

# The Stamper Battery

## Xmas (December 2005) Issue



Murray's Cottage-Donald Friend

### Spring Rain on the Turon

November saw rain and storms, rain, rain, and more rain. On one day the P.O. got almost 4 inches, but at the Visitors' Centre, 1 km away, only 2 1/2 inches. New leaks in roofs were discovered all over town. The Turon was 2m over the causeway on the Bridle Track for awhile, and the Turondale Bridge was also underwater for a time. Not a time to try to cross.

The Turon is the fastest rising and fastest dropping river in NSW, due to its massive catchment area, and gradient. On that note, the Turon Valley itself is also the second biggest rift valley in the Southern Hemisphere.



Turon Crossing Underwater-Rob Payne

### Kitty's Falls

The normally dry precipice of Kitty's Falls roared in its full grandeur this November. A stunning, rare local visual experience.



Kitty's Falls-Rob Payne

# The Stamper Battery

## Xmas (December 2005) Issue

### Hawkins Hill

Who was Hawkins Hill named after?  
I found several contenders for the privilege, but I leave it up to the reader as to which one is the most likely.

From 'The Hill End Story – Book 1' (p.185) by Harry Hodge

In the days before gold at Hill End, teamsters brought supplies to shepherds and stockmen via Split Rock. One local legend ascribes the name Hawkins Hill to a teamster of that name who sold his team on its crest and joined in the Tambaroora rush.

From a letter written by Margaret Curran, 1973  
“I am the great grand daughter of John Henry Hawkins the supposedly founder of Hawkins Hill.” John was a prospector and was riding along the ridge when his horse’s hoof broke open a quartz vein and exposed a rich seam of gold.

From Sydney Morning Herald 1872  
Hawkins Hill-Explanations of its name.  
1. Tradition says that in former times a large number of hawks were wont to congregate about the summit of the hill.  
2. A bushranger called Hawkins once did his business in this area and his memory was thus perpetuated.  
3. An innkeeper named Hawkins, a few miles out on the Bathurst rd, alleges that the hill was named after him.

From Brian Hodge

Thomas Jarman Hawkins named the hill after himself when he was the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Western District in 1875.

Daphne Shead

### The Yowie



Tales of strange hairy ape like creatures have abounded since long before the European arrival. For eons past the Aboriginal people had many names for this strange Yeti like creature. Each tribal group had its own name for the Yowie as we now know this illusive hominoid. *The term Yowie has only been adopted since white arrival.*

The Granites-Macquarie area has long been a common spot for their sighting, and the orchards of Hill End are rumored to have long attracted their nocturnal visits. Old timers often discussed the possibility that the creatures might inhabit the cleft caves, tunnels and shafts that surround Hill End. Their characteristic large footprints are reported to have been found in mud at the back of the saw mill in town, within the last decade.



Casts of footprints over twice human size.

# The Stamper Battery

## Xmas (December 2005) Issue

Our locale has had numerous reports of the Yowie over the years; here are just a few-

### Hill End

**1900's** -A young couple were supposedly killed by a Yowie in Hill End. They were in the habit of walking along a track through thick dense scrub country between their homes. One night they

both disappeared. The next day searchers found signs of a struggle at a point which included large indistinct footprints. Further searching nearby in the gully later resulted in the discovery of both their bodies, torn and bloodied. Old-timers put it down to the 'great hairy man,' or Yowie, enormous beasts which they had known of since the beginning of the gold rush.

**1975**-School bus incident, Hill End Rd, reported by Mrs. Hillary Montgomery. One morning, young Mrs. Montgomery, was driving a school bus packed with children on their way to school outside of town on the Hill End Rd. As they passed a clump of trees, Hillary spotted a hairy man-ape creature squatting on the edge beside the road. She alerted the children, most of whom also saw the strange man beast. As the bus passed the 'manimal' ran off into the bush.

### Turon/Macquarie

Along the nearby Macquarie River amid the steep mountainsides of the Granites lies Johnson's Hole. The Aboriginal people avoided the locality, as did white settlers, none of whom, would camp there at night. It was frequently stated that a peculiar noise was heard, and the splashing of water. In the centre of a deep part of the waterhole there is a

large rock and it was near this rock that the splashing of water and weird sounds were heard. A rock fault opposite nearby Monaghan's Bluff, dropping to the river was long rumored to have been an access ramp to the Hole built by the Yowies.

**1887**- A gold miner, and well respected lifelong resident of Hill End, scorning the advice of 'superstitious' locals, decided to short-cut to his lease via Johnson's Hole, around dawn one morning. As he was passing the waterhole he heard this weird sound. Looking up where the rock was he saw a large black hairy 'thing' crouched upon the summit, upon sighting him, it slipped into the water and disappeared.

**1900**-A Miss Hodge, wrote how as a child grew up on a property opposite the 'Hole', "Aboriginals thereabouts never swam in the Hole and even then horses and dogs would not remain near at night." Miss Hodge once saw a horseman who had been mustering, ride out of the hills "white as a sheet". He said he had seen a large 'baboon-like' man, a giant which had terrorized him, and she herself saw a man-sized black-haired Yowie, near her home one day.

**1965**-Ted Knoph, camping on the Turon, sighted an enormous 10ft tall hairy apelike monster. "It was very muscular, had long arms reaching down towards its knees, it stood in a stooped position and appeared to have a bullet-shaped head, a receding forehead and thick eyebrow ridges with deeply set, large eyes. It did not seem to have a neck, the head being sunk into the shoulders," Ted reported. Years later he returned with mates on a rabbit-shooting trip. They camped on the Turon River near the old township. Still



# The Stamper Battery

## Xmas (December 2005) Issue

remembering his 1965 experience, Ted did not think he was to see the monstrous beast again. That night however the group caught sight of a tall hairy figure in the surrounding scrub, illuminated in the camp fire glow "We grabbed our rifles but before anyone could have aimed at the mystery invader it had fled," Ted said. The next morning they discovered enormous footprints on the riverbank nearby.

1977-Turon encounter with a 2.5m tall hominid reported by G & J Gibbs.

1982-Ophir (only about 12 km's as the crow flies) dark 'humanoid' creature, reported by Pauline Yeates. ED.

### Grave Matters

Hill End has almost as many cemeteries as churches. Of course there are the 3 at Tambaroora, Anglican, Catholic, and Chinese, but 2 tend to be forgotten. Their once was one on Sargent's Hill, and one declared in 1874 in the dip down to Sarnia. However this site was revoked in the 1890's, as the Bathurst Rd now cut through its western corner, and the shooting range of the time was in the vale also. In the claim to rezone the block, it was stated that the cemetery had never actually been used, locals preferring the more established Tambaroora cemeteries.

However due to the recent clearing of road side undergrowth by the Community Service team, an apparent grave was uncovered right by the roadside.

Daphne Shead is investigating further.



The mound of stones that indicate a possible grave

### Blazed Tree

On Bald Hill there is an old burnt stump that shows the scar of its bark being emblazoned many years ago. There were many such trees in the surrounding area once, indicating Aboriginal burial sites. If this is one such site, as has been long rumored, then it must surely have been an influential person that rests at this site, for Bald Hill commands the area.

ED.



Blazed Tree

# The Stamper Battery

## Xmas (December 2005) Issue

### Past Residents Return

#### **Ed Byrne**

Ed Byrne is Ted Woolard's nephew and was a child when electricity came to Hill End. His Dad came up during the Depression, "carrying a little humpy on his back". They moved into empty Dennington's Cottage. "The kids used to get the milk from the bus," he said, "and sit under the street light, opposite the Tennis Courts and wait for it to come on. Before that, we had big kerosene lamps, which we had to polish. We used to go down to the Police Station," Ed continued, "to watch TV. I used to go to School with the policeman's son. After *Mickey Mouse* we would go up to Bill Lyle's to hear his wife Effie and her sister, Violet playing the accordion. That was our entertainment back then. We used to collect whitewash for the fireplace in a ravine off Germantown Lane. I wonder if people still whitewash their fireplaces? We used to go down to the Connie Dam to catch crayfish and to the Tambaroora Dam, where I nearly drowned when I got caught up in the quicksand. it's all silted up now though." They also used to go blackberry picking and sell them to Bruce Goodwin at the General Store. Ed said that his father would set a hundred rabbit traps before he went to work on the properties around here and sell the catch to the Rabbit Chiller at the General Store for 5s 6p a pair. However, you have to relate that to the cost of bread, which was 3 ½ d, a loaf. Nowadays, a loaf of bread is a couple of dollars, so a pair of rabbits would now sell for \$22 a pair. Down at the river he remembers they used to shoot a goat, skin it and put it in a sugar bag, place it in the river to attract the

shrimps which in turn attracts the cod. There were a lot more cod then," Ed reminisced. **RC**

Sheena Goodwin, a peer, cannot really remember the advent of electricity to Hill End, but she does remember the purchase of an electric stove, "which was something from outer space, and the joy of an electric bath heater instead of the chip heater." **RC**

#### **The Munro's**

They live out on Alpha Rd, and have recently returned to town also. **RC**

#### **Ole Crusty's Back**

Peter Seaman has regained his old crustiness, after his successful back operation. **RC**

### Departing Resident

#### **Russell Roberts**

Russell Roberts has left for new adventures up north. I always enjoyed his dry sense of humour, he told me the following tale, one evening he went home from the pub, had some dinner, went to sleep, got up, had a coffee, went to the tip and, on the way back, saw a whole lot of cars outside the Pub. His first thought was that it had been a very good night at the Pub and that everyone had left their cars behind. However the truth is that it was 7pm, not 7am. He had misread his clock and only slept an hour, but what a beaut, deep sleep. **RC**

# The Stamper Battery

## Xmas (December 2005) Issue

### Departing Vehicles

**Car Crush-** The pile of old wrecks doubled with the efforts of Bernie Baker Robert Anderson and Michael Hague, assisted by Matt Burns and John Mead of Parks. If you saw how easily they flattened them, you'd never ride in them.

RC

### Animals in Town

More rabbits are around of late, though not the black ones of the Newman strain, also some wild deer are seen on the perimeter of town. They are getting tamer, Sheena Goodwin noted.

RC

### Shaft Exposed

Recent grading of the Ullamulla Rd by Mudgee Council had an unexpected hiccup in progress when the grader dislodged a steel plate that had for decades covered a rather large mineshaft right in the middle of the rd. Unnerving concept that around here roads have been placed over old shafts, hopefully all are well covered.

ED.

### Hill End Gold

Another drilling program will be under way before Christmas in the Reward Prospect Area, above the Connie Dam. 4-6 holes will be drilled there, and the Company advises that it will restrict the hours of operation, because of the proximity of houses. After Christmas, drilling will recommence and later move to Red Hill, just before the Ullamulla turnoff, for 12-17 more holes and the noise level will be monitored there.

Rob Payne  
Hill End Gold



Drillers-Ken Hutchinson

### Hill End Family History

[www.hillendfamilyhistory.com](http://www.hillendfamilyhistory.com)

The last months have been hectic with emails, phone calls, letters and visitors to the Morgue office. The names researched are;Harvey,Meagher,Holman, Wilkins, Donald, Smith, Fitzgibbons, Cutts, Halloran, Gustafson, Macryannis, Walton, Olsen, Schinkel, Wythes, Waterbury, Boeme, Lucas, Lovely and Handebo.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Happy Hunting!!!

Daphne Shead

### Combined Regional Villages

There have been several meetings of this Bathurst Council initiative. There was a mini expo held in Bathurst shopping centres recently, with volunteers from local villages manning the display. Several HETPA members kindly donated their time. The aim is to attract more tourists to the villages surrounding Bathurst. The villages are invited to compose a wish list, things like a

# The Stamper Battery

## Xmas (December 2005) Issue

website, a CD or DVD, brochures, etc. Ronald Charles attends the meetings on Hill End's behalf. His efforts are greatly appreciated by HETPA. **ED.**

### Hill End Motel

[www.hillendmotel.com](http://www.hillendmotel.com)

The roof system consists of the same Lego blocks as the walls, (see last issue). They are currently being put in place. Progress continues. Stay tuned. **RC**



**Motel Roofing Crew at work**

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### Hill End Art Gallery

A new show opened on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov, (see last issue) featuring work by past residency artists. Peter Myler of Parks opened the exhibition, Richard Perrim of BRAG, spoke of the value of cultural tourism. It is an interesting show with continuity in the hanging that ties the 7 artists together. Viewed as an installation in itself, the room is lop sided, due to the strength of paint versus pen or crayon. The lino prints, by Peter Kingston are in a whimsical, almost chaotic character, typical of his work. By contrast, the ink drawings of Ray Crooke are formal, almost tight, with simplicity of content, reminiscent of his early paintings, with a restful content and a

masterful balance that shows the long experience of the artist. Tom Spence sits somewhere between the two, finding balance between line and wavy impression. 'Dusk' looks down from Haefliger's to St Paul's, everything lost in the shadow of dusk. It is dark, foreboding; with mystery in the air, the only light coming from a reflection in the church steeple. 'Winter' portrays a season bare of foliage that has a similar detachment. Not in the least foreboding, it contains the bleak feeling of a cold winter's day. Simon Porm depicts shadows differently. His frame the central focus and create a balance in the work, the very opposite of Crooke's. His drawings are self-contained with a comfortable air to them. Tony Edwards's small painting has a quality quite different from the other works. Looking from Haefliger's in another direction, to the Catholic church, with a strong yellow foreground and a sky is almost black over the church, the forms of the buildings are seemingly unrelated to each other, detachment giving them a surreal quality. Jo Bertini's paintings contain the colours of regrowth trees, colours from khaki to sage. They are abstract works, but they capture the feeling of the subject. The works are large, perhaps a little too loose, diminishing their power to hold the observer. Rachel Fairfax presents the most abstract work in the show. Yet, when looking into them, they really are Hill End. However, the turquoises are foreign, in contrast to Bertini's palette of local colours. Raising the question whether everything has to be true to its source; surely it is the artist's right to interpret the landscape, which is the unifying characteristic of this diverse



# The Stamper Battery

## Xmas (December 2005) Issue

show. Fairfax may have gone a bit too far from the source and it's hard to know whether technique has conquered content on this occasion. RC

### BRAG Residency Artists

**Lynne Flemons & Sandra McMahon** Shared a residency at Murray's and, though their approaches are different, they have a lot in common." Hill End is so different, it is so lush after so much rain," Sandra said, "a contradiction from our expectation, the roughness and harshness of the landscape." Both were impressed by "the rich colours in the erosion gullies, the purples, pinks and reds," Lynne added. "They make up the character of the town, also I was taken by the regrowth of the bush." Sandra joined in, "the way nature regenerates itself, with trees growing out of mullock heaps. Sandra said, "we are very opposite in our work, , mine is much more formalist, more structured. Lynne's more organic." Their work is different, but working together in the small Murray's studio has produced similarities in their approach to their subject, rather than in the work. RC



Hill End Landscape-Sandra McMahon

### **Anneke Silver**

Anneke is an Adjunct Associate Professor at James Cook University. She heard about Hill End from a number of sources, including from Ray Crooke. "It's just one of those things everyone knows about," she Everyone tells me that they have never seen Hill End greener. Townsville is in fact in a rain shadow. Because it is dry, we don't get those intense greens, generally. I paint almost exclusively in the colours of the dry landscape, browns, pinks and violets. But, here the light is intense; there is a darkness in the shade, a kind of heaviness, and deep, dark areas. A lot of that comes from the fir trees, very European. Beyer's Avenue is the shadiest part of town and I am surrounded by them. One of the things I want to investigate is the architecture, to capture the character of the place and meld the architecture with the landscape. I started drawing at first, using the brown soil for a background, The interview ended, because Anneke had a rendezvous with a particular shed at a particular time, because that was when the shadows were at their best. RC



Athol- Anneke Silver



# The Stamper Battery

## Xmas (December 2005) Issue

### HETPA President's Report

On behalf of HETPA I would like to thank Barrie for his enthusiasm, energy and interest in Hill End and in an active and motivated Progress Assoc. while he was President. We wish Barrie, Lee and family a happy and successful stay on Lord Howe Island.

**The Car Crush-** *(A great idea of Barrie's)* has been completed with over 40 cars being removed for recycling. Thanks to NPWS and Robert, Bernie & Mike for their 2 day effort to bring in about 25 cars. HETPA will be paid for the scrap metal, aiding community funds.

**Village Grant-** Barrie also applied for a small village grant from Council. This grant was approved in Nov. \$28,500 for construction of a helipad, playground, and repair of community tennis court. These projects will keep us busy in 2006!!

**Roads-** I have met with David Shirley from Bathurst Council, concerning the sorry state of village roads, showing him photographs of William & Thomas Sts. The aim is for clarification of road ownership (council or crown) and just who is responsible for road maintenance. No roads belong to Parks.

**Tip-** Bathurst Council does not have resources to monitor regional tips, and welcomes information regarding state of tips. The current tip has 5 years left, it costs approx. \$250,000 to close and clean a tip area, so the tip won't be closed if there are complaints.

**Picnic Tables-** Bob Frazer is repairing and oiling the picnic tables ready for summer.

In closing it was another year of wonderful issues of the Stamper Battery. Ronald is always on the beat, coming up with news, his tireless efforts are greatly appreciated. Thank you to Glenn for his excellent skills as Editor and historian.

Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy  
New Year

Sheena  
President  
HETPA



Royal-Anneke Silver

### Parks News

**Pest Management-** We have commenced biological controls of Patterson's curse and issued contracts for the weeds in and around the site. Jason Neville, Pest Management Officer will also be meeting with the Hill End Trust next week to discuss cooperative pest/weed activities.

**Fire Management-** Rosemary Smith is developing a Fire Management Strategy for the Historic Site and will liaise closely with the RFS on it. She intends meeting with the HETPA Executive early in Jan. and will follow that up with a community meeting. The RFS will also

# The Stamper Battery

## Xmas (December 2005) Issue

be involved. We'll continue to examine means of removing the cut down pines as quickly as possible and have programmed a Hazard Reduction burn in the Pine Hill area - area at the rear of our workshop and south of High Street.

**Staffing-**Pleased to announce that Matthew Burns has been appointed the Senior Field Supervisor and Karin Mainwaring has been appointed to the Field Officer position. Karin had been acting in a temporary role but has now won the permanent position. Both won their positions from a very large field of applicants. The Service will continue to recruit locally when ever possible. It also realizes that local NPWS staff are often in difficult situations having to adhere to Service policy and procedures and at the same time remaining an integral part of the local community. Barrie's old position will be advertised as "Historic Site Manager" soon. It's in the hands of our Human Resources unit.

**Buildings-**Ray Christison will continue to work on Conservation Management Strategies for the Hill End buildings.

The Service will continue to pursue the re-use of its historic buildings in terms of the Master Plan.

Peter Myler  
Area Manager, Macquarie  
Western Rivers Region  
Parks & Wildlife Division - Western Branch  
Department of Environment and Conservation

### Pest Management Activities at Hill End

Mon 21st Nov. release of a biological control agent for the control of Paterson's Curse occurred at Hill End. The insect *Mogulones geographicus*, or more commonly referred to as the "root weevil", will be a useful insect in the long term management of Paterson's

curse within the township. The insect is very specific to Paterson's curse and will not impact other plants which occur within the township. The insect attacks the Paterson's curse plant in many ways and the "Root weevil", is not restricted to feeding on the tap root. During phases of the insect's life cycle, the larvae will feed on the root system and move up to the stem. The insect becomes active after Autumn rains and as the larvae develop to adult stage will feed on the stem and flowers of the host plant. Threats to this insect include mowing and grazing by stock, the weevil likes to be left alone and is happiest in large clumps of the host plant where it will eventually move short distances to colonize new Paterson's Curse clumps. Hopefully once this insect becomes firmly established the Paterson's curse problem within the township can be better managed without herbicide & continuous hours slashing.

Noxious weed control commenced Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec-.concentrating on St John's Work, Blackberry and other weeds of concern. The weed sprayers will be spending a short time within the township concentrating on the NPWS estate.

Jason Neville  
Pest Management Officer

### Community Health Centre News

Dr Wilson's next visit 3rd January  
Hill End Clinic closed  
23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2nd Jan.  
David Turcato recommences duties as of  
3rd January 06

# The Stamper Battery

## Xmas (December 2005) Issue

**Hay fever-** the common name for an allergy that affects the nose. It can be so severe that you can't sleep or concentrate. Sufferers can feel tired and unwell. To limit symptoms: Stay indoors as much as possible in spring on windy days, after thunderstorms. Choose garden plants that are bird/insect pollinated rather than plants that release seeds into the air. Smear petroleum jelly inside your nose to stop the pollen from touching the nose lining. Splash your eyes with cold water to flush out pollen. Hay fever makes your body produce histamine, which leads to inflammation in the nose. Medications may be helpful. Hay fever is an allergic reaction to pollen and is common in spring. Avoiding triggers is the best way to reduce the attack frequency.

(Info [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au))

**Snake Bite-**call 000 for an Ambulance. It is important to stay **CALM**. If safe, remove the patient from further risk. **DO NOT** try to catch the snake. Once safe, apply a pressure bandage over the bite site and then wrap the bandage up the limb. The bandage should not cut off the circulation, about the same pressure you would apply to a sprained ankle. If the bite is not on a limb, apply direct firm pressure to the bite. Keep the person still, discourage walking. If the bite is on a limb splint it to stop any movement. **NEVER** cut or excise the wound. **DO NOT** suck the venom out. **DO NOT** apply a tourniquet.

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I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Safe Xmas

**Vicki Gransden**  
Community Nurse



Hill End P.O.-Anneke Silver

### Police Report

Senior Constable Jim Allan reports that a tourist's car skidded off the Hill End road recently, and would like to remind us to take care on the dirt roads. **RC**

### Cricket

Hill End v Sofala-  
Hill End lost to Sofala by 40 runs.  
Informal practices held every Tues & Thurs 5.30pm.  
The club is always looking for new members, all welcome.  
Next matches-  
Sun. 18 Dec v Hargraves at Hargraves  
Sun. 8 Jan v Windeyer at Wyndeyer



Beyer's Cottage-Anneke Silver

# The Stamper Battery Xmas (December 2005) Issue



## Craigmoor Open Day January

A rare glimpse into the past, touring this historic gold rush home. The house is a virtual museum, with no alteration since the 1870's.

Recognized by the Historic Houses Trust as, "*One of NSW's most significant historic houses*". Craigmoor's handmade quilts are listed on the National Quilt Register as historic artifacts.

### Tours

Sat 21st - Sun 22nd  
10.30am-3.00pm

### Info;

63378334/ [progress@hillend.org](mailto:progress@hillend.org)

Craigmoor Open Day  
Presented by The Hill End & Tambaroora Progress Association