

THE MILLSTONE

KURRAJONG ~ COMLERoy HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society is dedicated to researching, recording, preserving and promoting the history of the district. Covering the area north and west of the Hawkesbury River – North Richmond, Kurmond, Kurrajong, Berambing, Bilpin, Grose Vale, Grose Wold, Bowen Mountain, Colo, Wilberforce, Ebenezer, Glossodia, Tennyson, Freemans Reach.

Kurrajong Swimming Pool *by Pat O'Toole*

During the 1950s Kurrajong village had become a centre of commerce with Woodhills General store, a railway station and a cinema. Full of enthusiasm and wanting to be part of the post war boom, members of the Kurrajong-Colo RSL Club, led by Bill Clark, wanted to see the town grow with a subdivision, a community hall and sporting facilities including a swimming pool, which would be built in the War Memorial Park in the village.

Many small communities, realising the dangers of swimming in creeks, rivers and farm dams, with the help of local councils, grants and fund raising, were able to do this. The municipal pool became a safe supervised environment where children and families could meet and cool off in the hot summer months.

The subdivision, land bounded by Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Road and Woodburn Road, and the community hall (now the CWA Hall) quickly became a reality, but the pool remained a dream.

In 1967, another enthusiastic band of locals stepped forward. With their leader, Natalie Buckett, they revived the dream of a pool and on 2nd May 1967 they formed the Kurrajong and District War Memorial Swimming Pool Society (KDWMSPPS) with an attendance of 36 members. The aim of the society was to raise the funds needed to build the pool and accompanying facilities. Colo Shire Council made it clear they wouldn't contribute to the cost of the pool but would cover operational costs once it was built.

It became increasingly clear that the council never expected the group to raise enough to build the pool. However, such was the hard work and enthusiasm of the society that it started to look as if they might just do it. The council response to this was to constantly put obstacles in the way.

The council granted permission to dig the hole for the pool which was done by volunteers. However council then decided it was dangerous and ordered that it be filled in. After much argument council filled it in. Council claimed there was insufficient land for pool drainage.

The society then bought the adjoining block owned by society member, Mr Doug Murray for \$200 which was the cost of a block of land in the town at that time. The lower part of Memorial Park is this block.

Mr Ashley Brown as well as being a member of the society was also Mayor of Blacktown. He knew all about grants and subsidies which were available for building public pools. Many towns were benefiting from these but Colo Council refused to apply for anything.

Council requested a feasibility study but this could only be done in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and once again council refused to make application.

Provision of adequate off street parking was just another obstacle to be faced.

In spite of all these setbacks fund raising continued unabated and every year there seemed to be at least another \$1000 to be added to the investment. Pub chicken raffles, street stalls, bonfire nights, barbecue evenings, chocolate wheels and even a ball at Camp Mackay were just some of the events.

By 1972 nearly \$7000 had been raised.

Plans were drawn up by Western Design Engineers at Blacktown for a complete facility – 2 pools, change rooms, kiosk, and office plus landscaping. [See page 4] Several quotes were received for the 25 metre pool, the wading pool and the pool surrounds. These ranged from \$28,000 to \$36,000 but did not include buildings and fencing. They still, without access to grants, had a huge task ahead.

With the sad passing in 1980 of their driving force, Mrs Natalie Buckett, enthusiasm dissolved and in 1981 it was decided to abandon the whole project.

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President's Report

Hello everyone,

Our Upper Hunter Tour was on the weekend of 25th & 26th July. We had nine intrepid travellers who enjoyed a pleasant week-end away with lovely weather. See pages 3, 4 & 5 for a report and pictures.

The Mid Winter Lunch was on Monday 27th July, with a very entertaining speaker and a good roll up. Sarah produced some lovely food for us, as she always does.

Most members have now renewed but we have had a slight drop in numbers due to more people than usual leaving the area.

As we have mentioned before, this year marks the centenary of the Pansy line opening. We are planning a special 'Virtual Line Tour' on Sunday November 22nd See Page 8 for more info. Bookings can be made online Please promote this event to everyone!

Our AGM will again be at St Davids at Kurrajong Heights on Monday 28th September at 19:00 (7pm). We have as our guest speaker Lee Etherington speaking on his Kurrajong Australian Native Plant Nursey construction work at the old Kurrajong Heights Garden Centre. We will also have some historical trivia! We hope you can come along and if you have had any thoughts about joining the committee, you would be most welcome.

Our Christmas Party is Saturday 5th December at 17:00 (5pm). Mark it down! More details in the next Millstone.

Don't forget to mark down our Australia Day Bash at Bowen Mountain Park. Tuesday 26th January 09:00

David Griffiths

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Benjamin & Anne Sullivan go for a walk with friends at Kurrajong Heights. Benjamin was Mayor of Richmond Council 1920-1921. Image 043301

UPPER HUNTER TOUR *by David Griffiths*

Our annual overnight tour this year went to the Upper Hunter on July 25th & 26th. There were nine people in the group. We met at the Colo River Café, which had just reopened under a new name, then proceeded up the Putty Road.

First stop was the Australian Army Infantry Museum near Singleton. It is quite a large museum with items showing every conceivable infantry weapon and piece of equipment, right up to an Iroquois helicopter.

After spending time at the museum we moved on to Singleton for lunch and a visit to the Singleton Historical Society Museum, where we were made most welcome. We toured the historic churches and other buildings in the town.

We stayed overnight in Singleton, then on Sunday morning headed to the Walka Water Works just out of Maitland. This water works was a steamed powered

plant that pumped water out of the Hunter River to supply the lower Hunter, including Newcastle. It is much more grand than the pumping station we visited in Goulburn last year, but all the equipment has been removed. It was used for a few years as an Electricity Commission Power Station.

From there we headed north from Maitland for the Tocal Homestead Open Day, where there were many displays and activities.

Tocal Homestead was a trend setter with its own power generator and internal lift. The generator was installed in 1927 and has been restored. It was running on the day of our visit.

Thanks to those who came along and made it a very enjoyable weekend.

Most of the pictures taken by Rhonda Knott.



The group in front of an Australian designed Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle



Continued on next page

Upper Hunter Tour continued from previous page

Walka Water Works Photo DG

Carriage in Singleton Historical Society Museum

*Continued from Page 1*

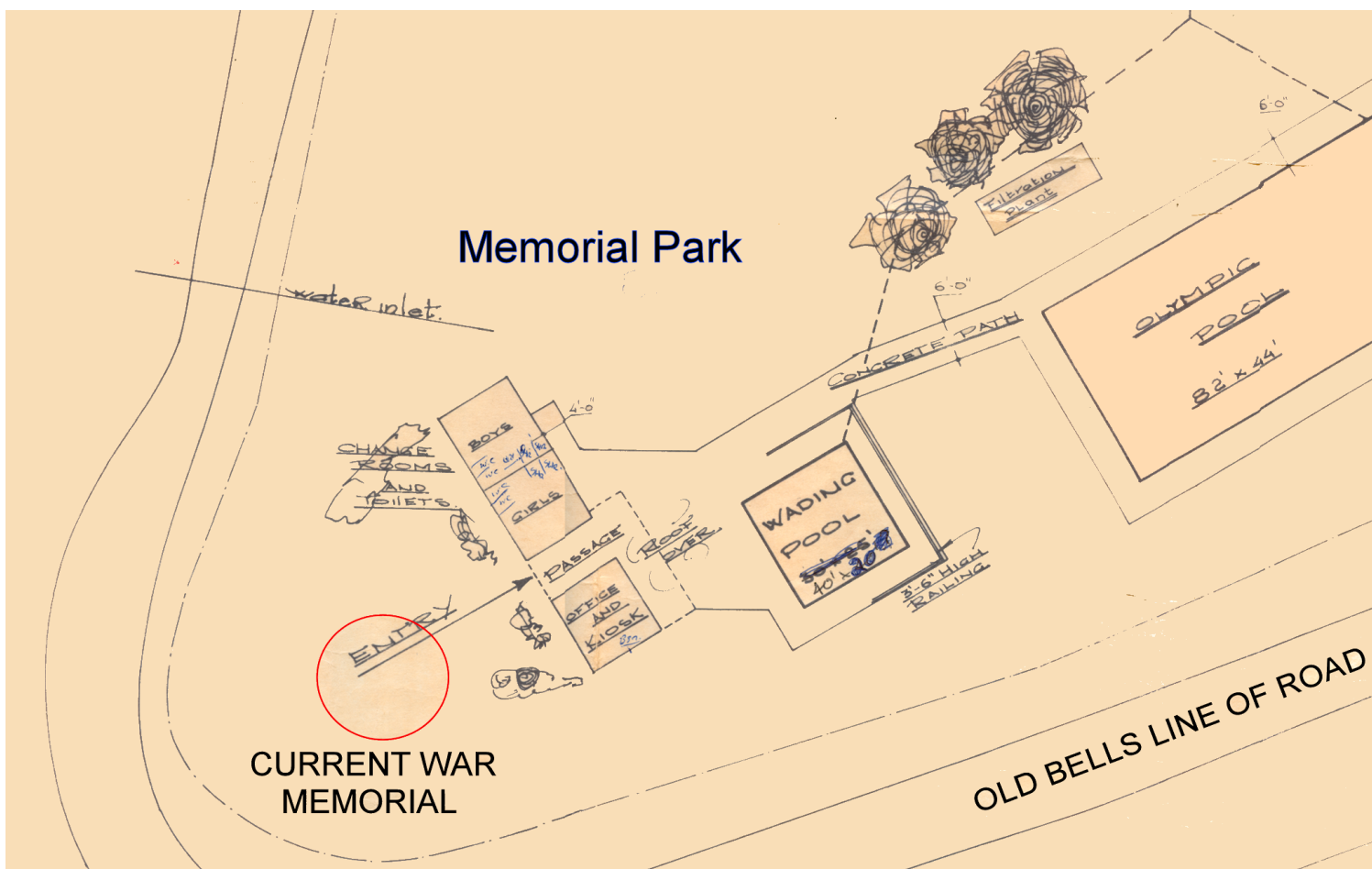
A final Committee meeting resolved that the \$18,000 raised should be divided:-

50% to the building of a pavilion at McMahon Park

25% to the Kurrajong Heights Tennis Courts

25% to Colo High School to build a tennis court

However, according to the constitution a General Meeting had to be called for the final decision on the distribution of funds. At this meeting it was voted to use the money to build a guide hall in Kurrajong, a decision which left a community sadly divided.



Upper Hunter Tour continued from previous page - Tocal Homestead*1929 Rolls Royce Phantom I owned by the Alexander family**Beryl in the lift**Penny Farthing***Kurrajong Swimming Pool Plan.**

Note the approximate location of the Fire Station (top right) and the old layout of Old Bells Line of Road.

The location of our current War Memorial is shown in red.

The pool size would appear to be well short of a standard 50m (164') Olympic Pool!

K-CHS holds the minute book of the committee and various other documentation.

THE PARK ON THE HILL *by Deborah Hallam*

The little village of Kurrajong Heights, or Northfield as it was called then, was developed when Joseph Douglass of "Ivy Lodge" and Samuel North of "Northfield" subdivided the land, that is now the village centre, in 1841. Joseph's original 50-acre grant stretched from the Bathurst Road across Little Wheeny Creek and to a high point on the escarpment.

The 40 acres of land (Portion 243) adjoining this grant was assigned to Michael Bergin, for occupation from 2nd April, 1830. In 1836 Bergin sold the land to Arthur Kemmis.

In 1826, 18-year-old Aphrasia Raymond, along with eight siblings had accompanied her settler parents, James and Aphrasia Raymond, to the colony on the *Thames*.

Aphrasia Raymond married Arthur Kemmis, in 1831 in Sydney. Arthur was an extremely successful settler, holding several thousand acres in the Bathurst area before relocating to Port Phillip, where he died in 1842, leaving Aphrasia with six young children. Aphrasia married John Maughan in 1852.

In May 1853 Robert Peel Raymond, Aphrasia's brother, was granted Kemmis's 40-acre block in trust for Aphrasia Maughan of *Dundullimal* for "her sole and separate use exclusive of her husband and not subject to his control or debts". There was a quit rent of 6 shillings and 8 pence from 1/1/1847. It is of interest that *Dundullimal Homestead* in Dubbo currently belongs to the National Trust and is worthy of a visit as a substantial timber homestead.

Following Aphrasia's death in 1863 the property was held by her children until the sale in 1873 to William Condie Renwick and shortly thereafter to Hon. William Busby. References to Busby's Estate indicate the likely existence of a dwelling on the land.

In 1888, the property was finally transferred to local hands in the person of Henry Peck of Mountain View

Guest House. Henry appears to have been unwell and after his death on 9th November, 1888 the land was purchased from the family estate by Thomas Walker, Post Master of Kurrajong Heights. The land transfer is dated May 1892. Thomas was to purchase "Lochiel House" with the adjoining acreage in 1907.

In July 1925 the land, known as "Busby's", passed to Linda May Hobbs by the will of her father, Thomas Walker and "Panorama Point" appeared. Unfortunately, the name is somewhat common and the first reference to "our" spot is in 1929 in a review of a Ford Sports Coupe for six passengers plus food. The description which you can access on Trove Newspapers, *The Sun*



Mary Hobbs, daughter of Linda Hobbs, at the entrance to "Panorama Point", c. 1938. Image 080400

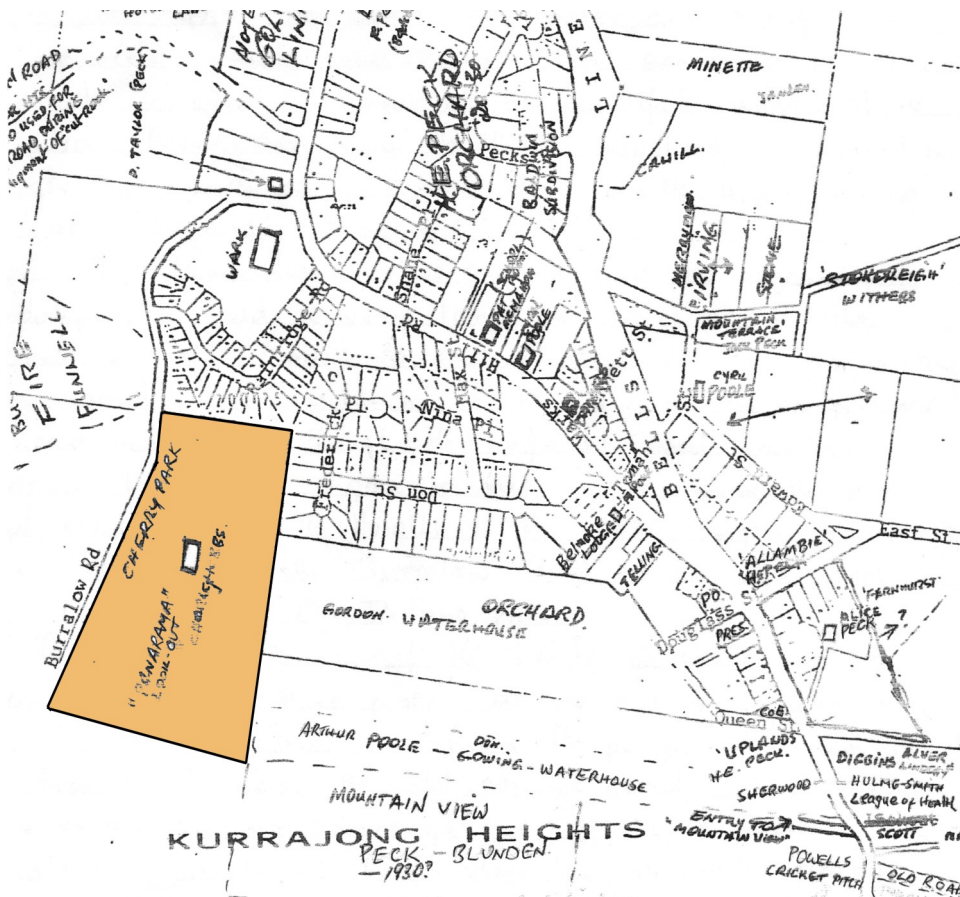
(Sydney, NSW) Fri 30 Aug 1929, page 16, may be of interest to our motoring members. The report of the same paper on 9 Jan 1930 is of more relevance.

Kurrajong Heights – The N.R.M.A. picnic and camping ground at Kurrajong Heights adjoins one of the finest views in the State looking east, and from a point of the ground itself a second outlook over the ranges and mountain peaks to the west is obtainable. Picnic tables and other conveniences are on the ground and hot



Cherry Park c. 1950 Image 033205

Continued from previous page...



Subdivision map of Kurrajong Heights showing the location of Cherry Park. Date uncertain.

Part of Image 143609

water and seasonable supplies are available to members, to whom alone the ground is available. A charge of 6d a car party is made to meet caretaking costs, but admittance to the private area adjoining - known as Panorama Point is free to members, though cars are not permitted to enter.

A report of April the same year repeats the N.R.M.A control but suggests public visits. The increasing popularity of the motor vehicle and the accompanying site-seeing has given us many descriptions of Panorama Point. SMH 28 March 1932:

Come to Panoramic [sic] Point, just about 2000 feet above sea-level. A three or four roomed weatherboard cottage is there, on a site that a millionaire with a love of nature's magnificence might envy.

The resident “cheery-souled housewife” greets the guests and sells “such delicious bread and jam and tea”

that the traveller thanks whatever gods there be that
he can still enjoy the good and simple things of life.

Unfortunately, the aforementioned traveller suggests that in the near future *“a tower will be erected on Panorama Point and it will be fitted with a powerful telescope. Sightseers will come there in ever increasing numbers.”*

The cottage mentioned may have been Busby's retreat or another cottage onsite. However, in the 1940s a larger family home was erected. This has since been demolished. In 1956 Linda May Hobbs sold the property to Edmund T. Lennon for £8,500 at which time it was renamed Cherry Park, becoming known for the cherry trees planted. It was on-sold four years later for £16,401 to G. R. Vaughan from which time it has remained vacant.

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Dates for Your DIARY

AGM St Davids Kurrajong Heights

Monday 28th September 19:00 (7pm)

Guest speaker Lee Etherington on his construction work at the old Kurrajong Heights Garden Centre.

Also Historical Trivia!

K-CHS CHRISTMAS PARTY
SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER
17:00 (5PM)

KURRAJONG HEIGHTS BOWLING CLUB
CATERING BY SARAH



**Kurrajong-Comleroy
 Historical Society Inc**

**PANSY
 CENTENARY**



Scan for more info and
 to book.

Sunday 22nd November 2026 13:00 (1pm)

Panthers Club, Beaumont Ave North Richmond

Includes a presentation of approximately one hour followed by a walk to the river bridge.

Have lunch beforehand in the club bistro if you wish.

Adults \$15, K-CHS Members \$10.

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