

THE STAMPER BATTERY

SUMMER (February 2006) ISSUE



Locals- by Dean Sewell & Tamara Dean

Local Wedding

Fae Warry's granddaughter, Allison Fae, got married in town at St Paul's to Chris Dawson. The bride arrived in Matt Rattray's Packard and Lenny Forrest delivered the bridesmaids in his horse and sulky. The reception for 80 guests was held at Forky Stick Farm. RC

Local Lightening Strike

Thongs prevented death; well, that's what some said. Lightning struck Peter Seaman's house. He saw no flash and that is the scary part. He was at this laundry (metal) tub at the time. "There was an almighty bang, but no flash. It blew out the inverter on the solar electricity system and anything that was plugged in," he said. "It went up my arm that was resting on the tub, up to my

neck". There is a raffle going for him to help him replace lost appliances, with a great prize of an electric saw.

Dave Pender says that you need a good earth rod (copper) going 2m into the ground connected to your electrical system to prevent such happenings.

Investigate the set up you've got. RC

Joan Auld

Joan's been in the wars again. She has suffered a broken leg recently. It happened as she jumped over a rolling log and fell on an axe. We hope her full recovery is speedy. RC

Lynda n' Lyle's

Lynda Tompkins has moved from Lyle's to one of the Mill Houses, with Len Warry. RC

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Fond Memories-Dave Bliim

Sadly, Dave passed away on 13th January, after a long illness. He was much loved for his kindness and humour. On any subject, he could contribute some obscure fact that would stop one in their tracks. Not only was he a great collector of trivia, but also he was a great collector of things material. He moved to Hill End some years ago with his late wife, Beryl, firstly buying Bath Hill and later Banjo Flat on the Alfa subdivision. Beryl sadly suffered a heart attack six months after her retirement. There is a tree on the Avenue, outside the Pub in fact, dedicated to Beryl by Dave. He loved travelling, and Beryl too. He seemed to know every Country Pub in southeastern Australia and had a good story about each one. He was the one that got this Newsletter going and that is a good legacy. I remember standing in the Pub with him years ago and he asked, "What will we call it?" I said, "Stamper" and he said "Battery". He was on the committee of the reconstituted Progress Association, later becoming president. Dave was instrumental in getting Craigmoor opened to the public through his negotiations with the Parks Service and arranged for the Volunteers' Course to be brought here to the volunteers. He worked the bar at the Cricket Club for a couple of years until his health gave way. His father would like to have tree planted for Dave in the next round of plantings and the Cricket Shed might be a good place. Dave used to be an Inspector in the Fire Brigade. At his funeral in Bathurst there was a Guard of Honour of Fire Brigade Officers from the Bathurst Station, together with his comrades from Sydney, a fitting end to a good life. RC

English Cottage

Things are beginning to happen at the English Group, that little cluster of cottages off the Mudgee Road, on English Lane. Until now, it has been subterranean works like drainage, with little to show for the enormous work put in by Genevieve and Bill Mosley and their hardworking friend Vic. In the main house, they have begun to reconstruct the chimneys at either end. RC

Leanne Mobbs's Birthday

For someone who has organised so many birthday parties for so many, it was a surprise to find that she had one of her own recently. We all love her for the warm person that she is. It was a splendid event. RC



Leanne-by Henrietta Manning

The Avenue

One new tree has not died as was thought, it burst back into life in spring, thanks to regular watering by the Planters. The Corrective Services crew installed the commemorative plaques recently, we thank them. RC

100% Uni Acceptance Rate

For a tiny population, all of our Uni applicants this year (be they only two) were accepted into their first choice courses. Bravo! Congratulations both of you from us all.

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The Hill End Gathering

The 69th Gathering in the Sydney Botanical Gardens will occur on 4th March. Bill and Betty Maris, after 34 years, are passing the organisation to Lorraine Purcell, a sterling effort by them.

A librarian by training, Lorraine put together the Hill End and Tambaroora Pioneer Register, which is just available \$ 30 + \$ 7 postage from 9587 0352 or lorraine@compassnet.com.au RC

Bill and Betty pointed out that Beverley Stuart, nee Ellis, who grew up in Hill End was named in the 2006 Citizen of the Year Awards by Bathurst Regional Council. RC

Hill End Family History

The last 2 months have been relatively quiet in the Family History office. A few people came in looking for their family history, but the rest were just 'looking'. The names enquired about were Risby, Mazitelli, Wythes, Grives and Holman.

The Wythes enquiry came from the American branch of the family and has led to much exchanging of information. And from this I have also gained another link in England.

I now have Jann Parkes from the south coast helping me with research, and she is doing a wonderful job. It is great to have someone else doing some of that time-consuming job.

www.hillendfamilyhistory.com

Daphne Shead

Further Grave Matters

The old Hill End General Cemetery mentioned last issue on the Hill End/Sofala Road, was from Lot 66 one side of the road and goes into "Sarnia" and "Wilgarning" on the other side of

the road. The cemetery was approved in 1874 and revoked in 1896. An extract from Licensed Surveyor Russell Blacket's letter of 1894- "It would appear that the recent deviation in Road Hill End to Sofala encroaches on the Cemetery. The Rifle Range also has been laid out and cleared across it and for other reasons the suitability of the site might be questioned. The cemetery has never been used."

The roadside in this section were cleared of small vegetation and rubbish recently. This action brought to notice several small sites that suggest that they could be burial plots. These sites are in what was the Roman Catholic section of the Cemetery. If these are in fact burial sites then this means that the reports of the Cemetery never being used are wrong. Thanks to Mal Stevens for sharing his research on this matter.

Daphne Shead

Lord Howe Life

Brett Hilder went to investigate. He had been there in 1956, arriving by flying boat with his mother. "There were 2 ½ cars then," he said. "Now there are 120 cars, which is about the same number as the permanent residents. Numbers swell with imported hospitality staff and the whole atmosphere is much more intense than Hill End." Lee and Barrie Rogers live there now in a bungalow with wide verandas, 3 minutes from the beach. Brett described the house as 1950s Australian non-descript. Son, Daniel has begun his first year at school; the last thing on the list was shoes and they were optional. Meanwhile, Barrie is loving his job and fishing afterwards. Brett said that there are no snakes or cats, because of ground running birds, somewhat like kiwis. RC

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Craigmoor January Open Day

40 people visited on the January weekend, most responding to regional ABC ads, or the Western Advocate, hence the majority were from Mudgee, Orange and Bathurst. RC

Local Visitor Decline

Helen Trumble of the Visitors Centre says the January camping figures (296) were the lowest in 12 years, whereas last year's were the third best (417 = 40% higher). She thought because of the hot weather and total fire bans, meaning no BBQs, and possibly petrol prices. February is however always the quietest month each year. RC



Church reflections-Kim Deacon

Hill End Motel

Bernie Baker is really excited by the recently installed wastewater recycling plant. It is capable of delivering 23 000 litres for irrigation and toilet water. The fit out of the rooms has commenced. Dave Thompson is back at work after his serious accident on the bulldozer, some 6 months ago and is grading for Bernie in preparation for landscaping. RC

www.hillendmotel.com

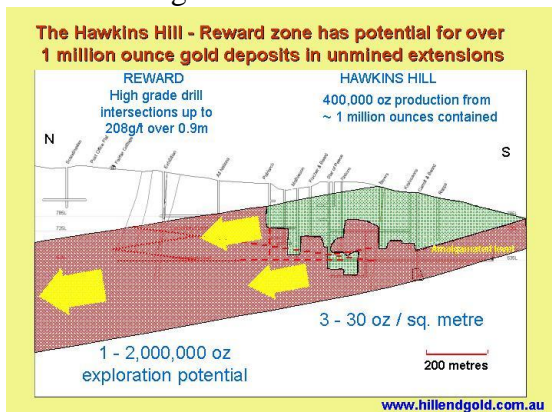
Hill End Gold

It was a hive of activity at the Exploration Office of Hill End Gold Limited when I visited there recently. Unbeknownst to me was the employment of locals. There are, at the moment four locals employed by Hill End Gold Limited, all performing important jobs, including Rob Anderson's role as Mine Manager. EJ Long & Stuart Gilmore are employed as Geological Field Technicians and according to Rob Payne; they with the rest of the team, play a crucial role in the current drilling program that the company is presently undertaking and indeed the overall bright future of Hill End Gold Limited. "They look after the day to day sampling and geotechnical logging of the drill core & drill chips that the drill rig produces," he said. There is a lot of tedious logging to be done, a necessary part of the accurate recording of the drilling operations findings. This data collection is aided by the use of hand held computers and digital imaging software that provides 2D & 3D imagery and plans of where the gold bearing veins exist. Up above we think they should be tunneling in, but Hill End Gold Limited are methodically processing and planning their program to better understand the Hill End Anticlinal Gold bearing system. Interestingly, they drill at an oblique angle into the veins, this determines the width and depth of the vein sets. The Drilling Rig, when I was taken there seems a fairly simple affair, but like most things it requires the coordinated effort of strong people, rehearsed in their procedures to slot in new drill rods with precision and speed. Choreography is not quite the appropriate word, but it do. Safety is an

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important site issue and another of our locals Jim Shanahan, holds the responsible role of safety advisor to assist with safety management and monitoring. Another important responsibility is to the environment. Drill sites are planned to minimize their effect on the environment and have silt traps installed to prevent run off and erosion. The company recycles the water they use in the drilling by passing it through settling ponds where it is clear enough to send back down the drill hole. "The water is necessary to cool the high speed diamond drill bit. Without water the bit would simply melt into the rock being drilled," Rob said. The obvious final question was, "is there gold in them there hills?", the answer was a simple but rather large smile. RC



green area = old mines, red area proposed new strike area

Source- www.hillendgold.com.au

Who found the 1st Hawkins Hill gold?

So far there appears to be 2 contenders- 1/Thomas Wythes (Jnr) actually picked up the very first gold on the hill now known as Hawkins Hill. John Hurley, who was with him at the time, wrote later about the incident in a letter to the 'Peak Hill Times', Thomas Wythes was transporting goods from the store on the Turon to his store in Tambaroora. As the

horses were driven over Hawkins Hill one horse strayed from the track. Wythes picked up a stone to scare him back when his eye caught the glitter of thick yellow gold. In the following year, 1852, there was a great rush to Golden Gully and Tambaroora.

Sculptor Thomas Wythes, termed "the Father of Hill End" by contemporary newspapers, was elected Mayor late in 1873, and continued in that office during the following year. After one term as Mayor, Thomas retired from business and public life because of failing health. He died at Hill End on 23rd July, 1876 of general debility after a month long attack of dysentery.

2/William Langslow Adams discovered gold on Hawkins Hill in 1861. He was searching for his horse to leave the district, when in the darkness he kicked a nugget of gold. According to the Adams family history the result was the development of the reef mining on Hawkins Hill. Daphne Shead

Unusual Occupations

In her research Daphne came across some interesting, long vanished job skills. Featuring again the Wythes family-

Pin paperer - Mary Elizabeth Wythes born 1830

Verderer - George Edward Wythes born 1839 (a warden/keeper of the royal forests of England).

She also found trades listed as Needle Stamper, and Needle Labeler.

Last Chinese Miner

In 1932, Nu Chip, the last of the 1,500 Chinese, who had once lived on the Tambaroora goldfield left the area. Bruce Goodwin drove Nu Chip to

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Bathurst and put him on a train for Sydney, however as the train pulled out Bruce realized he was still clutching Nu Chip's battered cardboard case, containing all of Nu Chip's worldly goods and more importantly his ID. 1930's Sydney bureaucracy would have had little time for an aged Chinese man with no papers turning up at Central, so Bruce drove madly to Tarana to catch up with the train, getting the station master to pass the message on. The frenzied rendezvous was successful, and someone from Lidcombe Hospital met Nu Chip at Central Railway Station. Times were different back then. Nu Chip died in 1933.



Buddha figurine found on goldfields

More Local Yowies

"Red Jack Ellis's daughter, was 12, in 1967 when she, her father and mother drove across the concrete weir of the Turon River crossing late one moonlit night, she asked if she could dangle her feet in the water for a few minutes. Jack agreed and pulled up. As she put her feet in the water, one of her thongs fell off and floated away downstream. The girl chased after it down a curve in the river, and waded into the water to get it. Then, turning back to the bank, she was

confronted by a huge creature, standing on the bank looking at her in the moonlight. The beast, was "a big hairy thing at least 2.4m tall." She ran through the water and down the bank to the car. She was "white as a ghost" and couldn't talk about her experience. In fact, she never told anyone about what she had seen until years later. The spot where the girl had come face to face with the hairy giant was the same spot on the Turon River as a 1977 sighting mentioned in the previous issue. This area abounds with such stories.

In Australia, there have been almost 10,000 'reported' sightings of the ape-man creature that is said to walk our forests.

Another Blazed Tree locally

In 1923 presumably, someone had blazed the bark off a tree near Post office Flat, and engraved the number 23 into the tree. Not as old as the tree mentioned last issue, but still time does add a certain value and significance.



23 Tree Post Office Flat

Local Cricket

Hill End beat Windeyer in the last home game. Jim Allen said, 'the whole team came together in a great effort to bring us to victory.' Man of the match must surely go to Daniel from Ullamulla Rd,

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for his bowling skills, taking 3 wickets for Hill End.

Local 11

However Hill End is currently having difficulty making up an 11 for cricket, but to make up the numbers for the next game, a local personality suggested enlisting the Weekend Detainees, but limiting their run to 22 yards. RC

Golf

Continues each Sunday morn. RC

Tennis

The court has been mowed recently. Anyone for tennis? RC

Locally named Race Horse

Eddy Long backs a horse called Hill End. It has yet to win, but he's hopeful. RC

Rural Study Executive Summary

Bathurst Regional Council has issued a Rural Study Executive Summary of its extensive consultation

Full report at-

www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au

Further feedback is welcomed.

The study includes: Viable villages, protection of heritage with flexible planning controls to promote growth and increase tourism, and protection of the rural landscape and water quality. RC

Bathurst Road

Although the Bathurst road had been graded before Christmas, the rocks have subsequently been exposed. This caused punctures in 3 of the 4 cars returning from the Cricket Match at Windeyer recently. Brian Hodge was successful in getting the road graded. But, alas it is rough again. However, there is good news. Norm Mann told Col Shapland that he is going to see the Minister for

Roads about getting money for local roads, including the top of Monkey Hill. There are now are 2 sections of dirt, one of 5 minutes and one of 15 minutes. RC

Mudgee Shire L.E.P.

Col Shapland tells us that there will be a Mudgee Shire LEP Meeting on 9th March at 6.30 at the Hargraves Hall for those who live across the border. RC

The Tip

Please try to keep the approaches to the trench tidy when you dump your rubbish. It gets worse and worse as time goes by. Please also throw bottles into the trench until the Council can find a way to sell the glass, which is uneconomic at present. RC

Clinic News

Dr Wilson's next visit 7th March
Women's Health Nurse, Katreena Forsyth
14th March

Those over 65 should think about seeing their doctor for an annual flu vaccine. As we all know, winter comes on quickly. The guidelines suggest around March, April and May. People should contact the Clinic now so vaccines can be organised.

People who suffer from Asthma need to have their annual check-up with their GP to have their puffers renewed. We are coming into another season, which may cause a worsening of the symptoms from drier weather to more dust in the air to the pollen from autumn flowers. The vulnerability of kids also increases and parents should be on the lookout. Women are encouraged to visit Katreena when she comes. To put it bluntly, early detection saves lives.

David Turcato
Nurse Practitioner

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Hill End Public School News New School Year

Welcome back to all Hill End Public School students and staff.

School Captains for 2006 are Jade Williams & Jessica Gilmore, we also welcome new Kindergarten pupil Hannah Browne and new Pre School - Kindergarten pupil Shannen Gilmore.

Anti Bullying

School staff have drafted a new Anti Bullying Policy and parents will be invited to contribute at a special meeting with Mrs. Price & Mrs. Horan.

Swimming

The Learn to Swim program has commenced and all students are improving in their swimming skills. Years 3-6 have attended the Small Schools Swimming Carnival with some great results.

Mr. Don Edwards

On a sadder note we acknowledge the recent passing of Mr. Don Edwards, a past president of The Hill End Public School P & C Association, Don was instrumental in fundraising for our pool. We extend our sympathy to his family.

Life Education Van

February sees our school's annual visit to Windeyer Public School for this worthwhile education project.

Aluminium Can Recycling

We would like to thank Mr. Phil Butler for his support with this project; the funds generated are applied to many areas within the school. If anyone else has aluminium cans or aluminium products they would like to donate, they can be left at the school.

School Internet Connection

The school's internet connection has been upgraded to an optical fibre service. This gives much faster downloads and browsing. The interface between the school and the internet is also set to change; this new interface is called Web Services and will be filtered internet use and email.

Next P & C Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the school on Tuesday 7th March. All welcome.

Gaye Shanahan
Hill End Public School

Hill End Voluntary Bushfire Brigade News

Fire Season

Despite some very hot weather there have been no fires in our area. However we should not become complacent, there are plenty of storms about which can cause lightning strikes. Also please be careful when discarding cigarette butts. We are still in the Permit Required Period so please contact Brigade Captain Robert Anderson if you wish to light a fire in the open.

Pagers

The Brigade has been trialing a new Pager system, despite some early problems it appears to be improving with coverage throughout the village. More tests will need to be done especially in some of the weaker reception areas.

Memberships

Our annual mail-out has been sent, with some good early response. If you are considering joining please contact Brigade Secretary Maxine Anderson.
Membership \$20.00
Concession Membership \$10.00
Acreage Fee \$15 .00 per 1000 acres.

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Blitz

The restoration program for this historic vehicle has slowed over the Christmas/New Year period, however we are getting going again. We are currently researching possible sources of grants from governments and private enterprises. Any financial help would be most appreciated and will be recognised on our supporter's board.

New Fire Shed

The new Fire Shed is still in the planning stage, we hope to see action shortly.

Brigade History

Research into the history of the Brigade is continuing. The Parks & Wildlife Service are currently preparing a Draft Conservation Management Strategy for the current building; the Brigade is reviewing the Draft and will submit comments.

Jim Shanahan
President/Deputy Captain



Henrietta Manning-Tambaroora St

Bryant's Butcher Shop

Miriam Williamson, Senior Project Officer, National Art School (a descendent of Emily Flynn, nee 'Cooke' spent time at the cottage in Lees Lane in her youth), tells us that Macquarie University was the successful bidder for the National Art School, formerly East Sydney Tech. This has provided the injection of sorely needed funds, which will benefit the old Butcher's Shop and will enable the NAS to build the kitchen and bathroom facilities required, at the rear. Bryant's will be used as an off campus studio annex for the National Art School. RC

Locals Portraits Online

This May/June sees the return residency of portraitist Henrietta Manning, coinciding with the exhibiting locally of her Hill End and Valhalla (Victoria) works, entitled 'Faces in Isolation'. The complete show, featuring numerous Hill End folk's portraits is viewable online at www.catherineasquithgallery.com

Hill End in Camera

The 3rd in a group of 4 shows curated by Gavin Wilson is on at the Visitors Centre currently, entitled 'Hill End in Camera'. Featuring work by Beaufoy Merlin, Cathy Laudenschach, Greg Weight, Tim Brook, Fred Smith, Brett Hilder, Dean Sewell and Tamara Dean. See a review in the next issue. RC

Artists in Residence

Mitchell Kelly-Murray's Cottage

Mitchell came knowing what he wanted to do, as he was working toward an exhibition. Usually artists want to absorb the local ambience, or are looking for a new direction in their work. Not so in his case, as he had been up last year, "Some of the paintings I have started were based on that trip, so I knew what I wanted to do when I got the residency, I work straight onto the canvas." Asked about the nature of his work, he said, "they're landscapes, somewhat abstract, focusing on mark making, trying to create that feeling of landscape, just getting that sense of the dryness. After being surrounded up here by so much landscape, I have been trying to record it more accurately, whereas before, my work was more abstract." He plans to use Hill End as the primary motif for his exhibition *Exploring Country* at Richard Martin Art, in February 06. RC

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View from Split Rock- Martin Kelly

Daniel Kojta-Murray's Cottage

There is a Russian proverb that goes: What is worse than really, really wanting something? Answer: Getting it.

There is a parallel in Daniel's work. "I work in installation and sculpture and I combine the mediums, because my work is concept rather than technique. I use everything from sound, video, sculpture, to painting. In his last installation at Sydney's Artspace, the effect was to alter perception in order to provide the experience of phenomenon. "You walked into a bare room to the door and heard muffled voices inside. Through a peephole, you saw the blurry indication of people running inside, soaked in fluorescent white light. Yet opening the door, the sound you heard on the inside was transferred outside. So you never quite got to the source. It was always out of reach, the whole idea is based on the elusive.

Daniel worked with the kids at School using found objects that they brought. He will make an animation based on the story they create. RC

John Caldwell-Haefliger's Cottage

"I'm a landscape painter primarily," John began, "most of my work is of the natural landscape. The attraction of Hill End is that the buildings relate to the landscape. They have been here so long that they look right. We work on location, absorbing the landscape. Then it's back to the studio." He works with mixed media on a large scale. RC



Alpine Creek bed-John Caldwell

Jan Ashby-Haefliger's Cottage

"I have a great interest in native flowers." Primarily known for this in her work, she also decorates ceramics and jewellery, "I have a strong attraction to the flowers here, and I paint them in location, because they die if you pick them. Since we've been here, hawthorn berries have gone from green through yellow to a ringing, singing red." RC



Jan Ashby-Native Iris platter

Both artists' site-

www.waragilstudios.com.au

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Local Pot



Local potter Lion Alvarez of La Paloma Pottery successfully showed 2 rather large pottery pieces decorated by John Olsen at Tim Olsen Gallery recently.

Local Easter Events



Beyer's Cottage

Hill End Open Day

Hill End Open Day, a rare opportunity to access 10 unique buildings not generally open to the public. From humble miners cottages, (2 of which are used as residencies for the Artist in Residence Program of the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery), to more substantial Craigmoor house, churches, a B&B, and Devonshire teas served in a tranquil cottage garden.

Sun. 2nd April 10-3 \$25/Con.\$18-

Bookings Essential

progress@hillend.org /ph. 63378334

Craigmoor Open House



A virtual museum, unaltered since the 1870's. Recognized by the Historic Houses Trust as, "One of NSW's most significant historic houses".

Easter April Sat 15th/Sun 16th 10 – 3
Entry- \$10/ \$8 concess.

progress@hillend.org / 63378334

Presented by the Hill End & Tambaroora Progress Association

Annual La Paloma Easter Exhibition

POSTCARDS
FROM
HILL END



This year's exhibition at La Paloma's gallery, the Catholic Church is entitled "Postcards from Hill End".

Local artists will be showing postcard sized works, some photographs, some paintings and drawings, and some made of ceramics.

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HETPA President's Report

Membership Fees

February is always the quietest month of the year, with very few visitors, but the community has been busy. One weekend alone, mid Feb, there was 1 wedding and 4 birthday parties.

Bathurst Regional Council has indicated that this year they will seal the village streets, south of Belmore St, and east of Dennison St! The last dirt roads left in the village area.

There has been some concern about recycling at the tip. The BRC recycling contract runs out mid 2007. Prior to this, local meetings will be held so communities can discuss their ideas for recycling with the council. At present the council has decided a shed that houses bins for paper, plastic and glass and these will be removed by a contractor.

The weekend workers continue to do work of great value to the community. They have mowed the Avenue all season, erected plaques on the new trees and have now moved to maintenance of the 2 cemeteries.

Annual General Meeting of HETPA
will be Tuesday 11th April 2006.
All committee positions will be vacated and elections held.
Membership Fees are due from AGM date

Sheena Goodwin
HETPA President
www.hillend.org

\$ 10 p.a. /Concession \$ 5 p.a.
(+ an initial \$ 5 joining fee.)
There is a necessary surcharge for
Stamper Battery mail recipients of \$3
for postage.
Emailed copies- no charge.

Payable to
The Treasurer, HETPA,
Hill End PO, 2850



Stamper Contributions

Hill End related stories, reminiscences, tall tales, news, pictures, be they photographs or artworks are always welcome for Stamper Battery inclusion. C/o Glenn Woodley, Hill End PO, 2850 or email progress@hillend.org

Stop Press



Christmas 05 may have been quiet in Hill End, but at least a reindeer was spotted locally.