



Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group

Newsletter

Issue 6, Jan 2010

Get ready for the 2010 Gathering! Saturday 6th March

We are back at Rhodes Park!!!

Our new venue, **Rhodes Park** at Concord, proved to be successful in 2009 and we have booked it again for this year's Gathering, thus maintaining the new tradition that we hope will continue for many years to come. As times change we have to adapt and we were very pleased with the facilities provided last year. It successfully met all our criteria: fairly central location, close to public transport, parking, toilets, and shelter and last of all, affordable. The Rose Pavilion in the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens had unfortunately priced itself out of consideration.

Last year we had over 75 members of the group attend the Gathering and were pleased to welcome many new faces as well as a number of "old faithfuls" some of whom had made the special effort to travel from Hill End, Bathurst and many other country locations. We look forward to welcoming them again this year and hope that they have rallied their families and encouraged them to make the first Saturday in March a special family reunion day,

Adjacent to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, it is about a 5 min easy stroll from Rhodes railway station downhill towards Concord Road and across onto the Kokoda Walkway at Brays Bay Reserve.

The 458 Burwood to Ryde bus route, which leaves from Burwood station and passes by Strathfield Station and Concord Repat Hospital, is nearby. Vehicle access and some parking is available via Killoola St and Fremont St and there is more parking at Brays Bay Reserve. Toilets are available and the nearby kiosk serves a wide range of refreshments. We have booked the venue and the large shelter shed for the whole day so arrive from 10am onwards and stay as long as you like. Bring your picnic lunch and fold up seats if coming by car. This will ensure that there is plenty of seating for those who need to use public transport.

There are a large number of picnic tables etc under the shelter so you will have room to set out your photos and items of interest and if the weather is fine we can spill out onto the surrounding grassed area.

This is an opportunity to assemble your extended family together to remember the contribution that your ancestors made to the life of Hill End & Tambaroora. Some of your family may not even realize the connections that they had to the place. Ask them if they have any memorabilia, photos, or stories that they would like to share with the rest of the family. Come along and see if you can link up with other families who might share a common ancestor.

For further information, map and directions please refer to the enclosed brochure. There are 3 hotels located nearby at Olympic Park if you are coming to stay from the country



The 2009 Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group
at Rhodes

Have you discovered (a treasure) Trove?

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

According to the National Library of Australia, Trove provides an integrated single point of access to over 45 million items from a range of Australian and overseas libraries, museums and picture collections. Trove has now replaced the old LibrariesAustralia and PicturesAustralia website searches and includes so many more resources. You can spend hours trolling through the entries. The digitized newspaper articles are a wealth of information and are keyword searchable too...just enter your ancestor's name and if they ever appeared in the press there is a good chance a report may appear. It might even be as small as an advertisement in the classified section or if they were involved in a major incident you may get a full report, including coronial inquests too. Because interstate newspapers picked up NSW news as well you might even find a mention in the WA or Victorian newspapers. Not all issues have been uploaded yet so it pays to revisit the site on a regular basis. Once the relevant newspaper pages have been digitized you can view the originals as well as an automated transcript, which may need amending, if you are so inclined. This is one way of helping make the material more accessible.

What resources does Trove offer?

You can find information about resources collected by Australia's memory institutions, such as:

- books, theses, reports, research articles, raw data sets, book chapters, conference proceedings as well as papers and records
- maps and audio-visual materials including photographs, artworks, postcards, videos, musical sound, sheet music and sound recordings of interview
- the full-text of major Australian newspapers, from 1803 to 1954
- copies of selected Australian websites which may no longer be available online or in their original form
- people and organisations



A bit of fun...

Ever want to know what day you (or the ancestors) were born on? Check out www.paulsadowski.com where there is a birthday calculator.

As well as telling you the day you were born there are numerous other weird and wonderful facts about that day and time.



The Forgotten Gypsies and a forgotten generation...

Do you remember when a small event from your childhood seemed like a dramatic episode from a book? This experience happened to us, the kids of Hill End, in the late 1940s and into the 1950s.

I was one of those children and there were many of us, of my vintage, as well as older and younger, too. We often talked about when the gypsies came to town, to Hill End, our town! Now, in 2010 this event has been forgotten by some but to me it is still a vivid recollection.

It appears, too, that we are a forgotten generation of kids, once bare footed but safe, poor but happy. Are many of us ever mentioned in these books that have been written since? No! Of course, the families of the authors were...but we also have our story to tell. We often have a different slant on how things were in the town. I have taken this opportunity to write my memories so they can be included in the annals for future generations. Information passed down from our families to us, is urgently sought after by descendants of the old Hill End families, the miners, and hard working people who built the town of Hill End. Why have they waited until now? Information from us is accurate; much of what I have read in the past is almost like reading fiction.

However, we survived. We didn't have electricity, television, play stations or Xboxes. There was no refrigeration, no air-conditioning – we had kerosene lamps and candles, wood stoves and beautiful big fireplaces, where we could sit and talk, where we

could watch the artistry of the flames coming from the big logs.

We knew nothing of drugs, but we may have had the odd cigarette, well hidden from prying eyes.

Our fun was self made. Summer evenings, after tea, we would sit on the "flat" in front of our house in Clarke Street and play games. Afterwards we would have a sing song on our verandah- with music played by my mother and my aunt on the old squeezebox. Many evenings, too, were spent playing rounders and other games on the area next to Trevithick's home – which was then called "Rose Cottage". We shared our playing areas with cows, horses, geese and the odd snake. We even shared our swimming hole with cows and yabbies. This was the "Conny Dam", which was not as big as it is now.

Once the gypsies had left town we believed we would possibly never see them again. However, one day, a telephone call came from Sofala, to the only Police Officer in Hill End, to inform the locals that the gypsies had just been farewelled at Sofala and were heading towards Hill End.

This news didn't take long to circulate, as was always the case in all small villages. This was a type of "warning" because gypsies had been traditionally associated with trickery and stealing. However, life was not always fun for these people who had a nomadic existence, and not all gypsies were dishonest.

And so they finally arrived. My Aunt, (Effie Lyle) had a little shop in Clarke St, previously owned by Dick Piesley and which had originally been the Sydney Hotel.

Our exciting visitors would pull up outside our home, in their colourful horse-drawn wagons. These beautiful horses were known as "Gypsy Cobs" and were huge animals, bred for the purpose of pulling the family wagons. They were tolerant of children and dogs and the gypsy way of life.

For these people, travelling is not a pastime, or a leisure activity. It is a "way of life". They would fill the little shop - buying and bartering. Locals said this was their method of distraction. While some would supposedly steal clothes from the clothes line, others would allegedly take poultry from the chook yards and veggies from the garden. This didn't concern us, as children we were so excited by the vibrant colours of their clothing. Their dresses were decorated with bright braid, embroidery and beads and the women wore lots of gold coloured bracelets and jewellery.

They were good looking people with dark hair, olive skin, and flashing brown eyes! They spoke English but sometimes would converse in another tongue – possibly from their land of origin e.g. Hungary. Their wagons were as colourful as their clothing. Pots, pans, billy cans, every type of cooking utensil were hanging around the exterior of the wagons.

From memory, they once camped where the second Tennis Court is now located, but mostly they camped on the area known as the Camping Ground. These people brought the town to life, with their campfires burning, their lanterns twinkling and their music playing. Known to be talented musicians, they danced and sang each night. The children joined in – this too was their life. And the dogs! They barked and barked, enjoying every moment!

The gypsies would walk up the road to the shops. A friend told me that the women carved wooden pegs; no doubt her mum bought some. I wonder too if anyone had their "fortune" told?...I'm sure most of us would go to bed and think about these exciting, happy, entertaining and colourful people, who, for a few short days showed us another world, another culture and another way of living. How could anyone forget these people and their visit to our town?

Life resumed after their visit...we went back to climbing trees when they left us. The entertainment was over until next time.

Regarding climbing trees I would like to dedicate this contribution to my mate "Rossie" (Ellis) who was very thoughtful and always made me laugh...except on one occasion, but that is our story....

Elizabeth (Liz) O'Neil (nee Goodwin)

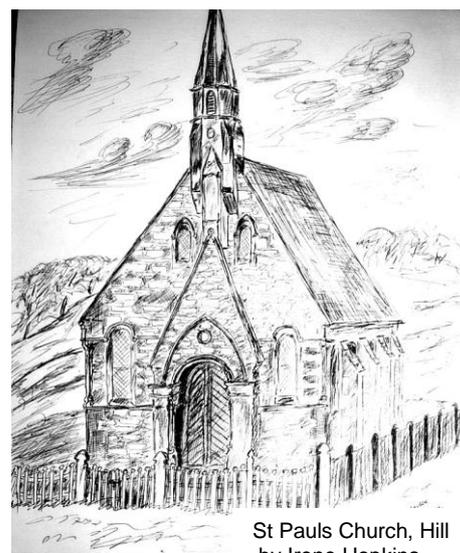
Note: Liz recalls that there were 2 families associated with Hill End by the name of Goodwin and neither is connected to the other.



A Reminder from Hill End Family History

Certified?

Do you have Birth, Death & Marriage certificates relating to your Hill End & Tambaroora ancestors and family history? Daphne is collecting copies to add to her records in Hill End for future generations



St Pauls Church, Hill
by Irene Hopkins

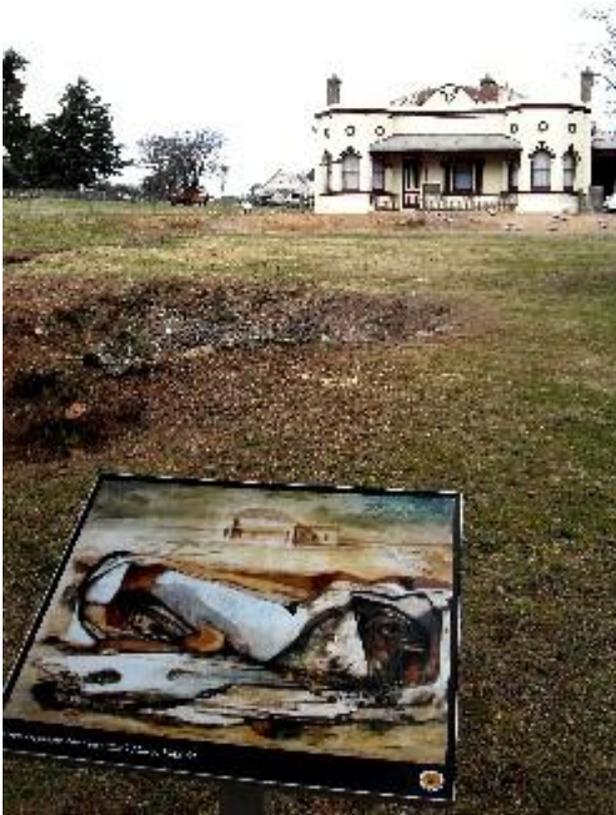
of family historians. These certificates help to verify the existing information and will make life a little easier for those following our footsteps. Please consider sending her copies, (No originals please...they are far too valuable!) either in hard copy or scanned and sent via email to her contact details

Hill End News

Snippets from the Stamper Battery

Reproduced with permission of the editor.

Copies of previous editions can be viewed at
<http://www.hillend.org/hetpa.html>



'Councillor's Cottage' - 'Drysdale's image below 'Athol'

Historic Paintings signed off

The long awaited placement of several metallic signs representing the famous images painted of the village, done mainly in the 40's & 50's, have finally been installed around town in the sites they were created in.

An added feature to our village now, thanks to a NPWS incentive.

Dotted seemingly spontaneously about the village these images compliment the incumbent Beaufoy Merlin images already spaced around the town, telling odes of a different facet of Hill End's rich history.

The Bathurst Road

Council has included funding under the Roads to Recovery Program for the continuation of the sealing of the Hill End Road. As the road is a Classified Regional Road, a bid has also been placed for funding under the annual Repair Program to the Roads and Traffic Authority. Council has previously funded part of the works to date with funding under the Repair Program but this current financial year was unsuccessful in attracting funds from this source.

(Editors note: there is now less than 5 kms of dirt road left between Bathurst and Hill End if using the Turondale Road. So, it is not the arduous trip it once used to be.)



Hill End Press

Bill and Genevieve Moseley have opened a new gallery and café at Holtermann's Corner. Coffee, cakes and art, again just in time for Easter.

Once again we wish them every success and offer our appreciations for making the village a little more dynamic.

Hill End Happenings: Easter fun at Hill End

Are you looking for a new way of getting rid of those things that have been accumulating in the spare room? Think of the Hill End Markets which will be held over the Easter weekend on Sat 3rd & Sunday 4th April. Pack up the car or trailer and head to Hill End. It is a great way to swap your junk for someone else's 'junque'. There will be recycled clothes, books, art, craft, and a sausage sizzle.

The Easter Bilby on his way to Hill End markets



We had a great time last Easter and on the October Long Weekend and made some money from the many tourists that flocked to the area. (Every

time it rained they headed for the nearest open building – the Royal Hall....and we were there!) Funds raised goes to helping keep the Gathering Group and Hill End Family History going.

Have your own stall for the day or the weekend!

There is still plenty of time to enjoy the ambience of the town during its busiest weekend of the year. Stalls in the Hall are only \$5 per day (per trestle table-supplied) and as there is limited space bookings are essential. Contact Daphne on 02 6337 8218 or email hillendfh@yahoo.com.au to book your spot.

This would also be an appropriate opportunity to have another informal Gathering. Come along to the Hall at 4pm on the Saturday to meet other Gathering Group members who may be in town for the weekend.

A gift for future generations Writing, publishing and marketing your family history.



Here is your opportunity to visit Hill End with a real purpose in mind.

Become a "Writer in Residence" in a beautiful historic location. Join us in Hill End for a great one day (or weekend) seminar and workshop.

Dr Noeline Kyle (author of "*Writing your family history made very easy*") and I will be presenting a one day seminar on Saturday 10th April at the Royal Hall. Here you will learn to write effortlessly about your family or local history, including characters, events and places. We will share our experiences and practical advice on editing, formatting, illustrating, and deciding how to get into print.

Once published then you need to know how to successfully present, promote and market your family or local history. Come along as find out how we've done it.

Participants will receive extensive notes in booklet format which can be used as a reference at a later date and which goes into more detail than we can sometime fit into the talk time.

If you wish to stay over in Hill End we will continue on Sunday morning with a "hands on" workshop. Cost for the seminar is \$60 with a \$5 concession for Gathering Group members.

If you can't get to Hill End then the seminar will be repeated at Bathurst Library on Tuesday 13th April.

Bookings are essential and all details are on the enclosed brochure with this newsletter. Participants will need to arrange their own accommodation nearby.

Due to the current mining boom, (shades of the 1870s!), there is now very limited accommodation available in Hill End at the moment. However if you have your own caravan or tent, or a relative living nearby, there is still plenty of room!

As we go to press (late January) there are B&B vacancies available at
Cooles cottage
(<http://www.stayz.com.au/8505>)
and Carla's Cottage (Phone 0263378338 for both)
(<http://www.carlascottage.webs.com/>)
and the Royal Hotel (Phone 02 6337-8261)
<http://www.hillendnsw.com.au>
and Hill End Holiday Ranch (Phone 02 63378224)
(<http://www.hillendranch.com.au/>)

We would love to have you join us.

Who do you think you are? Maggie Beer!



Ackermann Cottage as captured by Di Greenhaw

As hinted in last year's newsletter, 2009 was the year that Hill End was featured on the SBS program 'Who do you think you are?'

Celebrity Chef and 2010 Senior Australian of the Year, Maggie Beer was featured in one episode and she is a direct descendant of the Ackermanns, one of the early German families who settled in the town.

Maggie and the SBS film crew spent a few days filming in Hill End and Lorraine Miller was able to welcome them to Ackermann's Cottage which featured in the episode.

Even a chef has to eat and Betty Jeffree from Rose Cottage catered for the occasion, serving mouth watering delights such as filo pastry baskets with chicken mornay, corn and crab quiche, and Hill End blackberry pie and cream to name but a few items from her repertoire of fine fare. Move over Maggie, Hill End has its own Celebrity Chef!

If you missed the program it is still available to view on the SBS website at
<http://www.sbs.com.au/shows/whodoyouthinkyouare/episodes/detail/episode/1687/play/auto/>
or just google "Maggie Beer Who do you think you are" and you should find the link.

For those who wish to have their own copy of the DVD the whole of series 2 of the program is available for purchase for \$29.95 from Dymocks Bookshop

The Hill End Family History research room
is located at the rear of the Visitors Centre
and is open every Saturday
10am to 4pm.

For enquiries contact Daphne
Please note the new email address for
Hill End Family History
Email – hillendfh@yahoo.com.au
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://www.hillendfamilyhistory.com>

Volunteer Research Activities

The previous twelve months have been particularly busy regarding research and new projects. We have welcomed a number of volunteers to the team and are always looking for more assistance if you have the time.

Our major undertaking for the year was the production of *'Hill End Heroines & Tambaroora Treasures – The women of the goldfields, their lives and stories'* which was written by Daphne Shead. There are more details about this publication later in this newsletter.

We have 2 volunteers who are currently indexing older Hill End books so that we can quickly access family names. Matt Hall in Washington DC is indexing *'Born on the Hill End Goldfields'* by AE Howard and Helen Wood has taken on the daunting task of indexing *'The Hill End Story'* by Harry Hodge. If you are interested in joining this project we would love to hear from you. It is a simple task, but it is time consuming. However at the end you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you will have assisted other Hill End researchers for years to come. I can supply full instructions and templates and a computer would be a distinct advantage. Basically it involves reading the book slowly and noting any names and the page numbers. I am happy to do the final formatting etc.

Another exciting project is the indexing of a copy of an old 1870s scrapbook originally collated by Magistrate Joseph Whitehead Lees who was appointed as Police Magistrate and Coroner in the district from approximately 1871 to 1877. This scrapbook is a wonderful collection of cuttings from the *Hill End Times* and *Hill End Observer*. As there are only about 7 issues of the *Hill End Times* known to be in existence (now on microfilm) many of these items have not previously been available to the researcher. Whilst the items principally relate to Magistrate Lees when he was in office in Hill End these clippings mention many other residents' names. They are also a great resource as this might be the only record that a particular person was in the area at the time. Thanks to Tom Thompson, who was able to scan and digitize the scrapbook, I was able to start on the indexing whilst we were away in the WA goldfields mid last year. Once it is complete we plan to make it available in printed format as another one of our publications. The indexing is about half way completed so 'watch this space'!

Having almost completed another project of indexing the the known issues of the *Hill End & Tambaroora Times*, Helen Woods and I were thrilled to discover 2 more issues hiding away in a manuscript box at the State Library of NSW. We brought these to the attention of the library staff and they have been removed for preservation and copying and will be eventually integrated into the microfilm version of the existing issues. Speaking of which, we would love to find out if there were any more copies of the old Hill End newspapers sitting around in people's personal collections. For a newspaper that was in existence for about 5 years and which was published at least weekly

in the early 1870s it is amazing that only a handful of issues are still in existence. **Can you help???**

We have another volunteer, Ruth Wilson, who is scrapbooking a large collection of newspaper articles that have been collected over the years by Betty Wardman in Bathurst. Betty, being a 'local', has been collecting and passing on these snippets to the Group for many years and it is wonderful to have a more recent collection of 'future' historical material. We also acquired 2 older scrapbooks of a similar nature and copies of these will be available for perusal at the 2010 Gathering.

Do you have a few hours to spare on a semi regular basis?

In the past we have not actively sought volunteers to assist us in these projects. People have just contacted me and we have discussed what would be of assistance the Group. I am now getting to the stage where we can probably form a small core group to meet occasionally to discuss what can be done to take advantage of all the material & resources that have been collected.



The time has come where I know I could also do with a few extra hands for simple clerical tasks too, such as keeping our member and address lists and records up to date. This way we can share what has been accumulated in the past few years.

A Gathering Group website?

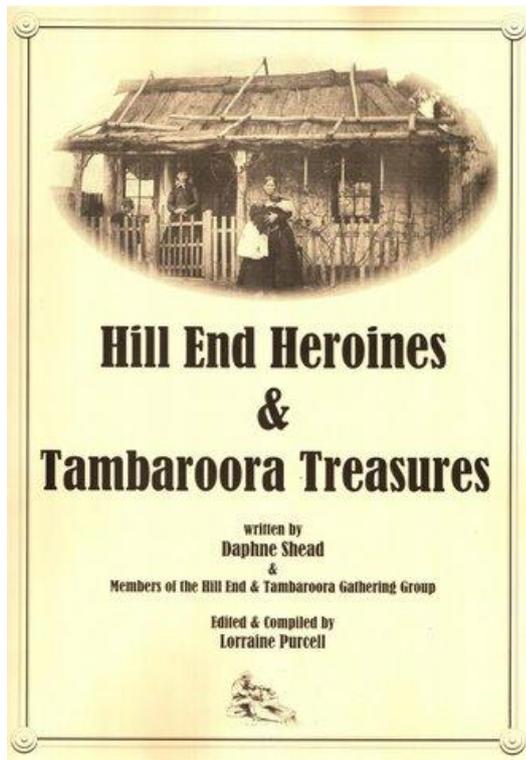
It has always been my goal to have a website for the Gathering Group. From what others have told me (!) I believe it is not too difficult to achieve however there always seem to have been other priorities. I have already prepared a lot of material which can be included but really need someone who can put it all together and maintain it. A domain name is available but needs to be registered. If this sounds like something you could do, if you have these skills or are willing to take on a challenge then I would really like to hear from you! It also means we can make so much more material available for those researching their Hill End & Tambaroora roots.

We plan to hold a "Volunteers meeting" of all those interested in assisting in some way, on Saturday 1st May. A venue & time will be chosen depending on response. If you are interested in helping out and/or attending please contact me at heatgg@yahoo.com.au or by phone to 02 95870352.

Projects can be undertaken even if you are not in the Sydney metro area as these days, with proper use of the internet and emails etc the world has become a very small place indeed. **Lorraine**

New to our bookshelves:

(see enclosed order form for details)



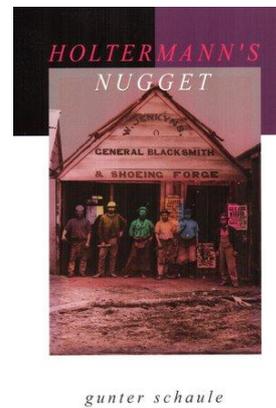
**Hill End Heroines & Tambaroora Treasures –
The women of the goldfields, their lives and
stories** by Daphne Shead. (illus. 156pp)
**SPECIAL PRICE to members \$25
(\$30 after 1st June)**

As mentioned earlier we are proud to announce our latest publication written by Daphne Shead of Hill End Family History. Daphne has written a wonderful account of the confrontations and joys of outback life. She traces the journeys made by the women who followed their menfolk to the new goldfields in central west NSW and presents a montage of anecdotes about the conditions and challenges that they had to cope with.

Members of the Gathering Group have contributed stories of over fifty women ancestors. Some are short and others are lengthy, but all tell the story of everyday women who helped open up these new areas. They were the bonds that held the fabric of the family unit together against all the odds in the true Australian spirit.

The book will be launched at the 2010 Gathering at Rhodes on the 6th March however you may order & pay for copies beforehand and they will be posted out immediately after that. We will also be having a local launch in Hill End on the Saturday 10th April in the Royal Hall after the Writing Seminar, at 5.30pm. Full ordering details are available on the order form at the end of the newsletter.

Copies will be available locally at most outlets in Hill End, Bathurst and Mudgee Visitors Centre, and Books Plus Bookshop in Bathurst.



Holtermann's Nugget by Gunther Schauale
Price \$15

Although originally released in 2000 this publication was not widely distributed back then and we have recently been able to obtain copies of this book for sale to our members at a very reasonable price.

Written with the approval of Holtermann's great grandson, John, I emphasise that this is a work of fiction. However 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.

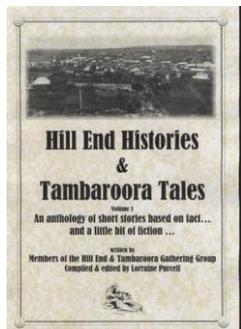
If you are looking for a good yarn and yet still interested in a slice of Australian history then this book is ideal for you.

Briefly, when mining magnate, pioneer photographer and public benefactor, Bernhardt Holtermann died prematurely at the height of his success, the speculation and rumours started. Some who knew Bernhardt closely had guessed the true nature of his relationship with Victoria, his children's beautiful governess. They enjoyed the lavish parties and genteel soirées given by Harriet - Mrs Holtermann, but some believed they detected an edge of tension under the formal cordiality between herself and Bernhardt. Had she tired of being patient with her husband's attentions to Victoria, or had Victoria tired of waiting for the divorce which would release her lover to become her husband?

Holtermann's Nugget is an historical novel based on the life of the successful 19th century miner and businessman, the pioneer photographer, Bernhardt Holtermann. Bernhardt came to Sydney as a young man, to avoid conscription and the restrictive life of Hamburg in the 1850s. Having made his fortune in gold mining at Hill End, Holtermann became famous as one of the most successful businessmen in Sydney during the early 1880s. His tireless drive for building his new country and showing Australia off to the world with magnificent panoramic photographs took him to international trade fairs in Philadelphia and Paris. Bernhardt's untimely death on his 47th birthday adds romance and intrigue to this novel of an adventurous life. Holtermann's main bequest to the nation are his magnificent photographs which won for him international acclaim, and for Australia, international recognition

Our other publications
(full details on the order form)

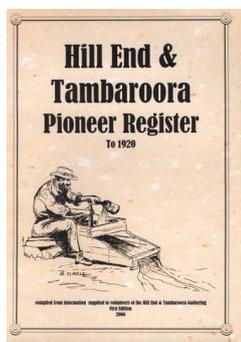
Hill End Histories and Tambaroora Tales – an anthology of short stories based on fact... and a little bit of fiction ... by members of the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group. The book is edited & designed by Lorraine Purcell. Price \$25.



This publication is a collection of the stories submitted for the short story competition held in conjunction with the Family History Expo in April 2008. We received a wide range of contributions. Some have recounted their ancestors' anecdote with lots of facts put into story format and others have used their imaginations and research to weave their tales into fascinating yarns, and by using just a little bit of "faction" bring their families "to life". Throughout all the stories there is a wonderful thread of what life in Hill End & Tambaroora must have been like "way back then".

Richly illustrated with photos from private collections as well as relevant items from the Holtermann Collection and other sources this publication will appeal to all those with ancestors from the area, not just those whose stories are told. (Limited stocks available)

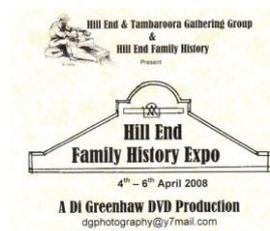
The Hill End & Tambaroora Pioneer Register on CD (Price \$30)



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.

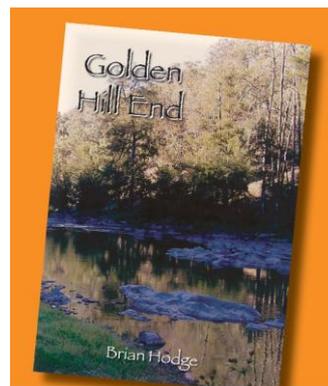
The Family History Expo DVD (Price \$15)



We still have a few copies of this DVD left if you are interested in a selection of beautiful photographs of Hill End and Tambaroora, taken during the Family History Expo in April 2008 Throughout the Expo

weekend in Hill End our intrepid photographer, Di Greenhaw, took photos of the town and the Expo participants, recording it all for posterity...somewhat in the vein of Beaufoy Merlin, if he had owned a digital camera! It can be played on a TV or computer and is a wonderful souvenir of the town in current days.

Another new publication now available



Golden Hill End by Brian Hodge
158pp Price \$24 includes postage

After many years of research Brian Hodge has 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 preciously been addressed. It will be officially launched in Hill End on February 11th so I am eagerly looking forward to receiving my copy.

The work contains 5 colour photographs and 18 B&W illustrations. Copies are currently available at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Bathurst Tourist Centre and Bathurst Historical Society. They can also be obtained directly from Brian who accepts payment by cheques or money order. The price of \$24 includes postage.

Orders can be sent directly to
Mr Brian Hodge,
Mudgee Rd,
Hill End NSW 2850.
Further enquiries can be made to Brian on
(02) 6337 8225
or email carlas.cottage.hillend@live.com.au

Notes from Lorraine's overcrowded Desk

Again we must thank those members of the group who kindly sent donations of cash and stamps during the year, to assist us in the production & postage of our newsletter. Your generosity is much appreciated. This issue is a bumper one as promised as I just ran out of hours in the day to get one out in October as originally planned. Family come first and at the time I was anticipated I would be doing the newsletter I found myself in Brisbane helping my brother move house...

Hill End Histories & Tambaroora Tales

It has certainly also been a busy year for activities associated with the Gathering Group. Our first undertaking for the year was the production of our book, *Hill End Histories & Tambaroora Tales*. We were very pleased with the results and sales have reflected the reading and researching public's thirst for material relating to Hill End. They are selling fast and we only have about 70 copies left so if you haven't already got

yours then now is the time to place an order. For those who are visiting Hill End, Bathurst or Mudgee copies can be obtained from the Visitors Centres in each place as well as Books Plus Bookshop in Bathurst and most retail outlets in Hill End. We will also have copies of all our publications at the Hill End Market in the Easter Weekend. If you order both books we can combine postage and save you a dollar or so.

The book also received good reviews and half page articles in both the Bathurst *Western Advocate* and the *Mudgee Guardian* which boosted sales too. *Australian Family Tree Magazine* also had it reviewed in their May issue which resulted in a number of enquiries about our organization.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Botany Bay Family History Society's Fair earlier in the year where I set up a stall to sell our publications and speak to people who may have had Hill End connections. Considerable interest was shown in the ongoing research that we have put together and a number of new members resulted.

Bill & Betty Maris – Golden Moments

Another major undertaking during the year was the commissioning of oral historian, Laurel Wraight of "Memory Moments" to undertake a number of recording sessions with Bill & Betty Maris.

Laurel was able to capture the Golden Memories of their amazingly active life and their association with Hill End and the Gathering Group. This resulted in seven CDs of sound recordings which will be placed in the State Library and the National Library as a permanent historical record for future generations.

We plan to eventually extract the material specifically relevant to the Gathering Group and transcribe it (another project!) so that we have an easily accessible record of the Group's history. Laurel has spent many hours editing and logging the recordings and has produced a wonderful testimony to all their work over the years.



Bill & Betty Maris 2009

This project was funded from income raised at the Hill End Family History Expo and was seen as a fitting use of the proceeds.

If you are considering an oral history check out Laurel's website: <http://www.memorymoments.com.au/>.

Our Western Australian Connections

2009 has certainly disappeared in a flash. Dennis and I took 4 months out of it to travel to WA so he could follow his passion for gold prospecting with a metal detector for a while (He has been so good about my Hill End addiction....) We had a wonderful time and came back fit and healthy after 3 months living in the Goldfields around Kalgoorlie, Leonora and Laverton.

Still, Hill End wasn't far from my mind as many of the original inhabitants of Hill End headed over to WA when the gold rushes started there in the 1890s. As the gold was definitely in decline in Hill End during this period it was one way of maintaining an income. Some of the men went on their own and then returned to their families in Hill End after a few years whilst others took their families with them and many settled over there. I took the opportunity to see what resources the Goldfields Family History Society held and also picked up a number of publications about the area. During my research I discovered some old photographs which are available online through the National Library website, **Trove**. Try searching on your ancestors' names and the town name. I found a couple of good photos of the Leonora Fire Brigade & Leonora Football Club in which all the members are named and include the Hill End names of Longmore, Critchley and McAppion in the early 1900s.



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Leonora Fire Brigade 1908

As it was also Family History Week during my stay in Kalgoorlie I also took the opportunity to take part in a radio interview on the local ABC and had my 15 minutes of fame telling the locals about Hill End and the "tothersiders" as the miners from "back east" became known.

Ludwig Hugo Louis Beyers

We also followed up one of Hill End's most famous sons, Ludwig Hugo Louis Beyers. After his most successful sojourn in Hill End he returned to Europe for a trip, leaving his affairs and money in the hands of his "trusted" solicitor, McCulloch. The solicitor then disappeared with all the funds, "as though he had never existed" and Beyers, on his return to Sydney, was once again a poor man with only £100 to his name.

He was declared bankrupt in 1893 and a few years later, in an effort to recover his fortunes, he headed to Kalgoorlie and the Western Australian goldfields with some of his family. He was mining in the Linden/Yundamindra area, south of Laverton and about 100kms from Mt Morgans (where we were unknowingly retracing his footsteps with our metal detectors!). From his letters to his family one gets the impression that his life was not an easy one and he certainly did not repeat his successes of the 1870s. In 1910 Louis was working at Linden when he was stricken with paralysis at 9am on the 30th March and was carted the 100kms into Mt Morgans Hospital. When he arrived at 4pm the following day he was unconscious. He suffered a further stroke whilst in hospital and passed away on the 28th May. Four months previous to this he had been thrown from a loaded wagon and the wheel passed over him.

Louis Beyers was buried in an unmarked grave in the Mt Morgans Cemetery. We were able to visit the cemetery which is now being carefully & sympathetically restored by indigenous inmates at a local prison work camp. We located Louis's grave, numbered 77, and paid our respects. On consideration we were probably the first people, with a close connection to his old town back east, to have visited his grave in 99 years. It would be nice to consider constructing a small memorial and marking his plot on the 100th anniversary of his death in May 2010. I will investigate the possibilities and report back.



Louis Beyers unmarked grave in Mt Morgans Cemetery, WA – July 2009.

Born on the goldfields

I was recently sent some documents relating to the time that Mrs Christina Bohrdt was the highly respected Matron at Hill End Hospital between 1884 and 1885. Her husband, Dr Paul Oscar Reinholt Bohrdt was the resident doctor at the time and it was quite normal for the wife of the doctor to be part of the establishment.

She was well respected in the town and when she left after the death of her husband in 1886 – he was only 44, she carried with her a number of excellent references from local dignitaries, including the aforementioned Louis Beyers. She moved to Parkes

where she remarried in 1887 and then later moved to Charters Towers in Queensland. Amongst the documents was a list of the births registered with her name attached as Nurse.

These names are repeated below in case it helps anyone with their research:

1884

30th October - Mrs Kate McArthy

6th November - Mrs Mary Jane Grotefent (a daughter, Harriet Christina)

1885

28th April - Mrs Sarah Dixon (Dixsan) (a daughter Ellena Dagmar)

1st June - Mrs Caroline Sheargold (a daughter, Miriam)

23rd June - Mrs Ellen Bryan(?)

11th September - Mrs Josephine Catherine Flynn

20th September - Mrs Margaret Denman (a son, William J)

22 November - Mrs Lizzie Hill (possibly a daughter Louisa)

It is interesting to note that when the above list was checked in a simple search against the official NSW BDM registers online only 5 of the births could be readily identified.

Early Australian multiculturalism

Hill End's population was an incredibly diverse one in the early days. The following extract from *In Their Own Image: Greek Australians*, by Effy Alexakis and Leonard Janiszewski (Hale and Iremonger, Alexandria, 1998) describes the local circumstances:

As the experience of these early Greek-Australians demonstrates, mining was the most common pursuit of immigrants prior to engaging in pastoral or commercial activities, and gold was the lure for the majority of Greek men before 1900. Census figures and anecdotal evidence indicates that around 200 Greeks worked the goldfields of rural New South Wales and Victoria in the 1850s, and as many as 1000 had done so by the end of the century. Like Michael Manousou and Konstantinos Argyropoulos, most Greeks on the goldfields were transient men who typically intermarried, anglicised their names, and 'blended in' with the dominant western European culture. The most significant collection of Greek miners before 1880 was at Tambaroora, 50 kilometres north of Bathurst near the present ghost town of Hill End. Like many other instant gold towns Hill End was a cosmopolitan community of 800 people in the mid-1850s, and in its 'boom year' of 1872 was a thriving settlement of 2,500 people. Among this collection of gold seekers and their followers was probably the first gathering of Greek settlers in Australia: a group of about 20 miners and their wives and children living in 'Greektown', a cluster of shanties on Tambaroora's northwest outskirts near a tented camp of more than a thousand Chinese miners. Poor facilities and the haste of miners made the mining trade at Tambaroora, as elsewhere, extremely hazardous, and many lives were lost through accidents and other misfortunes. One Greek miner, Dimitrios Moustakas, was noted as being involved in one serious accident at Hill End.

While Moustakas was managing a claim on Hawkins' Hill in 1872 a miner named Everett fell into a waterlogged mine and drowned. Volunteering to rescue Everett, Moustakas descended into the mine and eventually recovered the body of the dead miner, tying it to himself to be hauled out. A local reporter declared Moustakas' action to be 'an act of courage and nerve ...which will last, in the minds of those who saw it, for the rest of their days'.

A number of Greek miners participated in local political affairs during their days at Tambaroora and Hill End. In 1871 John Rossitis signed his name to a petition to raise the Tambaroora postmaster's salary, while many Greek names appear on another petition to have Hill End and Tambaroora declared a separate electoral district from nearby Mudgee: Christie Totolos, George Doikos, Dimitrios Moustakas, and several other possible Greeks, John Nicholls, George Boziques, William Alexander, Thomas Costa, George Simons, and Septimal Zurras.xv Little evidence of the Greek goldfield experience remains, although a cottage inhabited by Gerasimos Vasilakis at the foot of Bald Hill still stands, vacant and run-down. Recorded as a 'labourer' in Tambaroora under the name Jeremiah Williams, Vasilakis was naturalised in 1876.



Another new collection of photographs!

The following online collection was recently accessed at the National Library of Australia in their Digital Pictures Collection.

An Album of photographs of gold mining, buildings, residents and views at Hill End and environs, New South Wales, 1872-1873

Dated around 1872 or 1873 it is an album of 550 albumen, sepia toned photographs and forms part of the B.O. Holtermann archive of Merlin and Bayliss photographic prints of New South Wales and Victoria.



<http://nla.gov.au/nla.pic-vn4653658> Three young women and child outside rendered cottage with bark roof and chimney of saplings and bark, Hill End, New South Wales, ca. 1872

Many of the images are labelled as being in Hill End so this might require more investigation to see if they can be further identified.

The majority of the collection (not all yet fully digitized) are mounted as sepia toned carte-de-visites and are approximately 6.3 x 10.4 cm. Because of their size, the digitized versions of the actual photographs are not as

clear as the re-digitized collection of glass negatives held by the Mitchell Library at the State Library of NSW however it is possible that many of these photographs have not been recorded before.

It is a wonderful addition to the photographic record of the town and the photographs are variously attributed to Charles Bayliss and Beaufoy Merlin. The album was purchased through Sydney dealer Josef Lebovic, by the National Library in 2008.

The photographs can be viewed at <http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/cdview?pi=nla.pic-vn4395104>



Where did you get that hat?

Betty Wardman recently sent us a selection of photographs of the Wardman family taken in Bathurst. They show an amazing selection of fashionable hats in vogue around 1909. It is obvious that fashion was alive and well even in the regional towns at the time.



Contact details for the

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(Please leave a message if I am unable to answer. I will get back to you ASAP)

Email: heatgg@yahoo.com.au

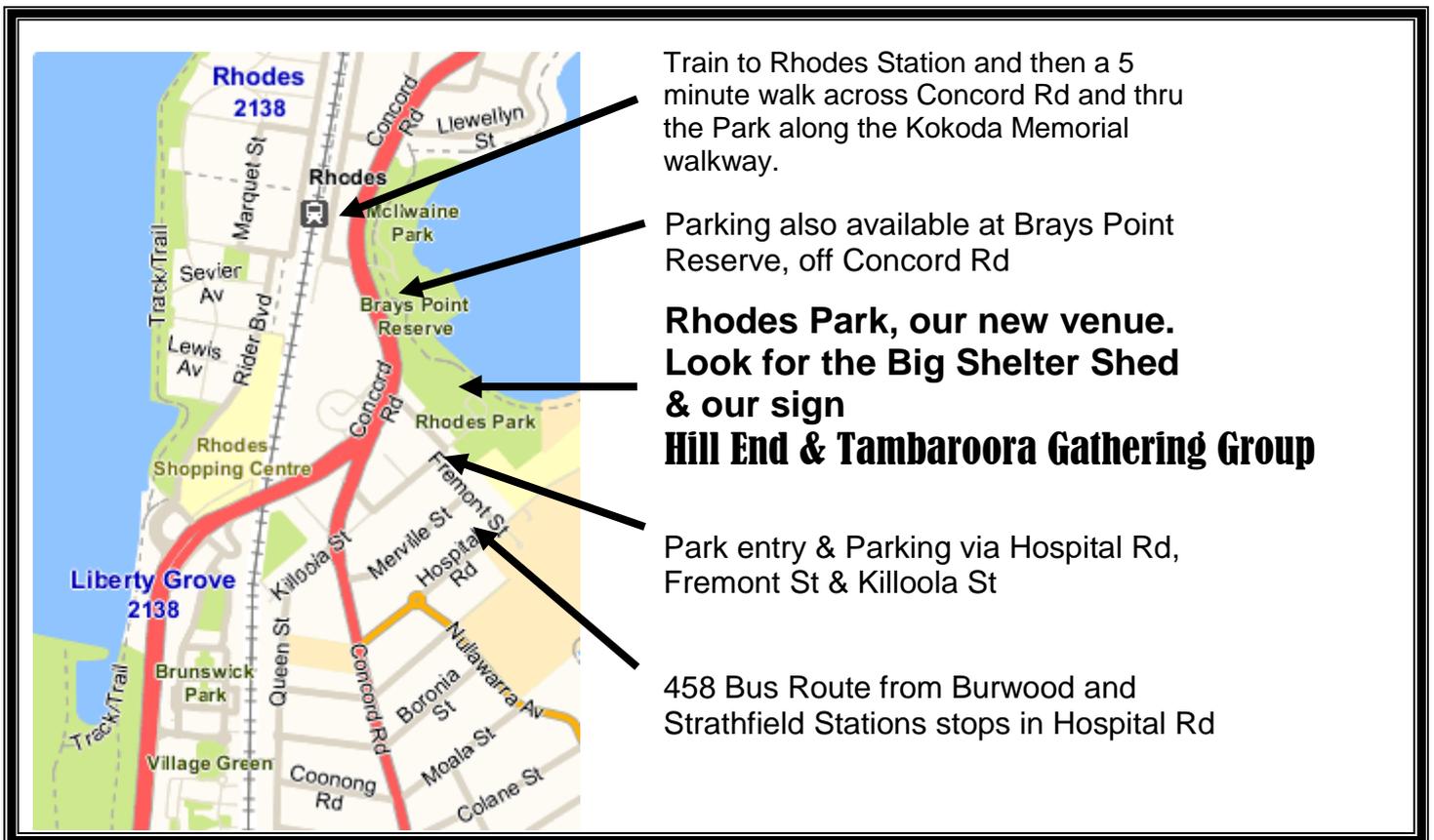




Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group 2010 Gathering Info

Rhodes Rotary Park,
Killoola St, Concord
Saturday 6th March 2010
10am – 4pm

(Adjacent to the Kokoda Memorial Walkway and Brays Bay)



Train to Rhodes Station and then a 5 minute walk across Concord Rd and thru the Park along the Kokoda Memorial walkway.

Parking also available at Brays Point Reserve, off Concord Rd

Rhodes Park, our new venue.
Look for the Big Shelter Shed
& our sign
Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group

Park entry & Parking via Hospital Rd, Fremont St & Killoola St

458 Bus Route from Burwood and Strathfield Stations stops in Hospital Rd

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. \$5.00 parking fee applies.

For those with a **GPS** the co-ordinates are:

33 deg 50.046S

151 deg 05.431E

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.

Bus 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.

The Gathering

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.

To cater to the changing needs we now have moved from the Sydney Botanic Gardens. Our new venue provides 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. Boiling water, and coffee & tea making facilities will also be available.

We will be launching our new book "*Hill End Heroines & Tambaroora Treasures*" at 12 noon on the day and copies of this and all our previous publications will be available for sale.

What 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 and coffee and soft drinks and a considerable range of refreshments are available there for purchase for those travelling a long distance and who don't want to bring 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



Publication Order Form

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

Please indicate how you wish to receive your items:

- Please post to me **early March**, I have included postage
- Do not post**, I will collect at the Gathering on 6th March

Name: (Please print)

Address.....

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

No Of copies	Title	Amount	Total
	"Hill End Heroines & Tambaroora Treasures, the women of the goldfields, their lives and stories" By Daphne Shead & Gathering Group Members NEW (available early March)	\$25.00 \$30 after 1st June	
		*Postage \$6.00	
	"Holtermann's Nugget" by Gunther Schaule A <u>fictional</u> account of Bernard Holtermann's time in Hill End. Well researched and a good yarn.	\$15.00	
		*Postage \$6.00	
	"Hill End Histories and Tambaroora Tales" – an anthology of short stories based on fact... and a little bit of fiction ... (Published 2009)	\$25.00	
		*Postage \$6.00	
	Hill End Family History Expo on DVD (released July 2008)	\$15.00	
		*Postage \$2.00	
	Hill End & Tambaroora Pioneer Register on CD (Published 2006)	\$30.00	
		*Postage \$2.00	
		TOTAL	

*If 2 or more books are ordered then there is one flat postage fee of \$10.
 If a DVD or CD is ordered with 1 book then total postage will be \$6.00 or \$10 with 2 or more books i.e. no separate charge for CD or DVD postage

[] I enclose a cheque/money order made out to the
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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.

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