 miles from Mt. Victoria, at an altitude of 2,000 feet, with an extraordinary panoramic view of the plains and Blue Mountains, no more attractive site for a residential and tourist hotel could be found. The locality is already a resort for many hundreds of tourists and motorists ... Now that the new hotel has been well and truly established they will find a 'home away from home,' ...assured of kindly treatment by the two genial, souls in charge, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Day.

With appetites sharpened by the drive to the Heights, the party thoroughly enjoyed the dainty afternoon tea provided, and subsequently made an inspection of the premises.

"This is magnificent" said Colonel Bruxner when he stepped onto the balcony of the hotel. Mr. J. Garlick, one of the City Commissioners who accompanied the Minister was just as enthusiastic. The party then paid a visit to the golf course, passing, en-route the tennis court and bowling green. The golf course was examined by Mr. Victor James, formerly of the Australian Golf Club ...noting that provision had been made for a sporting nine-hole course.'

'A visit was also paid to the underground reservoir, where 25,000 gallons of water is stored for the hotel use. The reservoir is supplied from a dam, about a mile away, which holds 100,000 gallons. It is situated in one of the beautiful valleys of the Grose River, adjoining the hotel, and is supplied by mountain streams with a permanent flow. During the inspection it was pointed out to the visitors that Kurrajong was the only possible and most beautiful spot that could be reached from the city either by train or car, within two hours. It will, therefore, be quite convenient for guests of the Kurrajong Heights Hotel to lunch, play golf or tennis, dine, dance and return to the city in the one day, or be in the city for business on the following morning at the usual hour."

The Cumberland Argus & Fruit Growers Advocate, Thursday 18th August 1932, further extolls the hospitality of a visit to the Kurrajong Heights Hotel for recreational purpose, luxury and comfort, acknowledging the proprietor F C. Peck.



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KURRAJONG HEIGHTS HOTEL

The rush and bustle of business life are gone and forgotten as the city man penetrates into the peaceful country-like surroundings of the hotel.

The Kurrajong Heights Hotel is delightfully situated on the eastern slopes of the Blue Mountains. Located 50 miles from Sydney brings it within two hours of the city.

There is a natural air of hospitality about Kurrajong Heights Hotel, an atmosphere of home-like comfort that will delight the holiday maker for the duration of his visit. It contains all the luxury of a modern city hotel, yet reposes in an atmosphere of simplicity and solitude, amongst country-like surroundings. For beauty of outlook, for restful quiet, for recreation facilities, it is outstanding among mountain resorts.

The fresh, bracing air, the miles of picturesque orange groves, the magnificent panoramic views, with the Hawkesbury winding like a silver ribbon over the plain below, all have their special appeal. The guest at the Kurrajong Heights Hotel can find within the 100-acre hotel grounds recreation to satisfy every taste.

Within the hotel will be found all the comforts of a modern hotel.

Mr. F. C. Peck is the popular proprietor, and his advertisement will be found on page 4 in this issue.

Remembering Empire Day



May 24th was an important Day in Australia for five decades. It commemorated Queen Victoria's birthday, and celebrated the Empire over which she reigned. But to generations of children, it was Cracker Night. A great occasion in the era when you could buy fireworks at your local shop and let them off at home.

A chance find by State Archives staff while searching Premier's Department documents, revealed a bundle of records containing Empire Day programs for several years between 1905-1915. Along with the colour programs, the bundle contained correspondence relating to Empire Day 1906. Surprisingly, this raised the question for State Archives staff: **What was Empire Day? I think many of us in the Society remember it well.**

A quick search of a reference publication *The Oxford Companion to Australian History*, informed the staff, that Empire Day was held on 24 May and honoured the British Empire. From 1905, a range of patriotic activities across Australia were performed on this day. With a focus on school-children, who were given a half-holiday at the conclusion of celebratory activities, often involving the wearing of costumes, pageants and banquets. Then the fireworks in the evening.

The records provide a wealth of information on the importance once attached to celebrating Empire Day. Details of the activities of the first celebration in 1905, as well as a summary of what the day should signify for future years, was documented by Premier Joseph Carruthers, including information on the origin and reason for the chosen celebration date, the 24th May, being Queen Victoria's birthday. Further documents with suggestions for the 1906 event from *The British Empire League in Australia*, Orders of Proceedings for a ceremony at the Royal Exchange (GPO) Martin Place Sydney etc.

One box included Empire Day programs, 1905-1917. Empire Day activities always included public addresses by officials, military parades, bands and church services. The day was celebrated with a focus on state schools and the flying of flags.

Empire Day 24 May 1909, included a grand display, with school children from metropolitan and suburban schools forming a field-sized British flag at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The event was attended by about 25,000 people. Unfortunately the rather excellent image is too large to include here.

Police Special Bundles 1846-1963, labeled Empire Day, inform us that Empire Day was proposed at the conference of Prime Minister and State Premiers, Hobart February 1905 in a submission by J H Carruthers, Premier of NSW. It had been promoted by the council of *The British Empire League in Australia*, with the idea that people celebrate and unite in a patriotic display of common loyalty to the Crown and Empire. Along with crowd management duties, the Police Band would also participate in celebration events.

The records reveal that Empire Day became Commonwealth Day between 1958-1959, with arrangements for the observance of the day in Martin Place changing little in the ten years between 1956 & 1965. The event usually involved a March, demonstrations and speeches, with seating for around 200 persons. As in the past, National and patriotic airs were played by bands in the Public Parks and Squares throughout the state, with local schools participating in the celebrations, involving demonstrations and pageants, often followed by fireworks in the evening.

On a further search for 'Commonwealth Day', the archives revealed interesting records under Department of Education files 1876-2005, titled, Commonwealth Day activities. The name was changed to (British) Commonwealth Day in 1958 following the de-colonisation of the British Empire after the London Declaration in 1949. The 24th May date was changed to the second Monday in June, the official date of the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II, in 1966. The file included a message from Queen Elizabeth II on Commonwealth Day 1969, directed at young Australians, dated 13 June 1969.

The Millstone editorial team would welcome reminiscences of private and public celebrations of Empire Day, including photographs, for inclusion in future editions and on the Society's website.

Suzanne Smith



Kurrajong North Public School Empire Day celebrations held at *Spring Grove*, Mr William Dunston's property Kurrajong North. The *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* 26th May 1906 has a detailed description of an Empire Day event held in the Hawkesbury on the 24th May 1906. K-CHS Image Archives: 081439

Richmond Park 1913 - Adults and children gather to celebrate Empire Day. The crowd are facing towards the park Grandstand. Richmond railway station is in the top centre of the image. K-CHS Image Archives: 096805

The Poet and the Bushranger

by Steve Rawling

It is well known that Australia's first native born poet and playwright, Charles Harpur, was born in the Hawkesbury, at Windsor, and lived his early life in the area. It is less well known that a major theme in his writings, amounting almost to an obsession, began with an incident in the Kurrajong district, which he knew well as a boy.

He had been born in 1813, the son of a teacher, who was an ex-convict made good, having been convicted of highway robbery. Charles showed early promise as a writer, and read widely, as his father moved in educated circles in early Hawkesbury society.

In 1829, a man named Clementson was held up and killed by Jack Donohoe and his gang, while travelling between the Hunter Valley and Windsor. We cannot know exactly where this took place, but Comleroy Road was the southern end of the main road north and it is likely that it was at least on the fringes of the Kurrajong district. Harpur visited the scene as a young man and published a poem in 1833 in *The Currency Lad* called 'The Grave of Clements' – he simplified the name, presumably to fit the meter of the poem.

He was profoundly affected by the experience, as his biographer J. Normington Rawling (no relation) says, "in two ways, the deep sympathy for the victim begotten in the 'Grave of Clements', a poem he revised on a number of occasions, and his detestation of the murderers, struggled within him, with his admiration felt by Currency Lads, romantically inclined and understandably hostile to authority and police". The two revisions were published in 1846 and 1857.

But the theme of the bushranger occupied Harpur in other ways. Apart from a substantial output of poetry, he saw himself as the pioneering playwright of the colonies, bent on establishing the foundation stones of Australian literature. He worked throughout his life to produce, and try to have staged, a play originally called in 1835 'The Tragedy of Donohoe' and published in full as 'The Bushrangers' in 1853. He continued to

work on this, which he considered to be his major work, until the year before he died, with a new title – 'Stalwart the Bushranger'. The change in title was significant, as it emphasises what Harpur had become convinced was the heroic nature of the outlaw.

Harpur was not the first writer to tackle the subject of the colonial outlaw. My first researches more than 50 years ago into the topic of the bushranger in Australian literature had revealed that there were attempts, notably in Tasmania, to feature the exploits/crimes of early outlaws such as Matthew Brady and Martin Cash. But again, Harpur was the first native born writer to tackle the topic. And from the age of 21 to the end of his life, he was still obsessed by it. He wrote, in the final manuscript of his play, that "the foregoing piece, when first placed – many years ago – before the Australian public, was not very favourably criticised. But I happened to know, that it was thus coldly pronounced upon, mainly because of a certain soreness on the subject of Convict Bushranging, which then existed in some rich and influential sections of Colonial society". It would be many years before the bushranger figure became a celebrated dramatic figure, in Douglas Stewart's 'Ned Kelly'.

Meanwhile, in popular 'folk' culture, the figure of Donohoe had become pre-eminent. There are many combinations of different words and tunes of one of the best known songs of Australian origin around the English speaking world – and probably beyond. Many versions of the song incorporate fictional elements and have central characters called Jack Doolan, Duggan, Dowling, Donovan, Dolan, Dowlan, Dollard, Dubbin and Davis, or simply The Wild Colonial Boy.

In a version of the song on my CD, *Memories of Kurrajong*, I could not resist inserting a verse with a local reference:

*He terrorised old Windsor Town, did Bold Jack Donahoe
He led the police a merry chase, with Webber and Walmsley
too*

*They murdered Mr. Clements way out on Comleroy,
And that led to his downfall, the wild colonial boy.*



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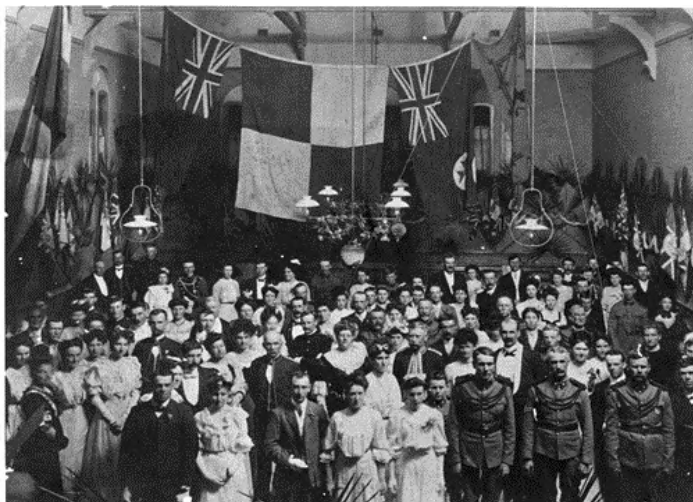


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From THE ARCHIVES

Richmond School of Arts 30 June 1911

200 people attended the Annual Military Ball, held by 'D' Company Regiment (3rd A.I.R.). According to the Windsor & Richmond Gazette dated 8th July 1911, the auditorium was decorated with Kurrajong palms, along with a large number of flags procured from the Public Works Dept. The hosts were Lieut. Bowman-Douglas OC and Lieut. W Allison 'D' Company (3rd A.I.R.). Archive Image: 034902



In Memory of a Kurrajong Girl

Nell Downes (nee Douglass) 8 April 1920 – 16 April 2020



Nell Douglass was born in 1920 at Kurrajong NSW, on a farm granted to her ancestor Joseph Douglass in 1825. Nell was the daughter of D'arcy Douglass and Jeanette (nee Bailey), and wife of the late Thomas Downes. The youngest of five children, her mother died when she was just one year old, and so she was brought up in her early years by her grandparents and maiden aunt on the farm next door. She attended Kurrajong North Public school, then Richmond Intermediate High

school, and finally boarded with relatives to attend Parramatta High School. After school she went into service with a family on Sydney's north shore. When the country cousins came to stay they took a liking to Nell, and persuaded her to go back with them to Coonabarabran, where she was assistant cook on a large station. There she met the stockman Tom Downes, and they married in 1941, shortly before Tom went into the army.

Nell moved to Dubbo when Tom was based at the army camp there before going overseas. They liked the town and decided to settle there permanently after the war. Their two children, Patricia and John, were born at Dubbo and Nell as an active mother, spared nothing to achieve the best for her children. Her daughter Patricia is a member of K-CHS and has contributed greatly to the research and history of the Douglass family (first settlers at Kurrajong Heights). Patricia herself enjoyed an interesting life, with music lessons, Brownies and Guides, choir and church activities. Nell supported all of these activities with the usual fund-raising, tuck shop, cake stalls and of course her knitting at which she was expert and prolific.

Nell came from a family of talented tennis players, but it was lawn bowls where she achieved sporting success. A foundation member of the West Dubbo Women's Bowling Club, she won numerous trophies, becoming an umpire. Nell also served on committees, including the Mid-West, as treasurer

and secretary, and when she transferred to the Macquarie Bowling Club she continued to serve there. In 2000 she was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for her services to bowls.

Nell returned to work after almost 20 years raising her family and found a rewarding niche at the Dubbo Ambulance Station, doing the books and wages for ambulance officers all over western NSW, retiring only when the ambulance service amalgamated with NSW Health.

In retirement she continued to play bowls, her garden rivalled Canberra Floriade in spring, and she was an active member of the pensioners' association. With husband Tom she ventured to England, China and America, and travelled by coach all over Australia many times. Nell enjoyed robust health until 2003 when at 83 she suffered a small stroke, after which son John became a resident of Westhaven and Nell moved into a unit at Orana Gardens where she established another beautiful garden. With the passing of Tom, Legacy granted Nell the status of War Widow, and she enjoyed the regular visits of the wonderful DVA nurses. Sadly, falls and further strokes caught up with her and in 2014 she moved into the adjacent Orana Gardens Lodge.

Nell loved Dubbo and was proud of the town's growth, but she will also remain in the memories of many as the girl from *The Kurrajong*. Nell enjoyed receiving her copy of *The Millstone* until her passing on the 16th April 2020, aged 100.



The above text is based on a Eulogy sent by Nell's daughter, K-CHS Member Patricia Downes (Trish).

Above image: Nell Douglass with her Aunt Florence (Nina) Douglass at *Frankfield* the family home of William Douglass, Hermitage Rd Kurrajong North in 1928

Adjacent image: Nell (centre) with Noel Pitt and Alice Telling. The caption on the back reads 'Just a snap to wish Alice & All a very Happy Christmas & Bright New Year love Gertie Pitt' (nee Douglass). *Frankfield* 1925

Dates for Your DIARY

Attention K-CHS Members & Friends

The events listed below have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic distancing requirements and the limits placed on group numbers attending events.

- ◆ Pansy Line Tour
- ◆ May 25th GM at The Hangar Nth Richmond
- ◆ June 16th Warragamba DAM /Wollondilly Heritage Excursion
- ◆ July 27th Mid-Winter Dinner at the Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club

An email notice will be sent to members by President David Griffiths once the Government gives the approval for normal community activities to resume.

Yester-year sayings

SO, DO YOU REMEMBER THESE ONES?

- 1: Because I said so.
- 2: Wait and see.
- 3: Ask your father.
- 4: No pudding unless you finish your dinner.
- 5: If someone asked you to jump off a cliff would you?
- 6: I've told you a thousand times.
- 7: Say pardon, not 'what'.



- 8: What did your last slave die of?
- 9: You will have someone's eye out with that.
- 10: It'll all end in tears.
- 11: I want, never gets.
- 12: Close the door - you weren't born in a barn.
- 13: Don't sit too close to the telly - you will get square eyes.
- 14: There is no such words as 'can't'.
- 15: Who is 'she'? The cat's mother?
- 16: Carrots make you see in the dark.
- 17: Take your coat off or you won't feel the benefit when you go outside.
- 18: Don't make that face. If the wind changes you'll stay like it.
- 19: Do as I say, not as I do.
- 20: Back in my day.



GOSPERS MOUNTAIN FIRE viewed from Mt Tomah looking North across Mt Irvine & Mt Tootie. Situated in the Wollemi Wilderness, the largest NP in NSW, bounded by Bells Line of Road settlements to the South, in the Blue Mts and farming land adjoining the Hunter River to the North. Gaspers Mt. is a volcanic cap, originally known as Mt Uraterer, renamed Gaspers Mountain in 1970 (Geographical Names Board). Surrounded by the wild rivers region, tributaries of the Colo River, the Wolgan, Capertee, Wollongambe and the Wollemi have created spectacular gorges in the region. Originally inhabited by Aboriginal peoples, the deep gorges formed natural boundaries. Five groups came together in the region, the Wiradjuri, Dharuk, Darkinjung, Wonoarua and Kamilaroi. By 1825 pastoralists holding 'tickets of occupation' had established horse and cattle breeding out-stations. In June 1887 Robert Gosper was granted 80 acres on the mountain, thus beginning the life-long association of the Gosper family in the region. In 1907 Clive Pickup of Windsor received 100 acres conditional purchase, with the Certificate of Title issued in September 1937. Wilfred Gosper of Richmond received 66 acres on the mountain in 1926. The nearest sealed road to Gaspers Mt is the Putty Road 30K away. (The above information was gathered from numerous sources including the Colong Foundation for Wilderness).

Suzanne Smith

Kurrajong RFB 80th Anniversary

7 March 2020 held at the Fire Shed Kurrajong. K-CHS President David Griffiths presented a gift cheque on behalf of the Society towards the print and publication costs of the 80th Anniversary booklet. A celebratory dinner was held following the official launch, speeches and cutting of the cake.



The Village Kitchen Kurrajong Dine in Gallery - Fully Licensed

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**1/1147 Grose Vale Road,
KURRAJONG NSW 2758
Ph:02 4573 1000 Mob:0410 648503**