

THE MILLSTONE

KURRAJONG ~ COMLERoy HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Kurrajong Heights Women's Bowling Club 1966 - 2007

In 1929, Henry Edward "Ted" Peck formed the Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club with games played on the bowling green at his Kurrajong Heights Hotel. Over the years, there were disagreements with the hotel management and in 1964 George Chapman, the Postmaster at Kurrajong Heights, called a public meeting to form the Kurrajong Heights Bowling and Recreation Club.

Three sites for the bowling green were nominated: in Kurrajong Village on the site of the railway station, on land near Cut Rock and at Powell Park. Consultant architects were called in. They recommended Cut Rock because it had an abundant water supply, necessary for maintaining the green, and had reasonably level ground. Four and a half acres were subsequently purchased from Mr Spencer Scott at Cut Rock.

Over the next eighteen months many people took out debentures to help to finance the project. Negotiations with the local council and the Department of Main Roads took place, while a band of enthusiastic volunteers began preparing the ground for the bowling green. Unfortunately, admirable as this work was, the lack of professional knowledge led to poor drainage which plagued the green for years to come.

On the 6th February 1966 a meeting was held at "Craig O Lea", Bilpin, the home of Mr and Mrs Lou Mincham, to incorporate the club, which added Limited to its name. Plans were also made to erect the first stage of a Club House.

In April 1966 it was resolved to invite women members to a meeting with a view to forming an auxiliary club and in May the first meeting of the Kurrajong Heights Women's Bowling Club was held at the home of Mr and Mrs George Davidson in Kurrajong Heights.

The following ladies were elected as office bearers in 1966:

Mrs D Binnie	President
Mrs A Scott	Vice President
Mrs R Moore	Treasurer
Mrs M Taylor	Secretary
Mrs Irving	Publicity Officer

The Women's Club began enthusiastically with a membership fee set at \$8.40 and the Men's Club was asked if Tuesday would be suitable for the Ladies Bowling Day. Fund raising also began with a luncheon party at "Craig O Lea" which was very successful with 60 people attending. There was also a successful fashion parade of bowling attire by "Bentley's of Burwood". Harry Bentley offer to give the ladies bowling instruction and points on etiquette. This was held at "Craig O Lea" and as the ground wasn't suitable, bowling practice was held in the hallway of the house. One large floor vase was smashed as a result!

Preparation of the green continued, as did the ladies enthusiasm with monthly meetings and fund raising. In February 1967 the Men's Club organised a fete at "Craig O Lea", which was a great financial success.

Bowling Green & Club House
Ladies Day c1970s



By May the Club House had been built and all the regular meetings were transferred to the site. In June a green keeper was employed.

At the first meeting of the Women's Club held in the new Club House, the ladies accepted a request from the men to supply afternoon tea at the weekends. The Women's Club continued to do this for the next 21 years. The women were responsible for setting up the kitchen with a hot water urn and crockery.

Coaching was now also possible on the green. On relinquishing his years volunteer coaching, Mr Bentley was presented with a Parker pen.

THIS ISSUE

Page 2	President's Report
Page 3	Kurrajong Hts. Bowling & Recreation Club
Page 4/5	1st Land Grants Grose Vale & Grose Wold
Page 6	Richmond Hill, North Richmond & Yobarnie
Page 7	From the Archives
Page 8	Dates for Your Diary

K-CHS General Meeting 12-2pm 24th May 2021

(Continued page 3)

President's Report

We held our March General Meeting on the 8th March and despite very nasty weather there were 32 people in attendance. Michelle Nichols (HCC Archivist), gave an interesting talk on the many resources available for researching Hawkesbury history.

The mega flood managed to cause yet another postponement of our Pansy Line Tour which was to be on March 20th. That day was super wet and ended in the North Richmond bridge being closed that evening. I am very relieved to say that the tour did eventually go ahead on April 10th. We were again lucky with nice weather for the day and Hawkesbury Council helped us by clearing some of the debris so we could access the rail bridge over the river.

Because of the late change of date of the Pansy Tour, quite a few people who had booked could not make it, so we have decided to conduct another mini tour on Saturday 15th May. This tour is open to anyone who would like to come, not just those who missed the earlier tour. Please book immediately if you are interested and of course, spread the word! (Booking details page 8)

Our next GM is a daytime one, being held at noon, Monday, May 24th at Panthers North Richmond. You can purchase your lunch at the bistro and bring it into the meeting. The topic should be very interesting: Roads, Rails & Bridges - Nepean River Crossings.

Our Mid-Winter Dinner is scheduled for Monday 26th July at Kurrajong Heights Bowling & Recreation Club. We were so pleased with our Christmas event there, we decided to use the same venue and chef Neil again. We have a guest speaker from the RAAF to talk about the history of Richmond Base and their centenary year.

It is great to see most activities returning to normal and again give thanks that we are a relatively remote island!

See you all soon,

David Griffiths

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The Pansy Rail Line Tour group 10th April 2021. These tours have been most successful. The April event attended by both members and friends, visited many sites of the old Kurrajong rail route, including accessing the North Richmond bridge crossing, and line of sight of the old rail-line through North Richmond. A short walk along the formation between Kemsleys and the Redbank Creek bridge, including to Kemsleys Halt, forms part of this most interesting tour. Despite so much of the original line now on private property, there remains a few accessible remnants, including the Kurrajong Station site - with a special access visit, part of the tour event. Morning Tea at Hannah Park and a light lunch in Kurrajong Village are included in the tour cost. Tour guides David & Jenny Griffiths have now facilitated 6 of these well organised tours, including the booking of two Bilpin buses to easily transport attendees along the excursion route. We thank them for sharing their knowledge.

Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club (cont. from page 1)

Mrs Bentley, who was Patron of the Club for nine years, presented the Club with a "Queen of the Green" badge, which was played for over the years, in a singles game of 21 up. It was also at this time that four ladies, Dot Binnie, Enid Mincham, Muriel Hays and Joan Kearney, accepted an invitation to play at Coonabarabran in the Open Fours Championship. The girls were soundly beaten but they enjoyed the experience very much.

Over the next few years continuing problems with the drainage of the green resulted in interruptions to practice games and competitions. However the ladies continued undaunted and they played host to a number of Clubs who travelled to Kurrajong Heights. Friendship and hospitality made up for any inconvenience caused by the green. Catering for social events such as "curry nights" and barbecues contributed to the funds. The Women's Bowling Club also supported three local charities – "New Haven Home" at Freemans Reach which supported disabled people, Kurrajong Hospital which in 1982 became the nursing home and "Rainbow Lodge" at Kurrajong which was a home for handicapped children and burnt down in 1971.

By 1970 expenses incurred by maintenance of the green were draining the funds of the Main Club but once again funds were raised and the club continued. In March 1972 the first "Apples Triples Day" was held. Apples were the main feature of the day – apples for trophies, apples for sale as well as apple pies and cream, apple cakes and slices for sweets after a sandwich lunch. This became an annual event.

In April 1975 a fire destroyed the Kurrajong Heights Hotel. This gave the Club new members and also a brisk bar trade, until the Hotel was reopened in January 1976. In 1977 the long awaited building extensions were completed and the new club house was opened.

The ladies now had a larger kitchen from which to provide meals. From their funds they bought a new refrigerator, crockery and four banquet tables.

As a member of the New South Wales Bowling Association, the ladies had to abide by the Association's rules which, of course, covered their uniform. In 1981 changes were made which raised the dress length from 14 inches to 17 inches from the ground and, most daringly, the wearing of a "slack suit" was allowed, but not for Pennants or State Tournaments.

During the 1980s the membership was aging but continued on. The Women's Club finances continued to be helped by the catering efforts of the ladies and social events. It was during this time that the green was replaced with a synthetic surface, which, after some teething difficulties, proved more suitable and reliable than the grass. Other Clubs visited Kurrajong Heights and enjoyable matches were held, which, besides bowls, also featured the catering skills of the ladies.

However through the 1990s, membership numbers continued to decline as members died, people left the district and more women were in the workforce and so had no time to play bowls. By 2007 the Women's Club had only 7 members. The Men's Club was in similar difficulties. In mid 2007 it was determined that the club would continue as the Kurrajong Heights Recreation Club. Forty years of friendship, competition and hard work was at an end.

As a post script, the club house and green have survived and a new group of locals now operate a social club and have people bowling on the green once again.

The full history written by June Blackmore can be viewed on the Society's website: <https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>
Document ref: 210006.



Alice "Doll" Binnie (nee Lord), the 1st President of the Ladies Bowls Club, with son David at a function in the 1960's. On the right side of the photograph is "Doll's" niece, Thelma Groch who donated this image to the History Society. Image: 041951



Ladies of the Kurrajong Heights Women's Bowling Club meet for a Friendship Day lunch in October 2007. The Club had been formed in 1966, but due to a declining membership, its last meeting was held in 2007.
K-CHS Image Collection 210006

The Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club now has an active social aspect to the Club, with social bowls played regularly on Tuesday mornings from 10am - 12pm (morning tea available) and again in the late afternoon (4pm start in daylight savings time). A community meal is held each Thursday evening (pre-bookings required). The Club House is also home to the Bilpin Shed Group who meet every Thursday from 3pm - 5pm, and who have recently commenced a Community Garden. For further enquiries please contact Matilda Julian on 45671240 or khbarc@gmail.com

THE FIRST LAND GRANTS IN GROSE VALE & GROSE WOLD by Deborah Hallam

When discussing our little piece of paradise there is much to be said about the first land grants and settlers in the area around the Mills and Little Wheeny Creek near the current village. A chance conversation with a resident looking for ancestors around Grose Wold sent me on a search and I was somewhat surprised by what I discovered.

On 14th December 1809, Colonel Patterson granted Henry Lamb 80 acres on what is now Cabbage Tree Road, to be known as *Lamb's Farm*. Other grants in the area by Patterson were made to James, Joseph and Benjamin Singleton, Daniel Phillips, William Blady, George Lodar (*Lodar's Farm*), Joseph Hobson and Jane Buckham.

It is unclear how many of these grants were re-issued by Governor Macquarie however when J Burr and G Balliset produced a map in 1814 the occupants listed were Daniel Phillips, William Blady, Joseph Dransfield, west of Cabbage Tree Road. East of Cabbage Tree Road and encompassing the present Grose Wold Road were Joseph Singleton, George Lodar and Henry Lamb. Towards the river were Jane Buckman and her husband Joseph Hobson and Henry McLeod.

Grants to the North near Kurrajong, were John Westcraft, James Connelly and James Neale, in the area of what is now Patterson Lane. Interestingly these grants were quite discrete from the Kurrajong grants of the same time and separated from North Richmond. With the exception of the Singletons, these are not names we connect with Kurrajong and surrounds. So who were these people and what became of them.

Henry Lamb had arrived in NSW as a member of the NSW Corps aboard the 3rd Fleet ship "*Albermarle*" at age 33. Unfortunately Henry's life in the new colony did not prove to be easy. His first land grant, 1798, was at Rickaby's Creek. Finding himself regularly inundated by flood waters Henry decided to lease the land and seek a new grant. Having secured a grant at Portland Head in 1803 his luck did not improve when the property was burnt out in 1805. Initial reports were that the property was attacked by a previously friendly group of natives. "*A number of fire-brands were showered about the house and a group of sheds*". The accuracy of this report is questionable as on July 7 a 13 year old aboriginal girl who had been brought up by the Lamb's was caught setting fire to the house of Thomas Chaseling. It was discovered she had also set fire to the Lamb's farm as well as the Yeowler's, with whom the Lamb's sort shelter following the fire.

In 1809, having sold Rickaby's Creek Henry was granted 80 acres at Richmond Hill to be known as *Lamb's Farm*. Although the grant was verified by Macquarie, Henry took up employment with Rev. Cartwright and continued to farm at Portland Head where he had rebuilt his home, this time in stone. Although Henry retained ownership of *Lamb's Farm* there is no indication of any use at this stage.

The Singleton family on the other hand had quite a charmed arrival. William Singleton was transported to Australia on the "*Pitt*" in 1792. His wife Hannah and two younger sons, Benjamin and Joseph accompanied him as free settlers. Third son, James arrived in 1808. The three brothers were granted land by Patterson in 1809 however it appears that only Joseph took

up the land. By 1817 James and Benjamin were operating mills at North Kurrajong. Joseph was still farming his land in 1823 when he was assigned a "convict mechanic". In 1824 Joseph was listed as a miller of Richmond.

Loder's grant was originally listed by Paterson to John Lodar in 1809. This grant was re-issued by Macquarie to George Lodar (*Lodar's Farm*). Although a little unclear it would appear that the grant was to George Loder who arrived as private on the "*Admiral Barrington*" (3rd Fleet), having enlisted in India. On arrival George was sent to Norfolk Island, returning in 1893 as Corporal Loder in charge of Windsor gaol and pound and leasing 130 acres in Cattai from Arndell. In 1809 Loder was granted the 100 acres of land at Richmond Hill where "*he ran several head of Horned Cattle and one Horse, with other Stock*". Again George was another absentee landholder with convict assignees farming the property. The Loder name is of course well known in Windsor. (Note Loder and Lodar have been used as in the relevant references).

Now we go east to Parcel 82 and the delightful name Alice Fidoe, who is far more interesting than her partner H. McLeod actually Neal, Neil or Nicholas and also McCloud or McCloud, who arrived on the "*Admiral Barrington*" (3rd fleet) 1791.

As is usual there is no mention of Alice on the grant, just as there is little said of Mrs Lamb, Elizabeth Chambers who adopted an orphaned aboriginal child and who being outside the burning home "*entered it and fiercely permitted her with safety to herself, to rescue (her) child from the flames*".

Equally Hannah Singleton taking voyage on a convict ship with two toddlers leaving behind her other son.

Alice Fidoe arrived with the 2nd Fleet, on "The Floating Brothel" the "*Lady Juliana*" with a 14 year sentence for receiving stolen goods. Sent to Norfolk Island on the "*Surprise*" she formed a relationship with George Egglestone and later in Sydney with James Partridge before finally settling with Neil McCloud (*Admiral Barrington*, 7 years), in about 1806 presumably in the Hawkesbury where Neil was leasing part of his land to 3rd Fleeter Isaac Cornwell.

In 1809 the couple were supplying produce to the Government Stores from the Hawkesbury, when having joined the 73rd Regiment as Private, Neal McCloud was posted to Newcastle, but later returned to Sydney being approved for a land grant at Airds in 1811. The grant was formalised in 1816. The 1814 census has McLeod, landholder with wife Alice Fidoe and 2 convict servants, apparently with one on each property. It appears the couple were living at Airds as Neal McCloud was buried at St Luke's Liverpool on 4th October 1817. Alice moved to Sydney where she died in 1819..

Adjoining McLeod's land were the grants of Joseph Hobson and Jane Buckham. Joseph Hobson had arrived on the "*Glatton*" in 1803 having been sentenced to life for returning from transportation. Joseph, a hatter of Chesterfield, UK had stolen a box belonging to John Eyre in 1797 for which he was sentenced to transportation. It is unclear how he had escaped. Jane Buckham arrived as a free settler on the "*Young William*" store ship in July 1807. The couple were granted adjoining 30 acre grants by Patterson in 1809 and verified by Macquarie. The couple married in 1810 by which stage they were farming the property.

The First Land Grants in Grose Vale & Grose Wold cont.

North of the Hobsons was John Westcraft or Westgrath, convict on the "*William and Ann*" (3rd Fleet). At his trial at Newcastle upon Tyne in January 1789, he was also referred to as John Wishart. At the 1806 muster John Winsgarth, per "*William and Anne*" was employed by William Eaton. Eaton's land was at the confluence of the Grose and Hawkesbury Rivers. Westgarth's grant was described with the interesting spelling of "*Corrigan Brush*". John Westgarth died in 1811 and was buried on 12th June 1811 at St Matthews, Windsor.

James Connelly was on lot 75 with 90 acres directly north of the Singleton grants, to be known as "*Cole Farm*". James, age 22, had arrived on the "*Marquis Cornwallis*" in 1796. In 1800 he married Sarah Maloney, convict per "*Minerva*" 1800, in Sydney. In 1806 Connelly was renting 14 acres from Raynor at Cornwallis and listed in the 1828 census as of Wilberforce.

Also on the "*Marquis Cornwallis*" was James Neale who received the adjoining grant. James however died in 1811 and his wife Mary Fitzgerald, convict per "*Atlas*" in 1802, remarried in 1813 at Windsor. James death is registered at St Phillips. There is also a 4 week old Mary Anne Neale buried at Parramatta on 5th February, 1811. It appears that James Neale never occupied his grant. Her new husband was John Hill, per "*Anne*". John is recorded as Landholder in Richmond in 1816 while the family were mustered in 1814 at Windsor and recorded at Windsor in 1822.

Daniel Phillips is an interesting subject. Convicted on 26th March 1789 at Safford Assizes he was transported for seven years on "*Matilda*" (3rd Fleet). In 1806 Phillips was listed as living with Mr Singleton along with his wife Jane Edwards (2nd fleet), this was Jane's second marriage in the colony, although the death of her first husband is not recorded. In 1814 Daniel was recorded as farming at Grose Vale and also on Lawson's grant at Kurrajong. In 1819 Phillips accompanied John Howe on his expeditions to the Hunter Valley. In 1825 he was employed by Singleton in the Hunter where-after he returned to the Hawkesbury dying in Wilberforce where he was buried in 1833.

Ann Blady was born Ann Green in about 1759. Sometime prior to her conviction for theft Ann married the father of her first child, William Cowley, born 1786. William accompanied his mother, sentenced to seven years as Ann Green on the "*Lady Penhryn*", William died on the ship on 8th February following arrival in New South Wales. Ann stated at her trial that her husband had died three months before the birth of the child.

During the voyage Ann formed a relationship with the Ship's Captain, William Cropton Server and their daughter was born prior to November 1788. The "*Lady Penhryn*" headed out on 5th May 1788 leaving Ann to transfer her affections to Denis Considen, Assistant Surgeon on the "*Scarborough*". Two children followed, Constance, 1790, and Constantine William, born 1st May, 1793 before Dennis returned to England in 1794 taking both the children with him.

Interestingly a very pregnant Ann had married William Blady on 31st March 1793 at St Phillips. William and Anne Blady settled at South Creek on Ann's 50 acre land grant. William was trustee to the Common and in 1814 Ann was housekeeper at Government House, Windsor. The land grant at Grose Vale does not appear to have been occupied and after Ann's death

in 1822 William moved to Kurrajong to live on his farm at *Blady Grass Hill*, until his return to and death in Windsor.

Joseph Dransfield was transported on "*Ganges*" in 1797. He is recorded as Joseph Dronfield, Derby Assizes, 14 years. In 1806 he is reported as living with Sarah Willis, probably per "*Speedy*" 1799. Although Joseph is indicated as farming at Grose Wold there is no evident land grant document. In March 1811 Joseph was living in Phillip Street, Sydney where a fellow occupant of the house was murdered. The 1814 muster refers to Joseph as Landholder of Windsor. It is unclear where this landholding stands. There is the grant to Joseph Dernsfield in Minto, 1881? Joseph was appointed Constable in the Illawarra in 1822.

As is evident from this, although the grants at Grose Wold seem to form a small community, most of these grants were not occupied by the grantee and in some cases never developed as per the conditions of the grants. It leaves us to another time to explore how this small part of paradise developed.

LIST OF Grose Vale GRANTS, NUMBERS, NAMES & MAP

◆ Parcel 73	30 acres	James Neale
◆ Parcel 74	30 acres	John Westcraft
◆ Parcel 75	90 acres	James Connelly
◆ Parcel 76	30 acres	Jane Buckham (Hobson)
◆ Parcel 77	30 acres	Joseph Hobson
◆ Parcel 78	40? acres	Singleton grant.
◆ Parcel 79	50? acres	Singleton grant.
◆ Parcel 80	50 acres	James Singleton
◆ Parcel 81	50 acres	Daniel Phillips
◆ Parcel 82	60 acres	Neal McLeod
◆ Parcel 83	100 acres	George Loder
◆ Parcel 84	70 acres	William Blady
◆ Parcel 85	80 acres	Henry Lamb
◆ Parcel 86	30 acres	Joseph Dransfield



A History of Enfield, Richmond Hill & the Yobarnie Keyline Farms, Grose Vale Road North Richmond

North Richmond was originally known as the *Village of Enfield* in the Parish of Currency, County of Cook. (Now the Parish of Kurrajong). The name *Enfield* was changed to North Richmond in the late 1800s due to confusion with the Sydney inner west suburb of Enfield.

Originally inhabited by the Dharug tribe of Aborigines, these first peoples lived, hunted and fished in this region of the Hawkesbury River, known to them as the Deerubbin.

On the 28th June 1789 after reaching the junction of the Grose and Hawkesbury Rivers, Governor Phillip explored the surrounding area and climbed a hill nearby which he named *Richmond Hill*. Not many days later Captain Watkin Tench travelling west from Parramatta also reached the same river junction. The site is at Yarramundi/Agnes Banks, where the union of the Nepean, Grose and Hawkesbury Rivers come together. (Millstone May-June 2019 p7)

From 1794 European settlers were granted farms in Windsor and Pitt Town and along South Creek. The earliest grant in Richmond appears to have been 1795. Grants at North Richmond along the river, date from 1796, then during the 1800s, larger grants were given to members of the Rouse, Bell and Bowman families, including the land granted to Archibald Bell Snr. in October 1807. (Millstone July-August 2019)

Governor Lachlan Macquarie toured the region in 1810 and on the 1st December along with his party crossed the Hawkesbury at Yarramundi travelling to *Richmond Hill*, the "*Kurry Jung Brush*" and *Richmond Terrace*. His diary records; "*rode up the hill to call on Mrs Bell, wife of Lt. Bell 102nd Regiment, who resides on her farm on the summit of this beautiful hill, from which there is very fine commanding prospect of the River Hawkesbury and adjacent country.*" A few days later on the 6th December 1810, Macquarie named the five towns of the Hawkesbury, Windsor, Richmond, Castlereagh, Wilberforce and Pitt Town.

Just three years later in 1813 Wentworth, Blaxland and Lawson, successfully crossed the Blue Mountains. Later that

same year in the November, Governor Macquarie succeded Surveyor George Evans, then resident in Clarendon, to survey what became the Great Western Highway through to Bathurst. William Cox, Hawkesbury Magistrate and supervisor of many building constructions in the Hawkesbury, including at a later date, the Windsor Court House in 1820, was commissioned by Macquarie to construct a road over the Blue Mountains.

So in July 1814, Cox with a party of 30 convicts, in 6 months, constructed 101 miles (163km) of road through rugged mountain country to Bathurst. Many of these convicts were granted land along the Hawkesbury River, including in the newly named township of Castlereagh and in the Agnes Banks region.

It was some 10 years later in 1823 that a young Archibald Bell Jnr., of *Belmont* Richmond Hill, discovered an alternate route over the mountains now known as Bells Line of Road. This launched an expansion of land holdings in the west and a constant flow of traffic through *Enfield* (North Richmond) to and from Sydney.

By 1813 a school house had been constructed in the area which was also used as a chapel. A Methodist Church was established in 1857 and Bishop Barker laid the foundation stone of St Phillip's Church of England on 23rd May 1859, with a school house completed in 1861. The adjoining burial ground was consecrated in 1861, however the Bell family had their own vault on the *Belmont* property. Public education began in North Richmond with the opening of the Public School in 1871.

The first house on *Richmond Hill* was built by Archibald Bell Snr., who lived there between, 1810-1849, where he developed the successful farming and grazing property *Belmont*. Bell Snr. became Magistrate for the Hawkesbury following on from Thomas Arndell and later a Councillor in the early Colonial Legislature of NSW. *Belmont* remained in the Bell family until the bank failures of 1849, when the property was parcelled out for sale and disintegrated.

The remnants of the estate were purchased by Henry Newcomen in 1860. Henry ran large herds of beef cattle, employing drovers to run stock between his outback Warrego district properties, *Belmont* and the Sydney markets.

(Cont. page 7)



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Horses, a sulky and cattle crossing the bridge over the Hawkesbury River at North Richmond, which opened in 1905. The view is looking towards the North Richmond bank of the river and land originally granted to William Rouse.

K-CHS Image Archive Collection
<https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>



Richmond Hill & Yobarnie (cont.)

In 1889 the property was purchased by Philip Charley. Born at Ballarat in 1863, by age 14, Philip Charley was working as a Jackaroo on the Mt Gipps Station near Broken Hill in far west NSW. In late 1883, the manager of the sheep station and 6 others, including Philip discovered one of the richest silver deposits in the world. Forming a Syndicate of 7, in 1885 they floated a company on the stock exchange, the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Ltd. (BHP). On acquiring *Belmont*, Philip purchased the finest blood stock available and built up the famous *Belmont Park* horse and cattle stud in North Richmond.

Philip had married Clara Ewens from Adelaide in 1888 and they both settled into the old *Belmont* homestead. In 1889 Philip engaged the services of Morell & Kemp, who employed the services of George Matcham Pitt (3rd) to design the Italianate mansion that stands today on the *Belmont Park* estate. Archibald Howie was engaged as the builder. Stone quarried from the Grose and from a Parramatta quarry was transported by barge to *Belmont Park*. In 1907 Philip Charley had the rather quaint gate-house *The Lodge* built (well known to all who travel Grose Vale Road). Leading to the mansion is a fine avenue of Canary Island date palms.

Philip and Clara Charley, reared eight children and enjoyed many years at *Belmont*. Philip Charley is buried in a simple grave in the Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery. The historic property of *Belmont Park* with its majestic mansion was passed into the care of the Sydney Assurance Society. (See The Millstone July/August 2019 for a detailed story of *Belmont*).

The *Belmont Park* estate was purchased in 1951 by the Brotherhood of St John of God and in 2007 the hospital became part of St John of God Health Care, following a merger between the health care group and the services of the Hospitaller Order of St John of God and continues to offer holistic mental health care and healing therapies. The property retains the mansion, gate house, a formal driveway, garden pavilion with grotto and beautifully landscaped forecourt and grounds. Its location on *Richmond Hill* also includes an Aboriginal Memorial Garden, a place of peace, reflection and reconciliation. It was on this site in 1795 that there was a fierce battle between the Dharug inhabitants and soldiers of the colonial government. (Millstone July-August 2019)

Yobarnie

Yobarnie, together with the adjacent St John of God Hospital site, formed part of the original historic core of the *Belmont* pastoral estate, developed initially by Archibald Bell Snr. from c1807, and subsequently further developed by Philip Charley as the horse and cattle stud, *Belmont Park*.

In 1943, Percival Yeomans, a retired mining engineer purchased two properties, *Nevallan* and *Yobarnie*, and on *Yobarnie* began conducting experiments in soil conservation and enrichment, erosion control and water management, based on his engineering insights. When Yeomans purchased *Yobarnie* and *Nevallan*, *Yobarnie* was already substantially cleared and this feature facilitated his early experiments there.

(The Yeoman, *Yobarnie* farming history will be continued in the July/August Millstone 2021)

Suzanne Smith

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Dates for Your DIARY

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2021



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PANSY Line Tour

K-CHS RICHMOND to KURRAJONG PANSY LINE TOUR

Visit K-CHS website for Booking Details & Updates 2021

<https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>

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If coming by train, you need to be on the train that arrives at
Richmond at 09:30am (ex Central 08:06am).

The tour will return to Richmond Station approx. 3:30pm.

Enquiries: David Griffiths Mob: 0498646899

Email: president@kurrajonghistory.org.au

Order a "Pansy" book at time of booking for a special price

K-CHS General Meeting

24th May 2021 12midday - 2pm

Venue: North Richmond Panthers
33 Beaumont Ave North Richmond

Guest Speaker: Doug Knowles from
Glenbrook Historical Society
*Roads, Rails & Bridges,
Blue Mts. Crossings,
Victoria Bridge & the Knapsack*

Food purchased at the club is at own expense

Enquiries: president@kurrajonghistory.org.au

Date & Venue for K-CHS Mid-Winter Dinner

Monday 26th July 2021

Kurrajong Heights Bowling & Recreation Club

Guest Speaker - The RAAF Centenary

Booking details will be in the July Millstone and the
K-CHS website www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

Researching Hawkesbury History: Below are useful resources suggested by Michelle Nichols at the K-CHS March GM 2021

- ◆ Access to the Local Studies Resource Centre at the HCC Library - <https://library@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au>
- ◆ HCC Library Catalogue - <http://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au>
- ◆ Parish & Historical Maps - <https://nswlrs.com.au/Parish-and-Historical-Maps>
- ◆ My Heritage - <https://www.myheritage.com/>
- ◆ Australian Dictionary of Biography - contains authorised biographical articles compiled and maintained by ANU <https://adb.anu.edu.au>
- ◆ [Project Gutenberg Australia](http://ProjectGutenberg.org/Australia) - Gutenberg.net.au/index.html - This site hosts free e-books and e-texts available in the public domain covering Australian history and exploration of Australia
- ◆ Trove - <https://trove.nla.gov.au>
- ◆ Government Gazettes - are an official publication for the purpose of notifying the public of government business. <https://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/finding-government-gazettes/nsw>
- ◆ [New South Wales Online Historical Newspapers](http://NewSouthWalesOnlineHistoricalNewspapers.com) - [Online Historical Newspapers \(google.com\)](http://OnlineHistoricalNewspapers.google.com)



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Katherina Kostrzak - Adams specialises
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and residential sales. Katherina and her
team work tirelessly to achieve the best
result for their vendors and purchasers
alike. Please contact us or call in for any of
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