

The Stamper Battery

Autumn (April 2007)

Easter Happenings in Hill End



Arrival of CSU Theatre Media students in Hill End

A trek into theatre

Extract from online article by Sheena Frost "Can you walk 30 kilometres?" A question that often catches by surprise, aspiring entrants into Charles Sturt University's Theatre and Media course, such seemingly innocent questions are asked - the first clue to the annual "rite of passage" that has become a ritual. A rite of passage, walking the historic Bridle Track to Hill End. Every March 25th, 1st year theatre media students make the 30 kilometre walk. It is a weekend to develop stories and find inspiration from nature. It is also an assessment, each student graded on their contribution to the weekend. New students see it as a bonding as they walk the picturesque route, whilst 'old-hands' - 2nd and 3rd years, prepare campsites along the track. The campsite for the overnight stay is a setting for ritual, and initiation, before beginning the final trek to Hill End.

Awaiting the weary travellers at the Royal Hotel is a themed celebration, to mark the end of the 'initiation' and beginning of a 3 year theatre media

journey. A performance is then presented in the beer garden.

It's a scene played out since 1989, when Theatre Media lecturers Gerard Boland and Bill Blaikie first thought of the idea of a weekend trek. All participants take only what they can carry - the emphasis is on using what one finds in nature to prompt stories and provide inspiration. "The walk is a rite of passage which transforms them from high schools leavers into members of the course. It brings all 3 years together, placing an emphasis on planning, and cooperative effort. It demonstrates that theatrical events transform natural sites, public sites and individuals," Mr Blaikie said.



CSU Royal Hotel performance

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Riverside Nuptials



Turon Ceremony

Lee Anne finally said yes to Albert Mobbs, after 20 years!

They took their marriage vows at Mobbs Flat, on the Turon, alongside the remnant stone wall of the house where Albert's father was born. Indeed a romantic setting for a romantic occasion. The groom's party waited patiently, backs to the Turon, resplendent in their dark suits, gazing upwards as the bridal party finally arrived, and descended the track in single file with great style. The veiled bride escorted by her two sons, Casey and Graham.

A most memorable marriage setting. Afterwards the reception was held at the Royal Hall, music courtesy of Dean Taylor. The party went on into the night, as successful as the wedding. Congratulations to the new bride and husband.

Ed.



The Bride's Maids



The Bridal party on the Bridle Track

Easter Dance

The Progress Association, Bushfire Brigade & the P&C Association got together for fundraising over the Easter weekend with the result being a very successful dance held in the Royal Hall. All 3 organisations shared in the door entry receipts with the Brigade donating its share to the P&C Association as the Brigade had a very successful gold raffle & gold auctions raising \$1240.00 towards the new fire shed. Thanks to Maxine, Eddie, Casey, Bernie, Jim & Rob Payne for selling tickets & Peter Seaman for his auctioneering skills on

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the night. Thanks to everyone for purchasing tickets & placing bids. Winner of the Gold Raffle was Rosalie McGregor who was ecstatic when told the news the following day. Successful bidders on the night were Phil Butler, Luke Sciberras & Kim Lembryck. The P&C Association had a successful night with its hot beef & lamb rolls with gravy and cold & hot drinks. Special thanks to Holtermann's Corner Stores for their donation of fresh hot rolls & Deni Slattery (Deni hasn't had children at school for a long while) for helping to serve with Fiona Pilley & Gaye Shanahan, also to Robyn Auld who sat at the door for hours collecting entry money, we calculated 156 paying adults (children were free) Thanks to Hayley, Leita & Sheena for decorating the hall. On a final note we would like to extend a very special thank you to Dean Taylor & his band for donating their time & talent, we couldn't have had this success without them. JNG



Dean Taylor

Party

Easter was sociable in another way, with Joan and Ray Auld hosting a party for one of their grandchildren. RC

Easter Service at St Paul's

The kerosene lamps always lend an atmosphere of reverence to the Service at this special time of the calendar. RC

Open Day and Craigmoor

The Progress Association wants to thank those who volunteered their time for the good of the town. The money goes to the Association and that gets invested in the town. There were 40 through on Open Day, less than the usual 100. Bathurst's Food Weekend occurred at the same time, the compaction of the dates was necessary because of the election. There were 50 through Craigmoor over Easter. As usual, an interview on ABC radio again brought response. RC

Easter Trading

Suzanne Thomson thought it down: "perhaps because of the Bathurst Races which attracted 27 000 and therefore not as many day-trippers". The General Store had a good Easter, but numbers were down on previous years. Campers were down by a 1/4 and Museum visitations were up by 1/3. "So it is impossible to draw any conclusions from that", Helen Trumble said. Felicity Baines of Bathurst Tourist Centre said "Tourism generally has been in decline across NSW since 2000". RC

Family History Display

There was a comprehensive display put together by Daphne Shead in the Hall. RC

Parks/Hill End Anniversary

We have been a Historic Site for 40 years now and Senior Parks Staff suggested some sort of Celebration. A wag suggested a Reconciliation, but in all seriousness, we have to acknowledge the spirit of cooperation that now exists. RC

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Amusing Tourists

Pet Kangaroos

During the drought, the occasional tourist would ask Kerry Waters at the Great Western Store if people in Hill End keep pet kangaroos. "It was pretty obvious", she said, "There was one in the Police yard, one in the Great Western, one in the Mobbs' and two in the School".

RC

Practical hubcap application

Eddie Long saw a tourist using a hubcap to pan for gold; that's the desperation of gold fever.

RC

Water Supply

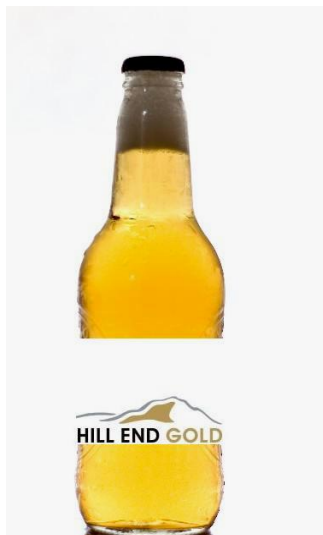
A tour guide was explaining to a tourist group that the town has a bore water supply as well as homes having rainwater tanks for drinking water. One shocked tourist asked, "Is it safe to drink rainwater?"

Ed.

Artists gaff

Artist-in-Residence, Tara Morelos, asked if 'Hill End Gold' was a beer. Now that's a thought worth considering.

RC



A Cold Gold

The Mudgee School Bus Gang Where are they now?

Trent Hocking- He now has his own car and "He is over the moon with glee", said mother, Ann. "He has a 3 month probation as an apprentice mechanic with Auto-Mate Car Services in Bathurst. Hopefully at the end of probation, he will be paroled into permanent employment. No, he does not commute daily and is renting a bed-sit in Bathurst. Hence, he has left home. Hooray," she continued, "we would like to thank the Community for their support and interest shown to Trent with this transition. As parents, we are proud and ecstatic about his achievements."

Phoenix Kamsteeg is living in Mudgee whilst she completes her HSC and she too is unsure where the future will take her, but possibly into hospitality.

Mercury Kamsteeg is boarding at Hurlstone Park in Sydney, whilst she completes her schooling.

Shaun Thomson has entered his 2nd year of a Science Degree with a leaning towards computers and is working part-time in security alarms.

Jaymie-Lee Cravino is working for a year, including up at the Motel, I mean Lodge, doing all sorts of building work and maintenance. She has been in Sydney with her father, Mark doing electrical work. Jaymie-Lee intends do a TAFE course in hospitality, "well, that was her plan three months ago", her mother, Rhonda, said.

Hayley Mobbs is running Holtermann's Complex, weekdays.

Sarah Kimm is working for Hill End Gold. The mining company, not the brewery.

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Shiralee Seaman is living in Bathurst, doing a TAFE course, Youth Connections,. She is hoping to get onto a child care course next year.

Laura Burns has just finished her year 12 half-yearlies and is working hard. "She likes the distance education", her mother, Kerri said, "she can stay in her pyjamas and study to music". As to the future, "she hasn't the faintest idea," Kerri said, "but none of us did, and we all found our way eventually". RC

New L-Platers

Leita Kimm tells us that she, Jaymie-Lee Cravino & Scott Rattray are about to make their mark on the roads. RC

Fond Memories

Jean Turner, of Faraday Cottage, the Original Police Station, sadly passed away in March. She had suffered a stroke in December and a fall in February. Suzanne Thomson said that "she was a remarkable lady of her time". Amongst other things, she played steel slide guitar and organ in the Presbyterian Church. People encouraged her to write her life story and it's available from Hosies, & Great Western. Jean a trained nurse, joined her father in Hill End in 1948. She was, she said, "*on call night and day, especially for children with badly cut legs and feet who trod on broken bottles and old tin which littered hill sides...there were several burns cases, mostly from boiling water and deliveries*". Jean would have stayed in Hill End, had the Community been able to support a Bush Nurse. She kept Faraday Cottage visited each year. RC

Extracts from 'Story of a New-chum, Freelance Bush Nurse, Hill End 1948' by S Jean Turner

House Fire Appeal

Mavis Hill's place burnt to the ground, "as if she doesn't have enough problems", said Bernie Baker, "it was gone before we got there". She lost everything, she was due to come out of hospital the following Saturday; she had been there for many weeks, following the discovery of a couple of holes in her heart.

An appeal has been set up, donations can also be lodged at the Royal Hotel or the General Store.

The response has been magnificent. The Cricket Club has donated, the Progress Association has donated, and the Fire Brigade will once the Treasurer returns. Joan Auld is organising a Hoy Day for Mavis also and Peter Seaman has donated a load of wood as the prize.

A visiting miner from Lightning Ridge donated an opal worth \$ 1,100 to be raffled. Kerry Waters encountered him the next day: "here he was, a complete stranger, wife and two kids who said, 'I heard this sad story of a lady who had lost everything, so I went to my car and went through my opals and gave one to Eddie and then everyone started buying me drinks'".

The Brigade was alerted about 10.30pm and the volunteers spent 5 hours at the scene.

Probably an electrical fault caused it. RC

Garson Trumble

Had a heart attack on Easter Saturday. He has been in Royal North Shore Hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery. RC

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State Elections and Hill End

No one lobbied us for the recent Election, so are we not thought necessary for the survival of democracy? The result was predictable, Gerard Martin gained a swing in his direction. RC

Electoral Boundary

Where do you think Mudgee Shire ends and Bathurst begins? When the Mid-Western Regional Council (Mudgee Council) redid their maps, they extended the boundary into Tambaroora up to the Cemetery as Don Rookledge found out when he went investigating. It has since been corrected. RC

Family History

Apart from the usual research and answering queries, I had to get the displays ready for the Easter Exhibition. Which went very well and I received very good feedback. Also I taught the senior students at the School about family history for the 1st term. The children enjoyed the course of "My Family History". On the last day we had a presentation of Certificates of Attainment which each child received. Jeffery Kimm and Jack Lawler received Certificates of Encouragement as well. Tamyka Lawler received a book for her presentation of her family history. Names that have been researched are:- Petersen, Northey, Cock, Debnam, Ward, Yates, Hutchinson, Whitfield, Watson, Croake, Bryant, Cook, Uren, Critchley, Hurley, Letcher, Hardy, Pulley, Rope, Cooke, Pullen, Smith, Walker, Rayner, Baker, Ballentine, Smithson, Longmore, Armstrong, Hodge, Allsopp, Barker, Keating, Davis, Cole, Ellis, Baskerville, Christie, Taylor, Prime, Reeves, Crossman, Lanes and Thompson.

Daphne Shead

The Royal Hotel

The sale of the Pub is moving forward, but no real news so far. New carpet has been laid replacing a very old and much stained carpet. The colour is a good beer soaking blue. RC

HILL END LODGE

Art, History & Gold

Still the same place, but the name has changed. It will have capacity for 70 adults in triple share, 24 in single share. Bernie and John are aiming at adult excursions, including an overseas market. A new market for Hill End, providing a different level of accommodation, adding to the existing. Bernie is looking to encourage people to stay for longer in the town, and ultimately all businesses will benefit. The project includes conference and training facilities and normal motel services for itinerant tourists, who haven't planned their trip and end up in Hill End without a bed. They are looking to open in mid-May. The menus are already printed for the high quality restaurant to attract people from Bathurst and Mudgee for Saturday dinners and Sunday lunches, with a wine list from the Region.

The rooms are your basic motel room with a double and a single bed for twin share, and they explode out into six mattresses for heavy accommodation. RC

Tennis and the Kitchen

Don Rookledge saved money from the grant for the renovations of the Hall, so the lights at the Tennis Court could thus be funded. Don tells us that progress is slow at the moment as they await the bench tops. Plumbing has started and the new vinyl floors look great He is confident of completion before the deadline of 30th June. RC

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Golf

There were 21 golfers Easter Sunday, mostly Warrys and Hodges. Brian's 80-year old sister in law is undoubtedly the oldest to have played on the course. Schnauzer's back and the players appreciated the mown greens, Brian reports.

RC

Cricket

Brian Hodge says we came third; Best year for a long time.

RC

Google Hill End

Interesting items abound on the net regarding Hill End. A recent search revealed this some what curious article from a Sydney Technical High School Old Boys site-

Ed.



Harry Hodge guiding students- 1965

Read this frank and revealing account of the true story of the Virginia 'Jumped Her' Sumpter scandal, revealed by Paul Feldman, Class of 1968 Special Hill End Revealing Correspondent!

The Place: evening campfire and sing-song at Hill End. During our excursion here, in 1966, a sing-song featuring that old favourite, *The Quartermaster's Store*, with added verses.

The Victim: Miss Virginia Sumpter, newly-arrived school librarian, and the sexiest female on a staff.

Arrived 1965, from Ballina.

Resigned, or fled in shame, 1966.

Was it something we said?

The Poet: unknown. But he later claimed that he really didn't know that her Christian name was Virginia. It was all just a wonderful accident. (These days, they'd call it 'sexual harassment').

It was I who came up with the immortal lines 'Sumpter, Sumpter, a virgin til they jumped her...'. The place was Hill End, but the year was in fact 1965. I

suggested the line to a group of about 6 kids. I was too chicken to sing it myself, so a big ox of a kid, Keith West sang it. The amazing thing was that all the teachers who were present laughed and sang it – Fin Cook, Bert Edmonds, Chris Ellis, Brian Hodge and Allen Whitehurst.

However Hodge punished the group of us by making us do the washing up.

Brian Hodge teacher at the S T H S

The Sydney Technical High School was the first school to bring an excursion to Hill End, Brian Hodge said. Each year, they would plant a tree in an area west of the Village Camping Area. And those trees are still doing well.

RC

Bathurst Regional Art Gallery in Hill End

The recent exhibition of photographs by Dean Sewell and Tamara Dean (Dean²) featured people we had already seen previously. The two new ones were large and long and evocative. One was called 30 years of sawdust with a very Ray Auld trudging through it. The other was Les Campbell at the gate in Eversham. The Australia Day Bushrangers, titled 'The Kelly Gang' got the most comments in the guest book in the Gallery, and a young hand has written in it, "Shiralee and Laura are hot, 31/3/07"

RC

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Local Artists Exhibitions

Raquel Mazzina

Raquel also showed recently, at Arthouse Gallery, Rushcutters Bay. Ed.

Also online at-

www.arthousegallery.com.au



Raquel Mazzina-Deluge

Hui Selwood

Hui recently had a show of his works at Robin Gibson Gallery, Darlinghurst. Ed.

Viewable online at-

www.robinalgibson.net



Hui Selwood-Totem

Gria Shead

An Exhibition is upcoming on 28th April for Gria at Eva Breuer Gallery in Paddington. RC

www.evabreuerartdealer.com.au



Gria Shead-Garden Seat

Artist in Residence

Tom Thompson

Staying at Murray's with wife Elizabeth, once Secretary to Lloyd Rees & editor of Rees's autobiography. Tom has a background in publishing, having worked for almost everyone and known almost every artist. He met Jean Bellette when he was reviewing Paul Haefliger's retrospective He does a segment on ABC Radio, Orange. He plans documentaries on Friend and Holterman, using the Merlin photographs, the principal purpose of his residency. However, the current artists here have aroused his interest for documentation. RC

Meeting Jean

I received a call from the Herald to interview Jean Bellette – as it appeared I was the only one who knew who she was. I met Jean at the opening of the Paul Haefliger retrospective at Holdsworth Gallery.

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Jean was a tiny figure, about the size of Kylie Minogue. She preferred a black trilby, set at a rakish angle, offset by an immaculately tailored white pant suits. (Come to think of it, this does sound like Kylie Minogue...) Her pallid Hobart complexion providing a fitting contrast to the deep crimson lipstick she favoured. She smoked with a steely cigarette holder, staring down through the curling smoke like the siren she was and had been. Adrift in smoke amongst so much of Paul's work, Jean agreed to an interview the next day, and seemed unsurprised that I was living practically next door to where she was staying. "That will get you nowhere with me," she said. "I'm happy to talk with you about Paul but there must be no questions about myself. Is that understood young man?" Jean had very piercing blue eyes that could easily get up and bite you. The young man understood.

Tom Thompson

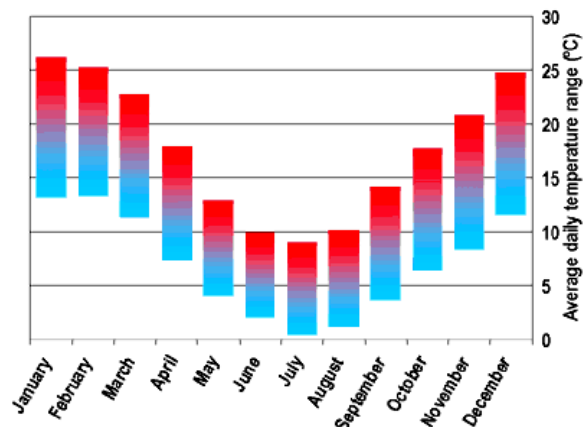


Amanda Penrose Hart-Winter Hill End

Autumn

The golden light of an autumn morn and the low angle of the sun make it for some, the best season of the year. The hearths were warmed for the first time this year at Easter. "The change started on Good Friday", Kerry Waters said, "Easter defines a substantial change in the weather." We have had 1 mild frost, just enough to brown the pumpkin leaves. The trees have begun colouring. Kerri Burns says that it will be a cold wet winter. She bases the prediction on knowing how the drought breaks, given 30 year's experience. Also the meat ants at the Ranch have travelled 70 metres to establish a new nest in a higher warmer place.

RC



Hill End's average temp.-from Parks website

Clinic Report

Dr Wilson's next visit 8th May
ph 263 for appointments

Heavy colds and flu are going around. "There has been a good coverage with flu vaccinations," David said, "and it's never too late to get one".

Notices are up calling for people willing to become First Responders.

RC

Roads

Monkey Hill has been sealed, leaving only a 15-minute stretch just out of town

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that was graded just before Easter. It may be tarred in the next year. Sheena Goodwin said. "It's only taken 56 years to seal," she said, "that's a mile a year."

RC

Park Life

It has been a very busy time in the first quarter of the calendar year. The drought continues to cause problems throughout the village, with recent storms causing erosion problems and regenerating weeds and promoting vivid growth. Field Officers have been very busy dealing with these issues and in preparation for the Easter period, which was very busy and successful with high visitation continuing through the whole of the school holiday period.

The Village Camp ground was full and Glendora was at half capacity.

Some village signage and fencing has been repaired and painted to extend their life and to improve aesthetics around the village. Also bridges on the Bald Hill Mine walking track have been repaired. A new chlorinator has been installed to the town potable water supply and the Visitors Centre, and some protection has been installed to the bore pump to guard against lightning and storms.

Water usage has dropped slightly in the past quarter, and I would urge all water users to try and reduce their water usage further and try to recycle as much as possible. The water level in the bore has dropped significantly in the past year. The water and sewage audit has been completed and I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation.

I would like to welcome Dean Taylor to the permanent staff of Parks at Hill End. Dean was the successful applicant as Field Officer in a very competitive field of applications. Congratulations Dean.

Lew Bezzina



A Report from Hill End Gold Limited Re- Rehabilitation Works

"Rehabilitation of drill sites actually commenced several months ago in several of our operational areas. It's an important phase of our operations" noted Rob Payne, HEGL's Technical Support Officer. "All of us here at HEGL have an active and genuine interest in the local environment within which we live and work. We try to reduce the impact of exploration when designing our programs and then repair the inevitable disturbance as soon as is practicable."



Geological Field Technician EJ Long watering a newly planted sapling.

"The rehabilitation process begins well before drilling commences by means of inspecting proposed drill sites, submitting a Surface Disturbance Notice that must be approved by the Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources – Environmental Division (DoPI). The department then state if we need to prepare a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) prior to works beginning" he continued.

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Rob also mentioned that after drilling it can take several weeks for the rock-chip and core samples to be geologically evaluated in Hill End.

It then takes a further month before they receive the certified analysis of the samples from the assay laboratory in Townsville. The results are then loaded into their secure database and reviewed within 3D geological software so their geologists can ascertain the geology and geochemistry. This sometimes shows them that they need to continue a particular hole deeper or drill another from the same site and thus reposition the drill rig back over the original hole. “Hence in some cases we do not commence the rehabilitation of particular sites for several months until all of the data has been scrutinised” added Rob.

The company also maintains a separate database that contains a checklist of rehabilitation measures from inspection of the drill site prior to drilling, through the drilling process and into the restoration process that includes approximate rehab costs and contains photographic documentation of each phase of the rehab. The drill pad or any other disturbed area is then rehabilitated then monitored for as long as is necessary and in some rare cases for several years to ensure appropriate rehabilitation is achieved and that all aspects of the DoPI’s stringent regulations are met.

Their early efforts are easily seen around the Connie Dam area. “The drought hindered the development of the grasses on these sites where rehabilitation begun in October last year” Rob noted. To

assist with this, they now have a mobile water tanker to assist with the establishment of any new plantings.

A number of native trees and shrubs are planted on each site and felled timber is sawn up and dragged over the re-prepared site to assist with erosion control and to trap leaf matter and seeds, falling or broadcast.

“Our field crews are doing a great job on the ground and this was confirmed by a recent inspection by the DoPI” commented Rob “their response to our rehabilitation practices was extremely positive”.

Hill End Gold Limited



Sarah Kimm, Geological Technician reviewing saplings in HEGL’s nursery.

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Presidential Adieu

I decided to step down as President as I wish to have the time to pursue other interests. However I still will be helping with Open Day and Craigmoor Open House Days.

I wish to thank all the committee, Ross Brown, Glenn Woodley and Jim Shanahan who have been so helpful with advice, support and knowledge to complete the projects that HETPA has undertaken. Also thank you to the committed group of members who attend and participate at meetings, contributing constructive ideas and debate. Hill End is always under going change and transition and I think that strengthens and develops the community in adapting to, and benefiting from new circumstances.

Bill Moseley has been elected the new President. He and his wife, Genevieve, have moved to Hill End and are restoring the English Cottages. Bill & Genevieve are in the preliminary stages of planning a Festival for Hill End in 2009. They have many new ideas and tremendous energy.

In the last 2 years Bathurst Regional Council has given 2 grants to Hill End. From these grants we now have a playground, tourist and street signing, equipment and lights at the tennis court, and the refurbishing of the Royal Hall kitchen will be completed by June. Many people have contributed to the implementation of these projects and their efforts have greatly benefited the community.

After 100mls of rain in February we are back into severe dry conditions again. However the Autumn colours are divine and captivate all who live here. All I can say is that I love Hill End.

Sheena Goodwin
Ex President HETPA

The 2007 A G M

There were loud cheers for our retiring President, Sheena Goodwin and the Election was chaired by Raquel Mazzina. Bill Moseley was elected President and his only act on assuming the role was to declare the Meeting closed. That augurs well for future meetings. Ross Brown retained the Vice Presidency and Jim Shanahan the Treasury. Peter Dorling became Secretary and Glenn Woodley moved to become Media Officer.

Jim presented the Financial Report for the year, acknowledging Gaye did most of the work. He said, "the Association is to be congratulated for its efforts in putting money into the community and still be left with money in the bank".

The source of income is interesting: Grants 55%-
Craigmoor and Open Day 33%-Membership 5%-
Minor Items 5%-Hall Hire 2%

RC

Incoming President

Bill Moseley and wife Genevieve lease the English group. They are restoring the 3 buildings there. They are historical / hysterical and are trying to use old techniques and materials, as would have been done in the past. They will add a bathroom and a studio. The studio will be the size of the main cottage, housing printing presses. Bill is the only one in Australia working in photogravure, which was the process in the 1870s for producing high quality prints. The image is transferred onto a copper plate, which is then inked up and placed in a printing press, one colour at a time. The result is "more sumptuous with a beautiful depth".

Genevieve is a fabric artist. "She has a residency in Paris later in the year, where they will research printmaking facilities in Europe. She also is a costume designer for the National Art School.

RC