



# Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group Newsletter Issue 22 February 2018

## Dear Hill Endians & Tambaroorites

It is time again to gather for our Annual Reunion at Rhodes Park at Concord, on Saturday 3 March 2018. I can hardly believe it that we have been meeting here for 10 years! Now it seems like home. Where have those 10 years gone?

Time to take the opportunity to catch up with the descendants of your ancestors' neighbours and maybe even find some new "cousins"! If you are new to Hill End family research or would just like to find out what a friendly helpful group our volunteers are then drop by and make yourself known. Because it was such an isolated community back in the booming days many families were linked by marriage so you are sure to find a connection somewhere.

We also like to encourage families to gather together their various branches and make the first Saturday in March a special family reunion day. The Wardman family, thanks to encouragement from matriarch, Betty, who makes a special trip from Bathurst, has made this an annual event. It is gratifying and very satisfying to see their assembly grow each year. We hope that other families may encourage their younger generations to get away from the electronic devices for a day and come along and actually meet their extended family "face to face". As we take a long a wide selection of our records for perusal you just may find the family name mentioned there, thus giving you more insight into their lives.

So, assemble your extended family together to remember the contribution that your ancestors made to the life of Hill End & Tambaroora. Some of your family may not even realize the connections that they have to the place. Ask them if they have any memorabilia, photos, or stories that they would like to share with the rest of the family. See if you can link up with other families who might share a common ancestor.

Rhodes Park is in a fairly central location, close to public transport, parking, toilets, and has a large shelter shed. The event is on, no matter what the weather. Our Gathering place is located right next to the Café which can supply your lunchtime needs if you want to take the easy way out! We are adjacent to the Kokoda Track Memorial

Walkway and about a 5-minute easy stroll from Rhodes railway station downhill towards Concord Road and across onto the Kokoda Walkway at Brays Bay Reserve, or from Hospital Road bus stop stroll down Fremont St to the park entrance. Further detailed instructions, directions and a map are [included on our website and at the end of this newsletter](#).

There are picnic tables where you can set out your photos and items of interest and if the weather is fine we can spill out onto the surrounding grassed area. BYO everything and the kettle will be on the boil for those requiring tea & coffee making facilities.

Since this time last year, we have had 140 new members join our ranks so we know there is still plenty of interest in our pioneers. We hope to see many of these new faces along on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Pioneer Cemeteries Project update

As mentioned in our last newsletter we received grant funding to carry out an archaeological survey of 3 sites in Hill End & Tambaroora where the presence of cemeteries, predating 1859, had been recorded on Surveyor Price's plans.

To date, forensic archaeologist, Dr. Louise Steding and her husband Gerald, have carried out stage 1 of the project, involving a survey, using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), of the 3 sites chosen. A small group of volunteers spent considerable time clearing the sites and we are very grateful to Warwick Taylor ([www.tambaroora.com](http://www.tambaroora.com)) and his great nephew Kel, for all their hard work in establishing the approximate locations and making the sites accessible for the survey.

The Chinese Cemetery revealed some interesting anomalies and we need to investigate these further. The Australian Heritage database records that this site is important for its rarity in demonstrating the Chinese burial practice of initial interment in urns and later transporting the urns to China for reburial. According to cultural tradition many bodies were exhumed by agents of families or county societies and transported to China for reburial.

Results from the surveys of the other 2 sites are yet to be presented however from initial observations it appears

that the locations shown on the survey plans may have been more “approximate” than confirmed by actual bearings. Whilst disappointing that signs of burials were not obvious in this instance, we are still collecting verified evidence from Church records, newspaper reports and personal papers such as diaries, burial certificates and family stories. If you can assist with any of these options then we would really love to hear from you. Use the [Contact us](#) page from our website

The second part of the project will be undertaken over 21 – 24 February when a group of archaeology students, graduates and visitors will be getting some hands-on training with the GPR on another site. As part of the project our volunteer Karen Bates has also been researching a 1904 “cold murder case” from the district and this has been written into a script which will be publicly presented by some local residents at the Hill End Court House on 24 February. This will give the students a chance to examine the evidence offered and present their own conclusions. Exciting stuff for those of us with a liking for “CSI”, “Time Team” and detective novels.



In the field at the Tambaroora site



**Are you now on the NBN? Have you changed, or are about to change, your email address????**



Have you acquired or are about to acquire a new email address due to the introduction of the NBN?

PLEASE remember to update your contact details with us so that you don't miss out on notification of our Hill End activities.

Once again about 5% of our membership had their emails returned as undeliverable, when we recently sent out a message.

If you or family receive our newsletter by mail and change your mailing address then let us know as well so we can update our records.



We have been notified of the passing of the following Gathering Group members and Hill End residents since our last newsletter:

- Noel Randolph Butler - March 2017
- Betty Jeffree (Rose Cottage) -September 2017
- Jill Williams (Bundi – Ullamalla) -September 2017
- Albert Mobbs -November 2017
- Brian Hodge -January 2018



**On passing....**

One can only feel a profound sense of loss in reporting the passing of some of Hill End's iconic most residents, within such a short period of time. Compound this with the earlier loss of both Bill & Betty Maris and it brings a realization that time does indeed march on. The contributions that all these people made to the preservation and dissemination of the history of the region was immense and we will not let it be forgotten. Their initial work is what we have based much of our continuing research on. Thankfully the importance of their collections has been realized by their families and HEATGG has been allowed to take up the task of ensuring that it will be preserved for future generations of researchers.

Such a task is not one that is taken up lightly. With only a small but enthusiastic group of volunteers to work through the process it may be some time before we are satisfied that it is indeed properly sorted, catalogued and recorded, possibly digitally, and ready for general access. Every time I look into the files I see little gems that I feel will be of some interest to our members. Hopefully it won't be too long before it is made available.

**Jill Williams** (5 July 1953 – 28 September 2017)  
Her partner Ric shared his memories with us.:

Jill and I first met at a No Base (Army Base) rally in Hill End in the early 1980s. We fought that battle, along with a lot of other people for some years until finally sense prevailed and the proposal was dropped.

I met Jill again some eight years ago, and talked about sad times in both our families. Jill's loss of husband Graham and the loss of my son Patrick at age 13.

Our friendship blossomed, and we became great friends and partners. I can say with no doubts it has been the happiest 8 years of my life.

Jill was a wonderful lady. She stood for Evan's Shire, before it was merged with Bathurst City Council, and topped the poll.

On her monthly runs around the Shire, she would take on board any problems her constituents had and do her very best to put them right. She had friends all over the Central Tablelands, a highly respected lady.

We lived together at 'Bundi', and had plans to further improve our property. We extended the woolshed, rebuilt the sheep yards, as well as a lot of other improvements at 'Bundi'. Jill was a healthy, fit, strong woman who in her own words 'was expected to last for another 25 years'.



Rick & Jill in happier times

We had plans for a short trip to Ireland, England and Scotland next year, after her hip operation healed. Sadly, for reasons I still don't understand, this will never happen.

After the operation, information from the surgeon indicated that Jill's operation was successful. Jill was discharged from the Bathurst Private Hospital after one week. She had two days at 'Bundi', but felt unwell on the third. I took her to Bathurst Base Hospital where treatment was attempted. Finally, she lapsed into unconsciousness, was transferred to RPA in Sydney where she died on the 28th September. A disastrous end to what is today considered to be a common, routine operation.

**Rick Burns**

*(Photo courtesy of Rick Burns)*

**Postscript:**

In 2014 Rick Burns and Jill Williams were interviewed by Rob Willis and Olya Willis for *Voices of the bush* oral history project at the National Library of Australia. These recordings are now available [to listen to online](#) in the National Library website.



Click this button, accept the licence agreement and hear what they have to say.



Rose Cottage (Di Greenhaw)

**Betty Jeffree** c1930 -21 September 2017

Many of our members that have visited Hill End in the past will remember Betty Jeffree with great fondness. She presided over her Devonshire Teas at Rose Cottage for many years and was a great supporter of our Gathering Group activities. A trip to Hill End was not complete without a cuppa and a yarn and I spent many hours sitting in her loungeroom discussing the history and politics of the town.



Betty, her husband Russell and son Ian found their way to Hill End like so many of us. The family used to visit for holidays and when an 1865 National Parks property, Rose Cottage, in Germantown, became available they successfully applied for it and after many years spent in making it habitable Betty had lived there ever since. Betty's garden was her passion. She planted hundreds of bulbs and flowers and her property was an absolute picture in Spring. Inside her home the cottage was a showcase for her crafty ideas and work. How she produced those delightful lunches and endless supplies of scones in a small kitchen that boasted just a sink, a stove and no bench space still astounds me. Visitors dropped in to enjoy her Devonshire teas and became friends for life.

The original Jeffree family were part of Hill End's history and she was a fount of knowledge on the topic, always willing to share her interest with



anyone who dropped in. Rose Cottage was originally the home of Glendora Lawson and her family and she loved to tell tales of this woman, one of Hill End's early midwives, who reared so many children in such a small home.

I for one, will miss our yarns but feel that her legacy lives on in her beautiful garden.

Betty passed away in September and St Paul's Church in Hill End was filled to capacity with her friends & family wishing to say farewell to this iconic resident who is now at rest with her husband and son in the General Cemetery at Tambaroora.

**Brian Hodge** (13 Jan 1930 – 21 Jan 2018)



Brian was born in 1930 and spent his formative years in Coffs Harbour, then a sleepy fishing village. Brian's father Russell, the headmaster of Coffs High was a Gallipoli and Western Front veteran. He helped organize a local militia and

established a cadet unit at the high school. Brian's experiences in the cadets were the happiest days of his life to this point, given that he was too young to join the armed forces. He was to publish *The Magic Years* in 1993 - a very readable account of his experiences from 1939 to 1945.

In 1946 Russell Hodge was appointed headmaster of Maitland Boys High and Brian completed his schooling there. It was in Maitland though that he first played serious cricket. First grade for Easts, representative cricket for Hunter and attending the very first country cricket camp, boarding and training at the SCG. However, he did well enough in his Leaving Certificate to be enrolled at the University College in Armidale, living in a residential college.

Brian then records the years 1948 to 1952 as the best years of his life. He found himself intellectually challenged in an environment that was opinionated, argumentative, literary, alcohol fuelled and very social. Brian eventually graduated with first class honours.

Out in the real world he was appointed to Drummoyne Junior High School, where he taught for 3 years and played cricket for Balmain. This included three 1st Grade games. His next appointment was to Broken Hill where he intended to stay three years but stayed five. He thoroughly enjoyed his cricket there, winning 2 premierships.

Sydney Technical High School was his next posting and it was at this school that he commenced history excursions to Hill End, camping at the Rec. His uncle Rol assisted on these trips, later followed by his uncle Harry when Brian moved as History master to Sydney Boys High. During this period, he played cricket with Balmain, St George and Penshurst RSL. Brian retired from playing cricket in 1968 to coach Sydney Boys High who played in the GPS competition on Saturdays. Retired that is, until he was inspired to make a comeback and coach the Hill End side in the 1990s.

In 1965 Brian bought a block of land at Tambaroora which had, appropriately, been the site of Jean Renateau's "Hunter River Inn". In 1968 he built a cottage and named it *Sunny Camp*. Two years later he bought the block next

door, formerly Thomas Paten's general store. This was to be his veggie garden and orchard. His endeavours in this area meant that he was a regular prize winner at the Sofala Show.

After retiring in 1986 he had delusions of grandeur and added another storey to *Sunny Camp*.

He was active in local community causes and his dealings with Bathurst council, with tar-sealing Monkey Hill and the Department of Defence with the artillery range are examples of Brian's persistence. As Chairman of the Hill End Town Management Association in the 1990s he liaised with National Parks & Wildlife Service on matters relating to the district.

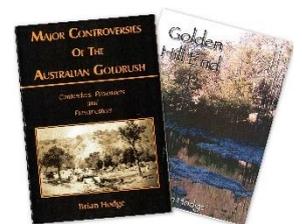
Brian's uncle Harry, Mick to the family, wrote three volumes of the very successful *Hill End Story*, still a classic work. Following in Mick's footsteps Brian had nine books published over the period 1974 to 2009. Six of these were written in the tranquillity of Tambaroora. He was a well-regarded member of the Royal Australian Historical Society. His local knowledge was well respected and resulted in many stimulating discussions with his neighbours on the verandah of the Royal Hotel. His research material is now in the care of the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group and will eventually be made available for those undertaking research on the district.

Brian never married after a broken engagement made him wary of such commitments. He was always interested in the wider family. Holidays at Berrara with the Oatley Hodges were a reminder of life at Coffs and the times he spent fishing up at Evans Head on his annual visits were precious to him. He justifiably had complete faith in the ability of the people in the district to look after each other however after suffering a stroke a few years ago he moved to Kelso to the Opal Aged Care in Bathurst. Brian remained stoic about his situation, what he called his "catastrophe". None of us can imagine what it is like to go from being a very independent, articulate, social human being to being dependent on others for all daily functions, unable to read or watch TV and be uncertain about communication. Brian, however, still retained his sense of humour, and the staff at Opal loved him and thought him a real character.

He passed away on 21 January and has now joined his mother and father, his three brothers and multiple relatives in Tambaroora General Cemetery, lying beside his uncle Rol.

### Eulogy by Ian Hodge

**HEATGG has a limited number of Brian's books for sale. Please check out the [Bookshop](#) page on our website or contact Lorraine on 0408117784**



## Mew Chip – a Pillar of Bathurst district.



In the 1990's Bathurst Council was given the opportunity to purchase the cast iron verandah posts from the historic Royal Hotel in William Street. These posts have formed the basis for the Pillars of Bathurst, a cultural heritage memorial garden to remember people, once important to the development of our community but for whom there were no other memorials to tell of their contributions and achievements. For the last few years Council has called for nominations for community members to be remembered with a plaque on these Pillars which have been a feature of the Macquarie River Park's heritage precinct since 2015.

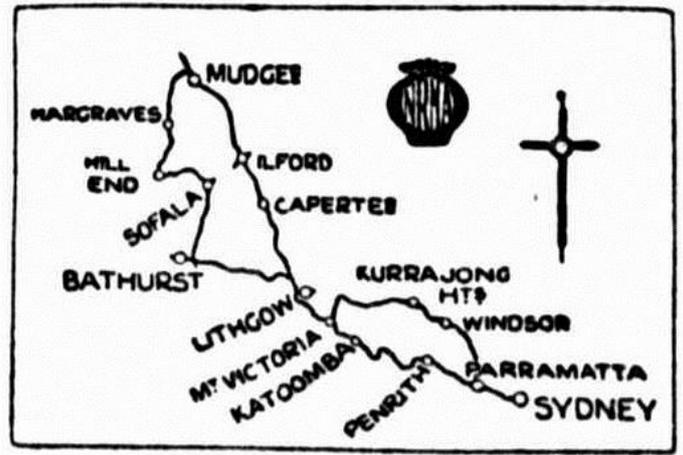
To acknowledge a previously unrecognized resident of Hill End & Tambaroora HEATGG members Karen Bates and Juanita Kwok nominated the last surviving Chinese resident of the district, Mew Chip (also known as Nu or New Chip) as a candidate for the 2018 list. We were thrilled when he was accepted and so his name will be recorded on a plinth in the Garden this year.



Mew Chip, also known as New Chip, was a well-known Chinese resident of the Hill End area. Born in Canton in 1846, he arrived in NSW in 1865. He lived in Tambaroora, Pyramul and Hill End for 72 years, and was a goldminer, bootmaker, pork-butcher, market gardener and caretaker of the Chinese joss house at Tambaroora.

Hill End resident Fred Thompson recalls "My first memories of New Chip were going to his home in Tambaroora when I was about four or five with my brother Dick. He had a very good vegetable garden and took the vegetables to Hill End and sold them. He did this for many years" Mew Chip is one of the many Chinese market gardeners who supplied vegetables to the people of the Bathurst district, laying the foundation for vegetable growing in the district. Mew Chip entered the State Home and Hospital at Lidcombe in March 1937, where he died in June that year. He is buried in an unmarked pauper's grave in Rookwood Cemetery.

## Travelling thru Hill End 1935 style



Hill End has been a tourist destination long before it became an historic precinct. Back in 1935 an intrepid correspondent, using the pseudonym of "Tasman" recorded his journey through NSW in the Burnie (Tasmania) newspaper, the "Advocate" in September 1935, under the title of "Overlanding in New South Wales".

The writer was well prepared and after a brief stay in Bathurst made it to Hill End at dusk. Not bad going, considering that the road from Bathurst would have been gravel all the way, and there was no such thing as a Motorway. ...but then the traffic would have been a bit thinner too...



Hill End back streets, looking east, taken from roof of the Hocking home in Denison St c 1930s by Harold (Digger) Hocking. (Helen Wood Collection)

He describes his trip thus:

**HILL END'S MINING DAYS.** Leaving Bathurst, we turned north to Hill End and its faded glories of the mining days. The road surface is good, though hilly, many of its tortuous hills resembling those of Tasmania's East Coast, though there are no ferns or sturdy growth. This could easily be accounted for, when one was informed that no rain had fallen for over five months. Through Wattle Flat, Sofala and Sally's Flat, all considerable towns in the seventies, but now wayside straggling places, we travelled, arriving at our first day's destination at dusk. One's feelings on viewing Hill End can scarcely be described. Everywhere are ruins, ruined buildings, ruined

mine shafts and water races, ruined and grass-covered side streets. Its population of 30,000 in the seventies has dwindled down to a few hundred; its 40 hotels are now replaced by two; the Turon and Macquarie rivers, both so closely associated with Hargraves and his co-pioneers in the gold-mining days, are certainly near at hand, but miles of trenches and hundreds of small shafts and prospectors' sinkings are all that remain along their banks, except a few lone huts in which live those gold speckers, those few hopefuls who are still firmly convinced that someday, soon perhaps, they will again strike it rich. "Hawkins Hill" and "The Golden Mile," the two erstwhile fabulous diggings, are still there, but only a myriad of shafts, some separated by less than three feet, remain to prove their existence. All is red gravel. No rain has fallen for about six months, and everyone is hoping for it.

Yet, of all people I have met none could have made us more welcome, or could have been more cheerful. Hill End was not a place of memories or sorrows for its inhabitants. Indeed, everyone seemed happy, and the rejoinder to one's parting farewell was. "Don't forget to come up again," or "I'll see you in Sydney soon."

*While the writer was in town he discovered one of the local industries. Bees may be the "in" thing in 2018 but it may just be the case of "everything old is new again".*

*The following paragraph from the same article shows just how profitable it was.*

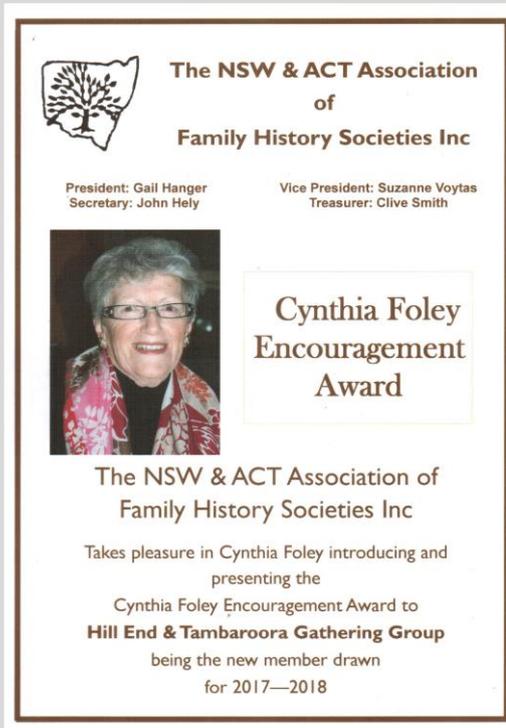
**PROFIT IN BEES.** The production of honey seems to provide a considerable income for some of Hill End's inhabitants. On every hand are bee stands, ranging from 20 to 60 hives, more than the latter number being adjudged to eat out a honey tree flowering area. One of the largest producers informed the writer that he was at the present time sending to Sydney 100 tins weekly, setting down his return at 18 shillings gross (about 106 shillings net) for each tin of 60 pounds. He had sent forward this season so far, 2000 tins, about 1000 tins fewer than last year. To produce this amount of honey he commenced the year with 250 hives, but they had multiplied into about 600 hives to date. The bees thrived mostly on white and yellow box, cabbage gum and stringy bark flowers. The elevation of Hill End is about 3000 feet, and it is difficult to believe that the rainfall is in the vicinity of 30 inches. The winter is fairly cold, snow having fallen on two occasions this year. The summer, however, is warm, though not oppressively hot. It was 75 degrees when we left to continue our journey on Monday last.



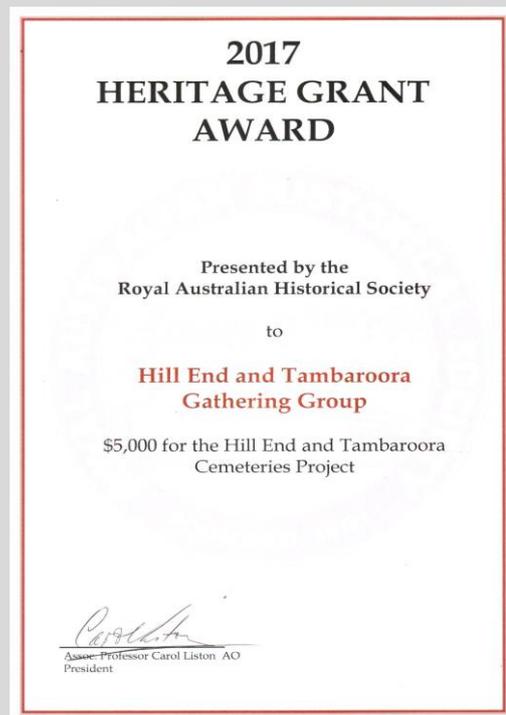
## AWARDS & GRANTS

Since our last newsletter we have received a couple of certificates:

Encouragement award presented by the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies



and the Royal Australian Historical Society Grant for \$5000 for our Pioneer Cemetery Project



Bathurst Regional Council also awarded us \$3000 towards the same project earlier in the year so our resulting report will certainly be money well spent.

## Weather or not in Hill End

Just what was the weather like when you ancestors wandered around Hill End? Or anywhere else for that matter.



The Bureau of Meteorology now has an online site where you can put in a location and get the rainfall statistics dating back to 1880 or so.

Check it out at <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>

## CLANCY @ THE OVERFLOW 2017 .....

I had written him a text  
Which I'd sent, hoping the next  
Time he came in mobile coverage  
He'd have time to say hello.  
But I'd heard he'd lost his iPhone,  
So I emailed him from my smart phone,  
Just addressed, on spec, as follows:  
clancy@theoverflow

And the answer redirected  
Wasn't quite what I'd expected  
And it wasn't from the shearing mate  
Who'd answered once before.  
His ISP provider wrote it  
And verbatim I will quote it:  
'This account has been suspended:  
You won't hear from him any more.'

In my wild erratic fancy  
Visions come to me of Clancy:  
Out of reach of mobile coverage  
Where the Western rivers flow.  
Instead of tapping on the small screen,  
He'd be camping by the tall green  
River gums, a pleasure  
That the town folk never know.

Well, the bush has friends to meet him  
But the rest of us can't greet him:  
Out there, even Telstra's network  
Doesn't give you any bars.  
He can't blog the vision splendid  
Of the sunlit plains extended  
Or tweet the wondrous glory  
Of the everlasting stars.

I am sitting at the keyboard,  
I'm too stressed out to be bored  
As I answer all the emails  
By the deadlines they contain.  
While my screen fills with promotions  
For 'Viagra' and strange potions  
And announcements of the million-dollar  
Prizes I can claim.

But the looming deadlines haunt me  
And their harassing senders taunt me  
That they need response this evening  
For tomorrow is too late!  
But their texts, too quickly ended,  
Often can't be comprehended  
For their writers have no time to think  
They have no time to wait.

And I sometimes rather fancy  
That I'd like to trade with Clancy:  
Just set up an email bouncer  
Saying 'Sorry, had to go.'  
While he faced an inbox jamming  
Up with deadlines and with spamming  
As he signed off every message:  
clancy@theoverflow.

with apologies to A.B. ("Banjo") Paterson



## **The previous life of “The Hill End Ranch”**

### **Memories of my childhood holidays at the Walpole property (Michelle Brooks nee Walpole)**

My great grandparents John William Walpole and Rebecca Walpole (Ellis) lived in the house that Kerry Burns now lives in at Hill End Ranch. My grandfather, Harry Walpole, and his brothers and sisters spent their lives in this house. When I was a child this house was out of bounds as it had fallen into disrepair.

Harry went off to university and became a teacher. He married Hazel Clare Bailey from Sydney. They had four children, Olive, Denis, Margaret and Bruce. They came back to Hill End in 1941 when Pop was appointed teacher at Hill End School. They lived in the teacher’s cottage. During this time, he built a shack next to his parents’ house. Harry’s career as a teacher saw them move around New South Wales and when he retired they moved back to Hill End.

My uncle, Bruce Walpole, told me recently that he helped his father Harry build the house that is currently “The Golden Nugget” Restaurant. It was built over the top of the shack, which was then removed.

I spent two weeks every year in August/September at this property until I was about 12. I loved every minute of my time there. We would usually catch up with one or two other families on our holidays. We didn’t live close so we looked forward to catching up aunts, uncles and cousins..

When we arrived, nan would have freshly baked Anzac biscuits for us. Every year I would hope to see snow but only once did it come close. I woke up one morning to see a few blobs of ice on the ground.

Driving into the property there was the water tank. There was a big open shed/garage. Adjoining the shed on the left was a room known as the library and next to this around the corner was another library. Pop loved his books. Nan had a flower garden with a picket fence around it. I only remember daffodils growing. Part of the fence was still there until recently but it finally rotted away.

On the left of the driveway was the chook sheds. There were cows up in the paddock to the left. The house consisted of a sunroom, three bedrooms, a combined lounge/dining room, a mudroom, kitchen, huge laundry and one bathroom. The front door opened into the sunroom that ran most of way across the front of the house. To the left of the sunroom was the bathroom and toilet. Beyond the sunroom were two bedrooms separated by a hallway. The bedrooms had opaque glass sliding doors. From the hallway you entered the lounge/dining room with a big fire to the right. Beyond this to the right was a mudroom where the coats and boots were kept and

the dogs slept in the winter. Next to this was the main bedroom. Next to the bedroom and accessed from the dining room was the kitchen and running down from the kitchen back towards the front of the house to the bathroom was a huge laundry. There was a whole wall of cupboards on the left. I remembered the cupboards being full of preserved fruit.

Behind the house was a little old building that contained lots of books, yet another library.

From the front of the house towards a little treed area was Harry’s drop toilet with a huge timber seat. I think it may have been a double seat. Beyond this was an orchard. I remember “snowy” apples. They were small red apples with pure white flesh. Uncle Bruce planted an apricot tree that bore beautiful big fruit. Kerry told Uncle Bruce and I on a recent visit that she nurtured this tree as long as she possibly could.

They had two dogs. One was a Collie named Toby. He was a beautiful dog. The other one belonged to Auntie Margaret. They took it to the farm because it would chase the postman. I can’t remember what kind of dog it was, probably a “bitsa”. It was white with a few black spots, one of which covered his eye. His name was Patch, of course.

We would help Pop mix up the chook feed. I still remember the smell. Pop had a green utility and we would take the hay up to the paddock to feed the cows. I claimed one of the cows and called it “Star” because it had a star shaped patch on its forehead. He had a tractor which we also had rides on.

Pop would trap rabbits and skin them. Nan would cook them up. I always refused to eat them. She would cook lamb brains and try to disguise them in sauce. I never ate them either. I did have a rabbit pelt for a few years until our dog attacked it.

One holiday pop made us a wooden zoo for our toy farm animals. Nan taught me to knit and crochet. I crocheted a pink and blue granny square top. She also knitted us woollen singlets when we were little. There were dolls in the wardrobe to play with and hundreds of comic books along with kids’ books, like Little Golden Books. We even had a special kids table and chairs in the kitchen.

If we were sick and stayed in bed she would give us a small container like a Berocca with buttons in it to rattle if we needed anything. We would bathe in a tin washtub by the fire when we were really little.

Pop was a quiet man. I don’t remember him talking much. When he was watching TV at night he always had a supply of peanuts and liquorice allsorts beside his chair.

I cherish my memories of Hill End. They were some of the happiest times of my childhood.

## Archaeology in Hill End

Is your interest in Hill End of an archaeological nature? If so, then a recent study undertaken by Bathurst Regional Council may just be compulsory reading. A hefty 4 volumes, comprising of 662 pages of reports, maps and tables it is available to download. You may just find out more information about the blocks of land where your ancestors lived, way back when...

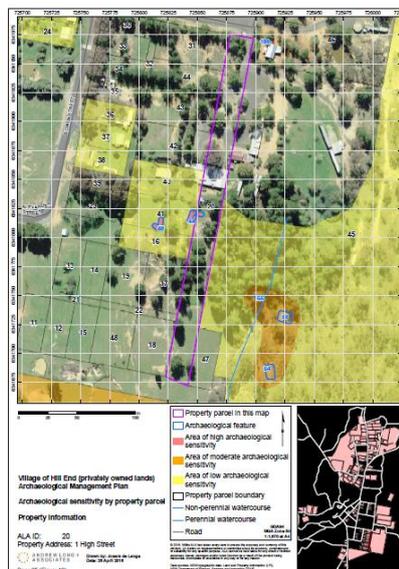
The study is comprised of the Main Report (Vol. 1) and three supplementary volumes outlining the results of the 2015 archaeological survey. The report (Vol. 1) presents background historical information, a review of built history in the Village Precinct and outlying areas, and the results of the archaeological assessment.

A register of individual land blocks is presented in Volume 2 (Survey Results: Parcel Registers), which is itemised by description, built history and archaeological zoning. Similarly, archaeological features are itemised in Volume 3 (Survey Results: Archaeological Feature Register), presenting a register of archaeological features and sensitivity. Volume 4 (Survey Results: Parcel Maps) contains individual maps of parcels within the study area, including aerial and result maps.

The Archaeological Management Plan specifically details archaeological issues associated with privately owned lands in the Village Precinct and the outlying cultural landscape, within the study area. This AMP also considers Crown Lands and areas not formally approached by the previous Archaeological Landscape Management Plan (ALMP), prepared for the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2002.

The entire document can be downloaded from the Bathurst Regional Council website from these links:

The Village of Hill End (privately owned lands) Archaeological Management Plan –  
[Main Report](#),  
[Survey Results Parcel Registers](#),  
[Survey Results Archaeological Feature Register](#),  
[Survey Results Parcel Maps](#)



## Generous giving – Hill End Hospital

By the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Hill End Hospital was experiencing a checkered career. Funding had always been an issue. Public meetings were called and despite a request for government support the Hospital closed for a short while. The staff, including Dr Ryan and the Matron sought employment elsewhere and took up positions at Nundle, where their surgical and medical skills were immediately in demand.

The *Bathurst Times* of 7 May 1913 reported fully on the meeting.

### HILL END. RE-OPENING THE HOSPITAL.

HILL END, Tuesday.

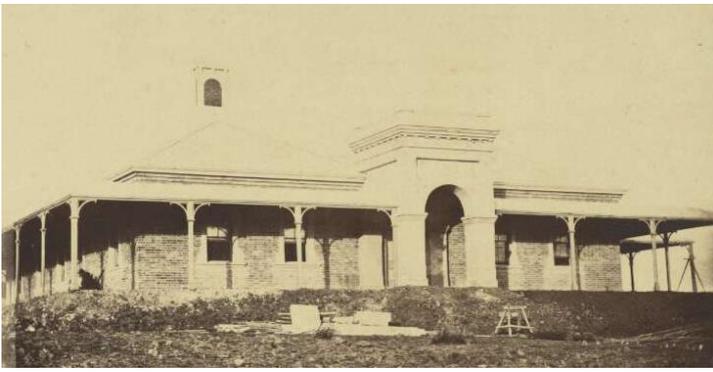
A meeting was held in the Royal Hall on Saturday night for the purpose of bringing before the public the financial position of the Hill End hospital, and also to get the public to contribute sufficient cash to pay a doctor and re-open the hospital. Mr. McKenzie was voted to the chair. Owing to insufficient funds, the committee was compelled to close the hospital and dispense with the services of the doctor and matron, who had been here for five or six years; so that at present Hill End is without a doctor, which is a serious matter, as the town is so far from medical aid.

Great interest was taken in the meeting. Many motions were brought forward and discussed.

Mr. Hodge said they would require, roughly speaking, about £325 per year to run the hospital and pay a doctor. Considerable discussion followed, and it was eventually decided to send collectors around and ascertain how much cash could be raised. Mr. Hodge considered if the public would give about £164, that, with a special grant of £100 they were getting and subsidy, they could give a guarantee of £400 per annum to a doctor.

The proposal was unanimously carried.

A list was at once opened in the hall, when the sum of £34 was collected, the understanding being that if sufficient cash is not raised the money would be refunded to the givers.



Hill End Hospital under construction 1871 (nla.obj-148020948)

By September of the same year it appears that the funding situation had lessened and after a number of money raising events, such as a well-attended fancy-dress ball at the Royal Hall, sufficient capital was raised to appoint, Doctors Lester and Boake, to the positions of Medical Officers.

The situation had not improved markedly by the start of WW1 and the community rallied once more to supply the Hospital with much needed supplies.

The *Mudgee Guardian* of 15 April 1915 reported on the event and provided a list of the material provided to keep the Hospital going.

Hill End Hospital; —Owing to the shortage of linen at the hospital it was decided to arrange a linen tea, which was taken in hand by some of the Hill End ladies and the way the Hill End people responded went to show that there is a growing interest in the local hospital.

Following is a list of the names and goods received: -

Mrs. W. Hall, half-dozen towels;  
 Miss Anderson, pillow and slip;  
 Miss Johnson, pillows and-slips;  
 Jack Allan, counterpane;  
 Mrs. Cook, sheet and pair pillow slips;  
 Nurse Brain, pair towels;  
 Harry Cook, teapot stand;  
 On Gay and Co., 3 cups and saucers;  
 Ackland and Son, pair sheets;  
 Larry Weir, pair towels;  
 Dorothy Cook, jug covers;  
 Mrs. Hutchings, pair towels and tray cloth;  
 B. Hodge, pair towels;  
 Mr. J. Aylin, sheet;  
 Hazel Johnson, jug covers;  
 Mrs. J. Walpole, two pairs towels;  
 Mrs. Beech, sheet and pair towels;  
 Miss Mullins, pair towels;  
 Mrs. Trevithick, half-dozen plates;  
 Mr. W. Marshall, tablecloth;  
 Mr. Sullivan, saucepan;  
 Mrs. Lawson, pair pillowslips and pair towels;  
 Mr. Martin, half-dozen cups and saucers;  
 Mesdames E. Goodwin and Kemshall, table damask;  
 Mr. Longmore, pair towels;  
 Mr. Le Messurier, pair sheets;

Mrs. Payne, pair sheets, pair towels, pair slips;  
 Mrs. D. Marshall, 5/;  
 the Misses Marshall, 2 tray cloths and towels;  
 Mrs. A. Bennett, three pillowslips;  
 Miss Trestrail, pair towels;  
 Mr. Oliver, 2/6;  
 Mrs. O. Eyre, two pairs towels;  
 Mrs. Whittaker, two pairs pillowslips;  
 Kathleen Brandon, teapot stand;  
 Mrs. Brandon, sheet;  
 Miss Toohey, 2/6;  
 Mrs. Blighton, pair towels;  
 Miss Lanes, pair pillowslips;  
 Mrs. A. Hodge, pair sheets and towels;  
 Mrs. W. Plummer, Marcella quilt;  
 Mrs. Groves, pair towels;  
 Miss Emily Evans, pair towels, pair pillowslips;  
 Mrs. D. Marshall, door mat;  
 Miss Toohey, door mat;  
 Mr. Oliver, lantern.

Hill End, because of its isolation and small population, was never very attractive to the Medical profession. However, prior to 1925, the Hill End Hospital had operated as a fully equipped institution, providing medical and nursing care for the local and district population. The Hospital had a Resident Medical Officer, and there was also a Resident Matron and a permanent hospital staff. Surgeons were on call from both Bathurst and Mudgee. Appointment of staff, raising of funds and the general business of the Hospital was under the control of a local Committee.

In late 1916 the Hill End and Tambaroora District Hospital Committee reported:

"In presenting this report the retiring Committee have much pleasure in stating that the past year has eclipsed all previous years, both in regard patients treated and income raised. Increase of patients means increase in expenditure, but owing to the careful management of the Matron and the committee, the expenses are below that of last year. The number of epidemics has shown the necessity for a Hospital, both as a place for skillful treatment and place for isolation. The amount of expenditure on the institution justified itself in a case of infectious disease, where, there is no doubt, the extra care taken by the Matron saved the town much expense and worry.

The Hospital standard has been more than maintained. Wards have been made fly-proof, new beds added and everything made comfortable for the staff and the patients. We have purchased a complete set of splints and installed a large stock of drugs, a very necessary step in a town without a chemist shop. The public obtain these drugs at almost cost price

During the year there have been no staff changes. The present Matron has proved herself a kind, attentive and unsparing nurse. Owing to the strain of day and night nursing in some difficult cases she has had to be relieved

at times. Should the number of patients increase additional staff will be necessary.

...We wish to thank the ladies who assisted at the annual bazaar, all collectors, also donors in kind or money and Mr L. Weir for the use of the Committee Room. During the year the medical arrangements were altered. We were in a position to appoint Dr.W.K.Dale, M.B, as the much desired resident Medical Officer, with Drs Lester and Boake as consulting surgeons. Dr. Dale has given great satisfaction, and we have to thank him for much needed help at times; also, Drs. Lester and Boake for stepping into the breach whenever needed. The services of the two latter in the time of stress cannot be too greatly emphasized.

By December of 1915 much needed maintenance and repairs had been planned resulting in the erection of a new verandah, the ceiling and painting of several wards, repairs to the roof, and the installation of a door leading from the matron's room to the children's ward.

By 1925, due to the fall in population and better transport facilities available between Hill End, Bathurst and Mudgee the role of the Hospital had declined. It was also becoming more difficult to raise money.

In 1925 Blanche Lee was the Resident Matron and the G.P at that time was Doctor Smith Marr. Blanche Lee was the last Matron at the Hospital and after she retired from the Hospital, she lived on at Hill End in a private capacity, and her main interest turned to dogs, of which she had a large number. [See Karen Bates' article on Matron Lee on [page 7 of Issue 19 of this newsletter](#)]

By 1935 Dr O'Flynn was acting as the local doctor, he and his family were living at the Hospital. The Hospital was no longer functioning as an in-patient institution, and patients requiring hospital services were sent to Bathurst or Mudgee. Dr O'Flynn was the last resident doctor.



Hill End Hospital 2014 (Di Greenhaw)

## Heritage Watch

I came across the following article when browsing my library. Adapted, from Robert Ingpen's *Australia's Heritage Watch*, it was originally published in 1981 and is just as relevant today as it was back then. It led me to thinking about all those emails and digital photos that we produce, which can just disappear at the touch of the "delete" key. We don't write letters with pen and ink any more, we don't print out all our photos either. Will our descendants be ecstatic when they discover a mini SD card when clearing out our estate? Could they actually access the contents? Would we be proud of all those "selfies" that we took and include them in their editions of the family story....? Give me a beautifully posed portrait of the family any day!

Why do we need to preserve our heritage? and how can we choose what parts to keep, and what to destroy?

One may as well ask "Why keep a family photograph album'." The answer is that one of the most important needs of the human spirit is recognition of identity.

Each of us needs to know, for our mental and spiritual stability, exactly where we fit into the scheme of things... If we destroy all that which links us to our past, we are doomed to wander in a kind of wilderness where nothing is permanent because nothing has any value beyond figures on a balance sheet, and where it will be destroyed as soon as they turn from black to red. In such a wilderness, human beings become even more disposable.

The answer to the second question, as to what we shall keep, is complex because we know the cost of almost everything but we cannot readily estimate its value. The cost of a full-grown tree, as timber, maybe a few hundred dollars. Its value, to mankind, is measureless.

It is equally difficult to assess the real value of an old building, or a streetscape, or a beautiful stretch of coastline, or even a ghost town. Such things are in trust to use for our own appreciation and to pass on to future generations, we cannot even guess at their value in the future. We have all heard about works of art once sold for no more than what would buy their creator a good meal, which are now worth a million dollars. Similarly, many buildings once scheduled for demolition are now cherished in our community.

All we know for certain is that once anything has been destroyed it can never be restored. We must study each item not as a figure on a profit and loss account, but with an attempt to assess the satisfaction which it will bestow upon our descendants.

Think of our treasured buildings. Places like these, once on the brink of demolition are no longer endangered by the continuous threat to our heritage and environment. But we must remember that they stand only because each generation has thought them worthy of preservation. We have received them from the past only because our forebears passed them on to us.

It helps to remember that our descendants will receive such buildings only because we preserve and pass them on into the future.

Wise words..... Lorraine

## Humour is alive and well in Hill End....

Transport in Hill End has sometimes been an issue, but no longer. If you can get reception for your phone then you can always call for an Uber to get you home from the pub...



## Volunteers



Below are just a few of the more recent projects currently being undertaken by our enthusiastic band of volunteers.

Verna Little has been hard at it in transcribing more original records and once these have been formatted they will be added to the website.

Amongst other items we have

- a listing of 1875 leaseholder
- Register of Dams, Wells & Reservoirs, 1868 - 1882
- Register of Water Privileges, 1870 – 1884
- List of subscribers to Hill End Hospital 1873

Maureen Clark has been working hard to update our Scrapbooks. As part of the Maris collection we received a large number of newspaper clippings etc and these will be on display at the Gathering. Makes for fascinating browsing.

Debbie Court has spent hours getting our membership lists up to date so that we can match people who are researching the same families and ensuring that our newsletters get to the right addresses.

Karen Bates has been spreading her talents far and wide in research, writing, event planning and cooking.

Jan Daly is delving into Brian Hodge's collection, sorting and filing all his references. What a little treasure trove this will be.

Helen Wood continues to work on our master list of Births, Deaths & Marriages and other research.

Ray & Barb Samuels work on the next publication on the Hotels of the district is well under way. Barbara Burnett and Beatrice & Vince Brooks have helped out with our Markets in various ways.

Di Greenhaw keeps snapping photos and recording our activities for posterity. A number of other volunteers are quietly working away at their own projects.

Gee, what a busy bunch, their contribution to preserving and making information accessible to our researchers is invaluable. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

## Can you help?

### Our Cemetery project

In undertaking our research for the Cemetery project, we were relying on Catholic Church burial records to help us fill the gaps in our knowledge. Sadly, there is a large break in the dates available. If you have an ancestor that may be buried in the **CATHOLIC** Cemetery, especially between January 1859 and June 1928 or post 1935 then we would love to hear from you. Certificates would be wonderful but even family stories or other records would be most acceptable.



### The Bridle Track

Have you long standing connections to the Bridle Track? Sharon Shelton is putting together a publication on this iconic approach to Hill End and she would love to hear from anyone who may have old photos or family stories relating to the Track. She can be contacted via email or through the [The Bridle Track Bathurst to Hill End](#) Facebook page. Or leave your details with Lorraine on 0408117784

## Research notes

### Trove help

Do you use Trove when researching your family history?

There are plenty of hints and shortcuts that will make your search more meaningful and easier. Spend some time on YouTube, and take in the series of helpful tutorials that the National Library has prepared to help you along.

Just head to [YouTube](#) and search "How to use Trove", and select whatever topic takes your interest. It is well worth spending some time in training if it helps save a lot more time when searching.

## Hill End Happenings



### Hill End Easter Market

If you are heading to Hill End for Easter, then join us at the Market on Easter Saturday 31 March. Better still, consider having a stall and join in the fun.

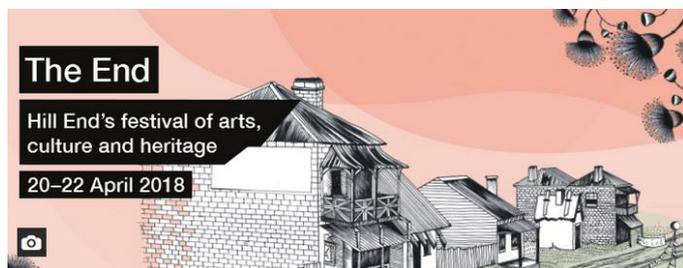
Pack up the car or trailer with your goodies. It is a great way to sell or swap your precious goods for someone else's 'junque'. Look out for a wonderful collection of bric-a-brac, jewellery, books, collectibles, jams, seedlings, camping gear, homemade craft and woollen items, art, local souvenirs, second hand clothes, household goods, our famous sausage sizzle and the list goes on ...

Proudly sponsored again by Central West Discover Magazine and supported by Hill End Public School, the Market is held in the Royal Hall from 9.30am til 4pm.

There is still plenty of time to enjoy the ambience of the town during its busiest weekend of the year. Stalls in the Hall are only \$10 per trestle table) and as there is limited space, bookings are essential. Contact Lorraine on 0408117784 or email [heatgg@yahoo.com.au](mailto:heatgg@yahoo.com.au) to book your spot.

### The End Festival

Friday 20 April 6pm to 10pm / Saturday 21 April 11am to 10pm / Sunday 22 April 10am to 4pm



Come up to 'The End' where it all begins!

Back by popular demand, The End festival of arts, culture and heritage held in Hill End village is a celebration of the historic region and its eclectic history.

This unique festival offers live bluegrass, folk and country music, the best of the region's wine, craft beer and food, as well as art installations and exhibitions. There'll also be ticketed music and cabaret shows in The Royal Hall, and village heritage and ghost tours and family history information.

Encounter the Makers Market, where crafts people and food producers will display and sell their original works. Visitors can book into a series of workshops ranging from beer brewing to leather belt-making by these traditional makers.

**Future fun** - start planning now!

**Taste the Past Food Fair** – Hill End Lodge  
Saturday 20 October 2018



"First of all, catch your kangaroo" .... Head to Grandma's recipe book, dig out the old faithful family specialty that her grandmother shared with her. We are planning a gastronomic extravaganza....well at least a fun picnic day... Whilst this event is still in the planning stage we hope you will join us in Hill End on Saturday 20 October.

We are combining forces with Hill End Lodge to hold a family day in their grounds. We wish to honour the cooking and kitchen skills of the female ancestors, including their multicultural backgrounds.

How did they manage to nutritionally feed their families, under such trying circumstances, with ingredients that were almost impossible to find, and were so unfamiliar to their palate?

Hone your bush skills, there will be a camp oven bake off involved too! More details will come to light as planning progresses.



#### **Contact details for the Gathering Group**

Lorraine Purcell  
Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group  
12 Grantham St, Carlton NSW 2218  
Ph: 02 95870352  
Mobile: 0408117784

Please leave a message if I am unable to answer the phone.

Email: [heatgg@yahoo.com.au](mailto:heatgg@yahoo.com.au)  
Website: [www.heatgg.org.au](http://www.heatgg.org.au)

#### **The Hill End Family History research room**

is located at the rear of the Royal Hall  
Next to the Royal Hotel  
and is open every Saturday

**11am to 3pm.** or by appointment

For enquiries contact Daphne

**Email:** [daph@hillendfamilyhistory.com](mailto:daph@hillendfamilyhistory.com)

Phone - 02-63378218 after 6:30pm  
or try your luck on 0429335627

For further information check out Daphne's website at  
<http://hillendfamilyhistory.com/>

**Contact Daphne if you would like to be placed on the email mailing list to receive a copy of her newsletter**

# Hill End Public School

*Unique Location, Unique Education*

Tambaroora Street  
Hill End NSW 2850  
Phone: 02 63378265  
Fax: 02 63378307  
hillend-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au  
[www.hillend-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.hillend-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)



## **BECOME A FRIEND OF HILL END PUBLIC SCHOOL!**

*Calling past students, parents, members of the community, near and far! Become involved and support our wonderful school! Hill End Public School 'Friends' receive special news and invitations to school based events and activities throughout the year. New 'Friends' also receive a special gift for their support.*

*Quality Education since 1870*

*It's easy to become a 'Friend'.*

*Just fill in the form below and post or email to the school*

*Or give us a call at school to organise.*

.....  
**HILL END PUBLIC SCHOOL 'FRIEND'**

Yes, I'd love to become a 'friend' (Please circle payment option you prefer)

Please find enclosed cheque for \$20.00 or \$10.00 concession.

Direct Deposit: HEPS Administration Account -BSB: 032001 Account: 141514

(Please add your surname to deposit note)

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Email: .....

Phone: .....



*Quality Education since 1870*

# The 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 Gathering in Rhodes Park (Map on next page)

Some people arrive with morning tea, others bring lunch and a few arrive with afternoon tea...the keen ones will be there for breakfast! It is a very free form gathering and is an excellent opportunity for those with ancestors from the region to meet with others who have a similar interest. Initially started as a reunion for those who lived in the Hill End & Tambaroora area to get together, the Gathering is gradually evolving into a meeting place for those with links to the district to join in as well and share their experiences and family history research.

Rhodes Park, our meeting place for the past 10 years caters well to our requirements. Our venue provides public transport access, plenty of parking, toilets and a Kiosk and a large Shelter Shed which we have booked solely for our use all day.

**There will also be a selection of reference materials on display & available for perusal on the day. The Gathering Group publications will be on sale as well as a selection of books relating to Hill End and Australian and family history.**

**Boiling water, and coffee & tea making facilities will also be available.**

**We will be having the official welcome and "Roll Up" at 12 noon.**

**What do people bring? As in the past years the following suggestions are a few ideas that have come to mind....**

- Well, there are some tables and seating available in the Shelter Shed but if you are coming by car, it might be a good idea to bring along your lightweight picnic chairs/table or picnic rug, so we can spread out and be comfy.
- Bring your morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, and whatever "refreshments" that will be needed to sustain you for the day. There is also a kiosk adjacent to the Shelter Shed, with coffee, soft drinks and a considerable range of delicious meals available for those travelling a long distance and who don't want to bring refreshments with them.
- Bring a couple of copies of the "potted" version of your family history, including photos (but remember that old ones are easily damaged by handling, so perhaps now is a good time to have copies made and **these** can be made available for others to have a look at - **leave the originals at home!**) This may be an opportunity to swap stories and information.
- Wear a name label with your name on it, (in **LARGE PRINT** so others can read it without glasses!) and also the main family names that you are associated with. Maybe a large sign, with the family name, that can be put on your "campsite" so that others can make themselves known to you as well.
- Notepad and pens etc. to jot down the contacts if necessary and camera to get that memorable shot.
- If you have the opportunity to prepare a small "handout" that gives your **name and contact details and the families that you are interested in** (no more than a page), it may be worthwhile. Make a few copies of this that can then be swapped if you find others have a similar interest. - saves a lot of writing down in the excitement of the moment of finding others "doing" the same family.

So, there you have it! This may be an opportunity to meet the faces that match many of the names we have been corresponding with in the past 12 months. It is also an opportunity to renew the friendships made at previous reunions. As it is a very informal get together there is no need to "book" to come to the gathering. We're sure to all fit in! Our venue should also provide sufficient shelter if the weather is inclement.

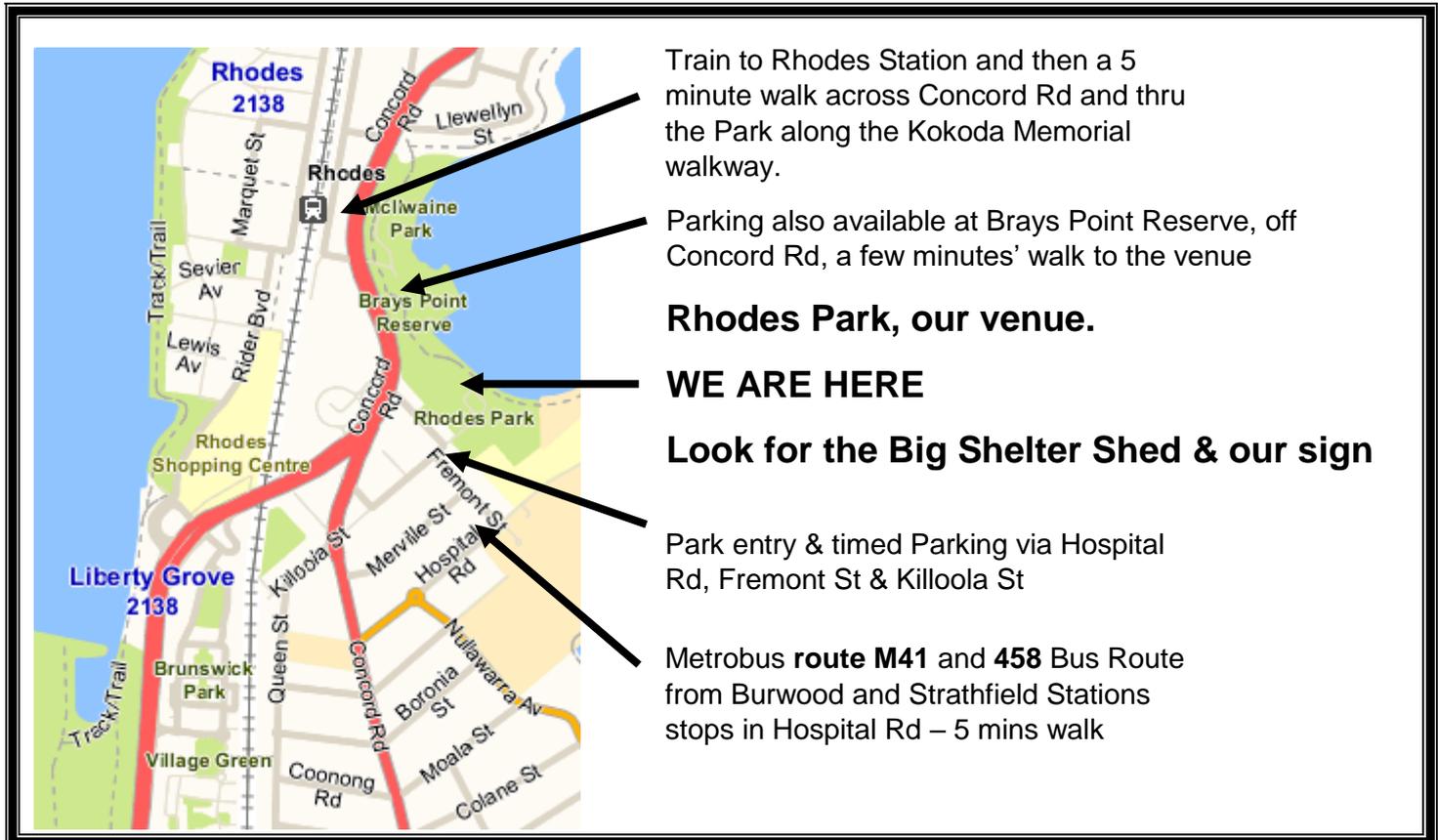
Further enquiries can be made to Lorraine Purcell  
(02) 95870352 or 0408117784 Please leave a message if no answer  
or via email to [heatgg@yahoo.com.au](mailto:heatgg@yahoo.com.au)



## Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group 2017 Gathering Information

**Rhodes Rotary Park  
Killoola St, Concord**

**Saturday 3th March 2018 from 10am until 4pm**  
(Adjacent to the Kokoda Memorial Walkway and Brays Bay)



Train to Rhodes Station and then a 5 minute walk across Concord Rd and thru the Park along the Kokoda Memorial walkway.

Parking also available at Brays Point Reserve, off Concord Rd, a few minutes' walk to the venue

**Rhodes Park, our venue.**

**WE ARE HERE**

**Look for the Big Shelter Shed & our sign**

Park entry & timed Parking via Hospital Rd, Fremont St & Killoola St

Metrobus **route M41** and **458** Bus Route from Burwood and Strathfield Stations stops in Hospital Rd – 5 mins walk

### **Access by car:**

Free parking is available at Rhodes Park, via Hospital Rd, Fremont & Killoola Streets or at Brays Bay Reserve off Concord Rd. Stroll along the Kokoda Memorial Walkway to the Shelter Shed.

Parking is also available at Concord Hospital car park on Hospital Rd. A parking fee applies depending on time.

Please note there are time limits on parking in surrounding streets and remember to move your vehicles if necessary.

### **Public transport:**

**Train** to Rhodes Railway Station then short walk downhill to cross Concord Rd and on to the Kokoda Memorial Walkway at Brays Reserve. Please check Trackwork website closer to the event as this information is not available at the time of going to press. [Click here to check trackwork online.](#)

**Bus Routes:** Use the Metrobus system to access **route M41** from your local interchange or from Burwood Railway Station (runs every 20 mins) **OR**

Route No **458** from Burwood to Ryde.

Departs Burwood Station in Railway Pde South

Departs Strathfield Station, Everton Rd, Stand D North Side

Ask driver for closest stop to the Kokoda Walkway in Hospital Rd. (outside Concord Hospital). From here it is a 5-minute walk along Fremont Street to the park.

**All enquiries to Lorraine on 02 9587 0352 or 0408 117 784**