



# Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group Newsletter

Issue 18, January 2016

**Dear Hill Endites and Tambaroorians,**

Once again it is time to remind you that the annual Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Reunion will be held at Rhodes Park at Concord on Saturday 5 March, starting at 10am.

Our Gathering place is located right next to the Kokoda Café adjacent to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway and is about a 5 minute stroll from Rhodes railway station downhill towards Concord Road and across onto the Kokoda Walkway at Brays Bay Reserve, or from Hospital Road bus stop stroll down Fremont St to the park entrance. Further detailed instructions, directions and a map are included at the end of this newsletter.

Take this opportunity to gather the family together and join us in the Park (hail, rain or shine as there is a large shelter shed available for us) to remember your Hill End & Tambaroora ancestors and possibly meet up with some new “branches” to add to the family tree.

Well, this time I am writing the newsletter actually in Hill End, having decided to spend a few days between Christmas & New Year here to experience what the place might be like in full summer....very different to what it was when we published the last newsletter in August and there was snow on the ground.



It is fulfilling my expectations and is pleasantly warm. The cicadas are making their presence felt, the agapanthus are in full bloom and the “flaming hot pokers” are also glowing. Thanks to some decent rains a few months ago the town is looking quite green.



*Said we, “Here’s Christmas come again,  
And we no farthing richer  
Time answered “Ah, the old, old strain,  
I pray thee pass the pitcher.  
Why measure all your good in gold?  
No rope of sand is weaker.  
'Tis hard to get, 'tis hard to hold:  
Come lads fill up your beaker!*

The Latin phrase at the bottom translates to  
*More intelligent than depicted!*

The above card is from a collection held by the State Library of NSW. In 1881 John Sands organised a competition in which the public was invited to submit designs for Christmas cards, which he intended to publish. Prizes were offered for the winning designs. The designs had to be "Australian in character", so most of these watercolours show either bush landscapes and life, or botanical illustrations. The above was one of those designs submitted, and depicts the underground miners as small winged workers bringing the specks to the surface....Hard work in all this heat!





Some of our Gathering at Hill End in September 2015

## The September 2015 Reunion in Hill End

A wonderful crowd of descendants “descended” on Hill End over the weekend of 25 – 27 September to meet up with other family members and potential cousins. More than 120 members of our group enjoyed a full weekend where they were able to walk in their ancestors’ footsteps around the town.

Our small coach brought those without transport from Sydney and we had visitors from far afield join us for the weekend, some flying in from interstate.

The Royal Hall was the centre of our activities and a large display of family history resources were made available for people to peruse, in the search for a familiar name. These included photographs, books, maps and hard copies of the material that had been prepared by the volunteers.

Sandra Thompson, our guide from NPWS took participants on a town tour on Saturday and many joined us in a visit to Tambaroora and the Cemetery on Sunday morning to reconnect with those family members buried there. Ted Abbott once again was able to help out with locating family plots.

The highlight of the weekend was the “family dinner” which was held in the Royal Hall.

Logistically challenging (where do you get 100 sets of cutlery, wine glasses and dinner plates in a town with a population of 126?) we achieved our goal and everyone was eventually served their home-style country dinner of locally produced meat pies and fresh veggies, followed by apple crumble or a huge slice of sticky date pudding.

The following families were represented by their descendants:

Ackermann	Iffland	Phillips,
Alder	Isaacs	Pymont
Bishop	Jarman	Rogers
Carver	Johnson	Ross
Cullen	Kerr	Saxby
Drakeford	Krohmann	Starr
Eldridge	Lavender	Stuart
English	Longmore	Treffone
Everett	Longmore	Wardman
Fitzgerald	Macryannis	Warry
Gaynon	Murray	Willard
Goodwin	Nichols	Woolard
Hocking	Parsonage	







## Hill End community rallies in opposition to the Nuclear Waste Dump.

Hill End has had its fair share of publicity in the recent past.

The Federal Government recently shortlisted six sites to potentially house the country's first permanent nuclear waste dump. Included in this was a property listed as Sallys Flat, a small locality about 16kms from Hill End on the Bathurst Road. It appears that the actual site is much closer to Hill End and this has caused much unrest in the local community. A number of well attended meetings have been held especially as initially there had been no information stating how it will affect the community.

Residents were told that there could be economic benefits for the community, including millions in infrastructure funds. They were told that the site would only accept low and intermediate radioactive waste generated in Australia.

The general consensus of the meeting was sent back to the Minister stating that the community were strongly opposed to the proposition.

It is believed that the historical significance, access roads, and the population of the area made it a poor choice for a nuclear facility and at this stage many questions about the potential impacts remain unanswered.

Keep up to date with the news on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/No-Central-West-Nuclear-Waste-Dump-1727826154105885/?fref=ts>

Further meetings will be held before the cut-off date for submissions and it is hoped that the Government will take into consideration the local resistance to the proposal.

Further information on the project is available at [www.radioactivewaste.gov.au](http://www.radioactivewaste.gov.au)

## Condolences

We have been notified of the passing of Ted Whitehead who passed away at Katoomba in June 2015. Our sympathies go out to the family.

Ted was researching the Pascoe, Jones, Willard and Hocking families. Ted provided us with a copy of much of his work a few years ago and was always keen to share his research with other family historians. We are happy to make this available to others researching these families. Our thoughts are with his family.

## Ancient History...

As a result of an item in our last newsletter we were contacted by Arthur Cluff who attended Hargraves School when it was situated near the old teacher's residence in the 1940s. He has many fond memories of growing up in Hargraves. His father owned the General Store before the family moved away during the war. They returned later and his mother ran the store. He trained as a teacher and is now retired and lives on the Central Coast.

We were thrilled to be the recipient of a handwritten notebook in which Arthur had collected his memories of the district and we will add this to our library collection. Here is a sample of some of his work.



Arthur, who has a passion for history recently visited his old school and told the children many interesting stories about life in "the old days" and of the gold discoveries around the village. In response to his stories he was asked by one of the children if he had "ever seen a dinosaur"? Sadly Arthur had to admit that it was a bit before his time....



Hot on the trail.

**Can you help our researchers with information on the following topics?**

**Taste the Past –**

“*The Cook and the Ranger*” will be coming to Hill End very soon, with culinary delights of the past. Enjoy tours of historic Hill End sites with National Parks Discovery Ranger, Sandra Thompson and then let the Cook, Karen Bates, serve you food freshly recreated from old family favourite recipes, just as our ancestors would have eaten more than a century ago.

But first the Cook needs your help! She would love to include authentic, favourite or “secret” family recipes or stories about food amongst these offerings. To do this she needs you to fossick around in the family treasures from your Hillendian and Tambaroorian ancestors. Is there an old cookbook, perhaps hand written amongst them that you would love to share?



Karen would love to hear from you so that she can make the experience a genuine one, perhaps using local produce which is still available in the area. Help her to recreate these forgotten gems so others can taste the past.

Check out the website at [www.tastethepast.com.au](http://www.tastethepast.com.au) Karen can be contacted at [karen.bates9@gmail.com](mailto:karen.bates9@gmail.com) or phone her 0412464578. Alternately you can post your recipes and stories to her at 16 Thompson St Drummoyne NSW 2047.

**A musical lot - Elisha William GALE**



Whilst this is possibly a little out of our Hill End area, I have been contacted by Ross Wellington ([rwrossco@gmail.com](mailto:rwrossco@gmail.com)) regarding the above photograph. It includes his Great Grandad Elisha William Gale, a gold digger from Bathurst, who was also believed to be at Hill End during his mining career and associated with the Bald Hill Mine possibly in the 1890s. This photo is understood to be of a mine in the Ophir/Byng area and it is good to see that musical recreation was part of the

lifestyle. We can identify the banjo, the accordion, a tambourine and possibly a brass instrument of some sort. Ross would love to know if anyone else has a copy of this photo and may know of the location and who the people were as well? If you can help please email Ross or ring me (02 95870352) and I can pass on a message.

**Thirsty work....I'll drink to that!**

One of our volunteer researchers is currently preparing material on the Hotels of the district. We have all heard the yarns about the number of hotels just in Clarke St in Hill End and in his investigations Ray Samuels has come across much more information about some of the outlying hotels, grog shops and cordial manufacturers.

This material is being collated and will be the basis for another publication once completed. Whilst Ray has collected many of the official documents relating to these places he would love to hear some of the stories and see some of the photographs that may have been handed down to family members about these hotels etc.



J.S. Brown's Junction Hotel, Hill End.  
Holtermann Collection SLNSW a2822527

There is already a wonderful collection of them covering the 1870s in the Holtermann photos however there are sure to be other family snapshots out there which would relate to other periods. Can you help him?



Weirs Hotel, sometime before 1936, with Dr Marr's car out the front – HEATGG Collection

If you would like to share your history and have your ancestors included in this work then Ray can be contacted via email at [raysamuel02@hotmail.com](mailto:raysamuel02@hotmail.com) or you can ring him at (02)96297707. You can also drop him a line to 37 Benson Road, Beaumont Hills, NSW 2155. Ray is also prepared to visit anyone who has any information or items that need to be photographed.





## Police & Justice in Hill End

Helen Wood

From the very early days of the 1850s gold rush, law and order on the Hill End and Tambaroora diggings was administered from Tambaroora. In 1870 Tambaroora court house was described as a large square wooden structure, perched on a hillock, a little away from the township. It had a strong lockup attached and the police camp was the old commissioner's quarters, the greater part of which had been condemned several years previously.

Meanwhile in 1871, Hill End was becoming a rich reef mining goldfield with high yields from Hawkins Hill creating a second rush. Although there were some 1500 persons living in and about the town there was no policeman, watch house or court house, the need for which was expressed to a government special commission that visited the district in November 1871. It was said at the time that three quarters of the business transacted at Tambaroora police office came from Hill End.

This led to the establishment of Hill End Police Station and the Hill End Court of Petty Sessions by the end of the year. The original police station is still standing today on the corner of Tambaroora and Short Streets and is now known as Faraday Cottage.



Policemen outside the police cottage, Hill End

Wet plate glass negative,

[ON 4 Box 7 No 18693](#)

Holtermann Collection, SLNSW

One room of the cottage served as the police office and another smaller room served as a lockup where prisoners "had to be chained to a log in the centre", for the walls were so insecure that "a child could knock a hole in them". A visiting MP described it as a "washing tub" and said that he had "never seen such a disgraceful building put to such a purpose before. It was worse than the black hole of Calcutta."

In May 1872 a temporary court house was established by the lease of a large room in Wythes' Metropolitan Hotel in Clarke Street. It was "fitted in precisely the same style minus bottles and beer engines" and also served as the office of the Police Magistrate who had relocated from Tambaroora.

A new lockup with yard was built behind the hotel. However it was not much better than its predecessor as,

"there was only one cell, which was a wooden structure 10ft by 12ft. All prisoners were thrust in alike, a murderer or a youth for becoming intoxicated".



Wythes' Metropolitan Hotel, Hill End

, Wet plate glass negative,

[ON 4 Box 7 No 18653](#)

Holtermann Collection SLNSW

When Premier Henry Parkes visited the town in September 1872 he acknowledged residents' calls for permanent buildings, but made no ministerial pledge. Residents' further request for the establishment of a District Court was granted in February 1873 and in May 1874 the Hill End Warden's Court was established.

After February 1874 the police were relocated to quarters attached to the court house.

Over the next few years tenders were issued for the erection of a new court house and watch house but did not proceed as a suitable site could not be settled upon. In 1878 there was talk that the government had purchased the unfinished Protestant Hall to be converted into a court house and police camp, however residents protested, declaring that the building was not suited in any way.

By this time Hill End's fortunes had gone downhill, so the government opted to continue renting the Metropolitan Hotel rather than erect new buildings. Residents continued to advocate otherwise.

In March 1882 the first meeting of the Hill End Licensing Court was held, but in October 1883 the court house and police barracks almost burnt down and were only saved with great difficulty.

Residents' calls for a new court house and police buildings gained momentum in the 1890s with representations made to the government by local MP John Haynes. Success finally came in 1899 when land for the current site was acquired and a design by government architect W.L. Vernon finalised. Seven tenders were received for the construction work, the lowest of which was submitted by W. Frost of Murrumburrah at £2,143. The buildings were constructed of rock quarried locally from the creek just below Chappell's dam and were completed in 1901. Contained within are the court house, police station, police residence and lockup.



Hill End Court House circa 1915. (HEATGG collection)

Hill End Police Station and residence are still in use today while it is thought that the court house was in commission until July 1988.

Many of the cases dealt with over the years concerned mining accidents. In one week alone in February 1874 two miners fell to their deaths and another two narrowly escaped being similarly killed. Deaths from cave-ins also occurred. In 1938 an inquest was held in this courtroom into the deaths of a father and son who had been crushed by the collapse of a tunnel.

Other cases related to mining disputes with one of note concerning a hotly contested mining lease in 1912. Evidence was heard here in the Wardens Court that the piece of land in question was the scene of what would easily pass as a first class American Wild West drama. Witnesses told that at the pegging out of the lease one of the parties produced a revolver and was reported to have said "I'll shoot the first man who interferes here". Fortunately no shots were fired. The man with the gun was not successful in his bid for the lease.

In 1891 a 12 year old Hill End boy was arrested by local police for shooting his father and was found guilty of manslaughter by the jury of the Coroner's Court. The defence was that the boy had fired at what he thought was a white and black dog, and shot his father by mistake, as he was returning from the night shift in a mine. The boy was committed for trial at the Bathurst Circuit Court where he was acquitted.

According to a former resident, the court house was regarded by locals as the theatre of Hill End. It was "especially crowded with onlookers, when a civil case or police case was to be heard concerning local people. On such days anyone who was not working would spend the day listening to proceedings. Some of the verdicts by local J.P.s were amusing.

One case concerned the shooting of a neighbour's dog. The defendant was asked quite a few times did he shoot the dog in self-defence. He got annoyed by being asked the same question over and over so he replied "No sir, I shot him in the arse and he jumped the fence." (This anecdote quoted from A. E Howard in *Born on the Hill End Goldfields.*)

## The Rebellion on the Turon

Many of our ancestors were amongst the first miners on the Turon, seeking an opportunity to make their fortune. We have all heard of the Eureka Stockade and the Lambing Flat Riots but very little is publicized about the Rebellion on the Turon in 1852.

In the first few months of the gold rush, miners complied with the law of the day, but those who were not 'striking it rich' soon objected to paying the 30/- licence fee. Throughout late 1851 and into 1852 there were hostilities in the booming settlement with fierce words between miners and the government until things came to a head in February 1853.

Sofala is celebrating this event and you can be part of the excitement as prospectors or townspeople in the re-enactment there over the weekend of 12/13 March 2016. "Rebellion on the Turon" includes a re-enactment of events of 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1853 when a mob of over 1000 protesting miners marched, heavily armed and singing Irish protest songs, on the banks of the Turon demanding rights for miners.

As well as a wide range of entertainment appropriate to the event there will be a full re-enactment at 1pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>. At 10am & 4pm each day there will be Cannon Fire and on Saturday evening a Bush Band will be performing at the Sofala Royal Hotel. During the days there will be stalls, pistol & sword duels, Cobb & Co coach rides, penny-farthing bicycles and maypole dancing.

For more information contact Carlo Jensen on (02) 6337 7587 or email him at [carlo\\_j\\_2000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:carlo_j_2000@yahoo.com.au)

The following timeline by Merv Tobin gives us a brief outline of the circumstances leading to this rebellion.

### May 1851

2<sup>nd</sup> The first official notice of gold discovery in colonial NSW appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald.

8<sup>th</sup> Six days later Edward Hargraves held a public meeting in Bathurst, where he fully disclosed details of his discovery.

16<sup>th</sup> Six hundred diggers had reached the area now known as Ophir.



22<sup>nd</sup> The Crown Rights to all gold was proclaimed.

23<sup>rd</sup> All licence regulations were issued, requiring all miners to take out a licence at 30/- per month, before commencing to dig on Crown Land.

### June 1851

14<sup>th</sup> William Sutter announced in the *Bathurst Free Press*, that one of his overseers had discovered gold along long stretches of the Turon River and that large parties of diggers were already heading for the Turon.

### July 1851

3<sup>rd</sup> Gold Commissioner Hardy began issuing licences. Within seven days, over 700 licences were issued, with several hundred still to be issued.

10<sup>th</sup> 700 more licences issued. The population grew at an astonishing rate, mostly along a 7 mile stretch of the river, centered on what is now Sofala.

### August 1851

14<sup>th</sup> Sofala was proclaimed a township in the Government Gazette. In the early months of the gold rush, most miners happily complied with the licencing arrangements, but many who were not "striking it rich," objected and evaded paying the 30/-.

### September & October 1851

The diggers experienced boom times during September and October but then heavy rain and flooding took a toll on their income and so more and more miners found it difficult to pay their fees in advance.

### November 1851

6<sup>th</sup> A committee of miners was formed to prepare a petition to the Legislative Council. Their protest was against the exorbitant price of the licence and the manner in which it was collected.

### December 1851

Further hostilities surged during December, when the Colonial Secretary claimed that the average weekly income for the miners was £3/16/- and the miners had nothing to complain about. This ignored the fact that not all diggers were successful and the overall income on the diggings was in constant flux due to the vagaries of the weather.

A highly inflammatory speech by W. C. Wentworth MLC further added to the spirit of anger on the Turon.

23<sup>rd</sup> Despite several deputations and loud protests to the Legislative Council, no action was taken until late December, when the new Goldfields Management Act was passed. The licence was not only retained but extended. Everyone on the gold field had to have a licence. Miners of non – British origin had to pay a double fee.

Evasion produced fines from £5 – £30; confiscation of miners' gear, the destruction of residences and imprisonment was the punishment for evasion. The Act was to come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1853.

The miners saw this act as a declaration of war upon their prospecting rights and economic freedom. The Gold Commissioner made an urgent request for more troopers.



D Tulloch - "Great Meeting of Gold Diggers 15 Dec 1851, a mass protest against the cost of the Gold Licence at Forest Creek in Victoria". It is indicative of what was happening on the Turon at the same time  
(National Museum of Australia)

### January 1852

8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Meetings of miners were held.

### February 1852

1<sup>st</sup> A meeting of miners, chaired by W. Maxwell, called for a physical show of resistance.

6<sup>th</sup> On Sunday Commissioner Green rode from Bathurst with thirteen troopers, increasing the police strength to 32. Half a company of the Eleventh Regiment was also on its way.

7<sup>th</sup> On Monday morning, over a thousand miners and businessmen met in town to hear the latest rebuff of their petition. Another petition was drawn up and signed by 1400 diggers.

8<sup>th</sup> On Tuesday the miners' anger was at breaking point. Diggers from Mundy Point marched down the Turon demanding the miners fight for their rights. They smashed the cradles of any who would not join them as they marched four abreast, heavily armed and singing Irish protest songs accompanied by fife and drum, into Sofala. They then put up their own version of Nelson's famous signal at Trafalgar: "*Australia expects that every man this day will do his duty.*"

Over a thousand protesters had assembled on the bank of the Turon, opposite the police compound. Major Majoribanks, a prominent local identity, called for the assembled miners to turn themselves over for arrest by the Commissioner. However, it was then decided that four volunteers should give themselves up for arrest to test the actions of the Commissioner.

As the four approached the compound they were promptly arrested. On seeing this, the mood of the crowd darkened and calls of, "They are taken!" and, "To the rescue!" were heard immediately. A large crowd of armed diggers surged toward the river. Bloodshed and certain death were imminent.

Just as suddenly, the Wesleyan Rev. Piddington, ran to the dais and called to the miners - exhorting them to avoid violence and to think of their families and themselves. After lengthy appeals the Reverend won the day and the angry mob saw the wisdom of his words and halted their mad rush to the rescue.

The four who had been arrested were fined £1 each and







## The Western Goldfields Consortium



The first meeting of this group was held in Hill End in September and representatives from a number of surrounding villages were present. It turned into a great swapfest of yarns, experiences and resources. Our next visit will be to Wattle Flat on 13<sup>th</sup> February and again, as many of our ancestors may have been briefly associated with this place Chris Green has put together an article on their projects there.

### **Gathering more of the history of Wattle Flat**

by Chris Green

Over the last few months work has been progressing on a project to interpret & display the genesis & cultural history of the Solitary Gold Mine site at Wattle Flat and its context within the surrounding environment. This project will undoubtedly take a number of years to develop relying mainly on the support of local volunteers. The Wattle Flat Heritage Lands Trust administers the land on which this project is sited, and is the principal protagonist of the development works.

The Wattle Flat area is likely to have been the source area of most of the alluvial gold historically mined in the Turon River in the vicinity of the village of Sofala. The gold most likely travelled northwards from the Wattle Flat area via Big Oakey Creek (now a deep gorge). Within the Wattle Flat area one of the most extensively developed historic quartz reef gold mines was the Solitary Mine. A number of deep shafts were developed along the main quartz vein between 1852 & 1899. The first stamp battery at the Solitary Mine site was installed in 1860. Over the following years a sequence of companies had ownership of the site, and strove to use the latest metallurgical technologies to more efficiently extract the gold from the mineralised quartz rock.

Of all this industry at Solitary Mine site, there is little to see today. The current project seeks to reveal, illustrate, & display what amazing things actually took place here. There are the remains of : (1) a mullock heap around the main shaft; (2) lines of near surface workings showing quartz veins in the old volcanic rock; (3) remains of a large area of early battery sands; and (4) the foundation timbers of the last stamp battery to be erected at this site in the late 1940's. This last battery is now on display at the Bathurst Goldfields display on Mt Panorama.

Historic survey plans of this site show the position of the original machinery shed and a water reservoir at this site.



1892 photo of Solitary Mine headframe & group of miners.

Can anyone put names to these chaps?

(photo from Historama Series No 2 originally published by Centrepak Research).

Existing works & proposals to develop this site as a showcase for the significant history include: (1) the erection of a replica timber headframe over one of the shafts; (2) a short walking trail connecting places of particular interest; (3) an array of explanatory display signs illustrating the significance of each site; (4) the development of a dam & reservoir reflecting the original dam & reservoir; and (5) the development of a recreational parkland around the reservoir behind the historic mine site.



Installation of the replica headframe, Nov 2014

The replica headframe has already been installed. Sections of the walking trail have been laid. Trees have been planted to beautify the recreational area. The trees include areas of spectacular deciduous trees reflecting the cultural heritage of the early gold miners, and areas of different species of Wattle trees connecting with the heritage of the local native flora.

Work is reasonably advanced in trawling through online historic newspapers (courtesy of Trove, NLA), in search of records relating to the history of the Solitary Mine Site. There may well be other significant information & photographs regarding this site that we have not yet discovered. We are very keen to find additional information & photographs to illustrate the local history. A collection of late 1940's photographs showing the installation of the last stamp battery at the Solitary Mine site have been generously made available by John King of Sofala.



## Hill End Happenings

### Hill End through sound, images and words.

Hill End resident, artist, musician and actor, Kim Deacon, has written and produced an installation about a woman's journey to the town in the late 1800s.

In 1961, a man walking his dog in the village of Hill End stumbled upon an amazing find. "The dog went into some undergrowth of blackberries and wouldn't come out," Kim Deacon said. "The guy threw a stone in there and...It turned out to be an entire derelict house. Inside this house was a box, inside this box was a diary."



Based on that diary, Kim Deacon has used words, sound recordings, music, drama and archival film to create an installation, *A Storm at Sea*, to tell the story of a young Scottish woman's journey to Australia in 1865.

After the death of her parents, 22-year-old Mary Maclean travelled in the cargo hold of the ship *Africana* from Glasgow to join her brother in Australia. The diary she wrote on board was published in Andres Hassam's book, *No privacy for writing: shipboard diaries 1852-1879* (Melbourne University Press Carlton, Vic 1995) and this was the basis for Kim's installation.

Travelling in steerage, after boarding Mary had to wait 10 days for other classes to board before the ship sailed. The ship was just like those used to transport convicts, and conditions were basic, with only two toilets for 482 people.

Kim's installation includes sound effects sourced through the internet as well as her own recordings of birds such as seagulls. She uses the sound of 'wind harps' she recorded on windy hills around the central west to evoke Mary's experiences on the ship. Mary weathered the storms and made it to Australia, where she met her brother and moved to Hill End. She married William Marshall, from a local gold mining family.

Copies of her CD can be purchased directly from Kim by sending her a message through her Facebook page: [Kim Deacon](#) or phone her on 0432397465.

ABC Radio's Simon Marnie recently interviewed Kim for his 702 Weekend Show and has kindly provided the link for those who wish to listen to the program online. Catch it all at <http://blogs.abc.net.au/nsw/2015/12/sunday-brunch-with-kim-deacon.html>

## Our Easter Market in the Royal Hall That's progress for you....

Due to a hefty increase in the Royal Hall rental fees by National Parks & Wildlife Service sadly we have had to cut our fundraising Market days down to just the Saturday over the Easter weekend. They have deemed the Market to be a "commercial" undertaking even though we are all local community or Gathering Group members and as such the rental is \$300 per day.

We have been informed that the rental fees will be going towards maintenance and improved facilities in the Hall so we look forward to seeing the results of our contribution towards NPWS funding.

We are now working in conjunction with Hill End Public School to continue to bring the Hill End residents and visitors that "retail therapy experience" that they have come to enjoy and expect as part of their Easter weekend getaway.



The profits from our Sausage Sizzle go towards the production and postage costs for the Newsletter (we send out about 250 copies by ordinary mail) and some of the funds raised by our stall at the Markets are used to pay for resources & equipment used by Daphne at Hill End Family History and the Gathering Group to assist people in researching their ancestors when visiting the town.

The Royal Hall was built in 1900 by the Eyre family, owners of Royal Hotel next door, (hence the name) as a place to be used for dances, films, fund-raising activities and the like. It is now also the home of a wonderful collection of old family portraits and photographs. Many of these have been donated to the community by descendants, in memory of these ancestors and this is one of the rare opportunities for the general public to view these portraits.

The Market will be held on Easter Saturday from 10am, closing around 4pm. Hope to see you there, and...

**Bring ya' money with  
you!**



## Hill End Historic Buildings Open Days

The 2016 Open Days will be held on Sunday 10 April and Sunday 16 October.

This is your opportunity to view the historic buildings of the town, from humble miners' cottages and the old churches to artist's cottages, the Court House 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.



## Research Notes

### **Great News!**

The Gathering Group was successful in gaining another grant of \$4000 from Bathurst Regional Council to allow us to reformat a lot of our research documentation to make it suitable for inclusion on our website. This work by our volunteers includes Birth, Death & Marriage transcriptions, mining records, school records and petitions. We will then be able to use a professional administrative assistant to update the website with this information.



Check us out at [www.heatgg.org.au](http://www.heatgg.org.au)

In applying for the grant we had to document the hours already worked on the project and when you add it all up over the past 18 months or so, we surprised ourselves when we discovered that the volunteers have spent close on 2000 hours in carrying out their part of the work! Do the maths; this actually works out at over a year for one person working 40 hours a week!

So, hopefully, by mid-year we will have all this material up on our website for you to access. ...and all thanks to your passionate volunteers!

## **Exciting New Resources**



We have recently come across a great resource hidden away in the NSW Government Gazette. It is a list of Mining Lease Applications for 1872-73 and was in the 1873 edition, pages 1744 – 1778.

Unfortunately it is only in date order and the 34 pages must be browsed to check for names. As there are 83 entries per page we have plans of indexing this list in alphabetical order so you can just check up on the ancestors' names and see where they may have applied for a lease during this time. It covers the entire Western Goldfields area, not just Hill End & Tambaroora (ie Orange, Bathurst, and Mudgee).

## **For the benefit of all**



One of our volunteers, Verna Little, (centre in red top) has been working in State Library of NSW with a group of other volunteers, under the guidance the former President of the Society of Australian Genealogists, Malcolm Sainty. They are indexing biographical sources from the Mitchell Library's manuscripts index catalogue, for the Biographical Database of Australia (BDA). They are building a biographical database of first resort for Australian historians and genealogists.

We've mentioned these sites before but sometimes it pays to recheck old resources as new material is being added all the time.

The Biographical Database of Australia (BDA) aims to include people born in or who arrived in Australia, the only restriction being that the subject of the biography is deceased.

It now contains more than 1 million entries incorporating many key sources from published biographies to original records dating from the earliest days of European settlement. For the first time parish registers have been fully transcribed and indexed providing a boon to genealogists. It is a subscription database, (\$30 pa) but searching the index is free. Well worth the investment if you find your ancestor mentioned, as it could save a number of trips to the library or other resource centre. Check it out at <http://www.bda-online.org.au/>



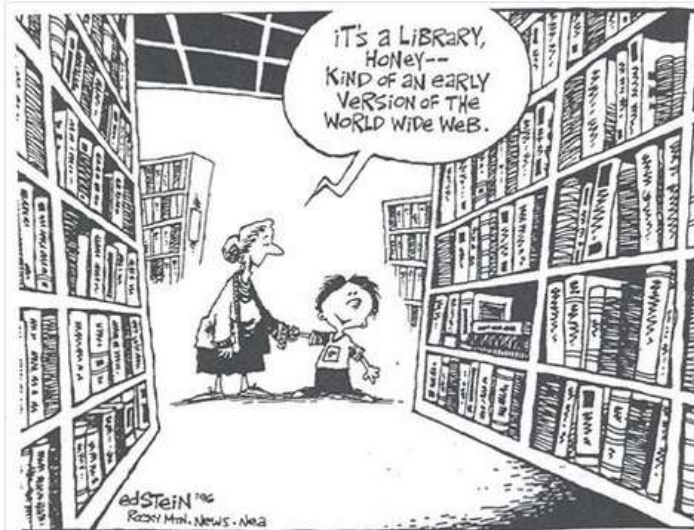
## Kiama Family History Expo

For those who live on the South Coast or Southern Highlands you may be interested in attending the Family, Local & Social History Expo, hosted by Kiama Family History Centre. If you live in the area they have a great group of history focused groups coming to the event. They will be more than happy to give you information about tracing all different types of history. Everyone is welcome to join them for this event.

Date: 16 April 2016

Time: 9.30am to 4.00pm

Place: Kiama Pavilion, Bong Bong Street, Kiama



## Searching unusual ancestors in the NSW BDMs

If you are looking for Chinese death registrations in the NSW BDMs and are having no luck just put the word "Chinese" in the "Surname" field and select a block of dates, as the full name then appears in the Christian name column. Remember that most of the registrations were written as they sounded to an Anglo ear so the spelling may not be as you might expect.



Similarly, if searching for Aboriginal births & deaths you can also do this if you put "Aboriginal" in the "Surname" field and a block of dates which may

be relevant. This appears to apply if a full surname wasn't known to the informant.

Thanks to Verna who alerted us to this. Try it at

<http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/Pages/family-history/family-history.aspx>

### 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](mailto:heatgg@yahoo.com.au)

Website: [www.heatgg.org.au](http://www.heatgg.org.au)

## What is Lorraine reading for a bit of "light relief?" (In-between all of this volunteer work)????

A fiction novel based in Hill End of course! *Paper Daisies*, by Kim Kelly came to my notice so I just had to get a copy for our collection. There is nothing like reading a book based on a location that you know well.

The publishers, MacMillan have a brief synopsis as follows:



It's December, 1900, and Berylda Jones is heading home to Bathurst for Christmas. Tragically, 'home' is where she and her beloved sister Greta live in terror, under the control of their sadistic Uncle Alec.

But Berylda has a plan, borne out of desperation, to free herself and Greta from Alec for good - if she can only find the courage to execute it.

Then, on New Year's Eve, just as Alec tightens his grip on the sisters, a stranger arrives at their gate - Ben Wilberry, a botanist in search of a particular native wildflower, with his friend, the artist Cosmo Thompson.

Ben is oblivious to what depravity lies beyond this threshold and what follows is a journey that will take him and Berylda, and Greta and Cosmo, out to the old gold rush town of Hill End in search of a means to cure evil and a solution to what seems an impossible situation.

Against the tumultuous backdrop of Australian Federation and the coming of the Women's Vote, *Paper Daisies* is a story of what it means to find moral courage, of a crime that must be committed to see justice done and a sweet love that flourishes against the odds.

*Paper Daisies* is available as a paperback (\$29.99 or an eBook \$11.99) from good bookshops or the publisher's website

<http://www.panmacmillan.com.au/9781743535486>

### 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](mailto:daph@hillendfamilyhistory.com)

Phone - 02-63378218 after 6:30pm

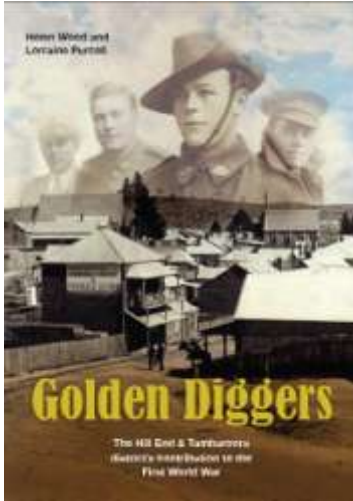
or try your luck on 0429335627

For further information check out Daphne's website at

<http://hillendfamilyhistory.com/>

**Contact Daphne if you would like to be placed on the email mailing list to receive a copy of her newsletter**

## Our bookshop



**Golden Diggers – The Hill End & Tambaroora District's contribution to the First World War.** By Helen Wood & Lorraine Purcell. 210 pages, indexed.

This book tells the story of Hill End during the First World War period. It also includes brief biographies and in some cases, photographs of the 174 servicemen & women whose names are recorded on the Hill End War Memorial. For more than 5 years Helen

Wood has painstakingly researched the names and events surrounding the lives of these people who were born, grew up, went to school or who lived in the district in the decades surrounding the war.

### 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

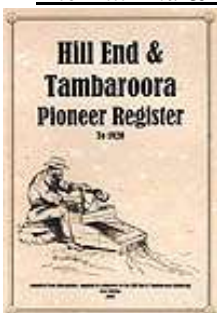
You've written your family history on the computer and used Word to capture all the research that you have accumulated over the years. Now it is time to produce "the book". This easy to follow publication will assist you in producing a professional looking document that you will be proud to share amongst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

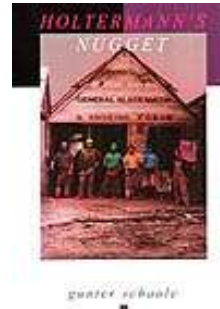
This book was written to answer the questions that have been asked of the authors over thirty years. Throughout the chapters of this book, they have given some guidelines that will hopefully show people how they can design a book of their own.

### The Hill End & Tambaroora Pioneer Register on CD



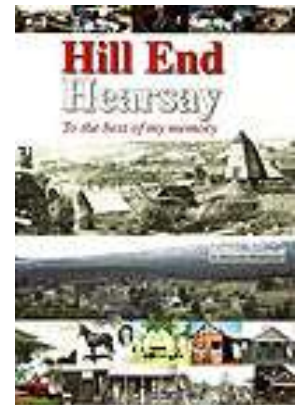
The bound edition, printed in a run of 500 copies, sold out within 12 months of publication so, to satisfy demand, the Register has now been produced on CD in acrobat format. Containing all the original material (plus a few corrections) it has the added advantage of being able to be searched by name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

**Holtermann's Nugget** by Gunter Schaule  
**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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 on 02 95870352 for details. They can also be purchased via our website at <http://heatgg.org.au/he/publications/>**



# The 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 Gathering in Rhodes Park (Map on next page)

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 delicious meals 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.

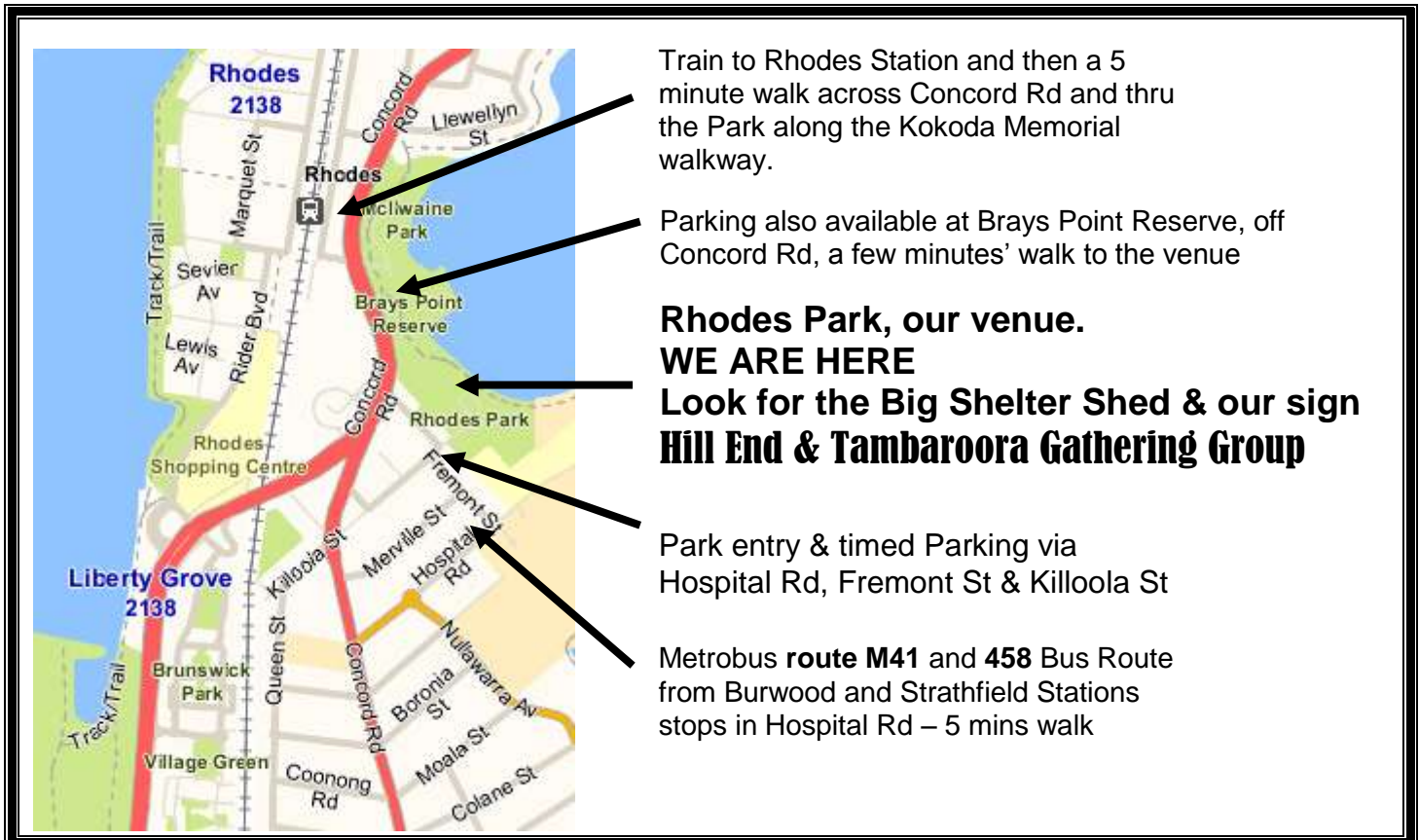
Further enquiries can be made to Lorraine Purcell  
(02) 95870352 or 0408117784  
or via email to [heatgg@yahoo.com.au](mailto:heatgg@yahoo.com.au)



## Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group 2016 Gathering Info

### Rhodes Rotary Park Killoola St, Concord

**Saturday 5th March 2016 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**