



Hill End Happenings

(July 2015)

- ◆ **Golden Diggers Sydney book launch (1st August)**
- ◆ **Dead Men Talking (3rd August)**
- ◆ **Dylan Thomas: Return Journey Hill End (22nd Aug)**
- ◆ **Hannah's Long Lunch in Hill End (5th Sept)**
- ◆ **Spring time reunion in Hill End (25-27 Sept)**

If you have family members who do not have email please print out this "Happenings" and pass it on to them. We will be sending out the next full newsletter soon with all these details but in the meantime you might like to put the following activities in your diaries:

Golden Diggers Sydney book launch – You're invited!

Our new book, *Golden Diggers, Hill End & Tambaroora District's contribution to World War 1* has been successfully launched in Hill End on Anzac Day and then in Bathurst a few weeks ago. To help celebrate National Family History Week in August it is now an appropriate time to launch it for all our Sydney Gathering Group members.



During our research we discovered that a few of the soldiers also had close association with the St George area in Sydney and so, with the help of Kogarah Town Square Library (Belgrave St, Kogarah) we will be holding the launch and author talk there on Saturday 1st August at 1pm.

We are pleased that Charles Davis, local St George amateur historian who is responsible for the WW1 Rockdale Enlistees website at <https://sites.google.com/site/ww1rockdaleenlistees/home> has agreed to help us launch the book. It

was on his website that we discovered a number of our "connections". Lorraine will be giving a presentation on how the book was researched and produced and Helen Wood will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the work.

Please feel free to pass on this invitation to your family members who may be interested in joining us for this event. Copies of the book will be available for purchase (\$35 cash only, please as we don't have credit card facilities). If you can't join us but would still like to purchase a copy of "Golden Diggers" then it is available on our website at <http://heatgg.org.au/he/publications/golden-diggers/> where you will also see a list of the names of the servicemen and women who are included in the book.

This is a free event however for catering purposes bookings are essential. Please register your attendance at <http://goldendiggers.eventbrite.com.au> where you will find more details on how to find us etc.

Dr. Noeline Kyle's review of Golden Diggers:

If the discovery of gold was the *raison d'être* for the picturesque historical village of Hill End then it will be the passion and hard work of family historian Helen Wood and retired librarian Lorraine Purcell that will ensure the lives of their Golden Diggers will be recorded as well as honoured in the future.

Almost 180 young men and women of Hill End, then with a tiny district population of 700, enlisted. Beginning with the names on the First World War Honour Board Helen Wood carried out meticulous research to include servicemen and women, who were born, grew up, went to school or lived in Hill End in the decades surrounding the war. One can only marvel at the dedication, persistence and attention to detail that has produced some wonderful portraits of the men and women who faced terrible times on the fields of France and who then often returned to complex and hard circumstances at home.

Anyone who has completed research on personnel from World War 1 will know the many frustrations of painting a fuller portrait of young men and

women eager to make their contribution to the war effort. It is a credit to these two authors that on each page of *Golden Diggers* there is a story of not just the military achievements but also the family background, the difficulty of returning to civilian life, the sadness that sometimes met the men as they returned to unemployment and broken relationships.

Of course, not every serviceman or woman returned to troubled times. Many came back to Hill End and picked up life as they had left it, supporting their families, making a contribution to their communities and living their lives fully to the end. It is a credit to their resilience, stoicism and character that these men, in particular, who had seen such awful scenes of war, did come home and 'soldiered' on.

The book also provides information on how the war affected this small mining town. The home front, the work of the Red Cross, soldiers' letters home and the coming of peace are all covered. It is a splendid piece of work and the authors are to be congratulated.

As well as the impressive coverage of all aspects of the impact of the "War to end all Wars" on Hill End, the authors have produced a professional and stunning book. The quality and presentation is flawless. In addition, it should be noted that the members of the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group, whose ancestors are the servicemen and women in this book, contributed much to this book, including precious family photographs. This is a shared family effort from the many, many families who have continued, under the guidance of Lorraine Purcell, to honour and remember their ancestors and the *Golden Diggers* of their past.

Helen Wood and Lorraine Purcell have produced a significant contribution to our knowledge and understanding of the lives of First World War men and women who lived in and made their homes in the now historic village of Hill End.

Dr. Noeline Kyle

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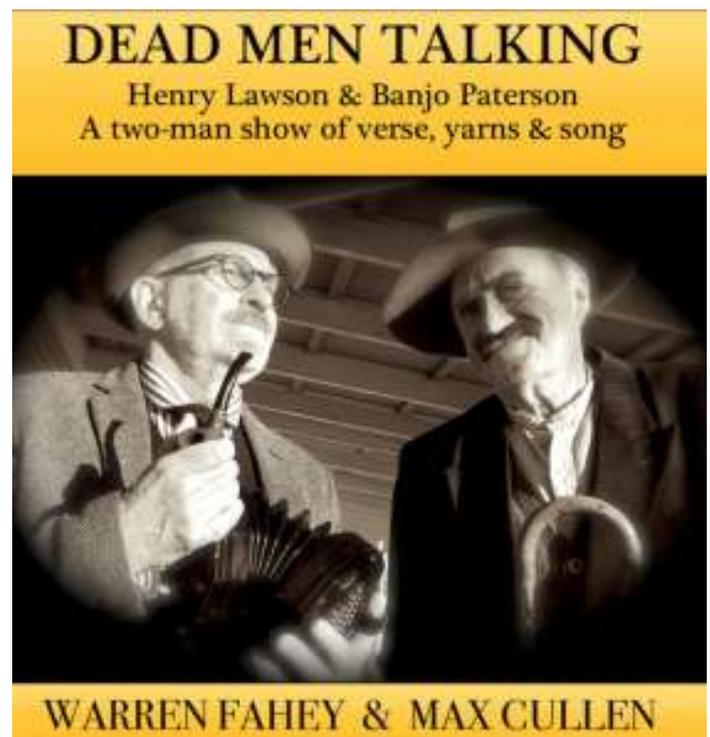
Hill End Arts Council

The Hill End Arts Council is trying to build up an audience base for ongoing productions. There is so much going on in our region. We believe there are lot of people in outlying areas around Hill End and beyond, who will support performances of this calibre given the quality and location of the Royal Hall venue.

The Hill End Arts Council in collaboration with the Office of Environment and Heritage, Parks and Wildlife Division, are very excited to announce 2 wonderful touring productions coming to the beautiful historic Royal Hall, Hill End.

This is a landmark collaboration which sees an initiative to harness the vibrant touring performing arts of the region and bring them to the wider community of Hill End, the surrounding community and to this great venue.

Dead men talking



HENRY LAWSON AND 'BANJO' PATERSON ARE RETURNING TO THEIR OLD STAMPING GROUNDS OF THE CENTRAL WEST

Australia's two favourite poets, Henry Lawson and A.B. 'Banjo' Paterson are touring the mid-west region in August - and will be appearing in Hill End at the Royal Hall on Monday 3rd August at 7pm - a welcome return to their old stamping grounds.

Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson left extraordinary legacies to Australia and they should never be forgotten. As the world increasingly succumbs to the never-ending and somewhat inevitable pressure of 'one world culture' it is vital that small nations like Australia fight back to show their uniqueness. Our national identity was born in the bush and is one of feistiness and determination where pioneers battled with bushfires, floods, droughts, insect plagues and, quite often, authority and the banks. They also fought loneliness and despair but somehow-or-other came out the other side to build this great nation.

Lawson and Paterson emerged at a time when we needed masterful storytellers who would talk to us in our own language and at our own level. They both took the old bush stories and songs and gave them back to us in a colloquial literary catalogue that bridged the gap between bush and city. They gave us a unique voice that still rings true blue today.

Dead Men Talking is a 90 minute stage musical scripted and featuring **Max Cullen** and **Warren Fahey**.

The lively one act show finds the two legendary literary figures having a casual drink at the Leviticus Bar & Grill, Heaven's Gate, and yarning about their legacies.

Slightly cantankerous, yet grateful of their old friendship, Henry Lawson (Max Cullen) and A. B. 'Banjo' Paterson (Warren Fahey) discuss each other's lives including their famous 'War of Words' in The Bulletin. They recite poems, sing songs and generally banter - and have a laugh about life's changing circumstance.

Dead Men Talking has hit a solid nostalgic note with audiences who delight in seeing Lawson and Paterson strutting the centre stage and the show, (to use an old showbiz phrase), "has been packing them in" across Australia. The veteran actors have committed to perform the show "for the next couple of years".

Monday 3rd August - Hill End – 7pm. The Royal Hall, Beyers Ave.

Tickets \$30 and cons \$25. Hill End Arts Council & Office of Environment and Heritage. Online tickets at <http://deadmentalking-hillend.floktu.com/>

Dylan Thomas : Return Journey

With original direction by acclaimed actor Anthony Hopkins and starring Bob Kingdom as Dylan Thomas this show is an extraordinary encounter with a literary genius.

Over 80,000 people have enjoyed this critically acclaimed production which has included sell-out seasons at London's Lyric Hammersmith, Off Broadway and The British Library. In collaboration with The Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre It is now coming to the Royal Hall in Hill End.



Bookings: cash sales at Door
Saturday August 22 @ 8.00 pm
\$35 adult, \$30 concession, \$25 students
Family of 4 \$100 extra child \$20
Don't miss this wonderful and unique opportunity to see these performances under the spell of Hill End in winter.

Hannah's Long Lunch

Places at Hannah's long table are filling fast so if you were thinking of joining us on Saturday 5th September in Hill End for a lunch not to be missed, then you had better confirm your place by booking at

<http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=118934>



This is a function in honour of Hannah Maclurcan (nee Phillips) born Tambaroora/Hill End NSW in 1860. In 1898 she wrote and published Mrs Maclurcan's Cookery Book. Hannah moved from Queensland to Sydney and became the owner of the Wentworth Hotel from 1901-1936. During this time she hosted numerous charity events for children, hospitals, war veterans, the Salvation Army, RSPCA and many more.

The cost is \$130 each and Hannah's Long Lunch will consist of six course meal created by Mudgee caterer & food consultant, Rebecca Sutton, inspired by Hannah's recipes and using produce from the region where possible. Wines of the region are also included. Entertainment will be provided by the Henry Bialowas Jazz Trio and Australian Bush Band, Jason and Chloe Roweth. There will also be lucky door prizes and a silent art auction with paintings donated by Hill End artist Julie Williams and Janet Haslett and a framed limited print donated by Art Gallery of NSW.

In the true spirit of Hannah's generosity all profits will go toward the Hill End Royal Hall Photographs Restoration Fund.



For further information contact Karen Bates on 0412464578 or via email to hannahslonglunch@gmail.com

Accommodation is limited in Hill End so bookings are essential.

Spring Reunion in Hill End

Plans are well underway for our Reunion in Hill End on the weekend of 25th–27th September. This is in the middle of the school holidays so it is a great opportunity to bring your younger family members to Hill End to see where their ancestors came from. You may even consider staying there a few days before or after the event to enjoy it further. Head down to Golden Gully and make your fortune...



All roads to Hill End are now sealed, so you can travel by Mudgee, Sofala or Turondale with bitumen all the way! (This innovation has only taken 170 years so take advantage of it!)

Our activities will be based around the Royal Hall where Daphne from Hill End Family History and the Gathering Group will have family history material on display and where you can meet up with family to explore the town together.

We are planning for a Town Tour on Saturday afternoon and a catered dinner & talk fest on Saturday evening. On Sunday we will also be visiting Tambaroora and the Cemeteries there as well. The rest of the time is free to visit the other museums in town, take a Bald Hill mine tour, go gold panning or just wander around and enjoy the ambience, whilst locating the family estates...

We will be arranging for a bus to travel from Central Station to Hill End on the Friday and returning to Sydney on Sunday evening for those who do not have their own transport (can do pickup at Strathfield and along the Great Western Hwy if needed). The cost for this return transport will be around \$100 (may be less if we get a full busload). I will need to know bookings for this transport by 7th September so please book early with me to secure a place.

The coach will drop people at their chosen accommodation in Hill End and will be available during the weekend for transport around town.

Participants will be responsible for booking and paying for their own accommodation in Hill End and we have notified all the accommodation houses to expect bookings from our members. As accommodation is limited in Hill End you are advised to book well in advance. **Please be sure to mention that you are part of the Gathering Group when you book.**

Local accommodation is available at
Hill End Lodge Motel: Phone (02) 6337 8200
Website - www.hillendlodge.com.au
Hill End Ranch: Phone (02) 6337 8224
Website - www.hillendranch.com.au
Royal Hotel: Phone (02) 6337-8261
Website - <http://www.royalhotelhillend.com/>
National Parks & Wildlife Village & Glendora Camping Ground: Phone (02) 6337 8206
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/>
(Bookings not necessary, limited powered sites on a first come basis)

For enquiries about any of the above activities please contact Lorraine on 02 95870352 or 0408117784
Or email: heatgg@yahoo.com.au