

The Stamper Battery

February 2008 Edition



Photo from www.cwhn.org

Coldest February in 50 years!

NSW had the coolest February in 50 years. Following the hottest Australian January on record, temperatures in the state's NSW Central West have been up to six degrees cooler than average with the region's main centre, Dubbo is yet to reach its average 32 degrees this month. "Every day this month they have been below 32 degrees. The highest they had had is 30," Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Jane Golding told Fairfax Media. It has been a similar story in Sydney where the average February temperature to date this year sits at 24.3 degrees, well below the long-term average of 25.8 degrees, putting the city on target for its coldest February since 1957. "We have only had one day over 30 degrees and that is the lowest since 1952," she said.

News.com.au

The decline in local Tourism

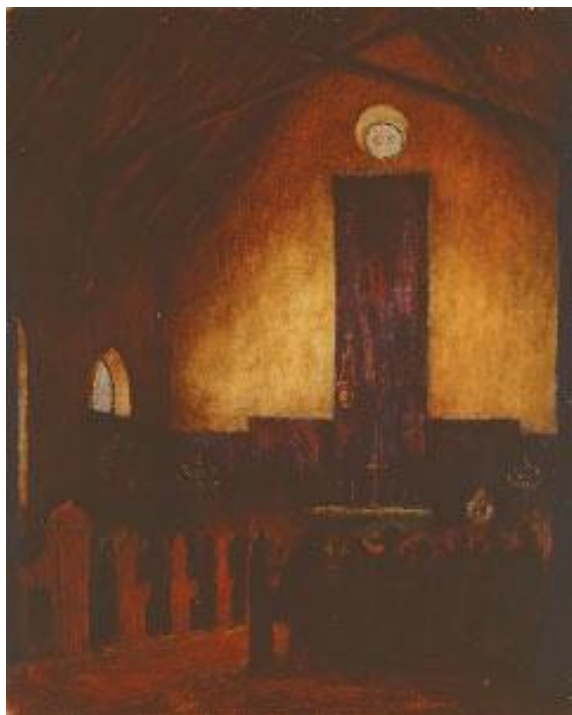
Parks' statistics on tourist visitations revealed some disturbing facts in the last issue. Campers have declined 60% from 1984-87 and visitors to

the Museum by 75%. Helen Trumble suggested: "A lot more coaches used to come, despite the road. If they stay at the Ranch for 2 days, they'd come to the Visitors' Centre. Gaye Shanahan thought that "Things go in cycles: what was popular once is no longer so. If they came to Hill End in 1984 maybe they don't need to return". Kerri Burns pointed to economics. "It is a big factor that we might be overlooking. Things were tight in the early 80's and then in the late 80's there was more disposable income and people travelled more". Sue Thomson noted "6 years of drought have affected tourist numbers; people just don't want to travel through brown country land". There are outside factors like the cost of fuel might also affect people's willingness to travel. Betty Jeffree said, "We must accept that there is not a lot to hold people here: what is there to do outside of the usual things people do here?" After Gavin Wilson's show in 1995, "The Artists of Hill End" at the Art Gallery of NSW, there was a surge of visitors. Bernie Baker

The Stamper Battery

February Edition 2008

said that the industry has changed over the intervening years. Back then there were large companies whereas now there are more owner-drivers, who are more mindful of the wear and tear on their vehicles and tyres. He predicted: “when the mine starts producing gold, there will be vast publicity because of the unique situation Hill End finds itself in.” He also feels that the town may lose some of its focus on tourism as more miners move in. There could be a false sense of security engendered by a reliance solely on the miners as patrons of local accommodation and meals, he concluded. RC



Evensong-Russell Drysdale 1948
(Interior of Anglican Church)

The Old Orchards

Responding to a letter from The Hill End Arts Council, Lew Bezzina arranged for representatives from Mt Tomah, a part of the Botanical Gardens in Sydney and from the Department of Primary Industries to inspect the apple trees in the Orchards of Hill End. They are talking about taking cuttings from the old stock so they don't die out. As Luke Sciberras said, “They are precious things and worth

saving. Otherwise it will just be Bunning's and Barcodes”. RC

Brian's Gardening Advice

Brian Hodge says that in autumn everything depends on the climate. Either we have an extended warm autumn or an early winter. Plant seedlings not seeds for broccoli and cabbage. Broccoli should be in no later than the 1st week of March as there is a big risk that they won't grow because of the increasing cold. They need the warmth to bring them on. It is too late for Brussels sprouts, which should have planted, in the 1st week of February. Silver beet he said is a gamble and needs a warm autumn to flourish and remember it will go to seed in spring.

In May you can sow the seeds for broad beans and peas, which will be ready to eat in October, as there is not much growth during winter. Also in May sow the seeds for onions, to be transplanted in spring.

In Tambaroora he said there is a problem in late August when the ducks and galahs are looking for soft greens. Brian remembers that Russel Jeffree used to select his tomatoes well in advance for the Sofa Show and put them into brown paper bags to ripen them just in time to claim a prize, and not merely a couple, but a dozen or more. RC

Not only a gardener, but an instigator

Brian used to bring students of Sydney Technical High School for historical excursions in the 60's & 70's, they were the first to come here, a precursor to the school excursions we continue to see. RC



Hill End- Bruce Adams class 5a 1964

New Pool at the School

Plastic doesn't last forever. The original pool was built partly by the well known and much

The Stamper Battery

February Edition 2008

appreciated fund-raising efforts of Joan Auld. When it was obvious that it was beginning to break down, a grant was successfully applied for. It is a Federal Govt. initiative known as "Investing in Our Schools". The ground was wet when it was installed and when it dries out there will be an Opening Ceremony, which is part of the deal in the grant. Unfortunately, it is only for the use of the school children. Being on Education Department property, any public use has to be supervised by a staff member with an Auswim Certificate. RC

The Sunshine Tennis Club

Was the original name for the court. Years ago, there were competitions between the neighbouring villages, just like the cricket today. It continues to be used by some enthusiasts. Soon it's time for the Annual Subscription renewal to HEPTA, which also covers sports injury insurance. RC



Hill End Memorial Play Centre

Something few knew was there. If you look carefully, there is an entrance arch at the rear of Shanahan's on Denman Street, leading into the School. It has narrow steel lettering announcing: 'Hill End Memorial Play Centre'. Obscured and lost in overhanging gums. In the School grounds beyond is old-fashioned play equipment in the form of a climbing arch and a ladder grid, both probably condemned today by the craziness of the Insurance Regime. It was installed by the Hill End RSL Sub-Branch. Alas little is known about it and the records were sent to Sydney when it closed and are not retrievable, Jim Shanahan said. A bit of history is lost. Asking the old-timers got a negative

response generally, but a little information emerged. A fence ran down from the gate towards the pool (there once was a road somewhere in the same direction). The RSL Sub-branch later donated the land to the School. Robert Auld says that the equipment mentioned above was preceded by a seesaw, a roundabout, swings and monkey bars. And he says that the Sub-branch would have flourished in the time of Bob Lincoln and Uncle Walter Warry, who was Robert Anderson's grandfather. Jim would surely appreciate any further information, so do rack your brains. RC

The Hill End & Tambaroora Family History Expo

April 5th & 6th - Royal Hall, Hill End

Almost 12 months in the planning the Expo is now a reality! We have had a wonderful response from the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group as well as many members of the public who are keen to attend. We have a coach coming from Sydney and quite a few interstate visitors are taking advantage of the opportunity to visit the home of their ancestors. Over 70 bookings have been taken for the Craigmoor tours alone and the Gathering Dinner on the Saturday night is fully booked out.

A selection of displays will be set up in the Hall on the Saturday and we look forward to seeing material from both Bathurst and Mudgee libraries as well as a number of volunteer and commercial enterprises with a strong family history interest.

After the success of the recent "Who do you think you are" series on SBS on a Sunday evening, researching your family history has received a tremendous boost in popularity. According to a number of sources on the Internet, genealogy appears to be one of the top 3 hobbies in the world today (after gardening). Hopefully Hill End will benefit from the expected influx over this weekend and that many of the participants will return at their leisure to spend more time researching their family roots.

We also appreciate the support that the Progress Association has given us in the preparation for the event and also in supplying volunteers to assist

The Stamper Battery

February Edition 2008

over the weekend. Hill End Gold has also generously made a donation towards our expenses and "Prints and Images" in Bathurst have also donated 2 raffle prizes.

Please drop in and see us over the Expo weekend if you are in town. You never know, we might just have something about your family's early days in the district. Perhaps you have old photos, letters or records that might be of interest to others. We'll happily arrange to make copies so it is preserved for the future generations.

If you have any enquiries please contact us thru the Gathering Group email at heatgg@yahoo.com.au or just ask Daphne if you see her around town.

Daphne Shead (Hill End Family History)

Lorraine Purcell (Hill End and Tambaroora Gathering Group)

The Warry Family Reunion



Hilda, Nita, Myrtle & Pattie

The Warry family reunion took place over the long weekend January 26-27.

Tireless coordinator Pattie Gainsford did a remarkable job in finding members from as far away as Western Australia - there were no spare beds in Hill End that weekend.

Warry's Cottage received 2 visits from family members and elders, some who had stayed in the cottage with their grandparents, Richard and Isabella Warry. Len reminisced with cousins Hilda, Myrtle & Nita of times gone by – 'Grandmother was a wonderful cook, and turned out beautiful pies and cakes from the fire. Sunday was the roast with all trimmings – she was a lovely gentle woman'. I feel her spirit in the kitchen as I too cook over the open fire. At one stage, there were at least fifteen people in the tiny kitchen - each with a story to tell. Grandfather kept the family supplied with meat & vegetables – there was nothing he couldn't fix – he made everything, in his shed up there, Len remarked, pointing to an empty spot in the garden. It was here Len had spent holidays, sleeping on a small mattress beside the large wooden bed shared by his Grandparents. Len's mother Eva was Hilda's twin. Hilda remembered sleeping on a large feather mattress along with assorted siblings in what is now the bathroom, but was then a bedroom. Nita and husband Les came from Orange, Les's home-town. They have lived there all their married life, raising twin boys, now in their 50's. Nita was most reluctant to leave –

A second visit later that day brought a younger group, among them Fay from Forky Stick Farm, and daughter Sue making her second visit. Fay eager to visit the cottage she had passed many times – but never visited. No one is sure whether Richard & Isabella were the first to occupy Warry's cottage, or even if they built it, but they, along with their nine children and all their progeny have left an indelible mark on the village life of Hill End. I was pleased to tell Len and Hilda that my granddaughter, Eva, was born on January 12, so the name will live on in Hill End. **Maggy Todd**

Roy Holloway

Roy turned 80 on 21st January 2008. Roy was born here and is one of the models for the figures in the painting by Russell Drysdale "The Cricketers" for which he received the princely sum of a shilling..

The Stamper Battery

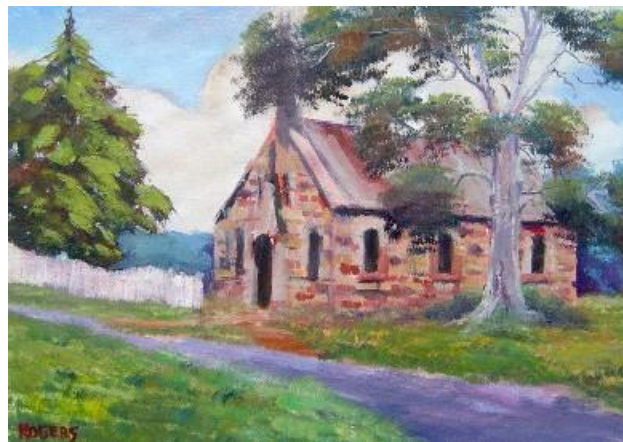
February Edition 2008

His daughter Robyn organised a surprise party for him on the verandah of the Pub. Brian Hodge said that Roy was pleased to see his old mates there.
RC

Neighbours Relate

It's a Small World and it is hard to believe, but our Policeman Ben Smith is a Hocking. Terry Hocking's grandfather was William Edward and Ben's grandfather was Henry Ronald and they were brothers. Their father was James Thomas and their mother was Alice Emily and so it goes on, back into the depths of time. The present Hockings however have no connection with the original family in Hill End of that name.

RC



http://www.kgr.com.au/images/gallery/Hill%20End%20Church_28x40_150.jpg

St Paul's Church

A Service was held at St Paul's on 24th February celebrated by the new Pastor Richard Lee and another one will be held on Easter Sunday.
RC

Royal Hall Film Night 1940's



A glimpse of times past. The screening of the film 'Naughty Marietta' in the hall. George Anderson holding young Robert Anderson, mid image, atop the stairs, Ted Woolard and Moya Stuart.
Thanks to Hill End & Tamaroora Gathering archives

The Stamper Battery

February Edition 2008

Hill Endians on the Net
Ted Abbott demonstrating gold panning.



www.discoverytours.com.au/html/mountain_gold...

Lew Bezzina displaying Haefliger's to Central West Heritage Network group



www.cwhn.org

Moseley's at English Cottage



www.nas.edu.au

The Stamper Battery

February Edition 2008

Sarah Mace-Denis

Matthew Burns's partner, Sarah suffered a severe accident returning to Hill End one evening. She was airlifted to Westmead Hospital and placed in the Brain Trauma Unit. Happily she continues to improve after initial concerns while she was being assessed. The most recent news is that she might be home in 2 to 6 weeks. The accident occurred on the sealed section on the Bathurst Road and the cause is unknown. Light rain had fallen during the evening and the first drops of rain make the tarmac dangerous.

RC

New Fire Shed

It has taken 3 years to get to this groundbreaking event. Not that ground was broken on the day. The site is on Moore's Lane behind The Cordial Factory on the corner of High Street. It is a large block of land, which Parks have given the RFS, with sufficient area for training. The new Fire Shed will be set into the rise at the back of the site and the roof line will be broken up to minimise its visual impact. Its location will avoid some historic foundations and second hand materials will be used. There was an inspection recently to familiarise members with the plans. Volunteers for the building works were drafted and tasks allocated. Wider support was discussed for donations and discounts from suppliers. Already there has been good support from the Parks and Wildlife Group, Bathurst Regional Council, Country Energy and Hill End Gold Limited is helping with plant. The Hill End and Tambaroora Family Gathering gave \$ 2 500 and other private donations from people who don't wish to be named. Bathurst Council is the main contributor under the arrangements for the Rural Fire Service and they have pledged continuing support for a significant amount of money. Plus Robert Anderson, the Fire Chief said, "The local support in the form of labour that we received today equals those contributions and you can't put a price on that". Again, it is a simple case of the community helping itself.

There is a swear tin in the Pub. It costs 50c every time you swear and that goes toward the new Fire Shed. So please swear loudly. We await the winner. The bets are on.

Phil Butler threw a couple of dollars in on credit. It is a fun way to raise money for a good cause.
RC

Daphne Shead's local research report

Fairfax Cottage

Fairfax Cottage is situated on Section 14 Lot 4 on the northern slope of Prince Alfred Hill in Hill End. This area is in the locality known as Irishtown.

William George Collings of Hill End bought Lots 4 and 5 on 25th March 1875. He paid £6 for Lot 4 and £4.2.6 for Lot 5. He later mortgaged both of the lots on 20th May 1881 to Sarah Jane Reid, a Spinster from Ireland. Eventually on 22nd May 1884 this mortgage was discharged and both lots were then mortgaged by Mr Collings to William Henry Robertson, a Gentleman from Waverley in Sydney.

Fairfax house was the home of the Dixsan family for 25 years and then Emily Knight lived there for some time.

In 1962 James Peter Pomfret purchased the property from Percy Flynn. He occupied the property at odd intervals over a long period of time and also allowed other people the use of the house and land. Then on 28th January 1972 Mr Pomfret sold to the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service.

Some time after 1884 the house became associated with the name Fairfax. During the 1870s Alfred Fairfax from Sydney had mining interests in Hill End where he was a director of the Scandinavian Mine and the Star of Peace mine.

Alfred Fairfax had made his fortune in Sydney, he had established a jewellery business and also purchased the Kings Arms Inn near Bull's Camp in the Blue Mountains in 1868.

He then renamed this property Woodford House after his home in Essex. In 1874 he placed a temporary observatory at Woodford to arrange viewings of the Transit of Venus.

After losing vast amounts of money on gold mining ventures in Hill End he returned to Sydney in the 1880s.

As a result he was then forced to sell the Woodford House, which later became Woodford Academy, a boarding school at the turn of the century.

The Stamper Battery

February Edition 2008

The primary significance of the site is as the oldest building in the Blue Mountains (between Emu Plains and Little Hartley).

Daphne Shead

www.hillendfamilyhistory.com



Woodford House 1870's

Birds & Bees

Alan Dennington provided an interesting piece of information: the British invaders brought bees to the Colony. Before that there were native bees here, with no sting. On a tangent he reminds us that the Indian Mynah is an also import, just as the Hill End Miner is. At the moment, Big Al is being visited by the "the Golden Haired Angel Bird" as he calls Chrissie Rixon, who is staying with him.
RC

March/April

Coming Events

1st March

Hill End Gathering- Botanical Gardens

4th March

Dr Wilson's next visit

9th March

CSU Theatre Media Students visit

18th March

21st - 24th March

Easter

22nd & 23rd March

Craigmoor Open House

23rd March

St Paul's Easter Service

26th March

Library Van visit

5th & 6th April

Hill End and Tambaroora Family History Expo

13th April

Open Day.

15th April

HETPA AGM

25th April

ANZAC Day

Clinic Report

Dr Wilson's next visit 4th March

For an Appointment Phone 263

Vicky Gransden is sharing the role with Rebecca Conolly, who is coming here for the first time. Rebecca was born in Orange and after working in Sydney for 8 years; she wanted to get back to the country.

The position for Nurse Practitioner is being advertised. David Turcato has taken up another nursing position and we wish him good luck.

Vicky suggests that anyone who hasn't had a tetanus shot in the last 10 years should seriously consider getting one now. Tetanus is caused by a toxin, which is a bacterium that lives in the soil. It can be severe and potentially fatal. The effective long-term protection against tetanus is provided by immunisation.

Vicky also noted that home visits, especially for the elderly can be arranged through the Community Health Centre in Bathurst.

Vicky also recommended that we use toothpastes containing fluoride as our tap and tank water does not contain it. The brochures advise us to brush our gums, as well as our teeth, twice a day.

There is, she said, a free Dental Clinic for both adults and children at the new Bathurst Base Hospital, and Mudgee Hospital.
RC

Police Report

Ben Smith suggests those with weekenders "be mindful of securing your houses when you are going away". You can let him know if you are going to be away.

There are many such houses in the Region that he covers, from Hill End through to Wattle Flat.

The Stamper Battery

February Edition 2008

Remember to lock your doors, set the alarms and let your neighbours know. RC

Cricket

We were thrashed by Sofala in the most recent game, but that was only to be expected since we had 7 men on the side. But that is par for the course this season. However in our previous match with Pyramul, we won.

Commencing October this year, after the end of winter at 10 am each Saturday there will be official practices with Brian Hodge and the cricket machine, which is the key to the rapid improvement in batting with the concentration on the youngsters.

The Club wants to thank Rhonda Cravino for her work in the kitchen, to make the day a success, also the Bathurst Cricket Community for their support.

The Club is looking for more Community support through memberships and on the hill on local match days.

It's an opportunity to see people in a different atmosphere from the Pub. RC

BRC Hill End Grants

A grant of \$ 28 600 was given to the Association for by Bathurst Regional Council. This is for the Royal Hall: kitchen equipment, the storeroom floor, the backdrop on the stage and painting internally and externally. The Hall is a valuable part of our heritage. When he visited, the Mayor, Paul Toole told us that this is part of \$ 90 000 in grants to Hill End over the last 3 years. We have not been overlooked. We have to thank Gaye Shanahan for her effort in obtaining this grant

The charges and uses of the Hall have been formulated. Insurance takes up an inordinate amount of time, but the Committee is getting on top of it. Community members recently attended a workshop in Mudgee on the preparation of grant applications, which will assist our efforts in the future. RC

Fond Memories

Anna Rose passed away recently at the young age of 41. She was the former wife off Glenn Rose, who the Policeman here over a decade ago. He is now stationed at Portland. Anna lived at the Police Station during Glenn's tenure. She is warmly remembered by those living here at the time as a very kind and gentle lady. It is sad that she died so young. Condolences are expressed to her family. RC

Progress Association AGM

The 2008 AGM of HETPA is to be held on 15th April this year.

All current committee positions will then become vacant, and nominations for committee positions will be accepted from HETPA members.

Membership of HETPA becomes due in April.

Membership fees are \$10 Per annum or part thereof, Concession \$5, plus \$3 postage fee for mailed Stamper Battery recipients.

Payable to-

The Treasurer

**Hill End & Tambaroora Progress Association,
c/o Hill End PO
NSW 2850**



Do let us know your email address to receive the Stamper Battery in colour. The Stamper Battery is archived online at www.hillend.org

Hill End Gold Ltd News

The Raise Bore

The contractors to Hill End Gold are setting up this sophisticated piece of equipment; compact and relatively quiet for the complex job it has to do.

The Stamper Battery

February Edition 2008

Obviously careful surveying is required to ensure accuracy in the set up so that it hits its target. They expect to be drilling 12 metres a day.

It will drive a pilot hole of 11 inches diameter down to the tunnel 220 metres / 720 feet below.

A reaming head will be fitted in the shaft and raised up, hence the name. The reaming head is 2.4 metres / 8 feet in diameter and will widen the shaft as it returns to the surface. The head has 10 cutting wheels, which grind into the rock as it is raised.

The technique is similar to that used to bore traffic tunnels under Sydney.

Each cutting wheel costs around \$20 000 to replace, so it is no cheap operation, yet considerably cheaper than sinking a shaft would have been in 1872.

The purpose of this new shaft is to provide ventilation, access to the gold veins, and a secondary means of escape from the mine. It is situated above the Connie Dam. The noise of the generator will be muffled by the rise of Prince Albert Hill, though it is audible in Reef Street.

Environmental Impact Controls are in place with regard to noise, sediment and rehabilitation. The sludge brought up by the drilling will pass through two settling ponds before being reused in the drilling. And there will be the usual silt traps in place.

The Company is serious in its commitment to Hill End and its responsibilities to the environment. RC

Germantown Burn off



Germantown's Golden ½ Mile suddenly resembled an inferno, or a war torn turf, as Parks burnt off the piles of dead pine trees they had cut down in recent years.

Despite being in a wooded area on a hot day, the fire control team managed to burn the dead wood and not ignite the surrounding trees.

A well controlled exercise.

However as it came with no warning, the sudden onslaught of the odour of dense smoke and sound of crackling trees was initially somewhat alarming to Germantown residents. Ed.

Hill End at the Art Gallery of NSW



Kim Deacon performing at AGNSW

Hill End songstress/harpist /potter Kim Deacon performed at the AGNSW, with music compatriot Boris Hunt in Jan, at the Sidney Nolan exhibition, in The Ned Kelly Room.

Boris had composed 5 Ern Malley poems for voice, piano and cornet. Both were invited by Nolan curator Barry Pierce to give a performance when Pierce heard their CD.

The Stamper Battery

February Edition 2008

Nolan's association with the fictitious poet Malley is that he was coeditor of the Angry Penguins Literary magazine in Melb., with Max Harris and John Reed, when struggling poets James Maccauley and Harold Stewart wrote 18 poems giving them a fictitious author 'Malley' and sent them in to Harris to give a finger to the so called modernist poetry movement. Nolan, Harris and Reed thought the poems magnificent and published them only to have Maccauley & Stewart come out with the hoax in 1947.

Kim & Boris will perform next at the launch of Garry Shead's book on his exhibition based on Ern Malley in which Kim's husband, potter, Lino Alvarez collaborated on many large ceramic urns, during 2003 in Hill End.

KD



Garry Shead/Lino Alvarez
An urn to Ern

Liz Shreeve Artist in Residence

Liz describes her work as 3-d low relief paper constructions, which are hard to grasp in a 2-dimensional photo. "It all came about" she said, "when I tried to paint some beautiful light effects and I couldn't catch the light. So instead of painting it, I captured it physically by bending pieces of paper and so the light gets trapped. I used to teach science so

I've always been interested in observable effects and perception. Down in Sydney I was relating to the way light hits buildings so everything is very square. I tend to be site specific and react to the light in the place that I am working. I was interested to see how I would relate to the light in Hill End. The light is a lot softer, not as much contrast here. But what really affected me was the darkness, especially when we had a blackout. It crowds in on you. So I did a piece in black and blue with a hint of the moon. The kids at the School saw the moon in it. They came up with some interesting pieces and ideas which I will use – the asked me if they will get royalties – they're quite cluey, you know.

I've enjoyed watching the storms. And I've enjoyed watching the garden develop, the fruit ripening and watching the light change. It's been altogether a good time".

RC



Liz Shreeve

Bathurst Regional Art Gallery Hill End Exhibition

Day Dreams – Kathy Cavaliere

From the Hill End Artists in Residence Program
1 February – 30 March....

Bathurst Regional Art Gallery announces the return of Kathy Cavaliere to the gallery with her captivating new exhibition *Day Dreams*.

The Stamper Battery

February Edition 2008

In June 2005, Cavaliere participated in the Hill End Artist in Residency Program. While staying at the historic Murrays Cottage, Cavaliere took the unusual approach of converting the entire studio into a Camera Obscura. From which she produced a series of black and white photos. Camera Obscura were used as drawing aids in the Renaissance by prominent artists such as DaVinci and later developed into the earliest form of photographic camera.

Cavaliere's large-scale photographs capture the view from the studio at Murray's cottage of the front garden, trees, and fence.



The resulting series of photographs consist of large scale negatives with their mirrored positives, giving the exhibition a dream like quality.
BRAG media release

La Paloma view-from

www.flickr.com

Craigmoor Easter 2008 House Tours



Recognized by the Historic Houses Trust as, "One of NSW's most significant historic houses, the jewel in the crown". Craigmoor's handmade quilts are listed on the National Quilt Register as historic artifacts. Guided tours on the hour, limited to small groups due to the sensitive nature of the building.

Easter 2008

March Sat. 22nd & Sun. 23rd

11am – 4pm Admission-\$10/ \$8 con.

Info- 63378334

Presented by
The Hill End & Tambaroora Progress Association
Through The Friends of Craigmoor

Hill End Historic Buildings Open Days 2008

Hill End's Historic Buildings Open Day is a chance to view ten unique buildings, from humble miners' cottages and old churches to the historic Craigmoor, with its original furnishings still intact. Also see artists' residency studios and a pottery studio, all restored 1870's dwellings.



April 2008
Sun 13th 11am – 4pm
\$25/18 concess
Bookings Essential
Ph 63376334

Presented by
The Hill End & Tambaroora Progress Association

