



Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group Newsletter

Issue 16, January 2015



Dear Hill Endites and Tambaroorians,

2015 is shaping up to be a big one for our Gathering Group and this newsletter comes to you from a slightly different location than my usual somewhat crowded desk in Carlton.

I am getting in early in writing this editorial as we have so much on our plate for this year I felt we needed to start early. So it is New Year's Day and I am sitting in our camper on the site of another old gold mining town, Oallen, on the Shoalhaven River, between Bungonia and Nerriga. However this locality, and the small township that was established here in the 1850s, have not withstood the test of time as Hill End has.

Here there is not a building to be seen, just a few remaining relics of a once thriving community tucked away in the bush, if you know where to look. Gold can still be found here but it is very different to what we are used to seeing from Hill End. It is so fine that it is called "powder gold" and it actually "floats" on the water surface when it is placed in a small phial of water. The main tool of trade here now is a generator powered pump and a sluice box. Other than the power it is not much different to the old cradle of 150 years ago and the results are the same.

The fine gold is eventually trapped by the riffles and the tailings are panned off, releasing the gold into a fine tail in the bottom of the pan. Nuggets have been found using metal detectors, in surrounding districts but most of these localities are on private property and are few and far between. There are still hardy souls who work the river bed and the gravel banks with varying degrees of success.

Date for the Diary!
Gathering Group Reunion in Hill End
Weekend of 25-27
September, 2015
Everybody welcome.

Further details on page 3



We have been camping here for more than 30 years, always arriving in time for New Year. Our reason for coming here at the same time each year is that it recharges our batteries for the coming year's activities. Here there are no facilities, just what we bring ourselves; no shops, no "amenities", no mobile phone coverage and, heaven forbid, no internet! However, due to the wonders of modern technology and a couple of powerful solar panels I am able to sit down at my computer for a few hours each day and prepare this newsletter.

This year I am pacing myself between swimming in the river – sheer heaven when it is 38°, catching up on my fiction reading, wandering through the bush in the cool of the evening, dozing in the shade of the large old gums and just generally "veging out". A week of this and I will be ready to face whatever 2015 brings on! You don't realize just how much the internet can distract you until you don't have it. Certainly there are facts I will need to check when I get home but these can wait. In the meantime I am free to fiddle with the articles, sort them into the appropriate places and generally have the newsletter 90% ready to go to the printers by the time I get home so you receive it just after Australia Day, in plenty of time to make notes in your calendar – or at least that is the plan...

Back to Hill End Reunion 25th-27th September



Back by popular demand!

It is time to join us again in Hill End and walk in your ancestors' footsteps.

Many have asked when our next trip to Hill End will be and we are pleased to announce that another group visit there is planned for the weekend of Fri 25th – Sunday 27th September, 2015.

Spring will just beginning to bloom and this will be the middle weekend of the school holidays and the weekend before the October Long weekend (when we also have the Markets on in town) so you may like to consider staying for a week!

This is a great opportunity for those who have not visited the village for some time to participate with their family in a relaxed and friendly event.

We will be making arrangements for transport for those who wish to travel as a group from Sydney. More details will be provided as they come to hand. Please phone Lorraine on 02 95870352 to register your interest if you do not have email access.

Those joining us for the weekend will be responsible for booking and paying for their own accommodation in Hill End and we have notified all the accommodation houses to expect bookings from our members. The number of beds in the village is limited please make your accommodation bookings as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. **Please be sure to mention that you are part of the Gathering Group when you book.**

A more detailed program and booking form will be provided in the next newsletter in August, however our draft program includes an organized tour to a mine, a guided tour around the town, and to the cemetery and Tambaroora as well as time for gold panning or just spending time wandering around and checking out the Museums and local sights. We will all meet for dinner on Saturday night and this is a great opportunity to catch up with the cousins! There will also be a chance to peruse all the family history material that is available in Daphne's Hill End Family History Room.

For those travelling independently there are a number of other options available for your visit to the area and you may well like to arrive early or stay a few days after the weekend to enjoy all the town has to offer, especially as it is school holidays. The Market will be on Saturday & Sunday of the Long Weekend too.

This reunion will be a relaxed event and will allow plenty of time to enjoy the village and walk in your ancestors' footsteps.

A generous donation to our archives

As a result of our piece in the *Sydney Morning Herald* this time last year about the upcoming Gathering I received a phone call from Bruce & Molly McGill, descendants of John & Mary Rapp.

John Rapp, born in Germany to Kaspar & Frances Rapp arrived from Hamburg with his brother, Jacob as unassisted passengers on the ship "Daniel Ross" on 27th April 1855. It is possible that their brother, Henry was already in the colony.

The family story is that they were actually from Alsace Lorraine and regarded themselves as being French not German. When he applied for naturalization in 1869 John stated that he was from Prussia.

After marrying in Sydney in 1869, to Mary Elizabeth Hay, John returned to Tambaroora where he was a successful miner. By 1876 the family was back in Newtown when Mary died. Left with 3 small children to care for he married again, in Sydney, to Ann Cox. John passed away in 1894 at his residence, the City Arms Hotel at Woolloomooloo.

Whilst he was in Hill End he and his first wife, Mary had photographic portraits made by the American & Australasian Photographic Company and from these carte-de-visits he commissioned 2 large portraits, approximately 50cm x 60cm, to be painted.

They were handed down thru the family and finally Mr McGill felt that they would be better appreciated by returning them to those with a strong interest in family history in Hill End.



The Portrait

The Photograph



The Gathering Group is the grateful recipients of these portraits and eventually copies will be placed in the Royal Hall along with many other family portraits from times gone by.

A Hill End Gathering - 70 years ago...

Sometimes in our research we come across some gems. The following newspaper article, dating from March 1953 was found in a scrapbook loaned to us by Robert Anderson of Hill End. His mother, Nell Anderson (nee Warry) was one of the few to have a camera in the village in the 1950s and she recorded a number of events, including the Holtermann Festival in 1953, and the opening of the War Memorial Playground in 1954. The following article is reproduced for your enjoyment:

[Some of the "facts" quoted by the reporter are decidedly questionable and we take no responsibility for their accuracy! – Lorraine]



Sweethearts of 73 years ago reunited

A 90-year-old woman and her childhood sweetheart in the goldmining "ghost town" of Hill End yesterday met for the first time in 40 years. The couple were sweethearts 73 years ago in the days of the town's boom era.

The couple are Mrs Susan Willard, 90 of Birrella Rd, Earlwood and Mark Lawler, 88 of Avoca St, Randwick. Mrs Willard is a widow and Mr Lawler a widower.

They met yesterday at a reunion in the Botanic Gardens of more than 180 former residents of Hill End and Tambaroora.

(Hill End, about 30 miles north-west of Bathurst was a roistering, bustling gold town of more than 30,000 people and 52 hotels 80 years ago. Now a ghost town it has a population of fewer than 150 people.)

Mr Lawler and Mrs Willard lived near each other at Tambaroora when it was a "suburb" of the thriving Hill End. They met as childhood sweethearts beneath the now decaying poppet heads and near the long abandoned mullock heaps of Hill End.

When Mr Lawler arrived at the Hill End Reunion yesterday he talked and laughed with old mates from the town for nearly an hour.

Then, when he saw Mrs Willard sitting on a nearby seat in the gardens he stopped suddenly and said: "I know that girl!"

When he approached and sat down beside her, he said: "It's Susie, Susie..."

Mrs Willard looked at him for a moment and said simply: "Mark! After all these years."

She explained that she and Mr Lawler were "a bit more than friends" when she was about 16 or 17 in Hill End. Mrs Willard said: "Mark and I went around together for years when Hill End was a city of more than 35,000 people. We can remember when Tambaroora, about three miles from town, was just an outskirt of the city proper."

"Mark and I made all sorts of plans for our future life, but then I fell in love with his elder brother, Will, who is now dead. I ended up marrying neither of them, and the last time Mark and I saw each other was more than 40 years ago when I left Hill End."

Mr Lawler said: "I'm very thrilled to have met Susie again – and I feel we'll be seeing more of each other from now on."

Those attending the Reunion yesterday included three generations of the one family. One of the former residents who attended was Mr S Holtermann (74), of Brook Street, Naremburn, the son of one of the two prospectors who found the famous Beyer-Holtermann nugget in 1872. The gold content of the nugget weighed 15,877ozs and was then worth £12,000. The nugget was the largest formation of gold ever taken from the earth.

Mr. Holtermann said yesterday: "The find made my family very rich – when he died my father left £64,000. I was only a baby when Hill End was booming, but I know there is still a lot of gold to be won in the old ghost town"



Condolences

We have been informed of the passing of the following members and extend our condolences to their family and friends

Freda Campbell (formerly Trevithick) died in September 2014 at her home in Bathurst.

Ben Eagleton passed away in January 2013.



The Mother of the Turon Diggings wore britches!

After her popular article in the last issue of our newsletter Karen Bates once again presents us with another intriguing story based on her research into Hill End personalities. Let's just call it "faction" – a little bit of fiction, based on fact...

Ach, sure night is no doubt fallin' as I lay in me wee one-room hut in front of the blessed fireplace. While I'd be drawing in on me clay pipe I'd be tinkin' it's time to tell me story...

Me name? I'd be Mary Jane Baker, although I don't know why the feck in me twilight years I'd still be using his name, seeing that he deserted me and all. But I gave him what he deserved...divorced him in the courts. I was 82. To be sure there'd be no man living who'd treat me like that. Anyways, I was born Mary Jane Lowry in Enniskillen Ireland in 1840. It's now 1928, so ye do the math. And don't be tinkin' I'm a bit cracked just because me age is 88 now. But if I leave chunks of me yarn out it'd be because it all happened a wee while back. Just don't ye be filling those missing bits in with untruths so, just like them waste of space journalists.

Anyways I'd be leading ye off the track so. C'mere 'til I tell ye, picture this....Turon Valley 1869, a strong backed fresh young Irish woman, there I was standing on Commissioner's Hill, the township of Sofala below. Me heart felt warm, and don't be tinkin' it was from the sweet smell of honey from them wattle trees. That blazin' sun, it'd cook a tatie in its jacket if I had one, but I don't. Blessed Disease! Now then I know what ye be tinkin', she's gone off track again. I amin't so, I'm just telling ye it was the potato famine that made me leave me poor stricken land when I was 15, that, and the fact me Da wanted me to be a dressmaker. Jaysus, Mary and Joseph, Lord save me! Stowed away on a ship and met me brother in New Zealand, made our fortune after we sold our scripts to the mine we called "Caladonia" giving us each a thousand pounds.

We left New Zealand and headed for them goldfields of Bendigo and Ballarat. It was here we up our fortune in the hotel business. Ach, hold on so, this reminds me of the time some divil tried to pull da wool over me eyes. There I was minding me own business riding in me saddle down a bush track alone after leaving me brother at the hotel in Ballarat, when this well-dressed fella rode up alongside me. Sure Jaysus I smelt the rat. I acted politely at first cause I was after sitting on quite a lot of gold in me saddle bags, when he suggested I go with him instead of wasting me good looks working on a station. Telling me he was wealthy and such and I should marry him and have a honeymoon in Sydney. Bah! I told him that I did not wish to get married. Then he grabbed me bridle and headed me off into the bush. I told him to quit it or he'd be chronic sorry. The fool eejit laughed at me and tugged harder. Now then, this was the pinch of the game. I pulled me revolver out from under me skirt, and I gave him one more chance to let me alone. He laughed again so he did. Well I showed him. I pulled the trigger

and killed his horse, and says I, you'll be next. To be sure didn't yer man then run away? Then would ye believe it the cavalry arrives, me brother and his mate galloped up and horsemen appeared out of the bush.

What I wouldn't have given for a drop of whiskey then like we sold back at our hotel. We put together that hotel from saplings from the Bendigo bush...threw a canvas over it...open for business, not a bother on ye. Anyways down the track we came across a bunch of road workers who said a gang of bushrangers were about. To be sure that eejit didn't tink he'd be relieving me of me gold. Now then, the big boss invited us to stay the night and in the morning he sent four of his men to ride with us to keep us safe. I'd be telling ye I felt like Queen Maeve.

Anyways we had enough of the hotel business so, and like I'd be telling ye we returned to Ireland in 1868 and put our fortune in the bank. Later that year the cursed banks closed their doors. Ach, we were skint, we'd lost everyting. So me and me brother scrounged enough for a ticket back to Australia. On the way we heard of findings galore in Tambaroora. When we're after arrived in Sydney we made our packs, got our messages and headed for the fields.

Anyways, as I was telling ye, there I stood on the Turon with me brother, looking down the rugged slope of the valley. Me eyes followed the river westward, as it wound all the way down the ridge below Tambaroora. Muffled sounds of miners rocking their cradles dotting the banks rang up from the Turon River. I couldn't wait to be part of the craic again, even though it was feekin' hard work.

Mind ye it weren't no place for a woman. Ach, you know I remember a few years back enjoying an hour or so off, to celebrate St Patrick's Day 'twas, and reading the *Bathurst Time*. From memory, 'twas 12th March, 1921. It told of Mrs Louis..."Water Diviner" they called her. A pick and shovel prospector from Rockley, after me own heart, and it was as if she read me mind when she said "prospecting for woman was hardly a succession of tea parties and theatres, but at the same time to me every day spent in prospecting is a perpetual picnic." Ne'er a truer word be spoken so. But it wasn't always a grand picnic. Newspapers all over the world told of rebellions where men were taken under the point of a bayonet in front of screaming wives and bairns for not paying their mining tax. Bushrangers killed for a mere speck of gold, uprisings against the Chinese, murders, rapes, suicides, babies killed, and diseases. But I came to love the life. And later on I would become known as the ma of all this. Me, "Ma of the Turon Diggings"! So I spat on me callused hands, brushed them down me dress, hitched me pack higher and headed for Tambaroora.

Some months later, after working the claim in Tambaroora we decided to sell as we weren't finding enough gold to pay our tucker bills. Then I met up with a couple of me old mates from New Zealand...Dr Fischer, who held scripts in our "Caladonia" claim, who was now the local doctor.

I'd be going off the track here cause I'd be telling ye a story about me German doctor friend. Years after we meet I heard that them hooligans of Hill End acting the maggot one New Years Eve, dug up a tree stump and left it in the middle of the road in the pitch of night. To be sure along comes Dr Fischer being pulled along by his fancy pair of roan ponies. When they see that stump the ponies swerved left and right. Sure Jaysus if the shaft of the buggy didn't split in two.

But I'd be telling ye about me other friend I met up with in Tambaroora...and that'd be Felix Euston, who wanted to rush me to the altar. Me association with me brother finished then and Felix and me worked a claim which we eventually sold for £100 cause it was chronic banjaxed.

We then left Tambaroora and settled at Wattle Flat where we worked a claim on Casey's Hill. Ach ye know, but it wasn't always like this. Felix wanted me to be a wife. Blah! Not cut out to be a housewife, never was never will be. Had to find a way to make this work. And it weren't to be by stoking the fire, cooking the porridge, churning the butter and emptying the piss pot for me man, it had to be on me own terms. So I turned in me dress for britches and flannel shirt, donned on me hard working boots and dug beside Felix in our claim.

As the years went on people on the Turon called me "Mother Felix". Then me husband died in 1884 so I carried on working beside the men and caring for meself and me kid so. Not the human kind mind ye but the animal kind. And I know what you lot'd be tinkin', you'd be tinkin' how is it a good Irish Catholic wife like meself never had any weans. Well I'd be telling ye that secrets coming with me to the grave.

Anyways, after Felix died I got meself a new claim at Surface Hill, built meself this hut and went about minding me own business. That's how I got Nan, me kid goat. Her mother fell victim to me gun while I was looking for tucker in the Turon ranges to fill me larder. Nan followed me everywhere, until one day she just didn't meet me at me claim. Sure Jaysus, wasn't I after finding her dead on the track, killed by some mongrel dog. I swore vengeance on all dogs from that sorrowful day. Any came near me property I'd shoot em. And sure didn't I, every one of them!

Being a woman alone on the goldfields meant ye had to shoot first, so to speak, and ask questions later. I'd be telling ye this story...and ye can read this in "Ghosts of the Goldfield" written by that nice gentleman Henry Neary. Only decent one amongst ye who wanted to write me stories. Anyways, wait til I tell ye, one night someone came tapping at the gate after dark. "Who's there?" says I. "It's only me," says a quare voice, "and I want a drink of water." "Well go back to the stream ye crossed in coming here", says I. "But I want to come in," says he. "Well you don't come into me house at night, and if you don't leave, I'll shift you." "I'll come over the fence," says yer man. So I shot me gun! Later I heard down at the hotel while I was having a drop that a stranger walked in with blood on his leg telling the

publican he fell over a tree stump. Men are always fallen over stumps around here.

Take Robert Wilson...had me arrested that damn eejit. Said I struck him with me stick. Well I'd be telling ye the honest story just like I told the judge. Picture this...One night sitting around the campfire where I was dressed like a man I heard Wilson talking about me. Calling me all the blessed names he could tink of. I wanted to give him what he deserved, but I sat drinkin', keepin' me gob shut. Then one evening I was after walking to Wattle Flat and I heard rustling in the bush. Tinkin' it was a cow I went up and had a look, well imagine me surprise when I saw Wilson and Mrs Hart together. I heard Mrs Hart call out "is that you grandma" and I says "no it's Mother Felix". Then Wilson used filthy language and called me names. Seeing I was carrying me walking stick he ran backwards to get away from me and that's where he fell over the stump and cut his sorry head and he was nowhere near me stick.

I don't know why the feck he'd be telling people untruths about me. Ask anyone, I'm as gentle as a lamb. Well known around the local bush races for me beauty and talent with horses. I guess these days I'd be called one of them horse whisperers, huh. Ye got to treat a horse with respect while movin' ye body slow like. If ye jerk the reins vigorously the horse will run backwards and run away. Just like Wilson did. To be sure I gave Wilson the same treatment. I only "tipped" Wilson with me stick AFTER he fell backwards. I told that judge, Wilson did not get all he deserved for calling me them names. And I did not call him a feekin' liar. The jury, know'd I'd be telling the truth cause they ruled "not guilty" and sure wasn't I released.

Anyways, much of me life without Felix was spent fossickin' so, and like I'd be telling ye I was seen at most of the local racetracks. I could ride faster than any man. I'd be telling ye so, the grindstone didn't make enough revolutions for the timekeeper to tally up 'cause of me speed around that track. No word of a lie, there'd be only one woman from Sofala who could keep up with me and that'd be Mrs Lowe "Princess of the Horsewomen". No need to point out who'd they'd be calling the Queen.



Mary Lowry, Digger and Adventuress of the Goldfields,
From "Ghosts of the Goldfields" by H.H.Neary

Cutting a lengthy story short, I was able to do this with the generous collaboration of Professor Hugh Craig and Dr Alexis Antonia at the Centre for Literary and Linguistic Computing (CLLC) at the University of Newcastle (NSW). Everyone's writing is different, not only in style, but in the use of words, the words themselves that are used and the numbers of times they are used. Putting it another way, each writer has his or her own literary finger print. Analysis of the texts, in particular the words used, does not provide 'proof' in the way that a signature would, but it can provide a high indication of probability. Simply put, with the essential aid of the digitized texts available through the Trove website of the National Library of Australia and the computational resources of the CLLC, each author's most frequent use of 99 'function' words was analysed.³ We took the known work of Charles de Boos, his series on 'The Gold Fields of New South Wales' and on the 'Fitzroy Diggings',⁴ and the anonymous series, 'A Visit to the Western Goldfields'. Full details of the methods used and the results obtained have been published in the latest issue of the journal *History Australia*, but one of the graphs produced shows the clear distinction between the writings of Charles de Boos and those of our 'Mr Anonymous', and why we were able to be confident that the Western goldfields series was not the work of de Boos.⁵ Some further very limited analysis suggested that the anonymous author had also written the two series, 'A Visit to the Southern Goldfields' and 'A Visit to the Northern Goldfields'. Our article started with the question, 'Who wrote the series, "A Visit to the Western Goldfields"?' and finished with the question unanswered, not the most satisfactory situation for any researcher! We were confident that it was not Charles de Boos, but who was it?

Our research continued. More extensive analysis confirmed that the same person, our anonymous reporter, had written the three series of articles, as well as a number of separate but connected reports. But we were no closer to putting a name to our mysterious 'Mr Anonymous'. But then we had a

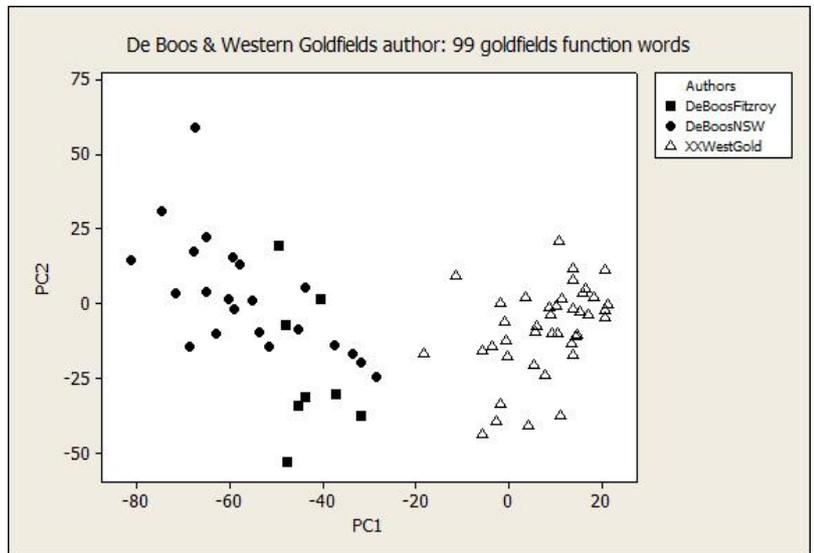
Journal of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature, 14(3), 1-12.

www.nla.gov.au/openpublish/index.php/jasal/article/view/3217

³ Function words have a grammatical function, such as 'the', 'of', 'and', 'a', 'to', and 'in'.

⁴ *Sydney Morning Herald*, October-December, 1859; Peter Crabb (2010): "The Canoona Gold Rush through the eyes of Charles de Boos". *Margin: life and letters of Early Australia*, 80, 33-42.

⁵ Peter Crabb, Alexis Antonia, and Hugh Craig (2014): "Who wrote 'A Visit to the Western Goldfields'?" Using computers to analyse language in historical research". *History Australia*, 11 (3), 177-193.



stroke of luck, which all researchers need now and again to help keep them going! A new colleague provided us with sufficient information to suggest that he knew the name of 'Mr. Anonymous'. It was the same kind of information that had led me to believe that Charles de Boos could not have written the Western Goldfields series. But as in that case, we needed more supporting evidence. At present, textual analysis is being undertaken on the three series of goldfields articles along with other writing known to be by our mystery writer. I realise that I commented earlier that concluding an article with the key question unanswered is far from satisfactory. I would like to give you the name of 'Mr Anonymous', but we want as much proof as we can get before 'going public'. So, with my sincere apologies, you will have to await a contribution to a future issue of the *HEATGG Newsletter*.

How do you get there...?

The *Mudgee Guardian* tells you how easy it was on the 2 September 1915.

Motor Service at Hill End.

Messrs. Donnelly Bros, announce that they will inaugurate a weekly motor service to Hill End, starting to-day after the arrival of the 4 o'clock train. The return journey will be commenced from Hill End at 8 a.m. on Friday, arriving in time to catch the midday train to Sydney. The fares (single) will be Wattle Flat, 7s 6d; Sofala, 10s; Sally's Flat, 15s; Hill End, £1 per head, with 20 lbs. of luggage allowed for each passenger.

Another gem from the *Mudgee Guardian* of 6 Jan 1916.

Hill End – from our correspondent (– later identified as Enoch Goodwin)

Xmas Holidays. – During the holidays Hill End has been well patronized with motor cars – some days as many as five cars being present. The Messrs. Donnelly Bros. must have reaped quite a harvest, as they have crowds both ways. The motor car service has been a great boon to Hill End.

Hannah's Long Lunch

– Hill End Saturday 5th September 2015

Have you ever thought about a leisurely long lunch in Hill End? No need to rush, just sit back and relish the ambience of the bush surroundings whilst enjoying a 5 course gourmet lunch, including wine, and be entertained by guest speakers, music and the natural environment.

Well, here is your opportunity. One of our volunteers, and author of the article on Mary Jane Baker on page 6 of this newsletter, Karen Bates, who is a Lawler, Gardiner, Elliott, Smith & Knight descendant, has decided to bring together a mixed group of friends, Hill End descendants, locals, visitors and “friends we have yet to meet” to enjoy the culinary and alcoholic delights of the region in the relaxed atmosphere of the Hill End Ranch.

On Saturday 5th September 2015 she is asking people to join her in honouring Australia's first “Celebrity Chef” as they take in the beauty of the Turon Valley.



Hannah Maclurcan (nee Phillips)

Hannah Maclurcan (nee Phillips) was born in Tambaroora in 1860 and was a successful Cookbook Writer/Chef/Hotelier. In 1898 she wrote *Hannah Maclurcan's Cookery Book: A Collection of Practical Recipes Specially Suited to Australia*. After owning several hotels in Queensland, Hannah moved to Sydney and together with her husband as licensee they bought the Wentworth Hotel in Sydney in 1901.

When her husband died a few years later Hannah continued to raise a family and manage the Hotel on her own. Travelling the world Hannah brought back ideas to improve the Hotel and present a new concept of

hospitality, including ornamental gifts for her guests. In 1912 Hannah listed the Wentworth on the stock exchange to raise funds for renovations.

During this time Hannah funded a glossy magazine called “*The Wentworth*” which promoted Sydney as a tourist destination and spoke of food and wine and happenings in the Hotel. Hannah hosted numerous charity functions at the Wentworth Hotel for children, returned servicemen, The Salvation Army, and the RSPCA just to name a few. She remained as Governing Director of the board until her death in 1936.

Karen has worked hard to bring a large number of Hill End locals on board for this event and seats at Hannah's table are strictly limited to 60 places to ensure that everyone can enjoy the occasion to the fullest.

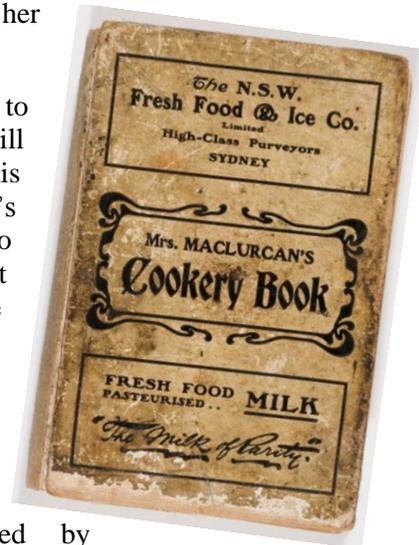
The new resident chef from the General Store, Dave Darker will be working with Karen to create a menu inspired by Hannah's cookbook, sourcing local produce wherever possible, and with Sue & Steve Rattray (ex Hosie's) looking after dessert we know we will be in for a gastronomic extravaganza. Appropriate wines and liquid refreshments are included and will also be served during the afternoon.

In the true spirit of Hannah Maclurcan all profits from this event will go towards the Royal Hall Photographic Restoration Fund, under the auspices of the Hill End & Tambaroora Progress Association.

Further details will be forthcoming and we will have all the booking information on the Gathering Group website as soon as it becomes available. Once the menu is confirmed it is anticipated that the all-inclusive event will cost around \$130 per head. As it is planned to run from midday until around 5pm we suggest that you consider staying the Saturday night in Hill End and then enjoy the ambience of the town on Sunday before heading back to the real world.

As accommodation is limited in town we recommend you make a booking there soon to avoid disappointment. Contact the Hill End Ranch, (02) 6337 8224, The Royal Hotel (02) 6337 8261, The Hill End Lodge Motel (02) 6337 8200, to see what they have available. There is always plenty of powered camping and caravan spaces at the NPWS campsites too, as well as nearby B&Bs too.

If you would like to register your interest in attending this inaugural event please contact Karen directly at hannahslonglunch@gmail.com or phone her on 0412464578.



Golden Diggers

Hill End & Tambaroora District's contribution to the First World War. -By Helen Wood & Lorraine Purcell.

Our new publication, to be completed in time for the launch in Hill End on Anzac Day 2015 is fast approaching completion.

More than 4 years in the making, family historian and Hill End researcher Helen Wood has spent countless hundreds of hours trolling through records and local newspapers in the days before Trove made online research so easy. In this comprehensive chronicle she presents a snapshot of the lives of the soldiers and nurses, who were born, grew up, attended school or whose family were significant in the Hill End district during the First World War years. She has spoken or corresponded with a myriad of people to obtain as much information as possible. Restricted by the size of the publication the remaining material which will not make the book will be preserved within the family history records of the Gathering Group. We are grateful to all those family members who have provided more than 100 photographs of their soldiers and nurses, thus helping us record for posterity those faces that may now be long forgotten.

From a district with a population of approximately 700 in 1911 Helen has identified around 175 souls that met the above criteria. Twenty eight did not return. She based her initial investigation on the 82 names on the Honor Board on display in the reception area of Hill End Public School. In the course of her research she learnt of a further 92 additional names to be included. No doubt there may be more names out there and we will endeavour to add them to our records if another edition is ever undertaken. With the assistance of the extensive range of websites that have now become available to the researcher as well as the personal recollections of family members she has compiled an appropriate tribute to those who left the security of their family and community to fight "for King and Country".



Some of the many....

To set the scene there is considerable introductory material relating to life in Hill End and Tambaroora during this difficult period. Conscription was one issue that certainly divided the population, whilst fundraising and community support for those that did enlist brought them together. The students at the public school, many of them the children, or younger brothers and sisters of those who enlisted, were acutely aware of the impact that

the war had on their families and entered enthusiastically into fundraising and knitting projects. The community gave the men a rousing send-off and an even more openhearted welcome home. Just imagine the celebrations when Peace was declared and the villagers knew their boys who survived would be returning.

One can only read the letters home from those at the Front, from Gallipoli, Egypt and France with great compassion. We have included a sample of these, some the contents of which did not necessarily make the official history books...



The town pledged to remember the contribution made by their fathers, sons, brothers and sisters and Mr Cook, the headmaster was instrumental in launching this tribute by donating an Honor Board for the school, which was unveiled on Anzac Day in 1916. Names were added to this Board twice more, with the final unveiling in 1921.

In 1921 war trophies were made available to towns to establish a War Memorial. A German machine gun, captured by the 45th Battalion was allocated to Hill End. It was mounted on a plinth on the corner of Clarke and Tambaroora Streets, in the centre of town and remains there to this day, decorated with plaques in remembrance of other conflicts in which Australia has been involved.

Histories of both these Memorials, and others in the town are included, as well as a record of how Anzac Day has been commemorated in Hill End over the years.

This volume will become a great addition to the annals of Hill End history in a period when gold was not the dominant passion, however the lives of the "Golden Diggers" will live on.

When it is published we will be promoting it through the Group and copies will be available for purchase online as well as retail outlets within the Bathurst, Orange and Mudgee areas.

We also invite Gathering Group members to join us in Hill End on Anzac Day, Saturday 25 April 2015, for the book launch and rededication of the War Memorial which will be receiving some restoration as part of the Centenary of Gallipoli commemorations. Come along and share this poignant yet significant event with us.

Once more our volunteers have assisted in many ways in bringing this work to fruition and for this help we are very grateful.

More details will be forthcoming once the program has been finalized. If you do not have internet access or are on our email list them please contact Lorraine by phone on (02) 95870352 for further details and to register your interest in attending.

Can you help?

Grandpa's Pear tree...Mark Paten

Sometimes we have a way of "connecting" with the ancestors by means other than photographs and family stories. Mark Paten, from Canberra, was fortunate enough to be able to locate an old pear tree that had been planted at Tambaroora by his ancestor, Tom Paten. With the permission of the current landowner Mark was able to take some cuttings from this tree but is now seeking advice from "those with green thumbs" as to the best way of perpetuating the potential family heirloom.

As my theory on gardening is of the "If I plant it and it grows then it can stay..." variety, unfortunately I was not able to offer any advice. If any out there has had experience in raising cutting from old plants then I am sure Mark would love to hear from you.

His email is mpaten@homemail.com.au or phone him on (02) 6258-5753

St Saviour's Church, Tambaroora.

We have been asked by one of the members if we know when the Church of England at Tambaroora (St Saviours) ceased operating as a church.

We are hoping that someone in the Group may have some reference to this in their family stories, certificates or oral histories.

The original Church of England, the "Bark Church", was located near the current general cemetery.

The "new" building was located a little further to the north of town and was opened on 11 April 1871. In 1893 it was described by Selina Anderson in her essay describing Tambaroora as "a good substantial building built of stone", so we know it was around then. Now, just the outline of the foundations is visible on a small mound and there is not much evidence left of a once significant Tambaroora building.



St Saviour's Church, Tambaroora

The Hill End Family History research room

is located at the rear of the Royal Hall
Next to the Royal Hotel
and is open every Saturday
10am to 4pm.

For enquiries contact Daphne

Email: daph@hillendfamilyhistory.com

Phone - 02-63378218 after 6:30pm

or try your luck on 0429335627

from 11am to 3pm.

For further information check out Daphne's website at

<http://hillendfamilyhistory.com/>

Hill End Family History Newsletter

To keep her "clients" abreast on Family History matters in Hill End Daphne has started a newsletter. If you would like to be placed on the email mailing list to get your copy then contact her at daph@hillendfamilyhistory.com

Research Notes

Cemetery sites in the Bathurst Region

Tucked away in the Bathurst Regional Council website is a collection of interesting material relating to the cemeteries of the region, which includes Tambaroora.

The following link

<http://www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/council/plans-policies/heritage/1688-plans-and-policies.html>

will take you to the main page and then scroll down to "Conservation Management for Small Rural Cemeteries".

Here is given quite in-depth historical information about the cemeteries, sketch plans, old maps, plantings, and an extensive inventory of those known to be interred in each cemetery, along with wording on the headstones etc. as well as many photographs. If your ancestors are in the cemeteries of the region then it is well worth checking out.

Do you have German Ancestors?

To learn more about German research and migration the following website may assist you. This link will take you to the English language version.

<http://dah-bremerhaven.de/ENG/en.museum.php>

Discovering Anzacs

In this year of the Centenary of Gallipoli a large number of websites have come on line dedicated to this subject. One of the best is the Discovering Anzacs site. Here you can contribute photos and stories of your WW1 ancestors and have them preserved for prosperity. See it at

<http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/home/>

Hill End Gold

We know there is probably still more gold under Hawkins Hill than ever came out of it but just what is the current situation regarding its extraction?



Underground on Hawkins Hill showing the gold bearing quartz vein.

Mike Quayle, a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists was a full-time geological contractor for the company when he gave a fascinating presentation which is now online and it may help dispel the mystique surrounding gold mining in today's economy. Click [here](#) to see Mike's PowerPoint presentation, which includes some fascinating underground photos of the gold bearing quartz in Hawkins Hill as well as nearby Hargraves.

Hill End Happenings

In cyberspace

Whilst not related to family history as such if you would like to keep up with the goings on in Hill End and Tambaroora in today's world there are 4 websites emanating from the area that are worth keeping an eye on. These are:

Tambaroora Times Blog from Karen Mainwaring – Snippets from the ghost-town that Hill End forgot. <http://tambarooratimes.blogspot.com.au/>

The Hill End Press blogspot, maintained by Bill and Genevieve Moseley includes whimsical musings from the district as well as some stunning photographs. <http://hillendpress.blogspot.com.au/>

The Old Schoolmaster's house presented by Ingrid Weir includes her story of how she converted the old teacher's residence and garden into a stunning country home. Find it at <http://oldschoolmastershouse.com.au>

And of course, Hill End has its own Facebook page which can provide an interesting insight into life in the town today. It displays an eclectic collection of information, both fact & fiction, from weather reports to an invitation to join the locals for a round of golf on a Sunday. All relevant to the lifestyle of a small historical town existing in a cyber world. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/176040871755/>

Hill End Historic Buildings Open Days

Hill End & Tambaroora Progress Association will hold their Open Days this year on Sunday 3 May 2015 & Sunday 25 October 2015



This is a rare chance to view the historic buildings of the town, from humble miners' cottages and the old churches to artist's cottages and La Paloma pottery studio. Local guides will be available to answer your questions about each location.

Bookings for Open Days are advisable and can be made by ringing Ross on (02) 63378306.

Our Easter Weekend Market in the Royal Hall

Join us again for our regular Easter weekend Market in Hill End.

We're always on the lookout for new stallholders so if you are looking for a fun weekend with the incentive of making "a bit on the side" then phone 02 95870352 or [email us](#) for more details.

Funds raised by our stall at the Markets are used to pay for resources used by Daphne at Hill End Family History and the Gathering Group to assist people in researching their ancestors. It has allowed us to maintain a subscription to Ancestry.com and also purchase books and materials held by larger institutions such as the State Library of NSW.



Hill End Land for Sale

We have been advised that the block of land we mentioned 12 months ago is back on the market due to a previous prospective purchaser withdrawing from the sale. I have a map with the actual location on it so feel free to contact me and I can email it to you. In the meantime the following details may give you a few ideas.

It is Lot number 136, Parish of Tambaroora, County of Wellington and is located to the east of High Street outside the National Parks boundary in a sheltered hollow. Originally surveyed in 1871 when the applicant for purchase was Harriett Beard, at that time this 2 acre property had an improved value of £17. In 1979 there had been no further improvements made and it was described as a "rough area, steep, cut by a steep banked, eroded creek".

For all further details you can contact Malcolm. His details are as follows:

Email - historyhill@historyhill.com.au

Phone - 02 63378222

Mobile - 0428 378222



Our Volunteer Projects

Do you have Chinese Ancestry?

Our volunteer, Verna, has been busy again...she has extracted all the entries that have "Chinese" against the names from Joan Reese "Convicts & Others" index to the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence at State Archives. There may be a few that have not had this notation against them so she has not included them so it is a "select" list. She has done a great job! Not all are related to the goldfields but it is a good start if someone is looking for a Chinese ancestor. Usual limitations apply, ie the spelling of the names and the use of "Ah" (Mr.) at the start so it is probably worthwhile browsing the list as well as looking for a specific name.

This work, which runs to 42 pages, will eventually be made available on the website but I am happy provide members with a free copy via email or a hardcopy for \$10 which just covers printing, binding and postage costs, in the meantime. Please contact me on 02 95870352 or via email me at heatgg@yahoo.com.au.

National Parks & Wildlife Hill End Family History Digitized Records

We are now in the final stages of negotiating with NPWS to have this material uploaded to the new computer at the Visitors Centre where they will be accessible to those wanting to look at the records. The wheels of bureaucracy grind slowly...

Other projects

Our other volunteer project slowed down a little towards the end of last year due to a number of reasons so our regular meetings were put on hold for a while. Helen and I have been totally occupied with the research and production of our new publication, *Golden Diggers*. With Christmas and family time taking over we hope to regroup in mid-February and plan our projects for 2015. If you are interested in joining in on any of these we would love to take you on board.

Please contact Lorraine for more details.

Contact details for the Gathering Group

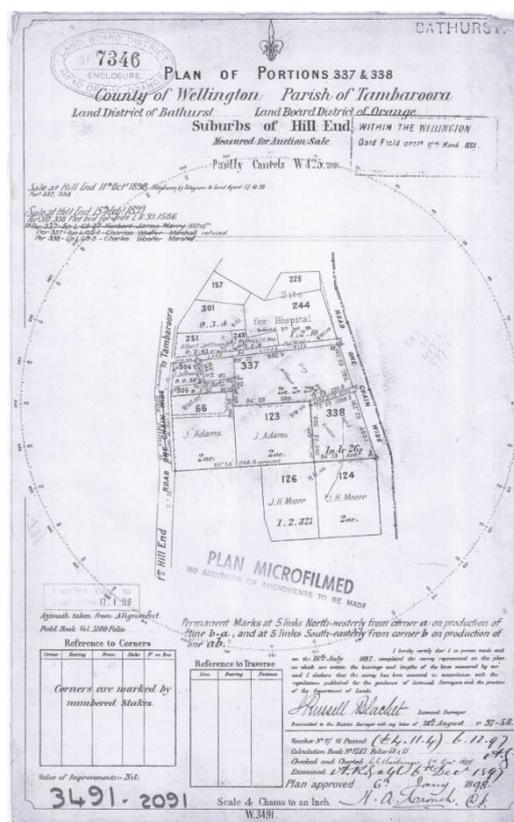
Lorraine Purcell
 Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group
 12 Grantham St, Carlton NSW 2218
 Ph: 02 95870352
 Mobile: 0408117784
 Email: heatgg@yahoo.com.au
 Website: www.heatgg.org.au

Crown Plans

At the Open House weekend in Hill End last October we were thrilled when a large number of A3 copies of early Crown Plans and newer Deposited Plans (DP's) that were destined to be "recycled" were instead donated to the Group. Many thanks to David Pickup of Dept. of Land & Property Information Bathurst Office.

Crown plans are mostly survey drawings illustrating the land boundaries and physical features of specific parcels of land and may include references to early tenures and ownership of the land.

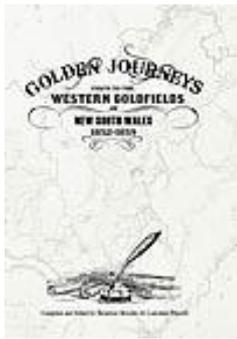
The parish map helps you find the Crown plan which has survey details and land dimensions and size. Often the plan will show physical features, neighbouring owners, Government Gazette references and other particulars regarding the land which can help understand the history of a parcel of land. More information can be found at http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au/land_titles/historical_records_online/crown_plans



We will certainly be looking closer at indexing these in 2015. If you are interested in being part of this project and becoming one of our "working" volunteers then we are happy to hear from you. Projects like this can be done remotely even if you are not in the Sydney area so don't let that put you off if you would like to join our merry band. It is not all work and we have a great time sharing our research experiences and all learning from each other. The more we can share the tasks around the easier it is on all and in the meantime you would be surprised what you can learn about research resources and techniques from others. The occasional lunches are good fun too!

Our bookshop

Golden Journeys – Visits to the Western Goldfields of NSW 1852 – 1858 compiled by Bea Brooks and Lorraine Purcell.



GOLD...just the word is enough to conjure up dreams and imaginary experiences in the most dispassionate of readers.

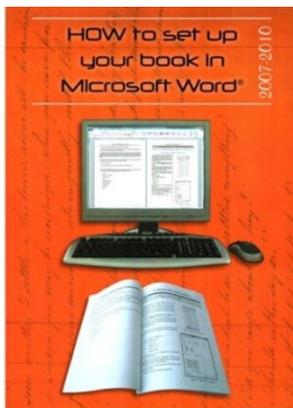
By absorbing these contemporary reports on the early gold discoveries and following the day-to-day travels of three journalists of the mid 1850s, the reader is exposed to the everyday living and working conditions of the earliest miners on the Western Goldfields of New South Wales,

covering the area from Ophir, along the Turon, the Meroo, the Macquarie and the Cudgegong rivers.

Included in this volume of approximately 300 pages is a large fold out map, printed in colour on both sides showing 2 very early versions of the goldfields in the 1850s.

How to set up your book in Microsoft Word

2007/2010 – 2000/2003 by Dan Kelly & Karen Graham



84 Black & White pages
Published by Boolarong Press

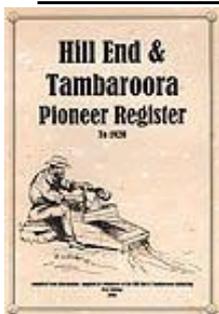
You've written your family history on the computer and used Word to capture all the research that you have accumulated over the years. Now it is time to produce "the book". This easy to follow publication will assist you in producing a professional looking document that you will be proud to share amongst your

family.

This "How to" book is in two halves. The first half of the book is set out for those that have 2007/2010 on their computers. If you turn the book over the back half of the book is set out for those that have 2000/2003. Microsoft® Word is not the best software to set up a book in, but it is the most cost effective way as most people have Word on their computer.

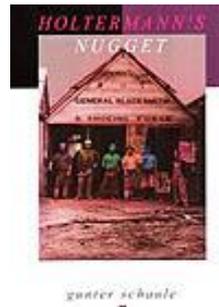
This book was written to answer the questions that have been asked of the authors over thirty years. Throughout the chapters of this book, they have given some guidelines that will hopefully show people how they can design a book of their own.

The Hill End & Tambaroora Pioneer Register on CD



The bound edition, printed in a run of 500 copies, sold out within 12 months of publication so, to satisfy demand, the Register has now been produced on CD in acrobat format. Containing all the original material (plus a few corrections) it has the added advantage of being able to be searched by name or location and enables the researcher to quickly access related entries.

Holtermann's Nugget by Gunter Schuale Profits from the sale of Holtermann's Nugget will go towards the Royal Hall Photo Project

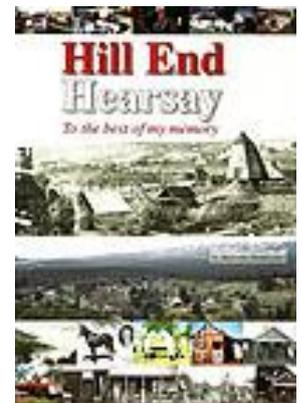
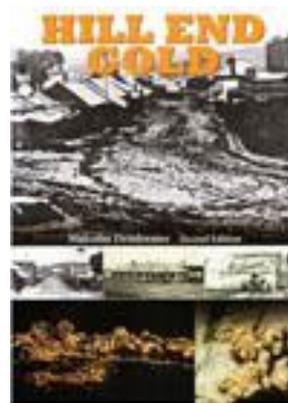


This historical novel is based on the life of the successful 19th century miner, businessman, and photographer, Bernhardt Holtermann, who arrived in Sydney as a young man from Hamburg.

If you are looking for a good yarn and yet still interested in a slice of Australian history then this book is ideal for you. It has been well researched and the background information paints a vivid picture of what conditions existed

and what life was like in Hill End in the 1870s..

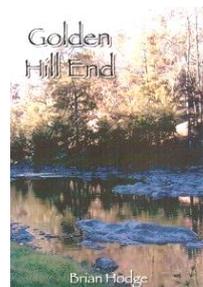
Hill End Gold and Hill End Hearsay – Second editions by Malcolm Drinkwater



In March 2013 Malcolm Drinkwater from History Hill released second editions of his 2 popular books, *Hill End Gold* and *Hill End Hearsay*. In the introduction to *Hill End Hearsay*, Malcolm says: "Nothing stimulates the five senses more for memory than being there, and I was". *Hill End Gold*, first published in 1982, is the story of Australia's first gold finds. His second book, *Hill End Hearsay*, was written to tell the story of what happened after the gold and the hype had gone.

Malcolm said that his theme for writing these books was that "if you buy a book about history then you're sponsoring history and without books like these history will die.

Golden Hill End by Brian Hodge



After many years of research Brian Hodge released his latest narrative work encompassing the history of the Hill End region from aboriginal times until 2009. It encompasses a number of issues which have not previously been addressed.

The work contains 5 colour photographs and 18 B&W illustrations.

All these books available for sale. Contact Lorraine for details. They can also be purchased via our website at <http://heatg.org.au/he/publications/>



Publication Order Form

Please order your copies of the
Gathering Group publications on this form

Name: (Please print)

Address.....

City.....State.....Postcode.....

No Of copies	Title	Amount	Total
	Golden Journeys – Visits to the Western Goldfields of NSW 1852 – 1859 (includes large fold out maps) compiled & edited by Bea Brooks and Lorraine Purcell	\$49.95	
		Postage \$14.00	
	Golden Journeys Map –showing Gold Fields & verso Official Map of Austr’ Gold Country (Hargraves) can be purchased separately - double sided 80cm x 57cm – suitable for framing posted rolled or folded	\$10 .00	
		Postage Folded \$2 Rolled in tube \$8	
	Hill End Gold 2nd edition – by Malcolm Drinkwater	\$49.50	
		Postage \$14.00	
	Hill End Hearsay – to the best of my memory- 2nd edition by Malcolm Drinkwater	\$49.50	
		Postage \$14.00	
	Golden Hill End by Brian Hodge, (published 2010)	\$20.00	
		Postage \$4.00	
	Holtermann’s Nugget by Gunther Schaule A <u>fictional</u> account of Bernard Holtermann’s time in Hill End.	\$15.00	
		Postage \$4.00	
	Hill End & Tambaroora Pioneer Register <u>on CD</u> (Published 2006)	\$30.00	
		Postage \$2.00	
	How to set up your book in Microsoft Word 2000-2010 By Dan Kelly & Karen Brown	\$20.00	
		Postage \$4.00	
If you are purchasing more than one publication please contact me for a combined postage price, especially with the larger books.			TOTAL

[] I enclose a cheque/money order made out to the
Hill End & Tambaroora Pioneer Register Account for a total of \$.....

OR

[] I have made a direct bank deposit of \$.....into the
Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group Bank Account.

Commonwealth Bank Account Details:

Account Name: Hill End & Tambaroora Pioneer Register Account

BSB: 062190 **Account No:** 10281615

Please use your surname as a reference number when depositing your money into our account and email us at heatgg@yahoo.com.au (or post this form) with your postal & delivery details.

Please post your order to
Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group
12 Grantham St
Carlton NSW 2218

All enquiries to Lorraine on 02 9587 0352 or 0408 117 784

The 2015 Gathering in Rhodes Park (Map overleaf)

Some people arrive with morning tea, others bring lunch and a few arrive with afternoon tea...the keen ones will be there for breakfast! It is a very free form gathering and is an excellent opportunity for those with ancestors from the region to meet with others who have a similar interest. Initially started as a reunion for those who lived in the Hill End & Tambaroora area to get together, the Gathering is gradually evolving into a meeting place for those with links to the district to join in as well and share their experiences and family history research.

Rhodes Park, our meeting place for the past 8 years caters well to our requirements. Our venue provides public transport access, plenty of parking, toilets and a Kiosk and a large Shelter Shed which we have booked solely for our use all day.

There will also be a selection of reference materials on display & available for perusal on the day. The Gathering Group publications will be on sale as well as a selection of second hand books relating to Hill End and Australian and family history.

Boiling water, and coffee & tea making facilities will also be available.

We will be having the official welcome and "Roll Up" at 12 noon.

What do people bring? As in the past years the following suggestions are a few ideas that have come to mind....

- Well, there are some tables and seating available in the Shelter Shed but if you are coming by car, it might be a good idea to bring along your lightweight picnic chairs/table or picnic rug, so we can spread out and be comfy.
- Bring your morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, and whatever "refreshments" that will be needed to sustain you for the day. There is also a kiosk adjacent to the Shelter Shed, with coffee, soft drinks and a considerable range of refreshments available for those travelling a long distance and who don't want to bring refreshments with them.
- Bring a couple of copies of the "potted" version of your family history, including photos (but remember that old ones are easily damaged by handling, so perhaps now is a good time to have copies made and **these** can be made available for others to have a look at - **leave the originals at home!**) This may be an opportunity to swap stories and information.
- Wear a name label with your name on it, (in **LARGE PRINT** so others can read it without glasses!) and also the main family names that you are associated with. Maybe a large sign, with the family name, that can be put on your "campsite" so that others can make themselves known to you as well.
- Notepad and pens etc to jot down the contacts if necessary and camera to get that memorable shot.
- If you have the opportunity to prepare a small "handout" that gives your **name and contact details and the families that you are interested in** (no more than a page), it may be worthwhile. Make a few copies of this that can then be swapped if you find others have a similar interest. - saves a lot of writing down in the excitement of the moment of finding others "doing" the same family.

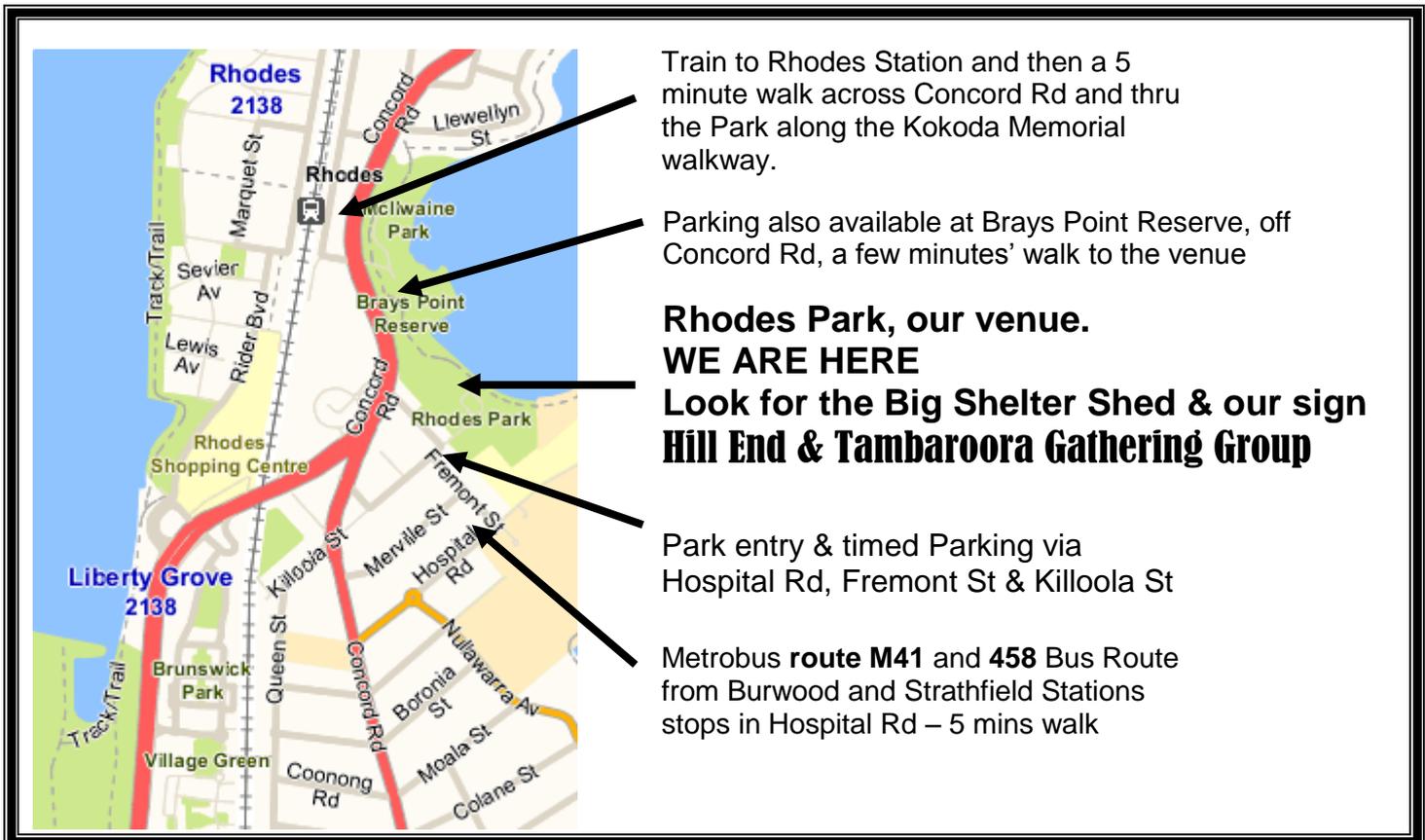
So, there you have it! This may be an opportunity to meet the faces that match many of the names we have been corresponding with in the past 12 months. It is also an opportunity to renew the friendships made at previous reunions. As it is a very informal get together there is no need to "book" to come to the gathering. We're sure to all fit in! Our venue should also provide sufficient shelter if the weather is inclement.

Further enquiries can be made to Lorraine Purcell
on (02) 95870352 or 0408117784
or via email to heatgg@yahoo.com.au



Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group 2015 Gathering Info

**Rhodes Rotary Park
Killoola St, Concord**
Saturday 7th March 2015 from 10am until 4pm
(Adjacent to the Kokoda Memorial Walkway and Brays Bay)



Access by car:

Free parking is available at Rhodes Park, via Hospital Rd, Fremont & Killoola Streets or at Brays Bay Reserve off Concord Rd. Stroll along the Kokoda Memorial Walkway to the Shelter Shed.

Parking is also available at Concord Hospital car park on Hospital Rd. A parking fee applies depending on time. Please note there are time limits on parking in surrounding streets and remember to move your vehicles if necessary.

Public transport:

Train to Rhodes Railway Station then short walk downhill to cross Concord Rd and on to the Kokoda Memorial Walkway at Brays Reserve. Please check Trackwork website closer to the event as this information is not available at the time of going to press. [Click here to check trackwork online.](#)

Bus Routes: Use the Metrobus system to access **route M41** from your local interchange or from Burwood Railway Station (runs every 20 mins) **OR**

Route No **458** from Burwood to Ryde.

Departs Burwood Station in Railway Pde South

Departs Strathfield Station, Everton Rd, Stand D North Side

Ask driver for closest stop to the Kokoda Walkway in Hospital Rd. (outside Concord Hospital) . From here it is a 5 minute walk along Fremont Street to the park.

All enquiries to Lorraine on 02 9587 0352 or 0408 117 784