

# THE STAMPER BATTERY

SUMMER EDITION 2007



Turondale Summer-Maurice Orr

## Welcome Lew

We welcome our new Assets Manager, Lew Bezzina, who has already made a good impression on the people of Hill End. Lew worked at Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens, part of the Department of the Environment and Conservation managing the Technical Services Division, "Everything except plants. I looked after infrastructure, buildings, vehicles "I love buildings and working with heritage listed assets. I feel accepted into the community and I'm getting a lot of support, which is good, from Parks and the locals. The position has everything that I need to be stimulated. I've got a lot of energy and friends said to me that the job was made for me". Lew is married to Leslee, who is a casual art teacher. "She will be coming up on her days off and school holidays. The more I'm here; the more I fall in love with the place. The days are long, but it's effortless". RC

## Welcome Dean

Dean Taylor has filled the position of Temporary Field Officer. "Dean was selected as the most suitable applicant", Lew Bezzina said, "he also worked at Mt Tomah, but his main ambition was to get into the Parks Division. He has horticultural & agricultural qualifications, also forestry and fire fighting experience'. Dean's from Lithgow and will be living here for 3 months. Word is he is something of a Country & Western singer; we have to witness the truth of this statement first. RC

## General Store Welcomed

It is good have a General Store in town again, after such a gap in time. Julie and Stewart Gilmore are the new proprietors. Their prices are good, their hamburgers generous. Let them know what things you need, so they can improve their range. 3 course Dinners every 2nd Saturday night will become a feature. Bookings are essential. The Gilmore's

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also do meals for the B&Bs, cater for bus groups and the drillers and offer picnic hampers. They even plan to have diesel soon. They deserve good fortune because of their enthusiasm and their coffee. "Stewart is in love with his coffee machine", according to Rosemary Valadon "and he always has a smile", she said. RC

### Motel Progress Report

The Conference Room is a new addition, tacked onto the Restaurant, where the kitchen fridges and freezers are already in. The landscaping is almost complete and an impressive feature of it is the thick stonewalls. John Carter and Kim Lembryk built the walls. In time the trees planted, will soften the current bareness of the site. The car parks and roads will be laid in the next couple of weeks Bernie Baker tried to explain how these most modern units are superior to any you have ever seen. Employment is around 6, and on completion it will be 8-10, as required for cleaning and the kitchen. Bookings after February for the rest of the year stand at 52% and that is before their promotion, so already it looks like a success. "It's getting close", Bernie said. RC

### The Rattray's & Holterman's Complex

They are permanent residents now, living at Bath Hill; they have rented out their Sydney home, so it's real. Matthew passed the HSC and Scott passed the School Certificate and will complete his last 2 years in Mudgee. The Berry Farm suffered from the drought, so not many berries. Auntie Ette's B&B, like all in Hill End, has been slow, but they stayed there over the New Year and recommend it. They

plan to restore the wattle and daub house on the site for more basic accommodation. Holterman's Complex has Sunday newspapers actually on Sunday, thanks to Jann Gallen's assistance. The Rattray's welcome their fellow shopkeepers, Julie and Stewart Gilmore. RC

### The Assay Cottage

Now open as Prints and Images, opposite the Post Office, Jann and Peter Gallen offer photo restoration and archival storage solutions. You can get your family records, historical and business files copied for display purposes and keep the originals safely stored away for the long term. Jann is there on Sundays and Carla on most Saturdays. Bring your documents on a Sunday and see the magic that they can perform or visit their business in Keppel Street, Bathurst. RC

### Peter Dorling and Tony Hubbard

They live in Toad Hall, so named because they come from Queensland's Gold Coast (as do Cane Toads). They are now permanent residents in town. Peter spent the last 5 years working in Canadian ski resorts and coming back to Australia for our winters working around our ski resorts. He hasn't experienced a summer in all those years and so it is a bit of a shock to the system with the unusual heat we have had of late. Tony worked in aged care, spending the last year in Canada. They have been coming to Hill End for the last 30 years and the first time they stayed at Haefliger's. RC

### The Rookledge's

Outside Craigmoor, this Australia Day long weekend, we were entertained by Margaret Rookledge playing her harp.

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Margaret has been playing the harp for 4 years now and has played for bus trippers in Betty Jeffree's garden. She and Don retired from Grattai after 20 years to live in Hill End. They had the Windeyer-Green Valley school bus run and worked in home care. Don is remodeling the kitchen in the Royal Hall. Already the floor has been replaced and the plumbing roughed in with the help of the CSOs (Community Service Orders) and Bernie Baker with transport, and all will be completed by June. They live near Valentine's Mine, which is so peaceful and quiet, that Margaret regrets selling her bagpipes, now she is able to make as much noise as she wants without disturbing neighbors. They bought their weekender 3 years ago and have been living there for a year.  
RC

## New Drivers

Trent Hocking has got his P Plates and, according to Stewart Gilmore the smile is so wide it stretches across to the passenger's seat. Laura Burns is a confident L plater, driving her mother around town.  
RC

## The Auld's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Luke Sciberras said that for him the beautiful image of the night was Ray and Joan dancing together. Unfortunately for him it ended badly when he sprained his ankle badly, in his own words, being an offish can-can dancer who fell down like a house of cards. Joan has the respect of the town for her contribution to the School over the years, through raffles she has run and the rugs that she makes. She continues to go to School for reading once a week.  
RC

## Departures

### The Royal Hotel

The Pub is now officially on the market, according to one informed person, but not according to another. What will the new Publican be like? We will have a new one to train. Change is on the way, yet again, too many changes lately. In our little backwater, we have become entrenched in the timelessness of the place. We have all loved Richard and Sarah George in various ways, but now it time for them to move on. We will miss them. But what some of us will miss more than anything is Wags, their Labrador. Their new focus is a pub in Bathurst, where their two boys are at school. So, what is their new Pub like? They have done an enormous amount of work already since they took over on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, we wish them well.  
RC

### Jim Allan

We wish our Policeman, Jim well. He finished up here on the Australia Day weekend. He said that Trish loves her job working at the emergency call centre 000 at Lithgow. She is settling back into a big town again. Evelyn, their daughter is "going great, getting bigger every day and more demanding.... in a good way", he hastily added.  
RC

### Police Presence

As Jim Allan has completed his term in Hill End, it is appropriate now to publish a letter from Superintendent Martin Wookey, the Chifley Local Commander to HETPA. He was surprised to hear that we thought he might be phasing out the permanent resident Officer in Hill End. "The recruitment and selection process may mean that there will be some period of time between Constable Allan's departure and the new Officer's arrival,

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but I will work to replace him as soon as I can. "Let me state clearly that there are no plans to close Hill End Police Station down. I sometimes wonder how these rumours get started, but I am glad you brought this one to my attention, so that I categorically deny it". RC

## Glynis, Jade & Chrissy

Glynis Williams and daughter Jade have gone to Hervey Bay to be closer to her husband Jeff when he is working in Queensland. Her sister Chrissy Rixon, followed them, as that is where their mother lives. She is helping her mother pack up her house for a future move. RC

## Sarah Mace-Dennis

Sarah is leaving her job at the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum in Bathurst to do a PhD in Art. RC

## Mavis Hill

Mavis is in hospital with two holes in her heart. We wish her well and a speedy return. RC

## Sheryl Welsh

"What a brave lady Sheryl is", said Cheryl Rattray, who came back to what seemed to be merry group outside Holterman's, until she realised that Sheryl had broken her leg just as she was leaving the shop. She is recovering well at their townhouse in Springwood, but she's not a patient patient, and we all know that. The situation was unfortunate, as no one in Hill End has the authority to call in the helicopter, so Sheryl had to wait in great pain for an hour until the ambulance arrived so that they could assess her need for the helicopter extraction. RC

## Fond Memories Porky



'Father Smith's Confessional-now closed  
Vale Porky' -Cartoon Bob Fraser

Porky or Ray Smith, passed away in late January. It seems that life just slipped away from him. He grew up in Dee Why, coming here 10 years ago with his friend, Macca, who predeceased him by 4 years. Porky was a very quiet, unassuming person, much loved and always there for someone wanting a chat. He had not been well for the last few years due to diabetes, with spells in hospital. He had become quite frail and recently he broke his arm. We will miss him at 3.30pm in the Pub, for that was his arrival time. RC

## Constable 1<sup>st</sup> Class

### Warren Melvin Hillary Sargent

Constable Sargent was born in 1944 and joined the New South Wales Police Force on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1964. In the afternoon of 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 1970 Constable Sargent was returning to Hill End in a Police Land Rover, after attending Court in Bathurst. Whilst traveling along the Turondale Road, the Constable lost control of the vehicle, which left the roadway and overturned. Constable Sargent was thrown from the vehicle, sustaining severe head injuries. At the time of his death Constable Sargent was stationed at Hill End. JNG

\*3 different Hill End cyber searchers offered this info for the Stamper. Keep it up readers! Ed.

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## The Policeman shot by Chinese Bushranger Sam Poo

In previous Stampers we mention the exploits of Sam Poo locally.

Daphne Shead now provides us with a background on the murdered policeman. Senior-Constable John Ward was born in England and he joined the Old Police in February 1858. He transferred to New Police as a mounted trooper in 1862. He was described as 29 years old, 5' 10 1/2" tall, had brown hair and blue eyes, and his complexion was fair. Ward was promoted to Senior-Constable in May 1863.

DS



Senior Constable-John Ward

## Gold prices & Miners wages

According to Brian Hodge, in 1872 the wages for a six-day week for a miner were £2.8.0 or \$4.80, whilst an agriculture worker got 10 shillings. Gold was worth £3.17.0 or \$4.80 an ounce back then, now it is \$US647.50 or \$A850. There have been 13 decades of inflation between those dates. Now if the price doubled every 20 years then from the 1872 price it should be \$US850 or \$A1120 by 2010. That would mean that inflation is a constant 4% over a century and a quarter. The price of gold has varied in between times. In the 1930s, the Americans fixed the price at \$US35 until Nixon freed it in 1971. In

1979-80 it rose to \$US850 and fell in 1982 to \$US300. Around 2000 it fell again to \$US256.

RC

## Black Powder Dan

Black Powder Dan was out on the bust, and a lively lad was Dan  
With a heavy hand and lightning gun, a real wild Irishman  
He was knocking down a shearing cheque and out to crab some fun  
And the only law that Danny knew, was that of the blue steel gun.  
He knocked the cobwebs off Hill End, that famous mining town.  
Made the oldsters think of stirring times before the field went down.  
He wrecked the bar at the Royal Hotel, woke old Ossie from his sleep.  
The way he smashed those whiskey jars would make an angel weep.  
But Rosser came in righteous wrath, to stop this mad folly.  
And the first to hit the hard floored cell, was the outlaw, young Jessie Colley.  
But Dan stood out with twin guns drawn and fought it man to man  
But drifting o'er the great divide went the soul of powder Dan.  
Now up aloft where drinks are free, as all those Parsons boast  
Dan is happy all day long, drinking beer with the Holy Ghost.  
His daughters found this poem in the personal effects of Mr. R B Colley of "Nori" Hargraves at the time of the death of Mrs. R B Colley.  
The poem is believed to have been written by Mr. Danny Collins of Sally's Flat.

JNG

## Police Report

A 47-year old man was charged on the Hill End-Sofala Road for drink driving and driving an unregistered vehicle. Police stopped a Holden Jackeroo on Monkey Hill at the time the vehicle was

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being driven by a 14-year old boy. A 45-year old Villawood man was issued with an infringement notice for allowing the boy to drive unlicensed. 5 sheep were killed on a property at Hargraves.

Owners of dogs are reminded of their responsibilities for dog ownership. A house in Church Street Hill End was broken into and a small amount of cash was taken. Between December and January, a house in Beyers Avenue was broken into, but nothing was stolen. Anyone with any information at all should contact the Police. RC

### Nurse's Report

**Dr Wilson's next visit 20<sup>th</sup> February.**

We have had some very hot days and the relieving Nurse, Vicky Gramsden, had suggestions on how to treat the very hot days of summer: plenty of fluids, hats in the sun, proper clothing, and sunscreen. RC

### Voluntary Bushfire Brigade News

#### Permits & Bushfire Danger Period

Fire permits are required for open burning during the Bushfire Danger Period. The Bushfire Danger Period runs from 1 October to 31 March, however, it can vary in different areas.

Contact your local **Captain Robert Anderson (02-63378275)** for details of the current requirements in the Hill End and Tambaroora area.

**Callouts:** The Brigade has attended 5 callouts so far this season, the major fire being on Noel & Marianne Kimm's property "Logan Brae". With the wind strengthening from the south the fire was travelling up towards "Dead Horse Falls" and could have possibly entered the village area. Thanks to the deployment of "Delilah" a SkyCrane capable of carrying 9000 litres of water, the fire was slowed enough to allow

ground crews from Hill End, other local brigades, Major Drilling and Parks Service Division personal to gain control. Once darkness came it was decided to pull out for safety reasons. Bruinben Brigade monitored the fire over night with the Hill End Brigade returning next morning. The 2nd day was spent falling smoking trees mopping up and carting water. The fire located south west of the village, is believed to have started following a lightning strike the previous day and burnt out approximately 20 hectares. Members of the Hill End Brigade made a further patrol the next morning. Hill End Brigade Captain Robert Anderson thanked all those who attended and in particular expressed his appreciation for the support of Major Drilling personal.

#### New Fire Shed:

The site for the new shed has been chosen; the corner of High Street and Moore's Lane. The Parks Service Division is currently arranging for a Review of Environmental Factors and an Archaeological Study, two necessary investigations to allow the next stage to commence. The Brigade is currently busy raising funds to help with construction costs. If you would like to help with this worthy cause please send your donation to:

**Secretary Maxine Anderson  
Hill End Voluntary Bushfire Brigade  
Pine Dale  
Hill End 2850**

#### Memberships

If you are considering joining please also contact Secretary Maxine Anderson (02-63378275).

Membership \$20.00

Concession Membership \$10.00

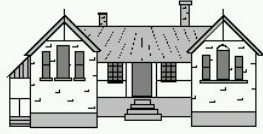
Acreage Fee \$15 .00 per 1000 acres.

**Jim Shanahan  
President/Deputy Captain**

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## School News



### Presentation Night

Presentation Night was held in the Royal Hall Hill End on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Dec. It was a very successful night with most students picking up awards for academic, art or sporting achievements. Students entertained parents, grandparents and friends with music, Powerpoint Presentations, movies and slideshows showing what a busy year 2006 was. Thank you to the community for all the support throughout the year.

### Art Exhibition

Student's artwork was exhibited in the CWA on the 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. This proved to be one of the major School events in 2006. With over 60 works exhibited and wonderful support from the community almost every piece was sold. The People's Choice awards went to The Shadow Dog by Meg Pilley & Split Rock by William Browne. All proceeds from the exhibition will be used for art supplies, frames etc for our 2007 exhibition. We hope to hold this exhibition at the Hill End Art Gallery next November.

### School News From 1956

At the beginning of 1st term an important election was held in the senior room at School. It was to elect the boy or girl who was to be School Leader for 1956, who must set an example for the School to follow, uphold School discipline and represent the School on auspicious occasions.

The captain elected – Joy Brodie

The vice captain elected – Elizabeth

Goodwin.

Gaye Shanahan  
Hill End Public School



### Highlights

- Excellent diamond drill intersections extend the Reward resource area along strike to the north and outline continuous high grade zones of up to 375 metres strike length.
- The core portion of the Paxton's vein set in the Exhibition area averages 72g/t over 180 metre strike length.
- Reward resource estimate update commences.
- Preparations commence for the underground development and sampling of the Reward area.
- High gravity gold recovery of +95% indicated for Hawkins Hill and Reward mineralisation.
- Diamond drilling and reverse circulation drilling recommences at Red Hill to extend resources. New Red Hill estimate by mid-year.
- Diamond drilling commences at Germantown.
- Hydrological studies have commenced to identify water usage and availability for the Reward project, the Red Hill project and for Hill End town supplies. CM Jewell and Associates have been appointed as hydrological consultants.

Jim Shanahan  
Administration/Safety Officer  
Phone: 02-63378343

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## Hill End Family History

I hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather and now that daylight saving is here, it is time to enjoy the 'extra' time outside. I have had a busy time with people wanting information on their ancestors. The names that have been asked for are:-

Purcell, Green, Noble, Bennett, Jones, Salkeld, Inch, Jeffries, Kennedy, Natrass, Culnane, Pearce, Creasey, Bryant, Pigg, Monie, Hogan, Richardson, Teasdale, Marshall, Lalichos, Heap, Cooke, Holmes, Hayley, Maris, Beyers, Frenzel, Bond, Seymour, Drakeford, Carroll, Vere, Ettinger, Spohn, Plummer. (Some of the names are required more than once, such as Jeffries, Green, Richardson and Bryant.)

It is good to see some of the locals popping to find out their family history. A couple of people were kind enough to give me some of their family history particulars, making my job a lot easier. A big thank you to those people.

Daphne Shead



Easter Gathering 1981-Hill End War Memorial

## Roads beyond the village

Monkey Hill is being prepared for bitumen. Many of the tight curves have already been taken out. Fears are that the bit of heritage fencing remaining was lost. There is talk about the bit, just out of Hill End being done next year. The Bridle Track has been worked on recently. Suzanne Thomson said it was good to hear praise of local roads, not complaints from her guests. **RC**



Rock slide-Monkey Hill 1949-thanks Carol McCance

## Roads within the village

Peter Benson of Bathurst Regional Council says that the sealing of Thomas St. has been listed for the next financial year. Good news for those who live along it. Sheena Goodwin is asking people to write to their Councilors to get it done. The dust from those roads affects the residents along them and blows into the School, so it will be good to have them sealed. However, we have not been forgotten, the entrance roads within the Town were resealed in January and that makes driving more comfortable. **RC**



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### Upcoming Events

#### The Sofala Show 25 Feb

Hill End did well there last year. Our Iron Women should get practicing now.

#### Hill End Gathering

On the 1st Sat in March is the Hill End Gathering in the Botanical Gardens, Sydney. Ph Lorraine Purcell **9587 0352** for further information.

#### HETPA AGM

3<sup>rd</sup> Tues April: AGM and rejoining time.

### Sport

#### Tennis

The Progress Association has revitalised the Court to make it playable, "which should cheer Sheryl Welsh", said the other Cheryl (Rattray), "she rallied so hard to restore the court and now it is being used". On Australia Day, there were 20 on the court. Shorty from Major Drilling brought down the Company's generator and powerful lights, so play went on till 11pm. RC

#### Golf

At the Ranch continues every Sun. RC

#### Cricket Draw

Hill End v Sofala @ Sofala Feb 18  
Hill End v Hargraves @ Hill End Mar 4  
Hill End v Windeyer @ Hill End Mar 18  
Hill End v Pyramul @ Pyramul Apr 1  
Grand Final @ Premiers ground Apr 15

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#### Local Weather Musings

As Sheena Goodwin pointed out, no one has cut their grass this summer. We had some welcome falls after the New Year,

but light falls, that didn't penetrate far. The kangaroos retreated from town with the rains, but have come back with the drier weather. Robert Auld tells us that Bald Hill was bald when he was a child. There were no trees from the river to Tambaroora, which gave more than enough feed for the cows, but the regrowth of the trees has killed off any pasture. "Now, with the drought, they would have to be hand fed and that would negate any return on their sale," he said, if we still had cows in town. 2006 was the hottest on record according to the media, but conversely 2007 got off to a cold start. One morning it was just 14° and that felt chilly, but the days were hot, often in the mid-30s and going up to 40°. Watch this space in six months time 14° will be considered warm. 2006 was also the driest on record, but the annual rainfalls are all over the place, making it hard to make comparisons between the years. The rain this January was 71mm; in 2006 it was 103mm and 2003 only 23mm; the average over 8 years for January is 54mm, but the lack of rain in 2006 is affecting us now. Tourism is down, according to the Visitors' Centre, "because of the bushfires and the heat", Helen Trumble said. RC

#### Aboriginal Seasons

Terry Bradshaw tells us that this is the fire season, one of six in the Aboriginal calendar. RC

#### Koalas

Helen and Frank Austin had heard them and finally sighted some. Someone added that there is a family behind the tip. RC

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## Hill End Art Gallery

The previous exhibition 'Drawing Hill End' featured logically drawings done in Hill End, selected from the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery collection.

Included was a Mandy Barrett charcoal drawing, 'Ted, the Cricketer'. For tourists, the show is a good reflection of the artist importance of the town.



Mandy Barrett-'Ted the Cricketer'

## 'Finding our way to the End'

The current exhibition in the Hill End Art Gallery is the photos of Tamara Dean and Dean Sewell from their residency, the exhibition was shown previously at BRAG last year.



Tamara Dean & Dean Sewell

## Topical, tropical Luke

Luke Sciberras traveled with artists John Olsen, Tim Storrier and Garry Shead to the Torres Strait recently. Their journey became a feature article in The Age newspaper. "I learnt so much about the landscape, it was like going to another country," he said. "I came back with a sketch book full of wonderful ideas". Luke is working towards an exhibition in July at John's son's gallery, the Tim Olsen's Gallery. RC



Luke with John Olsen

## Artist in Residence



Maurice Orr-Creek Rocks

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## Maurice Orr

Maurice stayed at Murray's Cottage, he came here from Ireland, as Hill End appealed to him from all the residencies available through the Australia Council. "During my residency in Banff, Canada, I discovered the work of Arthur Boyd, so that is why I came to Australia. I wanted something remote, something that would push me to make me work. It is a different world here and it has come up way above my expectations. In Ireland, I worked for the Northern Ireland Civil Service as a graphic designer, but I became seriously ill and a year later I was pensioned out. Subsequently I developed my painting skills as a way of



Maurice Orr-Quartz

staying sane. It got me out of the house and it was important for me get out of myself. I got a grant through Disability Awards Ireland to go to Alberta Canada and a year later to Banff. Two galleries back home snapped up my work and since then, I have blossomed. It has been confidence building for me after the incapacity following my illness. I had no idea what I coming to. I didn't know the history of Murray's, or the history of Hill End, so I've got a lot to take away with me. I've made a lot of friends here and everyone has made me welcome".

That has been an easy task for because he talks at length to every person he ever meets. He works in oils with a palette knife and describes his work as semi-abstract expressionist landscape. RC



Maurice Orr-Creek

## More town graffiti

Continuing the hunt for old graffiti, signatures, etc around the village, for this issue I found these initials engraved upon one of the local churches' steps. Ed.



## Stamper Contributions

Local images, art, stories, information and yarns are always sought and most welcome for future issues. Ed.

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## HETPA President's Report

We are still in the grip of the drought and the usual storms that give us heavy rain have been passing over with dramatic thunder and lightening and only a few millimetres of rain. Several bush fires have started from lightening strikes and were successfully controlled by the local RFS and the welcome help of helicopters.

There is activity on the tennis courts again and with the help of a Bathurst Regional Council grant we are installing lights.

A new floor has been laid in the kitchen area of the Royal Hall and now the installation of cupboards, equipment etc. is commencing.

The General Store was opened again in early December by a young, local couple. It is wonderful to have the General Store services again.

The Bathurst Council has been carrying out major works at Monkey Hill on the Bathurst-Hill End road. The road has been widened, the tight corners have gone and the road will also be sealed. The Hill End Motel will be opened next month and will bring a new era to Hill End as more visitors will be able to stay overnight, rather than just make day trips from Bathurst or Mudgee.

HETPA apologises for the delay in publication of the Stamper Battery, however with our new computer there should be no more delays due to technical difficulties

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year

Sheena Goodwin  
President  
HETPA

## The Stamper Battery resounds

As Editor I wish to apologise for absence of the last 2 issues.

However the hiatus is over and the Stamper now returns.

Production was halted by a computer failure, and a loss of much info and input, however as Sheena mentioned with our new computer, we are back in print.

Adding to the delay, our Roving Correspondent (RC) had been absent from town for several months, limiting greatly our knowledge of local folk and their adventures, events and follies in life.

My personal thanks to HETPA, for their assistance which enabled the Stamper's return.

Ed.

## HETPA Membership

HETPA membership is encouraged. Membership is \$ 10 per annum OR part thereof, OR Concession \$ 5 p.a. Payable by April 17<sup>th</sup> AGM.

There is a necessary small surcharge for those living outside of Hill End of \$3 for postage.

Email is preferable, because of the quality of the images (colour and better resolution than the black and white hard copy), and attracts no surcharge.



[www.hillend.org](http://www.hillend.org)